

■ TODAY'S VERSE

1 **Thessalonians 5:11**

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

■ AWL LESSIE



Meet LESSIE — Lessie is a beautiful 9-year-old senior gal who's available for adoption (or even a temporary foster home) at AWL since 12/16/2025. Lessie is searching for what every dog deserves: LOVE and a place to finally call home.

Lessie may be a senior, but don't let that fool you! This sweet girl still enjoys going for walks, playing fetch, and soaking up all the love and attention she can get. She's looking for her very own best friend... could that be you?

Why adopt or foster a senior shelter dog?

They already know who they are — no mystery personality surprises!

Seniors are often calmer and more settled than younger dogs.

They appreciate every comfy bed, every treat, and every cuddle.

They still have so much love left to give.

Senior dogs are often overlooked, but they have huge hearts and make incredible companions. Lessie isn't asking for much — just someone to love her and give her a chance.

AWL is open Monday–Friday from 12:15–5:00 PM and Saturdays from 12:00–3:00 PM. Stop by to walk dogs, snuggle cats in the community cat room, lend a helping hand... and maybe meet your new best friend.

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The Hoosier Authors Book Club is into its 11th year with four planned book discussions still to take place. The first one took place May 21 when the Club discussed *If This Isn't Nice What Is?* (A collection of Kurt Vonnegut's commencement speeches.) Coming on June 18 will be a discussion on *Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Gundy on June 18. The remaining two are *Joy Goddess: A'Leia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance* by A'Leia Bundles on Sept. 17. The year wraps up with *When Knighthood was in Flower* by Charles Major on Oct. 15. All discussions are free and open to the public. Meetings are held in the ADA-compliant Carriage House Interpretive Center. For more information about the Hoosier Authors Book Club visit <https://www.ben-hur.com/programs/hoosier-authors-book-club/>.



I know it's only a few pennies, but I get ticked off every time I get shorted change because they "don't do pennies anymore."

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force: You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely. But this is the year 1944! The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to victory! I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory! Good luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower
Supreme Allied Commander
June 6, 1944.

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What's the best day to go to the beach?
SUN-day.

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BOOMER BITS... Tips and Advice from Boomers to Boomers

Help! SSA Says I'm Not Eligible for Benefits

Dear Rusty:
Help!! The Social Security Administration says I didn't pay enough into my Social Security account, despite being a business owner and paying taxes. What can I do??

Signed: Self-employed American

Dear Self-employed:

For all potential SS beneficiaries, it is very important to know how Social Security determines if you are eligible for retirement benefits: Everyone (including the self-employed) must have earned at least 40 "quarter credits" contributing to the SS program, which is usually about 10 years' worth of earnings.

You can earn up to four "quarter credits" per year, depending on your earnings, including your net



ASK RUSTY

Social Security Advisor

earnings from self-employment. For example, this year (2026) you will get one "quarter credit" for each \$1,890 of earnings, up to four credits maximum for the year. As a self-employed business owner, only your net earnings are counted (e.g., after all your reported business deductions are taken). The SSA gets your earnings information from the IRS,

so SSA goes by whatever information you submitted in the self-employment income tax returns you submitted to the IRS over the years. If you don't have at least 40 "quarter credits" over your lifetime, you won't be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.

The best way to further

See Rusty Page 3

Indiana Senior Health Ranks in Lower Third Nationally

I wanted to share a quick update and some helpful resources for our local veterans and their families.

Last month, our office handled 106 calls and welcomed 44 visitors seeking information about veterans benefits. We also coordinated rides to 24 medical appointments in the area using our DAV-sponsored vans.

Many veterans ask for help locating their service DD-214 (discharge paperwork). If you need a copy, you can request one directly from the National Archives website (archives.gov). Once you receive your DD-214, I highly recommend registering it

with the county recorder and placing a copy with your end-of-life documents.



This simple step can make things much easier for your family when preparing for funeral and burial benefits.

Please note: I will be out of the office and unavailable from June 6th to June 22nd. If you have urgent questions during this time, you can contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000.

June is PTSD Awareness Month—a time to learn

more about post-traumatic stress and support those affected. If you or someone you know needs help, the VA offers confidential resources and support.

This month also marks two important dates: June 6th is the anniversary of D-Day, and June 14th is Flag Day. Please join me in displaying your flags proudly, thanking veterans for their service, and taking a moment to remember the sacrifices made on D-Day.

If you have flags that need to be retired, you can drop them off at the American Legion, the VFW, or the county building. They will be respectfully retired in a dignified

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. The Indiana State Department of Agriculture is accepting submissions for the 19th annual Indiana Agriculture Photo Contest. The contest is open to all Indiana residents and was created to recognize the hard work and contributions of Hoosier farmers, as well as the beauty of the state's agricultural landscape. Participants are encouraged to submit photos reflecting the wide array of agriculture. Ten winners will be selected and invited to attend a special ceremony at the Indiana State Fair. Contestants can submit up to five photos in digital format accommodated by a submission form for each photo. Photos will be evaluated based on creativity, composition and category representation. Entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. (ET) on June 30, 2026. Visit ISDA.IN.GOV for more information.

2. Speaking of the State Ag folks, they are accepting nominations for the 2026 AgriVision Award, the highest agricultural honor presented by the State of Indiana. This award, now in its 19th year, was established by the lieutenant governor and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture to recognize Indiana's agricultural leaders who are ensuring Indiana is, and remains, a global center for food and agricultural innovation and commercialization. The AgriVision Award is open to any Indiana resident and all sectors of the agriculture industry—from bioenergy to livestock to the agbiosciences. Any person or organization may submit a nomination through July 1, 2026. "Indiana agriculture continues to benefit from leaders who make a lasting difference," said Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith. "As we celebrate past AgriVision Award recipients, we're also excited to recognize another outstanding Hoosier this August." Award nominations are currently being accepted and close on July 1. To nominate an individual, you must complete a form found on the ISDA website and email it to the department. Once a winner has been selected, the award will be presented by Lt. Gov. Beckwith and ISDA Director Lamb during the Celebration of Agriculture at the 2026 Indiana State Fair. Visit ISDA.IN.GOV to learn more about the award or to nominate someone.

