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January 11, 2019



Lake County community champions make presentation at Indiana infant mortality summit

From left, Tameka Warren, Nurse Family Partnership; Danielle Magana, Franciscan Health Prenatal Assistance Program; Becky Tilton, Franciscan Health Community Health Improvement Coordinator; Joan Culver, Franciscan Health System Director Transformation Clinical Operations; and Victor Garcia, VP Mental Health America of Northwest Indiana, recently presented a breakout session at the sixth annual Indiana State Department of Health Labor of Love Infant Mortality Summit at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis. Their session was titled "Collaboratively Addressing Inclusion and Diversity for Hoosier Moms and Babies."

Spaghetti Supper at St. Mary's lives up to its long-term, well-deserved reputation

Another Spaghetti Supper has come and gone at St. Mary Catholic School. Once again, the masses came, they saw, and they ate spaghetti to support St. Mary's School.

"It was great to see so many wonderful people attend Spaghetti Supper once again this year. This event is about far more than just a good meal. It's about community," said school Principal Tom Ruiz.

Two of parents headed up the event; Tricia Bellich and Emily Briseno. Briseno chaired this year's event, with Bellich as her advisor. The committee also included members Nina Bronson and Susan Yadron who chaired



the Country Store. The committee is already planning Spaghetti Supper #58.

To learn more about St. Mary School's visit www.stmarycp.org/school.

Pictured is this year's Spaghetti Supper "Kid of the Year" James Wong, enjoying his spaghetti at lunchtime.

Travel bureau says cruise travelers looking for more luxury

Mega-size cruise ships that can carry upwards of 5,000 passengers are becoming more common on the high seas and are popular with a wide range of travelers, including those looking for a premium cruise vacation. At the same time, an analysis of AAA Travel's cruise booking data from the last 12 months reveals an emerging trend of vacationers increasingly selecting smaller-ship voyages on luxury ocean and river cruise lines. AAA Travel's cruise sales have increased substantially in the last year,

while bookings of suites on large cruise ships and sailings on small, luxury cruise lines have exploded, by high double-digit percentages in some cases.

"Many cruise ships today are like resorts, holding thousands of passengers and offering countless opportunities for entertainment and places to dine," said Bill Sutherland, senior vice president of AAA Travel. "Meanwhile, a growing number of travelers are looking for an intimate experience, and they're turning to small-

er, ultra-premium cruises, demonstrating tremendous interest in cruise lines like AmaWaterways, Seabourn Cruise Line, Azamara Club Cruises, Viking River Cruises, Uniworld Boutique River Cruises, and others."

As some travelers select smaller, luxury cruises, mass-market cruise lines like Carnival Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean are introducing bigger, more expansive suites on new oceangoing ships. Many suite guests now have exclusive access to specialty restaurants, private

pools and lounges, and in some cases, even the dedicated service of a private butler while onboard.

"Cruise travelers today are not shying away from paying for premium experiences," continued Sutherland. "Whether opting for an upgraded suite class on a large cruise ship, or increasingly, splurging for all-inclusive luxury on a small riverboat, travelers are seeking special opportunities to elevate their cruise vacation experience."

The cruise industry is experiencing strong growth

across the board, as cruise lines invest billions of dollars in new ships and continue evolving their offerings to attract more travelers. In 2019, the North American cruise market capacity is projected to grow seven percent, adding space for one million additional passengers annually on seven new ships. According to Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), 26.7 million passengers sailed on an ocean cruise globally in 2017, and that number is expected to climb to 28 million in 2018.

AAA Travel experts have identified these additional trends that are transforming the cruise industry:

Changing Destinations: Europe, Alaska, the Caribbean and Hawaii remain the most popular cruise destinations, but travelers' preferences are starting to shift. AAA Travel bookings for cruises to Europe and Hawaii are growing substantially, compared to other popular destinations. While still popular, Alaskan cruise bookings have started to lev-

(See *Travel* Pg. 6)

Late Purdue University Northwest Professor Emerita's legacy honored

A beloved professor, wife, and mother was honored at a ceremony yesterday at Purdue University Northwest's White Lodging School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Building.

Professor Emerita of Foods and Nutrition Joanne Pluckebaum's legacy of inspiring students to go beyond textbooks was memorialized in a room and scholarship dedicated by her husband and son, Jack and Bryce Pluckebaum.

