

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 50:10

“Who is among you that fears the LORD, That obeys the voice of His servant, That walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.” (NASB)



Happy Birthday Eve, Sen. Luke! May you have many more healthy and happy celebrations

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

Hamilton County officials are alerting local veterans about a text message scam circulating across the state that falsely claims to be from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Several veterans have reported receiving text messages asking them to “update their information.” The messages include a link to what appears to be a legitimate website, prompting recipients to enter sensitive personal information. Officials say the messages are fraudulent. The VA does send text messages related to benefits, resources, and appointment reminders. However, veterans should be extremely cautious of any message requesting personal information, financial details, or immediate payment. Hamilton County veterans who receive suspicious texts or emails are encouraged to block, delete and report suspicious messages. And most importantly, do not click the link. Veterans who have questions or concerns may contact the Hamilton County Veteran Services Office for assistance.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Baseball was, is, and always will be the best game in the world to me.”

Babe Ruth

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What do you call a shoe made out of a banana?  
A slipper

■ ADOPT A PET BAMBI



Bambi is a young pup who's full of energy and personality! This 1-year-old female Siberian Husky Mix has been available for adoption at HSHC since 11/26/25. She's super smart, playful, and always ready to be where the action is. She loves playing with other dogs and can turn any day into a full-on Husky adventure. To meet Bambi, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt, then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).

# The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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## BOOMER BITS... Tips and Advice from Boomers to Boomers My Friend is 65; Shouldn't She Be Exempt?

Dear Rusty: My girlfriend is 65 and she just enrolled in Medicare. She is still working full time as a nurse, but they are still deducting Medicare taxes from her paycheck. I thought as soon as you started Medicare, that they would no longer take any Medicare taxes from her paychecks. Is that not correct?

Signed: Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned Friend: Your understanding about Medicare payroll tax is, indeed, not correct. Medicare taxes are levied on everyone who works and earns, regardless of whether or not they are currently enrolled in the Medicare program. That is how



### ASK RUSTY

Social Security Advisor

Medicare has worked since it was first enacted in the mid-1960s and how it still works today.

FYI, everyone who works for an employer must pay “FICA” (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) payroll tax of 7.65%. Most (6.2%) of that payroll tax goes to support Social Security, but 1.45% goes to support

Medicare Part A. Self-employed individuals must also pay this tax under the Self-Employed Contributions Act (SECA) which is equivalent to FICA, except the self-employed individual must also pay the employer portion of the payroll tax. The Social Security

See Rusty Page 3

## Chinese, Other Foreign Actors Complicit in Scams on Hoosiers

Don't fall for phishing schemes, Attorney General Todd Rokita warns

Thousands of Hoosiers are receiving a sternly worded text warning — supposedly sent by a court — that they must immediately pay fines for toll road violations or appear for a hearing.

The text looks authentic. It features official-sounding language and an image of Indiana's state seal.

By scanning a convenient bar code, the texts explain, recipients of the message can quickly and easily “pay their fine” and remedy their predicament — avoiding the need to go to court.

The problem is that the texts come from impostors

perpetrating a phishing scam.

Phishing is a type of cyberattack where scammers impersonate legitimate organizations to trick victims into clicking malicious links, opening infected attachments, providing credentials or outright making financial payments.

“Don't fall for these schemes,” said Attorney General Todd Rokita. “Ignore these texts. Just delete them.”

Traditionally, Hoosiers have been well-advised to look for telltale signs of scams, such as:

Urgent or threatening language.

Website and email addresses that do not match the official domain of the supposed sender — although scammers DO often use names changed only slightly from the real ones.

Unusual requests for sensitive personal information, such as passwords, Social Security numbers, or bank details, which legitimate organizations do not ask for via text.

Generic greetings and poor grammar.

See Scams Page 2

### ■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** The Indiana State Police Cold Case Unit and Forensic Services Division are solving decades-old crimes after getting a budget increase from \$15 million to \$18 million for the ISP Forensic Laboratory — a vital resource for solving cold cases. Funding for ISP technology was prioritized, resulting in a 19 percent reduction in DNA backlog and a 50 percent increase in automated DNA batch processing. These improvements accelerated investigations and helped bring resolution to cold cases, including a 1975 homicide case, leading to the Jan. 21, 2026 arrest of an Indiana resident in coordination with the San Diego Police Department; charges and a conviction in the 1987 death of an infant in Ferdinand; and solving a violent crime from 2000 in Dubois County involving armed robbery and carjacking.

**2.** Governor Mike Braun and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources announced organizations in 17 Indiana counties will receive \$1,484,960 in grants to fund 48 lake and stream projects through the Lake and River Enhancement program. “Indiana's lakes and streams are vital natural resources, supporting strong communities, wildlife habitat, and recreation,” said Governor Mike Braun. “Thanks to support from those getting out and enjoying Indiana's scenic waterways, we're proud to make sure that our Hoosier lakes and streams are well maintained for continued enjoyment now and for future generations.” Grants totaling \$1,040,900 will support 15 sediment and logjam removal projects in 11 counties, which are Benton, Daviess, Hamilton, Johnson, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Marshall, Noble, Steuben, Sullivan, and Vanderburgh counties. Another \$444,060 will be used to support projects combating aquatic invasive plants in 33 waterbodies across 11 counties, which are Fulton, Gibson, Kosciusko, LaGrange, LaPorte, Marshall, Noble, Porter, Starke, Steuben, and White..

**3.** Indiana is behind the nation and peer-states in access to primary care and use of preventive services — gaps that are contributing to poorer health outcomes and higher healthcare costs, with growing implications for the state's economic competitiveness, according to a new report from the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health. The report, “Increasing Primary Care and Preventive Care Utilization in Indiana: A State Level Approach,” was commissioned by the Indiana Business Health Collaborative (IBHC), a statewide coalition of employers, economic development organizations, health care industry stakeholders, and more working to develop comprehensive solutions to address cost, access, and quality of care in Indiana. It finds that Indiana consistently underperforms national and peer-state benchmarks on core metrics tied to early detection, chronic disease management, and workforce health. At a time of increasing scrutiny over healthcare costs in Indiana, the report highlights a clear and often overlooked opportunity: greater investment in primary care and preventive services. A strong body of evidence shows that expanding access to primary care reduces avoidable emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and other high-cost interventions — improving outcomes while lowering overall spending.