3. The 40th anniversary celebration of the movie *Hoosiers* is being planned at Milan 1954 Museum in Milan, Ind. The gala event is set for Nov. 7 at the Milan High School gymnasium. The event will not only celebrate one of the most iconic sports films of all time, but of course the 1954 state champion Milan High School team as well. Tickets are on sale now and those who purchase before July 15 are automatically entered in a raffle to win a basketball signed by Milan team members. Go to <https://milan54.org/> for more information.

2 Indiana Hot Spots Among Best Places for Slow Sunday

For a lot of people, the perfect Sunday morning has become something oddly difficult to find. In much of the country, weekends now feel almost as rushed as weekdays — chain coffee on the go, errands squeezed into traffic and downtowns that lost their rhythm somewhere along the way.

But there are still pockets where Sunday mornings seem to unfold the way people imagine they should: slow, walkable, comforting and quietly full of life.

Calgary.com, a real estate platform, surveyed 3,022 respondents to reveal which towns and neighborhoods are best suited to that ideal version of a Sunday — the kinds of places where people linger over coffee, browse independent bookstores, wander farmers markets, sit outside at brunch, or simply stroll streets that still feel personal and lived-in.

Two spots in the great Hoosier state were named among the best in the country for a slow Sunday:

#113. Downton Chesterton, Chesterton

Coming in at No. 113, Chesterton has quietly developed the kind of small-town Sunday atmosphere people increasingly romanticize. The walkable downtown, local cafés, bakeries, antique stores, and nearby Indiana Dunes create a rhythm centered around slowing down rather than staying busy. On weekends, people drift through patios without much urgency, giving the town an easygoing feel that's become harder to find in many suburban communities.

#140. Irvington, Indianapolis

And at No. 140, Irvington feels built for slow Sundays. The neighborhood's old homes, leafy streets, independent cafés, bookstores, and historic character create a pace that encourages wandering rather than scheduling. Mornings here often revolve around coffee, porch sitting, farmers markets, and aimless walks through the neighborhood's quiet side streets. It has enough age and texture to feel authentic, which increasingly makes it attractive to people searching for community-oriented places rather than polished master-planned environments.

Here's the top 10 list for the entire country.

#1. Old Village, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina
Old Village captures the quieter coastal version of South Carolina life that people increasingly search for. The neighborhood's cottages, waterfront views, shrimp boats, cafés, porches, and shaded streets create a Sunday atmosphere that feels deeply tied to the water and the community around

See Sunday Page 3



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Main 765-361-0100
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Veterans Service Officer Shares May Report



Nick Kashon
*Veteran's Service Officer
Montgomery County*

I wanted to share a quick update and some helpful resources for our local veterans and their families.

Last month, our office handled 106 calls and welcomed 44 visitors seeking information about veterans benefits. We also coordinated rides to 24 medical appointments in the area using our DAV-sponsored vans.

Many veterans ask for help locating their service DD-214 (discharge paperwork). If you need a copy, you can request one directly from the National Archives website (archives.gov). Once you receive your DD-214, I highly recommend registering it with the county recorder and placing a copy with your end-of-life documents. This simple step can make things much easier for your family when preparing for funeral and burial benefits.

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If you have flags that need to be retired, you can drop them off at the American Legion, the VFW, or the county building. They will be respectfully retired in a dignified ceremony. Thank you for all that you do, and please feel free to reach out with any questions after I return.

Nick Kashon is the Veterans Service Officer for Montgomery County. You can reach him at Nick.Kashon@montgomerycounty.in.gov or (765) 361-4133. His office is located at 1580 Constitution Row Crawfordsville.

Community Invited to Monthly Forum

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton has scheduled his monthly Community Forum for Tuesday, June 9 from noon to 1 p.m. at Lincoln Park, 950 E. Wabash Ave.

This will be Barton's 156th Community Forum since taking office.

Holding a monthly community forum was something Barton pledged to do during his first campaign for

mayor and he has continued to do so every month – except during the COVID pandemic.

This event is designed to allow the public to come ask questions, discuss concerns, interact with the mayor and learn more about anything regarding the city.

Lincoln Park is located at 950 E. Wabash Ave. The Forum will be held in the shelter there.



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler
Mayor Todd Barton has been holding these meetings with the community since 2012.

Drowning and Near-Drowning Strong Reminders of Water Safety

One outing ended in relief, another in tragedy. Both are a reminder that water safety is of paramount importance now that warm weather has fully arrived.

In Parke County, a woman is alive and recovering from a near drowning accident that occurred Saturday, thanks to the quick actions of several bystanders along Sugar Creek.

Earlier this week, Indiana Conservation Officers and Parke County first responders responded to a report of a possible drowning along Sugar Creek. The incident occurred in a remote area of Sugar Creek that is nearly a mile from the nearest roadway and surrounded by steep cliffs and dense forest.

Bobbie Barker, 35 from Indianapolis, was canoeing with her boyfriend when they struck a log, causing her to fall into the water. Cole Riggelman, a bystander, witnessed the incident and swam into the creek and brought Barker to shore. Barker was under the water for about one minute.

Barker was unresponsive and did not have a pulse once back to shore. A licensed physician, James Malenkos, MD, witnessed the event and led a group of bystanders through administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on Barker. After approximately 12 minutes, Barker regained a pulse. Within 30 minutes, Barker was responsive and alert.

A Bloomingdale EMT and another bystander, Casey Bault, transported Barker via canoe to the nearest access point nearly two miles downstream where an ambulance was waiting. Barker was then transported via helicopter to IU Methodist Hospital. Barker was not wearing a life jacket at the time of the incident.

Agencies assisting with the incident were Bloomingdale Fire Department, Marshall Fire Department, Parke County Sheriff's Department, Parke County EMS, and IU Lifeline Helicopter Services.

Unfortunately, another event did not turn out as well

as Conservation Officers are investigating a drowning that occurred Saturday evening at Witmer Lake in LaGrange County.

At approximately 5 p.m., the LaGrange County Dispatch Center received a report of a drowning at Witmer Lake. Upon arrival, officers on scene determined that a juvenile jumped from a boat into the water and did not resurface.