"She had a great love (See *Purdue* Pg. 3)



Bryce and Jack Pluckebaum honored their mother and wife, late Purdue Northwest Professor Emerita Joanne Pluckebaum, dedicating a room and scholarship in her honor recently at PNW's White Lodging Hospitality and Tourism Management Building. Inaugural student scholarship recipient, Brittany Davidson, stands with Bryce and Jack Pluckebaum in front of a tribute to Joanne.

Registration now open for the Crown Point Community Foundation's 10th annual Volunteer Fair at CPHS

Registration is now open for nonprofit organizations to exhibit at the Crown Point Community Foundation's 10th annual Volunteer Fair. The Volunteer Fair is the perfect opportunity to match charitable organizations with those who are interested in volunteering. It gathers nonprofits from throughout the area in one convenient place, letting potential volunteers meet and talk to dozens of charities.

This one-day event will

take place on Saturday, March 2, at Crown Point High School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Last year, over ninety non-profits participated in this event.

This is the Crown Point Community Foundation's tenth year sponsoring the event, which also includes an on-site blood drive. Non-profit organizations can reserve a table top booth for only \$25 by cash/check or \$30 with an online payment. This registration fee includes

the price of advertising in the Volunteer Fair pull-out program booklet that will be distributed in The Times newspaper on Thursday, February 28, and at the event. This special section will include information about your organization, its mission and your volunteer opportunities.

Booth reservations by cash or check can be dropped off to the CPCF office or mailed to: P.O. Box 522, Crown Point, Indiana, 46308. Payments (See *Registration* Pg. 2)

Town of Winfield BZA member wanted

The Town of Winfield is now accepting applications for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Qualified applicants must live within the Town of Winfield limits. Members need to attend BZA meetings once a month, assist in following up on BZA issues, and be willing to serve a four-year term. The BZA meets on the second Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Compensation is \$50 per meeting attended. Applications to the BZA can be found at www.winfield.in.gov/employment-info under the Board Appointment Applications section. Applications can be dropped off at the Town Hall, 10645 Randolph Street Suite A, or e-mailed to the address on the webpage.

'View the Eclipse' presented by Calumet Astronomical Society on Sunday, January 20

On Sunday, January 20, from 9:30 p.m. until midnight, the Calumet Astronomical Society will be hosting an eclipse viewing event Lemon Lake County Park in Cedar Lake.

A total lunar eclipse will take place; this event is open to the public and family-friendly. In addition to observing the lunar eclipse, telescopes will be set up to provide visitors with a view of other celestial objects in our night sky. Members of the Society

will be on hand to provide information about eclipses and answer other astronomy related questions. The warming house and concession stand will be open to give visitors a place to recover from the cold evening temperatures.

Cloudy or inclement weather conditions could cause this event to be cancelled with little advance notification. It is suggested that you visit the CAS website at www.casonline.org, for a status update before heading to Lemon Lake.

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(Registration from Pg. 1)

must be postmarked by February 7. To pay online visit www.thecpcf.org/donate.html and select 'Foundation Operating Needs' in the Gift Designation drop-down menu. Indicate your organization name and that the \$30 is for the Volunteer Fair booth reservation. Online

payments must be received by February 7.

To exhibit, register online at: www.thecpcf.org. Registration is open until January 31.

"Our Volunteer Fair is one of our largest and most anticipated events of the year," said Mary Nielsen,

President of the Crown Point Community Foundation. "It's a great opportunity for area nonprofit organizations to meet potential volunteers face-to-face, share their mission as well as to build connections with other charities in our community."