## 5 Riskiest Places to Park in Indiana

A new five-year analysis by Compare the Market reveals that 39 percent of car thefts nationwide occur at a resident's home, while 61 percent happen when vehicles are parked away from home during everyday activities.

Indiana: 5-Year Car Theft Overview

Total car thefts: 60,376

Stolen at residence/home: 47%

Stolen while away from home: 53%

In Indiana, slightly more vehicles are stolen while away from home than from the residence. To better understand where these incidents occur, we analyzed the most common away-from-home locations.

### Top 5 Locations for Car Thefts Away From Home in Indiana

1. Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk • 37%
2. Parking/Drop Lot/Garage • 26%
3. Service/Gas Station • 6%
4. Auto Dealership New/Used • 6%
5. Hotel/Motel/Etc. • 5%

### How to Prevent Your Car from Being Stolen

While national and regional car theft trends vary, many incidents can be avoided with the right habits and equipment. Strengthening your day-to-day car security is one of the most effective ways to reduce risk, no matter which model you own.

Secure your car properly

Always lock your doors and windows, even for short periods. Park in well-lit, populated areas, and avoid leaving your vehicle in the same spot for long periods. Keep valuables out of sight, as items on seats, dashboards, or cup holders can attract thieves even if they don't intend to steal the vehicle itself. Small behavioural changes like these can dramatically improve overall vehicle protection.

Use anti-theft devices

Visible deterrents can stop opportunistic thieves before they try. Steering wheel locks, immobilisers, and upgraded alarms remain effective, low-cost defences. For extra peace of mind, consider investing in a GPS tracking device, which can help prevent theft and increase the chances of recovery if a theft occurs.

Avoid common mistakes

Many thefts occur due to simple oversights, such as leaving the car running

See Risky Page 3

# The TIMES

54 N. 9th St. Noblesville IN 46060  
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thetimes24-7.com

## Spring Native Plant Kit Sale Deadline Nears

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District announced the launch of its Spring Native Plant Kit Sale, offering residents an accessible way to establish beautiful native landscapes, support pollinators and wildlife, and enhance watershed health across Hamilton County. Native Indiana plant kits take the guesswork out of creating vibrant ecosystems and provide a curated mix of tried-and-true species suited to a range of yard conditions.

What's Available:

- Multiple native plant kits — each containing 50 plant plugs tailored for specific garden types (e.g., prairie, rain garden, shade garden, monarch-friendly, basic prairie)

- \$165 per kit plus

tax

- Pre-order deadline: March 31

- Pick-up: First week of June in Noblesville

How to Participate:

- Visit the SWCD's online store to order plant kits.

- Pre-order early — kits can sell out as demand grows.

- Payment can be made online, or by calling the SWCD office if you prefer to use cash or check.

This annual fundraiser supports the SWCD's mission to advance conservation, educate the community, and reinvest in local environmental stewardship. Funds raised help expand educational programs, shore up water quality efforts, and support future restoration projects throughout the county.

# Thoughts on Easter Holiday

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Bonnie Zickgraf is a retired pastor, author, former columnist for The Times and an RN in mental health nursing and health plan accreditations. She recently sent some passages and thoughts for the upcoming Easter holiday. Send comments and prayer requests to bonniezickgraf@gmail.com.*

Matthew 27:50-51

"Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."

Current interpretation of the curtain tearing in two is a symbol of God opening

His Holy Kingdom to humankind through the sacrifice of Jesus. God was now opened to all people. This event was the fulfillment of the New Covenant.

I think it goes deeper than that.

I believe the actual tearing of the curtain itself was our Father's heart breaking apart instantaneously for His Son's immense suffering, followed by immediate release into pure and intense joy as His son came home to live with Him once again. The ultimate act of love and grace not just for God and humanity, but for God and His Son

## Bonnie Zickgraf

Times Columnist



reunited.

On Suffering...

God does not bring suffering into our lives.

Being human and living on earth does.

God is about restoration and divine discipline.

He prepares us for salvation. Not by punishment, but by love.

We were gifted a new covenant through Jesus Christ.

"As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?"

(Hebrews 12:7) NLT

## Heights Freshmen Shoe Drive Fundraiser Under Way

Hamilton Heights Class of 2029 is already lacing up and making strides with a fundraiser that's equal parts creative, sustainable, and community-powered. The freshmen have officially launched their Shoe Drive Fundraiser, and they're inviting families, neighbors, and local partners to jump in and help keep the momentum going.

Donate your gently used or new shoes and help the Class of 2029 raise money for future class activities — all while keeping reusable materials out of landfills.

Every pair makes a difference. The more the shoes weigh, the more the class earns. All types of shoes are welcome — sneakers, athletic, sandals, boots, dance, dress shoes — as long as they're in



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

**Freshmen from the Class of 2029 proudly hold up donated shoes as they rally the community to join their creative, sustainable Shoe Drive Fundraiser. From left, Iain Van Elk, Adler Effing, Reagan Van Kirk, Stella Hartwick and Mazie Morrison.**

good condition and still wearable. Shoes will be repurposed or rehomed, giving them a second life and reducing waste.

This is a fundraiser that helps students and the planet — a win for

the Heights community.

Bring your bagged pairs to any of these convenient locations: Any HHSC School, Arcadia Christian Church, Cicero Christian

Church, Remnant, and/or Beck's Hybrids. For questions or more information, contact Caty Wiegman at cwiegman@hhschuskie.org or 317-984-3551, ext. 1050.

## The Times

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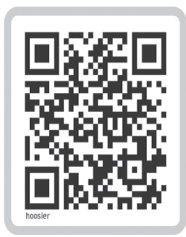
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It's easy! Call or scan today



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## SHS Hosts Quarterly Future Fair

On Friday, March 20, Sheridan High School held another Future Fair for high school students and 8th graders. These college and career fairs are put on each quarter for students to gain insight into the businesses, schools, and opportunities that await them after high school and beyond.