Other passengers on the boat immediately jumped into the water to help locate the juvenile but were unsuccessful.

At approximately 8:15 p.m., Indiana Conservation Officers recovered the juvenile's body, and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The incident is under investigation. Assisting agencies include the LaGrange County Sheriff Department; Indiana State Police; Johnson and Orange Township Fire Departments; Kendallville, Ashley, Salem, and Fremont Fire Departments; Parkview EMS and LaGrange County Coroner's Office.

Franciscan Health Race for Kids Tomorrow

The 11th Annual Race for Kids 5K/10K Run/Walk and the Healthy Family Fun Fair is Saturday at Franciscan Health Lafayette East. This year's event features a brand-new course for the 5K Run/Walk, along with the addition of a 10K option.

The Franciscan Health Race for Kids 5K/10K and Healthy Family Fun Fair is a yearly event that inspires families to lead an active and healthy

lifestyle.

Race day registration and the Healthy Family Fun Fair begins at 8 a.m. Opening ceremonies are set for 8:30 a.m. The 10K run is set for 9 a.m., along with the Kiddie Fun Run taking place at 9:15 a.m. The 5K walk begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by the awards ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

The Healthy Family Fun Fair is held alongside the race. Multiple vendors will be in attendance offering

education on healthy choices for kids, as well as vendors that offer fun activities.

Registration for the Race for Kids 5K/10K run is \$35, while the 5K Run/Walk is \$30. The Kiddie Fun Run is free.

Funds raised from the Race for Kids 5K/10K benefit the Franciscan Health Lafayette East Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Pediatric Therapy Programs to purchase equipment

such as AngelEye cameras, baby simulators, and therapy wings, as well as funds to assist patients with miscellaneous costs.

Last year's Race for Kids raised over \$24,000 and provided essential supplies for families in the NICU as well as cutting edge equipment for pediatric therapy rooms.

Franciscan Health Lafayette East Hospital is located at 1701 South Creasy Lane in Lafayette.

Emily Weliver Named to Dean's List

Emily Weliver of Crawfordsville was named to the University of Evansville Dean's List for the Spring 2026 semester.

Students at UE are named to the Dean's List every fall and spring semester. To merit the honor of being placed on the Dean's List, a student must

have carried a full academic load of 12 hours or more and have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

The University of Evansville is a private university located in Evansville, Indiana. Established in 1854, UE is recognized across the globe for

a rich tradition of academic excellence with a vibrant campus community of changemakers. Home of the Purple Aces, UE offers over 75 majors, 17 Division I sports, and a unique study abroad experience at Harlaxton College in the United Kingdom.

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ALMOST TIME



Photo courtesy Dave Long
Sierra Hutchison and Dave Long are putting up signs around the Lane Place grounds to remind everyone that this year's Crawfordville Strawberry Festival is "just around the corner" on June 12, 13 and 14.

SUNDAY

Continued from Page 1

it. Even with Charleston nearby, Old Village still moves at its own pace. Sundays here revolve around walking, sitting outside, and letting the day unfold slowly.

#2. Old Colorado City, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Old Colorado City has a Sunday rhythm that feels more lived-in than polished. Locals wander between old brick storefronts, coffee shops, bakeries, galleries, and quiet side streets with the mountains always nearby. It has enough history to feel grounded, but enough everyday life to avoid becoming a postcard. Sundays here are less about doing something impressive and more about lingering — breakfast that turns into a walk, a gallery stop, then one more coffee before heading home.

#3. West Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina

West Asheville has a slightly scruffier and more neighborhood-oriented Sunday charm than Asheville's better-known downtown core. The area's cafés, bookstores, patios, bungalows, and independent shops create a pace that feels relaxed and deeply local. Sundays often unfold slowly here — breakfast becoming lunch, errands becoming conversations, and people drifting through the neighborhood without much urgency. It still feels creative and lived-in rather than heavily curated.

#4. Downtown Ocean Springs, Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Ocean Springs delivers the kind of coastal Sunday people quietly fantasize about. Locals move between oak-lined streets, cafés, galleries, beach walks, and small restaurants at a pace that feels unforced and easy. The town has enough artistic energy to feel lively, but never so much that it becomes hectic. Sundays here are less about plans and more about atmosphere — coffee, conversation, wandering, and staying outside as long as possible.

#5. Eureka Springs Historic District, Eureka Springs, Arkansas

The historic core of Eureka Springs feels built for long, unhurried Sundays. The winding streets, old staircases, hidden cafés, local galleries, and Victorian storefronts create the sense that people are meant to explore slowly rather than move efficiently. Even when visitors are around, the town still carries an introspective, slightly eccentric calm. It's the kind of place where people spend half the morning wandering without a destination, which is exactly the atmosphere many Americans increasingly crave from the places they live.

#6. Downtown Beaufort, Beaufort, North Carolina

Beaufort delivers the softer, slower coastal Sunday people often imagine when they picture North Carolina at its best. The waterfront, old homes, cafés, docks, and oak-lined streets create a pace that naturally encourages

wandering. It feels historic without becoming overly touristy, and calm without feeling sleepy. Sundays here revolve around coffee by the water, slow walks past boats and porches, and simply staying outside as long as possible.

#7. Historic Franklin Square, Franklin, Tennessee

Franklin's historic core captures the kind of Southern Sunday people increasingly romanticize. Brick sidewalks, porches, cafés, boutiques, old churches, and tree-lined streets create a rhythm centered around wandering rather than rushing. Even with growth around it, the downtown still feels grounded in everyday community life. Sundays here often revolve around slow breakfasts, browsing shops, and simply spending time outside because the atmosphere itself feels comforting.

#8. Old Town, Winchester, Virginia

Old Town Winchester captures a quieter and more old-fashioned version of the perfect Sunday morning. Brick sidewalks, historic storefronts, cafés, porches, and tree-lined residential streets create a pace that feels gentle and grounded. It's the kind of place where people wander without a destination and where ordinary routines still shape the atmosphere of the weekend. Sundays here feel personal, familiar, and pleasantly unhurried.