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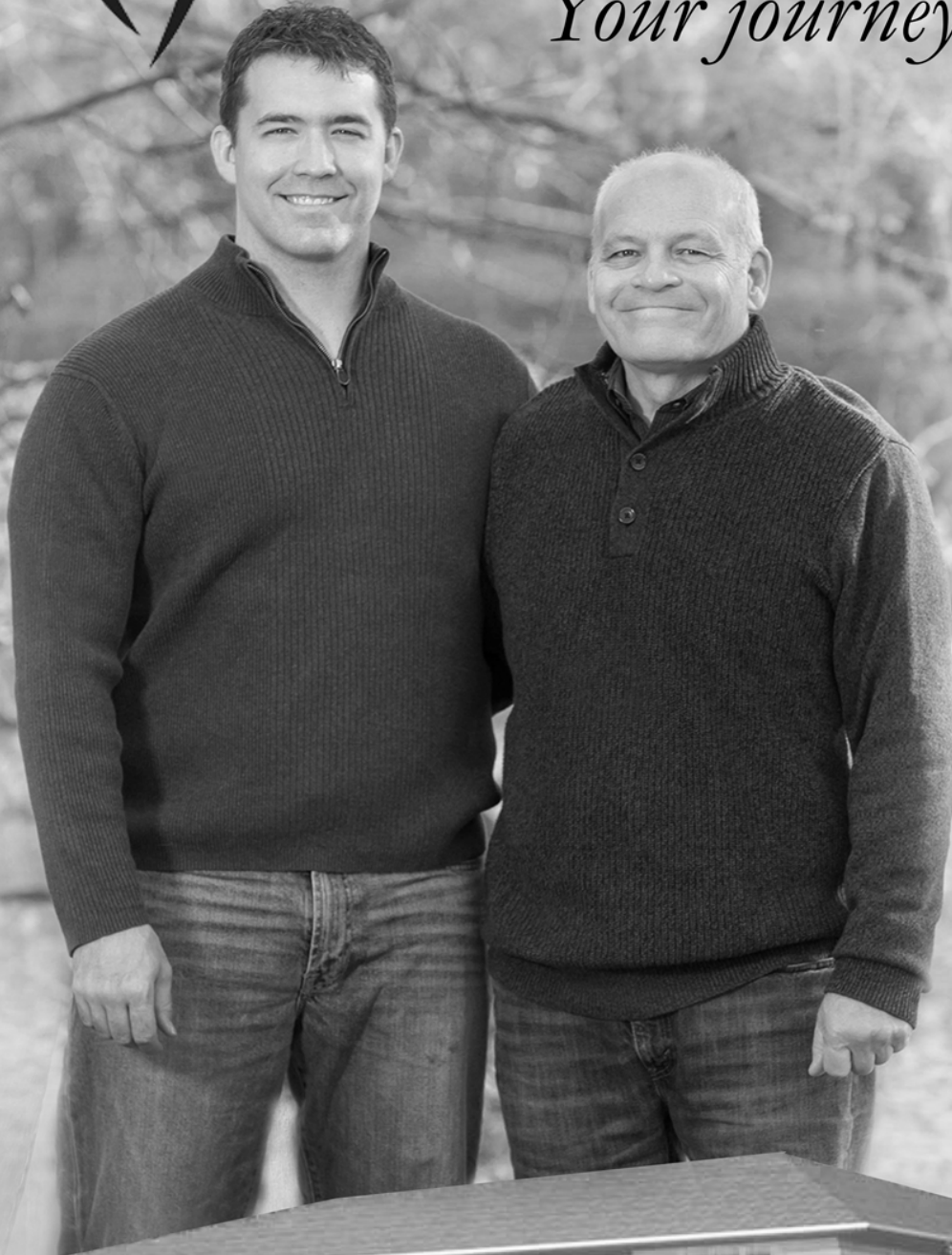
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Across the street from Lakes of the Four Seasons

Auditions coming for the Indiana Youth Ballet's production of Peter Pan

All ages and ability levels are welcome to audition for the Indiana Youth Ballet's production of Peter Pan. Auditions will be held on Sunday, January 13, and Sunday, January 20.

It is requested that you arrive at the appropriate time according to your child's age

and experience. On Sunday, January 13: 1:30 p.m. - Ages 5-6, all levels; 2 p.m. - Ages 7-8, all levels; 2:30 p.m. - All tumblers/Ages 9 & over with three years of dance training; 3 p.m. - Ages 9-10, more than three years of dance training; 3:30 p.m. - Ages 11-12, more than three years of

dance training; and 4:30 p.m. - Ages 13 and older, more than three years of dance training.

On Sunday, January 20: 1:30 p.m. - ages 5-8; 2 p.m. - Ages 9 and older; 3 p.m. - Call Backs; and :30 p.m. - mandatory parent meeting.