At this quarter's Future Fair, students had the opportunity to learn about the various career paths while interacting with the representatives

from the local businesses and organizations. Through the conversations, students are able to form a personal connection and gain real-world insight into the different pathways. These experiences help bridge the gap between high school and post graduation life while allowing students to better understand what they are capable of. Students got to meet and make connections with the following businesses and organizations:

ABG Ag Services, Aspire Indiana Health, Bullpen Tournaments, C & N Pool Management, Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation, Chick-fil-A Westfield Wheeler Landing, City of Noblesville, Crew Carwash, CTA - Custom Truck & Auto, Dental Careers Foundation, H&N Outdoor Services, LLC, Hamilton County Public Safety Communications, IU Indianapolis, Ivy Tech Community College, Manchester University, Shelby Ma-

terials, Inc, SKYLAKE Adventures, Swenson & Associates PC, The Learning Experience, U.S. Army, University of Southern Indiana, Valparaiso University and Vet Tech Institute of Indiana.

Sheridan High School and Middle School appreciate the businesses and organizations for their time, support, and willingness to invest in students by providing meaningful conversations and real-world opportunities.

## SCAMS

Continued from Page 1

Inaccurate or sloppy renderings of such features as the state seal.

While such factors can still be giveaways, the cybercriminals behind these bogus alerts continue becoming more sophisticated in their presentation and tactics — making it more difficult to tell what's legitimate and what's not.

The best advice is to avoid doing any business via text. Whereas scammers used to operate primarily by crudely mass-blasting their messages, nowadays their methods are data-driven and highly localized.

Modern fraudsters are now served by a growing cottage industry of third-party accomplices operating worldwide that provide specialized products and services — from startup software to dedicated tech support.

A Chinese-language service openly sells "U.S. traffic fine data," enabling fraudsters to target victims with recent violations — thereby reaching individuals all the more likely to believe the ruse that they are on the hook for unpaid fines related to their recent infractions.

Government agencies in the United States have no way

currently to stop the scammers before they strike, but leaders worldwide are collaborating to develop better means to keep up with the perpetrators' technologies and attack cybercrime on a global scale.

"Modern text fraud is an organized and innovative criminal enterprise," Rokita said. "We are doing everything in our power to bring these lawbreakers to justice, but we must maintain a laser focus for now on raising awareness and providing education in order to help Hoosiers avoid becoming victims in the first place."

Rokita advises Hoosiers to take the following precautions:

Do Not click on any links in unsolicited email or text messages.

Do Not provide personal information, such as your driver's license number or Social Security number.

Do Not share any card or account information through text messages or unverified links.

Report the unwanted text messages as junk on the app you use and block the phone number or email address.

Contact your phone provid-

er for call/text blocking solutions. Many manufacturers have built-in features to block unwanted calls or offer apps to block and label potential spam calls. Click here for a list of resources available.

Forward spam emails to the FTC at spam@uce.gov and report at reportFraud.ftc.gov.

Important reminder: Legitimate toll notifications from the Indiana Toll Road never arrive via unsolicited text messages demanding immediate payment through a link or QR code. Always verify any alleged toll or violation directly through your account at www.indianatollroad.org or by calling the official customer service line at (574) 675-4010.

If you have already provided personal information or money through a link in these email or text messages, file a consumer complaint immediately online at indianaconsumer.com or call 317-232-6330.

For more information on avoiding scams, visit the Indiana Attorney General's website at [www.in.gov/attorneygeneral](http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral).

## GENERAC

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# Sheridan Gets \$10,000 Grant From Water Company

The American Water Charitable Foundation, a philanthropic non-profit organization established by American Water, the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the U.S., and Indiana American Water, recently announced that the Foundation has awarded a \$10,000 State Strategic Impact Grant to the Sheridan Events Committee. The grant will support community events that bring residents together and preserve long-standing local traditions. Additionally, a \$1,000 grant was awarded to Sheridan Main Street, Inc., to help enhance downtown Sheridan's historic character and strengthen its role as a center of community activity. Both grants were presented during the Town of Sheridan's City Council meeting on March 17.

The funding will help enrich Sheridan's community life by supporting events and programs that foster civic pride, celebrate local heritage, and create welcoming spaces for residents

and visitors alike.

"Everything we do is for the community of Sheridan and the surrounding areas in Hamilton County. These donations help us organize our events and spread the word to those who want to take part," said Carol Williamson, President of the Sheridan Events Committee. "This year, we're super excited to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and Sheridan is ready to do it up right. Our community loves the parade, the traditions, and of course—the fireworks!"

"Indiana American Water is grateful for the opportunity to support the Sheridan community. Through the American Water Charitable Foundation, we are honored to award grants to the Sheridan Events Committee and Sheridan Main Street in recognition of the meaningful work they do to strengthen this community," said Joel Reuter, Manager of External Affairs at Indiana American Water.



Photo courtesy Indiana American Water

Members of Indiana American Water's Sheridan Operations were joined by the Sheridan Events Committee, Sheridan Downtown Inc. and the Sheridan City Council took part in a grant presentation during the Council's regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

"We value our partnership with Sheridan and look forward to continuing to work together to meet future community needs."

The State Strategic Impact grant is part of the 2026 Keep Communities Flowing Grant Program, focusing on three pillars of giving: Water, People and Communities. State Strategic Impact grants sup-

port high-impact projects and initiatives throughout American Water's national footprint.

"The American Water Charitable Foundation is pleased to support organizations that help strengthen Sheridan's sense of community," said Carrie Williams, President, American Water Charitable Foundation. "Through these grants, we

look forward to helping preserve cherished local traditions, enhance shared community spaces, and foster opportunities for residents and visitors to come together."

Note: The presentation is available on the Town of Sheridan's council meeting YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifdt5n4IFBM>

## RISKY

Continued from Page 1

to warm up, hiding a spare key inside the vehicle, or failing to lock the boot. Relying solely on factory-fitted systems can leave gaps, especially for owners of highly targeted vehicles.

Adrian Taylor, Executive General Manager of General Insurance, says when it comes to safeguarding your vehicle, the right approach starts with awareness.

"Understanding which vehicles are most at risk is the first step in protecting your own," he said. "By combining smart security habits with the right car insurance cover, you can significantly reduce both the likelihood and impact of having your car stolen."

"Car theft continues to impact motorists, particularly those driving popular and older vehicles. Simple security measures such as steering wheel locks, alarms and GPS tracking devices can significantly reduce the risk of theft."