#9. Historic Wickford Village, North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Wickford Village delivers a quieter and more understated version of New England coastal charm. The old houses, tiny shops, cafés, marinas, and harbor views create a Sunday pace that feels almost naturally slow. Even with visitors around, the village still feels grounded in everyday community life rather than tourism alone. Sundays here revolve around wandering the waterfront, sitting outside with coffee, and enjoying the rare feeling that nobody seems especially hurried.

#10. Starland District, Savannah, Georgia

The Starland District feels like Savannah's slower, more creative younger sibling. Instead of the heavily touristed historic core, Sundays here revolve around cafés, bookstores, bakeries, patios, galleries, and shaded streets filled with old houses and converted storefronts. The neighborhood has enough energy to feel alive, but never rushed. It's increasingly the sort of place people fantasize about living in because the everyday pace feels softer, more social, and less transactional than life in larger cities.

Beyond the rankings, the survey suggests that the "perfect Sunday" is less about doing something grand and more about escaping the pace of the rest of the week. When respondents were asked what defines the ideal slow Sunday, the top answer was reading or relaxing at home, chosen by 21%. That was followed by sitting out-

side with coffee at 17%, and walking through a quiet neighborhood at 14%.

When it comes to what makes a town feel "slow Sunday friendly," the most important factor was quiet streets and low traffic, selected by 24% of respondents. That ranked ahead of both walkability and friendly community atmosphere, which were tied at 15% each.

The biggest "slow Sunday" killers were:

Noise and congestion — 21%

Heavy traffic — 18%

Feeling pressured to stay productive — 16%

Feeling unsafe walking around — 13%

Everything opening late or closing early — 10%

Lack of green space — 9%

Crowded chain businesses — 7%

Overdevelopment — 7%

One of the strongest findings is how much this matters to people when thinking about where they want to live. A combined 82% said a neighborhood's "Sunday atmosphere" is important when deciding where they would want to live, including 42% who said it is extremely important, 26% who said somewhat important, and 14% who said very important.

The type of place people most associate with an ideal slow Sunday was a quiet suburb with walkable streets, chosen by 25%. That beat more traditionally romantic settings, such as small coastal towns and lake communities, both at 16%, as well as mountain towns at 12%, and rural countryside towns at 13%.

The survey also found that genuinely relaxing Sundays are far from guaranteed. Only 16% of respondents said they feel relaxed every Sunday, while 28% said most Sundays. The largest group, 40%, said they only feel relaxed occasionally. Another 12% said rarely, and 4% said never.

In other words, the slow Sunday is still something many people want, but not something most people consistently get. That may help explain why neighborhoods with coffee shops, quiet streets, parks, porches, water views, bookstores, and a strong local rhythm feel so appealing. They represent a version of everyday life that feels increasingly hard to protect.

"Sunday mornings have become a kind of quiet luxury," said a spokesperson from Calgary.com. "People are not just looking for pretty streets or good coffee; they are looking for places where life still feels human-scaled. What stands out about these towns and neighborhoods is that they offer a rhythm many people feel they have lost elsewhere — walkable streets, familiar local businesses, outdoor spaces, and enough character to make an ordinary morning feel meaningful. In many ways, the ideal Sunday has become a shorthand for the kind of community people want to live in all week."

RUSTY

Continued from Page 1

investigate this is to create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. When you have done that, you will be able to see how many quarter credits you currently have (apparently less than 40) and determine how much more you must earn to be eligible for SS retirement benefits. For example, if you have 36 or more credits now, you could likely work just another year, or part of a year, to be eligible for SS benefits next year. Knowing how many "credits" you now have

will tell you how much more in annual net earnings from self-employment you must have to become eligible for SS benefits.

When you create your online SS account, you will also be able to see your entire lifetime record of your earnings reported to Social Security, and you should review that record to make sure that your lifetime earnings have been correctly reported to Social Security. If there are any discrepancies in your lifetime earnings record, they can be corrected by using form SSA-7008. You can find addition-

al guidance on this at the following SSA web link: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

STATE SUMMARY

from Page 1

Overall Rank

35

Indiana

State Health Department Website: in.gov/health

AMERICA'S HEALTH RANKINGS
UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION

Summary

Key Findings

Internet Crime
315%
from 78 to 32.4 complaints per 10,000 adults age 60 and older between 2023 and 2024.

Early Death
10%
from 2,338 to 2,102 deaths per 100,000 adults ages 65-74 between 2022 and 2024.

Flu Vaccination
8%
from 67.7% to 62.5% of adults age 65 and older between 2022 and 2024.

Strengths

- Low prevalence of low-care nursing home residents
- Low prevalence of excessive drinking

Challenges

- High prevalence of obesity
- Low SNAP participation among older adults in poverty