It is highly recommended

that children attend the audition on January 13. If unable to attend that audition, attend the secondary audition on January 20.

The auditions will be held at St. John Township Community Center located at 1515 West Lincoln Highway (U.S. Rt. 30) in Schererville.

Peter Pan will be performed April 25 through 28.

The Indiana Youth Ballet is committed to fostering the art of ballet through our audience-friendly productions, with its focus directed at the youth of the Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland area.

For audition details and more information on Indiana Youth Ballet's productions, visit IYB's website at www.indianayouthballet.com or contact Artistic Director Elizabeth Bathurst at admin@indianayouthballet.com.

Lake County Master Gardeners announce the continuance of their scholarship program

The Lake County Master Gardeners have announced that they will be continuing their scholarship program for the 2019-20 academic year.

Although the LCMGA has been awarding scholarships for the past thirteen years, this will be the first year that scholarship applications will be available through the Crown Point Community Foundation website, and the first year incoming freshmen attending a four-year institu-

tion are eligible to apply.

Scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate college and university students, who are residents of Lake County, Indiana. In addition to the majors of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, majors of Forestry, Botany (Horticulture Equivalent), Plant Pathology, Agricultural Education, and Entomology are eligible as well. Other majors that benefit consumer gardening may be considered.

The 2019 application will be available January 11 to February 22, through the Crown Point Community Foundation website at www.thecpcf.org/scholarships.html

The scholarships are funded by donations made to the Lake County Master Gardener Association in support of the annual Plant Sale, Garden Walk, Symposium, and from other donations.

(Purdue from Pg. 1)

for teaching," said Jack Pluckebaum, recounting the career of his wife of 54 years who passed last November. "And she loved the sense of community at Purdue Northwest."

Jack and Bryce chose to honor Joanne through a generous donation in her name during Purdue Northwest's annual Day of Giving celebration last April. The gift was realized in a collaborative meeting room and an en-

dowed scholarship for hospitality and tourism management students.

Brittany Davidson, a senior HTM student from Michigan City, Indiana, was the inaugural recipient of the "Professor Emerita Joanne Pluckebaum Endowed Scholarship." Along with her studies, Brittany is a beverage supervisor at Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo, Michigan, and plans to pursue a career in restaurant, food and beverage

management after graduating from Purdue Northwest in May 2019.

Michael Flannery, head of PNW's White Lodging School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, worked with Joanne for many years and said the Pluckebaums' gift is appreciated.

"It is a wonderful way to honor Joanne. She was a very student-centered faculty member and her students loved her," said Flannery.



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Franciscan Health implements flu restrictions at its Lake County hospitals

A rise in influenza cases locally has prompted new visitor restrictions at Franciscan Health hospitals in Lake County.

To prevent the spread of the flu, visitor restrictions have been implemented at Franciscan Health Crown Point, Hammond, Dyer, and Munster.

Visitor restrictions include no more than two visitors at a time; no children under the age of 16; visitors to the Birth Place will be limited to two adults and siblings (Crown Point); and visitors to the NICU will be limited to parents. Grandparents may visit if they have proof of vaccination more than two weeks ago (Crown Point).

While these restrictions may be an inconvenience, they are necessary to ensure patient safety.

"If individuals are sick, they shouldn't be visiting," said Chris Shakula, infection preventionist at Franciscan Health Crown Point.

In addition, other precautions are being taken by staff at the hospitals. Any employee unable to receive the

influenza vaccine must use a mask. Patients with a cough or other respiratory symptoms must be masked on admission, or when leaving their room. Magazines are removed from waiting rooms because of the potential for those items to transmit infections.

Though the common cold and the flu can often look alike, symptoms like fever, headache, body aches, weakness, fatigue and extreme exhaustion are more common indicators of the flu. Also, with the flu, symptoms tend to be worse, come on suddenly and can last as long as

two weeks.

Individuals can prevent spread of the flu by avoiding close contact with anyone who is sick and keeping

themselves and their surroundings as germ-free as possible. Wash hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes and disinfect any surfaces that could become contaminated.

This day in history

JANUARY 11, 1908

U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt declared the massive Grand Canyon in northwestern Arizona a national monument.