Before purchasing any policy, drivers should check the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and Target Market Determination (TMD) to understand limits, inclusions, or restric-

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
Northern District of Indiana

STATE OF INDIANA

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF MARION COUNTY

Case No: IN 26-TL-7210 Judge: MICHAEL JOHNSON

NOTICE OF HEARING — TOLL VIOLATION

You are hereby notified that you are alleged to have committed the following violation within Indianapolis, Indiana:  
Violation: Toll Evasion

Authority: IC 9-21-3.5-12 (Automated Traffic Law Enforcement)  
Related Authority: IC 8-16-2-15 (Failure to Pay Toll)

It is alleged that the operator or registered owner of a motor vehicle failed to pay an assessed toll and applicable toll collection regulations and became subject to a civil penalty for toll evasion under Indiana law.

You must:

- Appear for a hearing on the matter listed below; OR
- Resolve the matter by payment of the assessed civil penalty and authorized court costs prior to the hearing date.

HEARING LOCATION:  
Traffic Division of the Municipal Court of Marion County  
200 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

HEARING DATE AND TIME:  
March 16, 2026, 10:00 A.M.

ISSUED:  
February 22, 2026

Scan QR code to pay:

Seal of the State of Indiana, 1816

Michael Johnson  
MICHAEL JOHNSON  
Judge, Municipal Court of Marion County  
County of Marion, Indiana

tions.

More information on the most stolen car brand can be found onsite: <https://www.comparethemarket.com.au/car-insurance/features/most-stolen-car-brands-and-models/>

Data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program (<https://cde.>

[ucr.cjis.gov/](https://ucr.cjis.gov/)) For each state, the total number of reported car thefts was analyzed by location type. The share of thefts for each location was then calculated by dividing the number of thefts at that location by the total number of reported car thefts, producing the percentage of thefts broken down by location.

efits. But the 1.45% payroll tax which is being withheld from your girlfriend's paycheck is paid by everyone who has work earnings, even if they are enrolled in Medicare.

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

## RUSTY

Continued from Page 1

portion of the FICA/SECA tax has an earnings cap (\$184,500 in 2026), but there is no cap on earnings for the Medicare portion of the FICA/SECA payroll tax. FYI, employers pay an equivalent amount of Social Security and Medicare taxes, and the Medicare portion of the payroll tax is paid on all earnings (there is no cap on earnings from which the Medicare payroll tax is withheld).

To ensure understanding, Medicare Part A provides healthcare coverage for inpatient hospitalization services, and Medicare Part

B provides coverage for outpatient medical services (doctors, medical tests, etc.). That 1.45% of the FICA (and SECA tax for the self-employed) is paid by those who work to help fund the Medicare Part A program, which is premium-free for most Americans after age 65. For Medicare Part B, there is a separate premium which helps pay for Medicare outpatient healthcare services. The standard Medicare Part B premium for 2026 is \$202.90 per month, compared to Medicare Part A which is free to all who are eligible for Social Security ben-

# WHS's Robbie's Hope Club Presents Gala

Westfield High School's Robbie's Hope Club invites the community to the IMMI

Conference Center on May 16, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. for a special event focused on teen mental health and suicide prevention. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Kari Eckert, a founder of the national Robbie's Hope organization, as well as several student speakers and performers from Westfield High School. The event will

be catered by Foodies Rock, offering a variety of appetizers, entrees, and desserts. Additionally, a silent auction will offer attendees the chance to bid on exciting items, adding an extra layer of engagement to the evening.

## About Robbie's Hope Club

Robbie's Hope Club at Westfield High School is dedicated to raising awareness and removing the stigma surrounding teen mental health. Over the past three years, the club has hosted its annual gala, raising over \$10,000 each year in support of mental health initiatives. The funds have been used to support events like the Save A Life Walk, Hopeful Drive, Movie Nights, car washes, educational Coaches Conferences, Hope Run, and other fundraising activities. Founded after the tragic loss of Robbie Eckert, Robbie's Hope is committed to educating communities and preventing the heartache experienced by Robbie's family. In Indiana, suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals aged 10 to 34, according to the CDC.

Dr. Jill Biden, Former First Lady of the United States, commented on the work of Robbie's Hope Club following a visit to Westfield High School:

"We just heard from a group of amazing young people who founded a chapter of Robbie's Hope on campus, so the students here can help each other through their struggles with mental health. To... all the students joining us, thank you for your leadership. Never underestimate your power—to help, to hope, and to

President, shared his thoughts on the impact of Robbie's Hope: "I think Robbie's Hope has brought our community and school together over such a great cause! It brings awareness towards things that we all experience and makes our school feel more accepting and supportive of everyone. I really think having this team makes our school feel more inclusive and welcoming to all!"

Those interested in supporting the event through sponsorship or by donating items for the silent auction can contact the club at [whsrobbieshope@gmail.com](mailto:whsrobbieshope@gmail.com). Donations such as gift cards or other items are a great way to show support and promote local businesses.

Kari Eckert, founder

of the national Robbie's Hope organization and mother of Robbie Eckert, emphasized the importance of mental health awareness and community engagement:

"The Robbie's Hope Westfield Club has been one of the most passionate, engaged, and organized groups of young people we work with across the country. The high schoolers involved with Robbie's Hope Westfield are making a significant impact and creating meaningful change in the Westfield community and beyond. By breaking the stigma surrounding youth mental health and facilitating important conversations, they are working to prevent youth suicide. The Robbie's Hope Westfield youth are doing just that."

Tickets for the event are available for purchase at this link. The Westfield Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, supports students and staff within the Westfield Washington Schools district. We encourage you to use the link to join us in raising awareness about teen suicide through the WHS Robbie's Hope Club.

Ticket Link: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/robbieshopegala/event/2026rob-bieshopegala/>

## Public Notices Deadline:

11:00 a.m. 2 Business Days Prior to Publication:  
[legals@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:legals@thetimes24-7.com)

Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement

# 10 Players Who Helped Boiler Hoops Power Forward



**SPORTS,  
SPORTS, &  
MORE SPORTS**  
*with Ken Thompson*

Purdue may be known as “Big Man U” these days but it historically also has produced outstanding power forwards.

This top 10 list is talented, led by three first-team All-Americans. It also is the third time in this series that an active player has been selected.

**Glenn Robinson**

The “Big Dog” was the most dominant player in college basketball during the 1993-94 season, leading the nation at 30.3 points a game to go along with 11.2 rebounds. Robinson was the first player since 1978 to lead the Big Ten in both categories.