Measures	State Rank	State Value	U.S. Value
Social and Economic Factors	29	-0.019	
Community and Family Safety			
Internet Crime (Complaints per 10,000 adults age 60+)	49	32.4	17.4
Motor Vehicle Deaths (Deaths per 100,000 adults age 65+)	31	15.4	13.3
Community Support Expenditures (Dollars per adult age 60+)	31	\$39	\$53
Food Insecurity (% of adults age 60+)	31	8.5%	9.2%
Poverty (% of adults age 65+)	17	9.7%	11.2%
SNAP Reach (Participants per 100 adults age 60+ living in poverty)	47	35.5	86.8
Social Support and Engagement			
High-Speed Internet (% of households with adults age 65+)	34	86.0%	88.2%
Low-Care Nursing Home Residents (% of residents)	4	3.5%	9.0%
Risk of Social Isolation (Index from 1-100)	27	49	-
Volunteering (% of adults age 65+)	23	30.7%	26.3%
Physical Environment	29	0.417	
Air and Water Quality			
Air Pollution (Micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter)	44	9.5	8.8
Drinking Water Violations (Average violations per community water system)	29	2.0	2.5
Housing			
Housing Cost Burden (% of households with adults age 65+)	15	27.2%	33.3%
Clinical Care	20	0.198	
Access to Care			
Avoided Care Due to Cost (% of adults age 65+)	22	3.1%	3.8%
Geriatric Clinicians (Clinicians per 100,000 adults age 65+)	12	4.71	4.15
Home Health Care Workers (Workers per 1,000 adults age 65+)	24	45	65
Cancer Screenings (% of adults age 65-79)	27	76.3%	76.8%
Preventive Clinical Services			
Flu Vaccination (% of adults age 65+)	29	62.5%	62.5%
Pneumonia Vaccination (% of adults age 65+)	22	71.6%	69.8%
Quality of Care			
Dedicated Health Care Provider (% of adults age 65+)	7	97.7%	96.0%
Hospice Care (% of Medicare decedents)	16	49.5%	46.9%
Nursing Home Quality (% of beds rated four or five stars)	19	37.3%	34.0%
Preventable Hospitalizations (Discharges per 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries ages 65-74)	38	1.695	1.477
Behaviors	36	-0.324	
Nutrition and Physical Activity			
Exercise (% of adults age 65+)	28	28.1%	29.0%
Fruit and Vegetable Consumption (% of adults age 65+)	15	6.2%	7.5%
Physical Inactivity (% of adults age 65+ in fair or better health)	42	30.4%	26.5%
Sleep Health			
Insufficient Sleep (% of adults age 65+)	28	27.6%	28.1%
Tobacco Use			
Cigarette Smoking (% of adults age 65+)	38	10.3%	8.3%
Health Outcomes	39	-0.456	
Behavioral Health			
Drug Deaths (Deaths per 100,000 adults age 65+)	16	11.5	13.7
Excessive Drinking (% of adults age 65+)	17	6.2%	7.6%
Frequent Mental Distress (% of adults age 65+)	31	8.8%	8.7%
Suicide (Deaths per 100,000 adults age 65+)	29	19.2	17.8
Mortality			
Early Death (Deaths per 100,000 adults ages 65-74)	42	2,102	1,773
Falls (% of adults age 65+)	17	27.3%	27.8%
Frequent Physical Distress (% of adults age 65+)	37	18.7%	17.6%
Multiple Chronic Conditions (% of Medicare beneficiaries ages 65-74)	32	56%	53%
Obesity (% of adults age 65+)	49	35.7%	29.5%
Tooth Extractions (% of adults age 65+)	41	15.5%	11.4%
Demographics			
Population - Age 65+ (% of population)	-	17.5%	18.0%
Population - Age 65+ - Rural (% of adults age 65+)	-	33.1%	24.1%
Functional Disability (% of adults age 65+)	-	32.6%	32.5%
Overall	35	-0.124	

* Additional measure that does not contribute to a state's Overall Rank.
- Data not available, missing or suppressed.

2026 Senior Report

Things Began to Change for Purdue in Fall of 2014

In the fall of 2014, no one outside of Mackey Arena realized that it was the eve of the most successful period in Purdue men's basketball history.

The freshman class of Vincent Edwards, Isaac Haas, Dakota Mathias and P.J. Thompson were about to change the Boilermakers' trajectory after a last place Big Ten finish in the 2013-14 season. But coach Matt Painter was searching for another point guard in case the underrecruited Thompson didn't develop as he hoped.

Painter thought he found his point guard of the future in C.J. Walker of Indianapolis Tech, who committed on Oct. 28. That commitment lasted five months.

Walker announced March 29, 2015, on Twitter that he was reopening his commitment.

Walker said he changed his mind after visiting Purdue and attending games during the 2014-15 season. That season Purdue went 21-13 and tied for third in the Big Ten at 12-6. Jon Oteus was departing after his lone season in West Lafayette and Thompson remained unproven.

"I felt like I wouldn't really fit in that well with Purdue, with the offense they played," Walker told the Journal and Courier's Nathan Baird. "After going on visits and stuff like that, I didn't feel like that would be a place where I could reach maximum success for myself."

Walker also said Purdue's recent history with point guards gave him second thoughts. Two-year starter Ronnie Johnson transferred to Houston following the 2013-14 season. Johnson gleefully celebrated Walker's decision to decommit on Twitter. "CJ Walker has too much sauce to his

game. Great decision," Johnson wrote.

In basketball terminology, "sauce" describes a player with confidence, skills and a noticeable swagger.

Walker was coming off a junior season when he averaged 23.8 points, 3.7 assists and 2.5 assists. He also helped Tech win the Class 4A state championship as a sophomore. The decommitment was seen as a major loss among the fan base.

Instead, Walker did Purdue a favor. His decommitment opened the door for one of the Boilermakers' greatest players of the 21st century.

The first public mention of Carsen Edwards as a potential recruit was tucked away on page 4D of the July 8, 2015 edition of the Journal and Courier. A recruiting update story by Kyle Neddenriep of the Indianapolis Star had a brief mention about the Boilermakers.

"Purdue is looking to build off the 2015 class with Caleb Swanigan and Ryan Cline. The Boilermakers are in the mix for Ohio guard Xavier Simpson (No. 88 by Rivals) and three-star Texas guard Carsen Edwards."

Edwards, Simpson and Milwaukee's Te'Jon Lucas were offered scholarships. The first one to say yes would lock out the other two. Simpson and Lucas had scheduled official visits when Edwards committed to Purdue on Aug. 11. Coincidentally, the morning Edwards committed to Purdue, Baird had written a detailed scouting report on Simpson, Edwards and Lucas.

"If I were to wait and let them get there, I may miss a good opportunity, so I went ahead and took it," Edwards told Baird. "When you feel you're needed, that's always a good spot."

Edwards said he was

preparing himself to play as a freshman.

"It's not like I like the attention, but I like the big stage," he said. "To be able to perform and compete at the highest level, that's always fun."

Edwards, listed at 6-foot, 175 pounds, was the reigning Houston Chronicle Player of the Year after he averaged 23 points, 2.3 assists and two steals as a junior while leading Atascocita High School to a 35-2 season. A consensus three-star recruit, Edwards chose Purdue over Kansas State, Baylor, Houston, SMU and Vanderbilt.

At the time, Edwards was playing point guard exclusively for his summer Houston Hoops team. But at Atascocita, Edwards was a shooting guard.

"With his size, I think most high major coaches would be concerned with, No. 1, can he guard bigger guards?" Atascocita coach David Martinez told Baird. "No. 2, can he get shots off against bigger guards? He's proven that. He has really big hands, gets great separation and makes tough shots at big times."