Though Native Americans lived in the area as early as the 13th century, the first European sighting of the canyon wasn't until 1540, by members of an expedition headed by the Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado. Because of its remote and inaccessible location, several centuries passed before North American settlers really explored the canyon.

In 1869, geologist John Wesley Powell led a group of 10 men in the first difficult journey down the rapids of the Colorado River and along the length of the 277-mile gorge in four rowboats.

By the end of the 19th century, the Grand Canyon was attracting thousands of tourists each year. One famous visitor was President Theodore Roosevelt, who had a particular affection for the American West. After becoming president in 1901, Roosevelt made environmental conservation a major part of his presidency.

After establishing the National Wildlife Refuge to protect the country's animals, fish and birds, Roosevelt turned his attention to federal regulation of public lands. Though a region could be given national park status-indicating that all private development on that land was illegal-only by an act of Congress, Roosevelt cut down on red tape by beginning a new presidential practice of granting a similar "national monument" designation to some of the West's greatest treasures.

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Geocache event schedule at Indiana Dunes State Park on Saturday, January 19

Find packages, adventure and fun at Indiana Dunes State Park's Geocache Adventures event January 19. Using GPS units, participants will travel the park and

nearby Duneland area while completing both outdoor and indoor challenges.

The event will run from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CT, and the park has worked to

make it easy to participate, even if you are not an avid geocacher.

"All you need is a GPS unit or the geocaching smart phone application along with

a sense of adventure," said Marie Laudeman, Indiana Dunes State Park interpretive naturalist. "All geocache experience levels are welcome."

"The beauty of the Indiana

Dunes has been inspiring many different kinds of artists for generations," Laudeman said. "Many of these artists' work and words have helped move the appreciation and later preservation of this special park."

The day's adventures will end with prizes and awards during the annual chili dump dinner at 4:30 p.m. Participants are invited to bring their own chili or ingredients to dump into the large kettle that will be cooking over a fire at the nature center all afternoon.

"It's been exciting to work with area partners on planning this year's adventure," Laudeman said. "Naturalists, artists, curators and geocach-

ing gurus from the Northwest Indiana Geocachers Association, the Westchester Township History Museum, the Barker Mansion, and other Duneland art organizations have all come together to plan and support this fun-filled special event."

Participants can learn more about the day's activities by going to www.geocaching.com, creating a free account on the site, and searching zip code 46304 to find the event listing.

The event is free after paying the standard park admission of \$7 per in-state vehicle or \$12 per out-of-state vehicle. Indiana Dunes State Park is located at 1600 North 25 East in Chesterton.

(Travel from Pg. 1)

el off some, following several years of surging interest in the destination.

Leaps in Technology: Responding to the growing demand of travelers who wish to stay connected to their devices and social media, cruise lines have invested significantly in technology to enhance the onboard experience. This includes adding high-speed Wi-Fi; high-tech, interactive sign boards throughout the ships; and free smartphone apps that allow passengers to customize their own daily itineraries, exchange messages with other passengers and keep in touch with friends and family back home.

Something for Everyone: Both ocean and river cruise lines are tailoring their offerings to appeal to more niche audiences. For example, Viking River Cruises has adopted an adults-only policy on its ships, while others, like AmaWaterways, are adding connecting staterooms to

appeal more to families and multigenerational groups.

Travel planning comes with a myriad of options and can be overwhelming. To ease the planning process, AAA offers these top tips for cruisers:

Work with a travel agent. Travel agents work with cruise lines every day and often have access to added benefits and deals that may not be available elsewhere.

Book early and be flexible

to take advantage of special promotions and secure first choice of ship, itinerary, cabin location and sailing date.

Consider the full cost of a cruise. Most cruises are not all-inclusive, so travelers should factor in what they will likely spend on specialty dining, beverages, and spa services. Added-value promotions, such as those that include beverage packages, are popular options to consider.


Reserve shore excursions directly through a travel agent when booking a cruise, rather than onboard the ship or in the destination, as many popular activities sell out quickly.





Fly to the embarkation port the day before the cruise, not the morning of departure. Cruise ships have firm departure times and won't wait for a delayed flight.

Check in for the cruise online before leaving to save time at the cruise ship terminal.