Robinson scored an amazing 1,030 points in his second and final season at Purdue and ran away with National Player of the Year honors.

He was the highest-profile recruit Purdue had landed since Rick Mount. After failing to qualify for freshman eligibility, Robinson immediately lived up to the billing, leading the Big Ten at 25.5 points per game as a sophomore.

**2. Terry Dischinger**

The 6-7 Terre Haute native was forced to play center at Purdue from 1960-62 but he played power forward for the 1960 Olympic team and won NBA Rookie of the Year honors as a forward in 1963.

Not only did he lead the Big Ten in scoring all three of his varsity seasons (27.4 as a sophomore, 28.3 as a junior and 32.8 as a senior), Dischinger still ranks seventh on Purdue’s all-time career scoring list with 1,979 points.

Here are some of the Purdue records Dischinger still holds 63 years after his final game:

Single-season rebounding average: 14.3

Career rebounding average: 13.7

Most free throws made in a single game: 21

Most free throws made, career: 713

He was elected to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2010 as a member of that Olympic team. Dischinger entered the College Basketball Hall of Fame as an individual in 2019.

**3. Caleb Swanigan**

How Swanigan didn’t win the Karl Malone Award as the nation’s best power forward in 2017 remains a mystery.

The Big Ten Player of the Year and consensus first-team All-American led the nation with 28 double-doubles in his second and final season as a Boilermaker. His 18.5 scoring average and 12.5 rebounding average topped Malone winner Johnathan Motley of Baylor (17.3, 9.9).

Swanigan did win the Pete Newell Big Man of the Year Award, one of three Boilermakers to date (Ja-Juan Johnson, Zach Edey twice) to do so.

Swanigan averaged a career double-double (14.4 ppg., 10.4 rebounds). The 2015 Indiana Mr. Basketball from Homestead still holds Purdue freshman records for rebounds (282) and rebounding average

(8.3), taking both marks from All-American Joe Barry Carroll.

**4. Todd Mitchell**

One of Purdue’s “Three Amigos” who led the way to Big Ten Conference championships in 1987 and 1988, Mitchell earned first-team All-Big Ten honors as a junior and a senior.

Elected to the Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010 with fellow Amigos Troy Lewis and Everette Stephens, Mitchell ranks 16th in Purdue history with 1,699 points.

**5. Walter Jordan**

A four-year starter for Purdue in the mid-1970s, Jordan averaged 14.1 points per game as a freshman in a sign of things to come.

Until Braden Smith passed him this season, Jordan ranked 10th in career scoring at Purdue with 1,813 points. Jordan also remains one of the Boilermakers’ top career rebounders with 882.

Jordan helped Purdue reach its second NCAA Tournament in school history as a junior in 1977. He was elected to the Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 2022.

**6. Carl Landry**

Gene Keady’s last major recruit, Landry came to Purdue after earning first-team junior college All-American honors at Vincennes University.

Landry led the Big Ten in scoring at 18.2 points a game as a junior in 2004-05 and earned second-team All-Big Ten honors despite missing the final three games due to a torn ACL in his right knee.

Landry reinjured that knee in the fifth game of the 2005-06 season. While frustrating to Landry, it proved to be fortuitous for the Boilermakers.

Landry became the first player in Big Ten history to begin the 2006-07 season with three consecutive Player of the Week honors. His team-best 18.9 points per game helped Purdue return to the NCAA Tournament. Landry earned first-team All-Big Ten honors before

beginning a long NBA career.

**7. Vincent Edwards**

Edwards was a four-year starter and the first Boilermaker to surpass 1,500 points, 700 rebounds and 500 assists.

Edwards averaged 14.6 points and 7.4 rebounds as a senior but also showed off his versatility by shooting nearly 40 percent from 3-point range. He earned second-team All-Big Ten honors and finished his Purdue career with 1,638 points, 779 rebounds and 403 assists.

**8. Brian Cardinal**

One of the most popular players to wear a Purdue uniform, Cardinal took as much pride in his defense as his ability to score from anywhere on the court.

Cardinal played with elbow pads and knee pads, which protected him from frequent dives on the court to pursue a loose ball. He would graduate with a school record 259 steals and earned the Ray Eddy “Mr. Hustle” Award all four seasons he played for the Boilermakers. He also was a four-year recipient of the Courage Award (for taking the most charges) and was the Doc Combs “Play Hard” Award winner his junior and senior seasons.

Before beginning a long NBA career, Cardinal led Purdue to the Elite Eight in 2000. He finished with 1,773 points.

**9. Frank Kendrick**

A two-time first-team All-Big Ten selection, Kendrick guided Purdue to the 1974 NIT championship by scoring 25 points against Utah.

A consistent scorer, Kendrick averaged 18.5 points during his junior and senior seasons. He was chosen a Helms Athletic Foundation All-American in 1974. Kendrick finished his career with 1,269 points, 664 rebounds and 29 double-doubles.

He is a member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and the Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame.

**10. Trey Kaufman-Renn**

Few Boilermakers have been as adaptable as Kaufman-Renn, who played forward next to National Player of the Year Zach Edey as a redshirt freshman and sophomore, center as a junior and back to forward during the 2025-26 season.

Kaufman-Renn earned first-team All-Big Ten and honorable mention All-American honors as a junior after averaging 20.1

