

## **Crawfordsville District Employees Help Anderson High School Students**

Thanks to several astute INDOT employees, a high school engineering team has the chance to win a national award.

Brandon Heath, along with other Anderson High School students, had just won the regional Rube Goldberg engineering competition at Purdue University on Saturday, February 25. On their drive home, southbound on Interstate 65 just south of Lebanon, the students were involved in a crash. Heath and others were not injured, but a valuable container that housed important parts to the winning machine from the competition was lost. This was devastating news since the group was now preparing for the March 31 national competition.

Frankfort Subdistrict Operations Manager Randy Large actually saw the tote on the side of the highway on February 27. "I did not think anything of it, as it looked like typical debris along the highway," said Large.

"When I was contacted by the district customer service staff a few days later on Wednesday, I contacted the Lebanon Unit crew members who had been picking up trash and putting it in boxes on Tuesday."

Lebanon Unit Highway Technicians Paul Hildebrand, Mike Scholz and Seth Newsome went through the boxes of trash and recovered the tote. Large then contacted Heath to review the tote's inventory and discovered not all pieces were recovered. "Brandon told me what was missing, so I traveled back to the location and recovered a battery and a few more pieces," said Large.

"We have to rebuild our machine for a national competition and would have been in dire straits had Randy and his crew not been so helpful in recovering the items," said Heath. "We are very, very appreciative of their efforts."



*Crawfordsville District employees are, left to right, Seth Newsome, Randy Large, and Paul Hildebrand. Not pictured – Mike Scholz.*