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Fire Force Volunteers Requested

Lakes of the Four Seasons Volunteer Fire Force, which serves LOFS, Winfield, Winfield Township, and the WPTFP district, is always in need of more dedicated volunteers to join our ranks. Want to help your community by giving back through service? Please call 219-662-7576 and speak with Chief Gikas, or he may be e-mailed at chief@lofsfire.com.

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NIH funds major biobank expansion at IU School of Medicine to support Alzheimer's disease research

With a grant from the National Institute of Health's National Institute on Aging, Indiana University School of Medicine will dramatically increase the size and scope of the biobank that stores DNA and other biological samples used by researchers globally to better understand, treat and hopefully cure Alzheimer's disease. The grant is expected to last three years and total \$12 million pending the availability of funds.

"Anticipating increased need for a central national biobank resource, this award aims to boost the capacity of our national biobank so it can continue to facilitate both withdrawals and deposits, provide cutting edge centralized resources with efficient processes for reviewing requests and assure that precious research resources are used wisely," said Nina Silverberg, PhD, director of the Alzheimer's Disease Centers Program at the NIA.

The expanded IU biobank – the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias – will play a central role in the effort to reach the national goal of developing effective prevention and treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by 2025. It's estimated that there will be 8.4 million Americans aged 65 and over with Alzheimer's disease by 2030, up from about 5.5 million now.

"We're centralizing resources at Indiana University to make it easier for scientists from around the world to share and to access these critically important biological samples for ongoing and new research," said Tatiana Foroud, PhD, director of the

repository and chair of the Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics at IU School of Medicine.

To accommodate the expansion, the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias will move into larger, newly renovated

facilities in Indianapolis.

Since its creation in the early 1990s, the repository has collected more than 500,000 samples. With the additional Alzheimer's disease research funding, it is expected that the biobank will receive 300,000 additional specimens in just three years, said Foroud, the

Joe C. Christian Professor of Medical and Molecular Genetics.

One of the primary goals of research using the repository's resources is to identify diagnostic signals – called biomarkers – for Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer's disease process begins years

before symptoms appear, so scientists hope to develop convenient and inexpensive biomarker tests that would identify problems early. Current experimental methods for early detection, such as PET scans and tests using cerebrospinal fluid, are expensive and invasive.

"What we really want to develop is a blood-based test. You would simply draw a sample of blood and run tests that predict whether an individual is at increased risk for Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, or that would tell you that symptoms are developing," said Foroud.



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Winfield American

Six Lake County students to receive full-ride from Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

In preparation for her day, Legacy Foundation Scholarship Administrator Jodi Kateiva picked up six bouquets of lilies. By 9:30 a.m. she was walking into a gymnasium full of students at Gavit High School to award senior Chloe Flanagan a Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. Flanagan and five other Lake County high school students, Ariana Arce, Alyssa Arreola, Patrick Hottle, Meet Patel, and Tyler Zabrecky, were awarded the four-year, full-tuition scholarship from Legacy Foundation.

"Each year I am increasingly impressed with the high caliber of students from Lake County; their passion

Crown Point Library restores hours at both CP and Winfield locations

The Crown Point Community Library Board of Trustees formally recently adopted their 2019 budget. The primary goal of the 2019 budget was to restore a majority of the service hours reduced in the 2018 budget. Careful adjustments of existing budget lines, contract renegotiations, and other additional cost savings were employed to achieve the goal of expanding hours of service at both library locations.

A total of 11 weekly open hours will be restored: seven hours at the Winfield Branch and four hours at the Crown Point Library.

for learning, community and self-motivation is inspiring," said Kateiva, who made stops at each high school to surprise the recipients.

Arce is a senior at Hanover Central High School and is active in the marching band, soccer, tennis and Thespian Society. Lake Central High School senior, Arreola, plans to study genetics. She is active with the M2 Junior Dance Company, Dollars for Scholars, and W.I.S.E. Women in Science and Engineering. Flanagan plays soccer and is active in her church. With her scholarship, Flanagan hopes to study biology and return to Northwest Indiana as a teacher.

Hottle plans to study me-

chanical engineering; he is President of National Honors Society and works as an auto technician. Patel plays in the Camerata Orchestra Group at Highland High, where he is also a member of the tennis team and National Honors Society. In the future, he would like to attend medical school. Zabrecky is basket-

ball team captain at Munster High School. He is an active volunteer in school clubs and at St. Thomas More church. After graduating from college, Zabrecky would like to own his own business in Northwest Indiana.