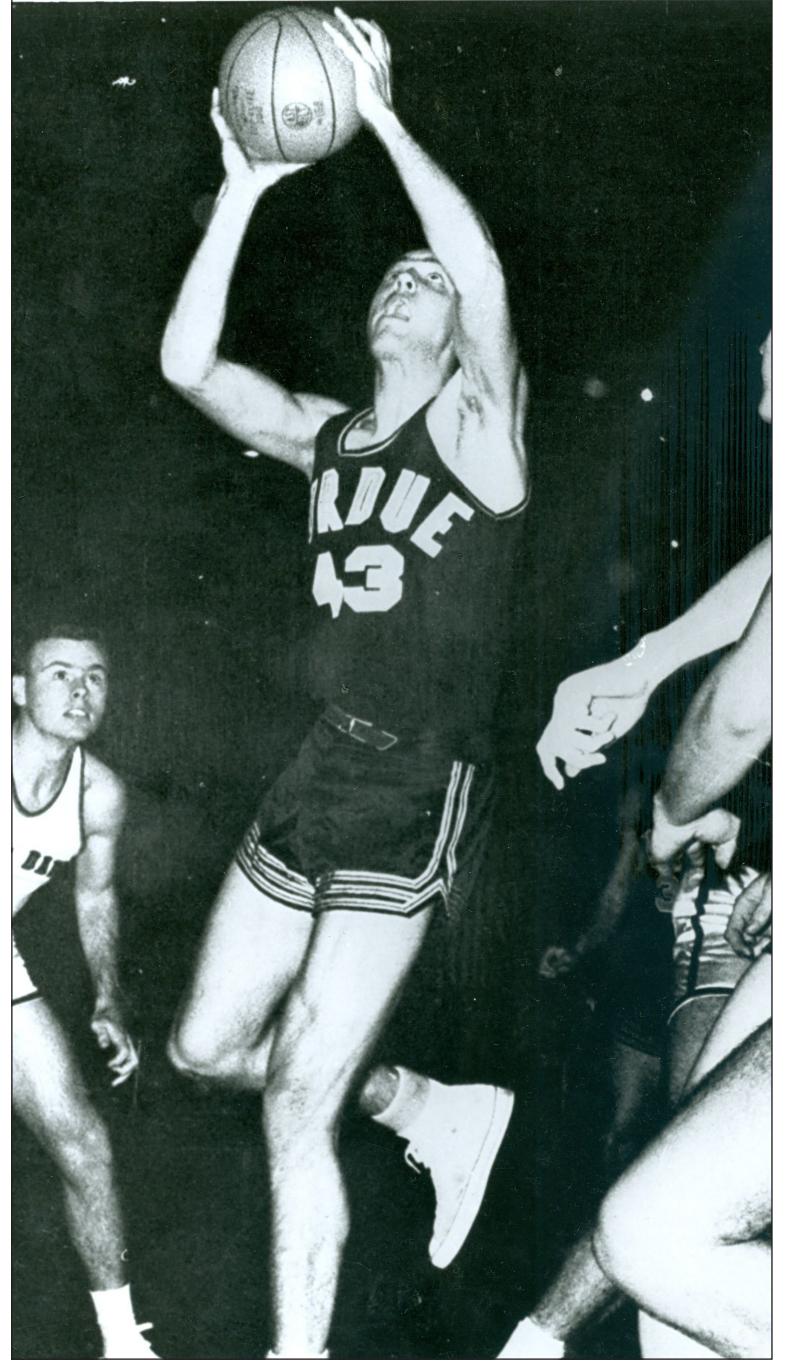


Photo courtesy Purdue Athletics

**Terry Dischinger still owns four Purdue records 63 years after his collegiate career ended.**

points and 6.5 rebounds a game. Kaufman-Renn led the nation with 292 field goals made. The 20.1 scoring average was a jump of almost 14 points a game from his sophomore year.

Entering Thursday night’s NCAA Tournament game against Texas, Kaufman-Renn is 20th on the Purdue career scoring list with 1,625 points.

Noteworthy Purdue had much to celebrate last weekend after earning its seventh NCAA Sweet 16 berth in nine seasons.

The 79-69 victory against seventh-seeded Miami, Fla., in the second round gave coach Matt Painter 500 victories at Purdue. It also secured the program’s 2000th win overall. With an overall record of 2,000-1,084, Purdue owns a winning percentage of .649.

Painter is just the fourth coach in Big Ten history to win 500 games, joining Michigan State’s Tom Izzo, Bob Knight of Indiana and Painter’s mentor, Gene Keady. Painter is now just 12 wins shy of matching

Keady’s school record for victories.

The senior class of Braden Smith, Trey Kaufman-Renn and Fletcher Loyer set the school record for most NCAA Tournament wins in a career with nine. The group also tied the school record for most wins by a senior class (116).

Smith and Kaufman-Renn teamed up for Smith’s record-breaking assist in the 104-71 victory against Queens. The assist came on a layup that gave Purdue a 17-12 lead.

“I’ve been very thankful and blessed to be put in a position where people trust me with the ball in my hands, and my teammates trust me, the coaching staff trusts me, and obviously I trust myself enough to go make shots,” Smith told The Associated Press.

Smith has 1,091 assists going into the matchup with Texas.

*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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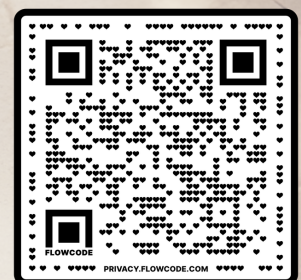
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SCAN ME

# Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith. Sine Cera. Part I

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Andy Chandler is a presidential historian and a museum archivist at Candles Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute and the Ernie Pyle WW II Museum in Dana Ind. He is also a photographer and his work is often seen on these pages. Recently he sat down with Noblesville Pastor and Indiana Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith. The first of a two-part series is presented today.

It is believed that the word sincere originates from the Latin words sine cera, meaning without wax. It goes that Roman sculptors would melt wax over any stone blemishes that might occur to pass their art work off as perfect. A cheap fix, but if you add some heat, it's slowly revealed for what it is. Sincere has come down in our lexicon as something without coverup, or blemish.

Indiana Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith breathes sincerity as if it were air. He talks with the firmness of someone who believes he answers to someone higher than himself.

What originally had been my intention to do a sit down with the Lt. Governor over the new faith-based initiative Executive Order 2-26, became an engaging, sometimes meandering hour and a half conversation to get to know the man who occupies the second highest office in Indiana. Topics covered were from the seriousness of potential price hikes due to the conflict in Iran to the more lighthearted questions regarding his gavel twirling during senate sessions.

It was a beautiful Thursday afternoon that I found myself in his office waiting to meet with him. After arriving, I was expecting an aide to usher me in. However, he himself opened the door and just said, "Hold on a second, Andy." The gentleman at the front desk asked if I wanted a bottle of water. Anticipating that I would be dry-mouthed due to nerves, I graciously accepted. I took two bottles. Hydration is the key to legislation.

Eventually I was invited in, and upon

entering, he pointed around the room. "Where do you want to set up?" I answered, "The conference table." After settling in, we spoke briefly of our home state of Michigan and how we ended up in Indiana. His family farm is in Hillsdale and when I immigrated, lived in a farm just outside of Battle Creek. We both met Hoosier wives and stayed in the Hoosier State.

