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‘YOU ARE NOT ALONE’



Robert “Bobby” Durbin and his daughter pose for a photo with his 2026 NCHV ‘Unsung Hero’ Award.

Indiana man fights for resources for homeless veterans

SAVANNAH SHOTWELL
THESTATEHOUSEFILE.COM

Robert “Bobby” Durbin has stepped into some of Hoosier veterans’ most difficult periods in life. From severe PTSD and mental health battles to addiction, the Westfield man is not afraid to help veterans experiencing homelessness and other difficult problems find solutions.

Earlier this year, Durbin earned the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) Unsung Hero Award for his “lifelong

devotion to Indiana’s Vulnerable Veterans.” This national award recognizes individuals who quietly go above and beyond for veterans experiencing homelessness. He received recognition at the NCHV Annual Conference in Washington D.C. in May.

“Veterans are the ones that raised their right hand and volunteered most importantly to serve and protect the Constitution and our country,” said Durbin. “I think whether you serve three years or 20 years, I think that you know no one should be left to the side and

road and become homeless.”

Durbin works as a bridge housing navigator for InteCare Veteran Services in Indianapolis. This nonprofit concentrates on helping veterans and their families find stable housing.

“He never asks, ‘Is this my job?’ His first thought is, ‘What does this veteran need?’” said Eleni Clark, veteran and grant services director for InteCare. “He doesn’t stop when he reaches a barrier. Bobby doesn’t see people as cases.”

Durbin is a veteran himself. He retired as a U.S. Army infantry

first sergeant after more than 20 years of active duty. When engaging with veterans in situations where they need help, he uses military language to connect with them.

“I deployed six times while I was in, so I’m just not really afraid to get in the bad parts,” said Durbin. “Whether it be the bad parts of town or just personal problems that people were having that they didn’t want to talk about.”

During 2025, Durbin helped his

See **DURBIN** on A2

Is tuition freeze working?

Braun’s 2025 order focused on affordability

CLAIRE RAFFORD
MIRROR INDY

For the second year in a row, public colleges and universities in Indiana will not raise tuition for in-state students.

Gov. Mike Braun and the state’s Commission for Higher Education ordered the two-year freeze in 2025, citing the need to make college more affordable.

“Indiana’s public institutions answered my call to find efficiencies and put students and their families first,” the Republican said in an Aug. 26 press release. “In Indiana, your higher education dollar stretches further.”

On the surface, that means students and families could save money. But experts say these policies are more complicated.

Here’s what a tuition freeze actually means for Indiana students and families, and for college affordability.

WHAT IS A TUITION FREEZE?

Freezing tuition means that a college or university agrees not to raise tuition for a certain amount of time.

In Indiana’s case, that means public colleges can’t raise in-state tuition or fees until the 2027-28 school year.

Purdue University has not raised tuition rates since 2013, when former and interim university president Mitch Daniels took over.

HOW DOES MY TUITION WORK?

The tuition rate the college advertises is called the “sticker price,” or what people would pay if they didn’t get any financial aid, grants or scholarships.

Schools also generally charge mandatory fees, which is extra money on top of the sticker price tuition to cover things like student activities

See **FREEZE** on A2

Lindsay Clancy trial ended with one last dramatic moment

Mistrial leads many to ask what comes next?

PHILIP MARCELO AND SUDHIN THANAWALA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The closely watched case of the Massachusetts mother who killed her three young children was on the verge of being declared a mistrial Friday — but there was still one more dramatic moment to come.

After weeks of grueling testimony, the jury could not get beyond an impasse on the sev-

enth day of deliberations on murder charges against Lindsay Clancy. An audible gasp was heard in the courtroom as Judge William F. Sullivan said he was going to end their deliberations without reaching a verdict.

But just as the jurors were about to come back to the courtroom, Lindsay Clancy’s lawyer asked to make a last-minute request for a higher court to stave off the mistrial. That kicked off a tense wait while a judge on the state’s top court considered the ask.

The whiplash moment was one last piece of courtroom drama in a livestreamed trial that captivated and divided many across the nation. And

now prosecutors must decide whether to do it all over again with a second trial.

Ultimately on Friday, the high court denied the defense attorney’s appeal and the judge formally declared a mistrial later in the afternoon. Clancy’s attorney, Kevin Reddington, blamed a lone juror for the impasse. Defense attorneys argued in their written petition that the person had revealed a possible bias against those dealing with mental illness.

Clancy, a 36-year-old former labor and delivery nurse, never disputed that she killed her children, but her attorney said she was experiencing a rare

condition called postpartum psychosis when she strangled her kids, the youngest just 8 months old, and then tried to take her own life in 2023. Prosecutors said Clancy knew what she was doing and should be held criminally responsible.

The jury foreperson had previously told Sullivan that a single juror wouldn’t follow the court’s instruction about reasonable doubt, according to Reddington.

In their last-minute appeal, Clancy’s lawyers had argued the juror should, at minimum, be questioned more thoroughly by the judge, or even dismissed outright before a

See **CLANCY** on A2



Lindsay Clancy sits as her lawyer, Kevin Reddington, asks for a one-hour stay to appeal after the jury in Clancy’s murder trial indicated it was unable to reach a verdict Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, in Plymouth, Mass.

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FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

WEATHER

Mostly sunny. **High 90, Low 64.**
Complete forecast on Page A6.



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