"He's a competitor. He wants the ball in his hands. He's not afraid to play against the best competition out there. He plays with a chip on his shoulder."

Edwards was the only player to sign with Purdue on Nov. 11.

"He has the ability to score in bunches," Painter said at the time. "He can really shoot the ball, can really score off the dribble. From a production and physical ability standpoint, there's no doubt he can play at this level. He's a hard worker, a good student and comes from a good family. I just felt it was a great fit for Purdue."

Senior guard Raphael Davis told Baird he was impressed after

two pickup games Edwards played with the Boilermakers during his official visit.

"He can shoot the ball, he can score the ball, he can guard, can jam — he can do everything Purdue looks for a point guard to do," Davis said.

The scouting report from Martinez, Painter and Davis was accurate.

Edwards started 21 games as a freshman in the 2016-17 season and quickly earned Painter's trust with his shooting skills. Edwards averaged 10.3 points, collected 36 steals and made 49 3-pointers. He meshed well with Swanigan, Edwards, Mathias and Thompson and helped the Boilermakers win the Big Ten championship.

Edwards won the Jerry West Award as the nation's best shooting guard as a sophomore. Edwards led Purdue to a then-school record 30 wins while averaging 18.5 points a game on 40.6 percent shooting from 3-point range.

His scoring average surged to a Big Ten-leading 24.3 points a game as a junior. Edwards capped his career in a Boilermaker uniform with a record-setting NCAA Tournament performance. It began with 26 points against Old Dominion, followed by a career-high 42 points in the second round against defending champion Villanova. Edwards added



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

29 points in the Sweet 16 against Tennessee, sinking the free throws that allowed Purdue to win in overtime. A 10 of 19 shooting performance from 3-point range on his way to 42 points nearly carried the Boilermakers to victory against Virginia in the Elite Eight. His 28 3-pointers in the tournament broke Glen Rice's record set over six games to Edwards' four.

Had Edwards returned for his senior season, it would have been he and not Zach Edey a few years later who would have eclipsed Rick Mount's career scoring record. As it is, Edwards' 1,920 points rank ninth in Purdue history.

As for C.J. Walker? He chose Florida State on the rebound. After Walker's sophomore season, which saw him start 34 games and average 8 points, he transferred to Ohio State and averaged 9.4 points as a senior while shooting 26.5 percent from 3-point range.

Zavier Simpson started 96 games during his four-year career at Michigan. He averaged 12.9

points and 7.9 assists as a senior. Simpson played 11 NBA games with Oklahoma City in 2021-22 and Memphis in 2023-24. He now plays for the Ningbo Rockets of the Chinese Basketball Association.

Lucas chose Illinois, where he started 34 games over two seasons and averaged just over 5 points a game. He returned home to play two seasons with Milwaukee and was outstanding. Lucas put up 14.6 points and 5.1 assists as a junior and 14.9 points and 5.8 assists in his senior season. Thanks to the NCAA granting an extra year of eligibility following the COVID-19 pandemic, Lucas finished at BYU. In 34 starts, he averaged 10.4 points and 4.7 assists.

Lucas now plays for the Bristol Flyers of the British Basketball League.

Next time: The roller-coaster recruitment of Caleb Swanigan

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.

Governor Inks Vet Bill Backed by Commons

The governor recently ceremonially signed into law a legislative effort supported by State Rep. Matt Commons (R-Williamsport) to expand property tax relief for Indiana's veterans, specifically those who have sustained total disabilities in service to the nation.

House Enrolled Act 1210 provides tax relief for veterans with total disabilities by increasing the property tax deduction to cover 100% of the assessed value of their real property, replacing the current \$14,000 deduction. Under the law, disabled veterans who qualify will not owe property tax on their primary residence. The new law also converts several existing veteran property tax deductions into property tax liability credits beginning with taxes assessed for the 2026 assessment year to provide a more direct

benefit.

"Indiana is dedicated to supporting our veterans both during and after their service," said Commons, a Purple Heart recipient and veteran of the United States Army 82nd Airborne Division who serves on the House Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee. "With this property tax relief, we are helping make homeownership more affordable for the veterans who have sacrificed in service to our country."

Commons said the legislation also broadens tax relief opportunities for other veterans through new and expanded credits. Along with allowing veterans with a 100% disability rating to deduct 100% of their home's assessed value with no cap, the law establishes new stackable property tax credits to replace existing deduc-

tions, including a \$250 credit for partially disabled veterans with a disability rating of at least 10% who are age 62 or older, and a \$350 credit for veterans who served during wartime.

Under the new law, veterans who previously qualified for a property tax deduction will instead receive a credit applied directly to their local property tax liability. The changes will take effect beginning with the 2026 assessment date.

Commons estimates the legislation will provide approximately \$46.2 million in additional tax relief for veterans statewide beginning with taxes payable in 2027.

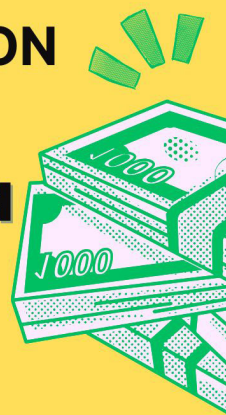
Commons represents House District 13, which includes all of Benton and Warren counties, and portions of Fountain, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Tippecanoe and White counties.

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Postal Service Shines Light on Dog Attacks

Last year, U.S. Postal Service employees suffered more than 5,200 dog attacks, 159 of which occurred in Indiana. To combat this, USPS is sharing vital safety guidance to help pet owners protect mail carriers and ensure uninterrupted mail delivery.

June is Dog Bite Awareness month with the theme of “Don’t turn your back on dog bite prevention.”

“Every single day, our postal employees serve their communities across dynamic, fast-changing environments,” said Leann Theriault, employee safety and health awareness manager. “Preventing dog-related incidents requires constant, shared vigilance. This campaign reinforces a vital truth: Animal behaviors can change in an instant, but proactive awareness from both our carriers and the customers we serve can stop painful injuries before they ever happen.”