The contrast of his easy-going demeanor in his office juxtaposed against his seriousness in the Senate Chamber, has a Jeffersonesque quality. A representative of the people acting as casual as someone having a cup of coffee.

The first question I had was about the gavel that he uses during the senate sessions. As I had come to find out while covering the House and Senate during the last General Assembly, everything has symbolic meaning.

"This was my grandmother's. She was the vice party chair for the GOP in Michigan. The 5th district chair. 'Frosty' Beckwith. Florence, but people called her Frosty." He went on to say that when he was elected Lt. Governor, his brother, who owns the gavel, lent it to him for use in the senate.

I suggested we set up a gofundme page to purchase two other gavels so he could start juggling since he's been proficient at gavel twirling, spinning and using it as a backscratcher. He said he'd probably get called out of order for being a distraction.

Moving past the nominal pleasantries, we settled into the heart of things: politics.

Regarding the last Indiana General Assembly: the Lt. Governor was an outspoken champion of redistricting when H.B. 1032 was defeated in the Senate.

He explained that the overall national redistricting situation was more serious than most people take it.

"That was a stupid decision that the Indiana Senate made, and they essentially hand-

ed the far-left radicals who know how to play politics, they handed them a victory."

About that defeat and what he perceived as defections in the GOP ranks, he said, "(Republicans) die on our righteous high horse hill all the time. Like we'll say 'We don't do that.' And OK guys, while you're not doing that, guess what? The whole house is being stolen from underneath your eyes. Some point you have to stand up and fight or just roll over and be a pushover. And I think what we did, we showed America that Indiana, because of our Senate, is a pushover state. We're not a flyover state, we're a pushover state. If Democrats scream loud enough, if they scream hard enough, they will be able to push over at least our Indiana Senate, if it is a pushover state. That may offend people if they heard that, but I'm absolutely just tired of weak conservatives or weak Republicans who don't know how to fight. Donald Trump has taught us how to fight for our generation. We're in a war for our nation."

He went on further to describe the war he sees. Leaning forward and speaking in a much more amplified voice: "American values are under attack. If you don't believe it, we have freaking boys being told that they can be girls and playing girls sports. And we can't even get a consensus among Republicans that that's not a good thing. Right? That is absolutely insane. If you would have gone 25 years ago and told everyone of those senators on both sides of the aisle that you will be fighting battles on whether or not boys can be girls and girls can be boys. They would have said there's no way. There's no way on God's green earth that America ever becomes that stupid. And yet, here we are being that stupid."

He went onto describe his vision for the primaries. "What Indiana needs now is they need fighters

... people are tired of conservatives who don't fight."

He believes that the primaries will ask the candidates one question. "The question shouldn't be are you a conservative? The question should be are you a conservative who's willing to fight for those values. And I think that's the problem we don't have that in our Indiana Senate right now."

We discussed the war in Iran and if he and Governor Braun talked about possible remedies for Hoosiers feeling a pinch due to high gas prices. He stated that while he has not spoken directly to the governor about it, he has talked to Braun's staff and doesn't anticipate this being a prolonged issue. He said there are multiple barriers to affordability aside from Iran, one of those being taxes.

"I don't want to speak for (Gov. Braun), but eliminating sales tax on gas is a possibility; a gas tax holiday to give Hoosiers some relief at the pump."

I asked him about the post he made last September about a trade agreement with Taiwan regarding soybean exports. Had the passage of another harvest and of time given him a rough idea regarding how beneficial the agreement was to Indiana's farmers?

"It didn't encompass just Indiana; it was some Midwestern states. The reason they wanted to sign it here is because we are one of their best trading partners when it comes to agriculture. Taiwan, they love us, we love them. It has helped our farmers. Has it been the end all, be all? We need to open up other markets. Try to find customers around the world."

Getting to the heart of the matter for the push for trade agreements, Beckwith didn't mince words. "I do anticipate and hope that we cannot be so dependent on China like we've been over the last three decades for our farmers. It got easy. China buys a lot



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler  
Beckwith says he's learned a lot during this first term as Indiana's Lt. Governor.



Beckwith and Gov. Mike Braun.

of our corn and soy, they are a grain buyer and it got to a point where we lacked diversity in our portfolio. We ended up just having just one customer. That's not good."

I asked him if they were actively looking for other trading partners. Recently he met with Dr. Jason Sands, the Director of Agriculture in the Bahamas and a Purdue University grad, regarding a possible agreement for poultry.

Eventually, the topic came to the coverage of the scandals alleged in his office. In the case that led to a grand jury investigation regarding ghost employment and an alleged illicit image being passed around the office, he explained that the grand jury just went away, and nothing ever became of it. He stated that he saw this as an attack from the left and from country club Republicans.

"They don't have to be true; they just have to make a story. The story will last forever; the lie can go away. They just have to print

a headline and it's out there."

When asked about what Micah Beckwith today would tell Micah Beckwith last January, he responded that he would advise the Micah Beckwith who took the oath of office not to be so quick to trust people. "I was too trusting of people in my party and in the media."

He's a polarizing figure in faith and politics; there is no doubt. Depending on who you ask he's perceived as either brash and arrogant or the real deal. Believe me, I've asked. However, apologetic and insincere are two words one should never place on the Lt. Governor. One of the last questions I asked him was simple: if he felt he needed to temper down the rhetoric.

"I don't want to stand before the saints, when I meet the cloud of witnesses. I don't want to look Moses, Elijah and Micah in the eye and tell them I could have done better."

## County SWCD Awarded \$100,000 Grant to Combat Invasive Species

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District has been awarded a \$100,000 Clean Water Indiana grant through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture to support invasive species management efforts across Hamilton County.

Through this three-year grant, \$94,000 will be distributed directly to Hamilton County residents as cost-share funding to remove invasive species and restore native landscapes—efforts that improve water quality, reduce erosion, and strengthen local ecosystems.

"Removing invasive

species is one of the most impactful steps landowners can take to improve their property and protect our local waterways," said Claire Lane, Urban Conservationist at HCSWCD. "This funding allows us to meet residents where they are—whether they're just getting started or tackling a larger project—and give them the tools and support they need to take action."

The program is closely aligned with the Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP), a countywide collaborative effort focused on education, outreach, and on-the-ground invasive

species control.

In addition to financial assistance, HCSWCD will introduce landowner toolkits designed to help smaller property owners get started managing invasive species. These toolkits will include essential equipment such as pruners, loppers, herbicide application tools, safety gear, and other supplies to support safe and effective removal.

Residents interested in participating can begin by requesting a free invasive species site assessment through HCSWCD. Program applications are expected to open

soon.

The announcement comes during Hamilton County Invasive Species Action Month (March), a countywide initiative encouraging residents to learn about and take action against invasive species. Residents are encouraged to get involved via volunteer workday "Weed Wrangles". A full list of events can be found at [www.hcinvasives.org](http://www.hcinvasives.org).

For more information or to request a site assessment, contact the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District at 317-773-2181 or visit [www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org).

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# Noblesville Man to be Honored by IHSAA

A Noblesville man is among five individuals being honored during the 116th Annual IHSAA Boys Basketball State Finals Saturday for contributions to education-based athletics and Indiana high school basketball in particular.

Rick Vanderwielen, a Lafayette native and Noblesville resident, will be celebrated on the court with Sen. Ron Alting, Tamika Catchings, Scott Arthur and Mike Broughton.

The Jim Morris Humanitarian Award will be presented to Vanderwielen at half-time of the Class 3A state championship. The award honors the enduring legacy of James T. Morris, a founding member of the IHSAA Foundation Board whose leadership and vision left an indelible mark on high school athletics across Indiana. This award

recognizes individuals from IHSAA member school communities who embody Jim's core values of family, friends, faith, community, and vocation. Each year, the IHSAA Foundation celebrates a recipient whose extraordinary service and dedication reflect the humanitarian ideals Jim championed throughout his life, while also providing a grant to support the athletic department of the nominating school.

Vanderwielen's dedication to broadcasting high school sports and his service in a consulting capacity have resulted in the creation of IHSAAtv.org and the IHSAA Champions Network. From 2005 to 2013, Vanderwielen's companies produced the IHSAA baseball, softball and volleyball state finals for Fox, Comcast, IHSAA sports.org and eventually Hamilton

County's HomeTown Sports Indiana.

Since his retirement in 2013, Rick has volunteered his time and expertise supporting the broadcasting efforts of the state finals as well as creating IHSAAtv.org as a portal for IHSAA games of the week and sub-state tournaments in basketball and football.

His entrepreneurial spirit has resulted in being named as One of the 100 Most Influential Businessmen in Indiana by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce in 1997. In 2003, he was designated as Person of the Year by the Noblesville Daily Times and Riverview Hospital. And in 2004, he was named Businessperson of the Year by the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce. His companies also have been recognized as Growth 100 achievers by the IU Kelley School of

Business and earned the Mass Mutual Blue Chip Award.

He is the founder of Indiana Automation, Inc. (later Integrator.com), Flexware Integration, Security Automation Systems, HomeTown Television and a partner in Webstream Sports. He has been a principal in four other businesses.

He has served on advisory boards at Purdue University, the Hamilton County Judicial Task Force, and the Riverview Hospital Board of Directors. He and his family are trustees of the "Vanderwielen Family Foundation" and "1 More Game" which have contributed scholarships to deserving organizations and individuals for 20 years.

Alting and Catchings will both receive the Richard G. Lugar Award at halftime of the Class 4A state



Rick Vanderwielen

championship. Catchings was last year's honoree but was unable to be in attendance that day. Arthur will be celebrated as this year's Boys Basketball Official of the Year during halftime

of the Class 2A state championship. And Broughton will be recognized with the Ray Crowe Excellence in Leadership Award at halftime of the Class 3A state championship.

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# SHS Honors Outstanding Students at National Honor Society Induction



Photo courtesy Allison Waitt

Sheridan students who qualified for the National Honor Society must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Sheridan High School hosted its annual National Honor Society induction ceremony on Monday, March 16. This event recognized students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These values truly represent

the best of the Sheridan Blackhawk community. To be eligible for NHS membership, Sheridan High School students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Eligible students are then reviewed and selected for induction.

The induction ceremony shines a light

on students who are making positive impacts in the classroom and outside of it. The event brought together students, faculty, and families to honor the accomplishments of these new inductees. Sheridan High School and Sheridan Community Schools are proud of their hard work and

commitment, and look forward to seeing the impact these individuals will continue to make both in school and beyond!

Norah Adams  
Emily Berner  
Jordan Byrne  
Liliana Caudillo  
Lia Christman  
Dylan Clear  
Oliver Crail

Tanner Dawson  
Isabella Delgado  
Desh Donathen  
Amiyah Doss  
Lillian Dunn  
Amy Foley  
Presley Fox  
Felicity Garrett  
Isadora Grau  
Elisha Henderson  
Avery Hills  
Addison Houde  
Adria Jump

Ben Martin  
Adalyn McCardia  
Vivian Olivas  
Omi Patel  
Haeyli Pilkington  
Grace Pratt  
Khamila Reyes-Espinoza  
Leann Huffman  
Alexis Sayre  
Kelsey Sedwick  
Elijah Shirar  
Madison Underwood

## Your Pot of Gold Could Be at Indiana Unclaimed

Attorney General Todd Rokita invites Hoosiers to visit IndianaUnclaimed.gov to see if they have any money waiting for them this spring.

“As St. Patrick’s Day has once again come and gone, Hoosiers should still try their luck,” Attorney General Rokita said. “Even if your unclaimed pot of gold is modest, you should take possession of what is rightfully

yours. You’ll never know unless you search for it.”

In 2025, the Office of Attorney General’s Unclaimed Property Division set an all-time record by returning more than \$88 million to rightful owners, surpassing previous highs and reuniting Hoosiers with what’s theirs.

As of March this year, the Unclaimed Property Division has returned more than

\$35 million already in 2026. Nearly \$1 billion remains unclaimed statewide.

Unclaimed property includes:

- Unclaimed wages or commissions
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- Credit card balances

Cell phone bills  
Once unclaimed property is in its custody, the Unclaimed Property Division conducts an aggressive outreach effort to locate the rightful owners or heirs. Individuals

and/or businesses have 25 years to claim money once it is reported to the Unclaimed Property Division.

Why not try the luck of the Irish and search for unclaimed property? Visit Indi-

anaUnclaimed.gov or text CLAIM to 46220 to search your name, family or business.

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