Keep Mail Delivery Safe: Tips for Dog Owners

Even the most predictable pets can act unpredictably when defending territory or feeling startled. Because dogs rely on protective instincts, owners must manage their dogs during delivery times to prevent accidents. Keep your dog in a separate closed room before opening the front door. If you step outside, ensure the door is firmly latched. Always use a leash if your dog is outdoors during mail delivery. Finally, never accept mail directly from a carrier in the presence of your dog, and teach children to avoid doing so, as dogs can misinterpret the interaction as a threat.

Sign up for USPS Informed Delivery and See the Mail on Your Electronic

Device Before It Arrives

By using the free Informed Delivery feature, customers can digitally preview incoming mail and packages from a computer, tablet or mobile device. Over 70 million customers have enrolled since the service was launched in 2017. Sign up at informeddelivery.usps.com. This service can help dog owners anticipate when their carrier might arrive.

The Financial and Emotional Damage of a Dog Attack

Protecting your carrier protects your wallet. If your dog attacks a postal worker, you could owe thousands of dollars out of pocket to cover their medical care, lost shifts, replacement clothing and emotional distress.

“I was walking my route when a dog jumped the fence and lunged at me,” said San Antonio Letter Carrier Fiona Hudson. “I used my dog repellent and mail bag to defend myself, but it was too late. I was rushed to the hospital bleeding, with a broken bone, a severe arm sprain and was barely able to move. While my physical wounds have healed, the trauma of that vicious attack stays with me. Customers must take responsibility and secure their dogs during delivery hours.”

Take Action: Unsecured Dogs Stop Mail Delivery

When a carrier feels unsafe because of a roaming dog, mail service can be temporarily suspended.

Until the carrier feels safe enough to restart delivery, the mail will have to be picked up at the dog owner’s local Post Office.

If a carrier feels a house or neighborhood is unsafe to deliver to and there is

no way to inform residents their mail service has been suspended, the residents will have to contact the supervisor at their local Post Office for more information. The residents would also have to pick up their mail at the Post Office until it is safe to resume delivery.

If a dangerous dog issue is not resolved, owners can be required to rent a Post Office Box to receive mail.

Armed with Awareness: How Carriers Prevent Dog Bites

Postal carriers undergo extensive safety training to spot potential canine hazards. Carriers are instructed to remain vigilant and exercise the precautions below:

Announce entry. Rattle a fence gate or make a non-threatening sound before walking into a yard.

Maintain visual contact. Never startle an animal and always keep eyes locked on the dog.

Assume dog poses risk. Avoid petting or feeding any animal on the assumption that any dog has the potential to bite.

Block exits. Secure outward-swinging doors with a foot to prevent a pet from escaping.

If a dog attacks, carriers are trained to stand their ground, use their mail satchel as a protective shield and deploy dog repellent if necessary. To stay ahead of these risks, USPS also provides carriers with awareness tools, including handheld scanners that feature built-in dog warning alerts and physical warning cards that are placed into mail sorting cases to alert a carrier of a dog at a certain address.

Cities and States with the Most Dog Attacks in 2025
For the 2025 dog attack

2025 Dog Bite/Dog Incident Data			
	City	Number of Incidents	Ranking
1	LOS ANGELES	70	1
2	DALLAS	50	2
3	DENVER	45	3
4	HOUSTON	44	4
5	CHICAGO	43	5
6	ST. LOUIS	40	6
7	INDIANAPOLIS	35	7
8	SAN DIEGO	32	8
9	SAN ANTONIO	31	9
10	CLEVELAND	30	10
11	KANSAS CITY, MO	30	10
12	CINCINNATI	29	11
13	MINNEAPOLIS	29	11
14	OAKLAND, CA	27	12
15	PHOENIX	27	12
16	COLUMBUS, OH	26	13
17	DETROIT	24	14
18	LOUISVILLE, KY	23	15
19	MEMPHIS, TN	21	16
20	OKLAHOMA CITY	21	16
21	PITTSBURGH	21	16
22	SACRAMENTO, CA	21	16
23	FORT WORTH, TX	20	17
24	LONG BEACH, CA	20	17
25	MILWAUKEE	20	17
26	PHILADELPHIA	20	17
27	PORTLAND, OR	20	17
28	DAYTON, OH	19	18
29	JACKSONVILLE, FL	19	18
30	OMAHA, NE	17	19
31	MIAMI	16	20
32	ROCHESTER, NY	16	20
33	SAN FRANCISCO	16	20

These 33 cities are the top 20 localities with the greatest number of dog bite incidents

2025 Dog Bite/Dog Incident Data			
	State	Number of Incidents	Ranking
1	California	673	1
2	Texas	358	2
3	Ohio	287	3
4	New York	269	4
5	Pennsylvania	267	5
6	Illinois	260	6
7	Florida	183	7
8	Missouri	182	8
9	Michigan	174	9
10	Indiana	159	10

These are the 10 states with the greatest number of dog bite incidents. Dog bite awareness events will be held across the country throughout June, and USPS will share information on social media using the hashtag #dogbiteawareness.

rankings in your specific city or town, contact your local USPS Corporate Communications representative

at about.usps.com/newsroom/media-contacts/local.htm.

Southmont High Second Semester Honor Roll

Grade 9 High Honor Roll: Elijah Badillo, Hayleigh Boots, Chance Brock, Savannah Elmore, Colton Fox, Callaway Garlock, Layla Grimes, Owen Grimes, Benjamin Gurule, Derek Hale, Eli Hannum, Chase Harcourt, Alexis Harden, Lillie Hood, Kirra Hopkins, Henry Keller, Colton Kendrick, Matthew Kingery, Eliana Korhorn, Kai Lewin, Silas Lewis, Gavin Mason, Emily Mohan, Lydia Moody, Michael Moore, Olivia Myers, Brayden Parker, Emma Plemons, Lanie Ramsey, Kemberlee Redman, Marley Rhoads, Alexa Richey, Emily Simpson, Emily Steiner, Emma Stephens, Skyler Strickland, James Stumph, Jaron Swick, Danika Ward, Amelia Woods.

Grade 9 Honor Roll: Emma Benge, Kohen Bonebrake, Job Bradley, Jamie Buckler, Reese Bullock, Jayden Bunten, Kasen Bushong, Hunter Chieppo, McCayle Dalton, Cassidy Dittmer, Hailey Douglas, Ronan Gentry, Briellah Halstead, Caiden Halstead, Tyler Harp-

er, Jace Hart, Nehemiah Holmes, Emery James, Chloe Jones, Mylee Malone, Parker McCaffry, Gabriel Montgomery, Mason Musser, Laina Newton, Andrew Patterson, Blaine Peacock, Grace Pendleton, Korbin Perry, Brynlee Pruett, Grant Reeves, Jack Sarver, Gabriel Schindler, Clay Sering, Macie Shaw, Emory Siple, Jordan Snarud, Isabella Snow, Lyra Stull, Audry Thompson, Brody Tolliver, Carson Vaught.

Grade 10 High Honor Roll: Annie Alesi, Zoe Arthur, Ella Barry, Malaki Burba, Isabella Cade, Emily Campbell, Kooper Charles, Brita Cleek, Jenna Evans, Ella France, Maggie Gilliland, Ashlyn Gillogly, Gavyn Gleason, Lakynn Hart, Hannah Hester, Madison Hester, Ethan Hutchison, Katarina Jennings, Rebekah Johnson, Margaret Klein, McKiah Lairson, Ella Largent, Marli Lawrence, David Long, Claire McCutchan, Caden Miller, Lucas Mitchell, Ziva Moody, Arlon Musick, Lillie Otenburg, Rys Pearson, Kaycee Perez, Eli Powell, Camryn

Priebe, Keelyn Pruitt, Naomi Quasebarth, Astrid Rabeyrin, Amy Roeder, Lane Slavens, Liam Trautwein, Kaylee Turner, Elizabeth Veach, Kaylee Wallace, Ava Wells, Caden White, Brooklyn Willhite, Lillian Zimmerman.

Grade 10 Regular Honor Roll: Ava Arthur, Jasmine Ashment, Owen Ball, Madison Bensen, Ava Bradshaw, Gavin Bramer, Jackson Brown, Paxton Burris, Ernesto Campos, Isabella Colombo, Graci Cornelius, Hayden Cornelius, Daxton Cottrell, Bethany Cregger, Reva Douglas, Ezekiel Endicott, Jasper Evans, Kaleb Frazier, Brayden Fullenwider, Aubrey Hall, Vivyan Haltom, Hayden Harkrider, Rylan Haslam, Makinzie Highland, Judah Hoenshell, Carlos Jimenez, Bryor Johnson, Jayden Johnson, John Jones, Roslyn Keck, Makenzie Lacy, Leo Lara, Sophia Lockard, Carter Ludlow, Mariah Madden, Paul Malone, Max Myers, Arayah Nickerson, Chance Odum, Carter Pattengale, Kynzi Powell, Tra-

vis Rogers, Kaelynn Sanburn, Chloe Sessum, Damien Severe, Drake Severe, Malcolm Simpson, Molly Slavens, Collyn Stewart, Hunter Thompson, Allison Turner.

Grade 11 High Honor Roll: Lino Aguiar, Indeya Albertson, Teddy Bacchus, Kristian Barrett-Lowery, Savannah Bradley, Lily Bushong, Mackenzie Clate, Brayden Cochran, Jayden Conrad, Landon Dagley, McCallister Dalton, Lillian Davis, Emmalie Dexter, Jacea Edwards, Alicia France, Bryce Glaze, Jaiden Golladay, Layla Gomez, Landon Grimes, Eden Hernandez, Addison Kendrick, Claire Kessler, Tristan Lane, Kaydence Lewin, Emerie Lieske, Emily Link, Davis Solomon Mason, Dean McGaughey, Samaya Morton, Nathaniel Nehring, Luke Parker, Claire Peacock, Olivia Phelps, Trent Reeves, Natalie Rhoads, Addilyn Riggen, Cooper Scott, Amarah Shannon, Layla Shaw, Daniel Simpson, Hunter Slavens, Lauren Snider, Jessica Starnes, Marlena Trautwein, Jackson Ward, Alexis

Weiler, Molly Williams, Makinzie Wood, Lennon Woods.

Grade 11 Regular Honor Roll: Cara Anderson, Andrew Blaydes, Roarie Bushong, Logan Crane, Tyler Cregger, Samantha Crosby, Kayden Davis, Mason Ferguson, Paxton Gentry, Jaycee Gerald, Mackenzie Gillogly, Jentry Gobin, Gavin Gray, Clayton Kessler, Kaylee Knox, Camden Laney, Jonathan Montgomery, Hayden Overfelt, Michael Schindler, Rhianah Smith, Shelby Stockton, William Stumph, Levi Summers, Layla Testerman, Jaycee Todd, Thomas Veach, Noah Vogel.

Grade 12 High Honor Roll: Andrew Bliss, Cale Chadd, Konner Conkright, Darby Cottrell, Jaysa Crull, Samuel Crum, Mackenzie Douglas, Gavin Downey, Karley Fisher, Austin Foley, Tyler Godwin, Collin Hall, Haylee Hall, Riley Hoopert, Kyleigh Johnson, Jozee Jones, Ethan Keck, Kevin Keller, Jameson Keough, Myah Knox, Mallory Liffick, Chaz Long, Madison

Minor, Aubrie Moore, Jaysa Moulton, Kolie Murphy, Kate Myers, Natalie Nelson, Kadee Plank, Carson Powell, Kendyll Priebe, Luc Rabeyrin, Gunnar Shirk, John Smaltz, Ian Snook, Avery Stadler, Darrell Starcher, Avery Stokes, Jacob Tibbett, Heath Tolliver, Tyler Walls.

Grade 12 Regular Honor Roll: Garrett Abney, Brooklynn Bensen, Jameson Biddle, Cohen Bradley, Deagon Buis, Savannah Chesser, Isabella Elless, Rylee Free-land, Ryla Fry, Camden Haile, Jolie Hoenshell, Milton Malone, Owen McCutchan, Kaylie Moore, Maci Nine, Shelby Perry, Landon Pickett, Tovi Powell, Benjamin Rhodes, Maxwell Rivers, Emma Scott, Sophia Shannon, Nevaeh Ward, Aubrey White, Robert Braedon Woods.



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