Altogether, Legacy Foundation received over 225 applications from 25 area high

schools. Students must reside and attend high school in Lake County, Indiana, and have a grade point average of 3.25 or higher to be eligible. Legacy Foundation's scholarship committee interviews a nominee from each high school and submits six finalists to the Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc.

for final selection of the recipients as is required by the Lilly Endowment Inc. ICI is a nonprofit corporation that represents 30 regionally accredited degree-granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state.

For more information, visit www.legacyfdn.org.

DIRECTOR PROFILE: ALEXIS THANOS-COADY



Funeral Director for 25 years with Geisen Funeral Home

Member of Ss. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Daughters of Penelope, the Crossroads Chamber of Commerce and ABATE

Graduate of Ball State University and Worsham College of Mortuary Science

Enjoys golfing, riding her motorcycle and spending time with her husband Terry, friends and family



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The Nurse Practitioners of Winfield Family Medicine

Winfield Family Medicine, owned by Brent A. Jacobus, DO, FACOFP and Brett A. Brechner, DO, has proudly served the Winfield community for over a decade by providing high quality primary healthcare. Over the years, Winfield Family Medicine has continued to grow, and in order to ensure patients continue to receive quality care, welcomed three Nurse Practitioners to the provider staff.

Many patients are already familiar with Deborah L. Wickenden, NP-C, Michelle E. Hoover, NP-C, and Brittney E. Owen, NP-C, however, if you are currently looking for a primary care provider, we encourage you to consider setting your next appointment with one of these Nurse Practitioners.

Deborah L. Wickenden, NP-C began her career in the medical field as a nurse at St. Margaret's Hospital, working for a cardiologist. As this doctor prepared to retire, she encouraged her to continue her education, and she did just that. She enrolled with the intent of getting her bach-

elor's degree, but continued on to earn her degree as a Nurse Practitioner by 2007. Then, in 2009, she joined Winfield Family Medicine, and in addition to providing primary care, also sees patients who need annual CDL physicals in order to maintain their credentials. Deborah has a wealth of knowledge and stays calm under pressure. She says what she likes most about being part of the Winfield Family Medicine team is that it is a Christian faith based practice, that the physicians are down to earth, and she is able to treat a wide variety of patient needs.

Michelle E. Hoover, NP-C graduated from Purdue University in 2003 and began her medical career at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago in the pediatric intensive care unit. During that time, she met and married her husband, David who is a fireman, and together they have three children, currently under the age of five. After working at Lurie's for 9 years, Michelle desired a transition, and joined the Winfield Family Medicine team in

2012. She is personable, enthusiastic, and bubbly. No matter what might be happening in the office, Michelle maintains her efficiency and cheerful demeanor.

Brittney E. Owen, NP-C attended Indiana Wesleyan University, graduating as a registered nurse in 2010. She began working at St. Mary's Hospital in the emergency room for 3 1/2 years and then in the cardiac unit for 18 months. During this time, she returned to Indiana Wesleyan University and graduated as a Nurse Practitioner in 2015. Since that time, she has joined the Winfield Family Medicine team, where she is able to work side by side with her dad, Dr. Brent Jacobus. Brittney enjoys performing minor procedures, as well as the family practice atmosphere, which allows her to build relationships with her patients and their families, establish trust, and educate patients on prevention of health conditions.

Each of these Nurse Practitioners bring unique skills, qualities, and personalities to the practice. They are well



Pictured from left to right are Deb Wickenden, Brittney Owen, and Michelle Hoover.

liked and respected, not just by their peers, but more importantly, by their patients. Each regularly receives feedback from patients about the high level of care they offer, that they are good listeners, and that they truly care about their patient's health concerns.

Dr. Brent A. Jacobus and Dr. Brett A. Brechner agree, "It is the mission of Winfield Family Medicine to offer quality healthcare for every stage of life. As we journey with our patients, we will utilize our gifts and talents

from God to help heal the body, mind, and spirit. We will strive to provide wellness to our community and also restore health to the nations." This mission statement is made possible by all the staff at Winfield Family Medicine, but especially by the Nurse Practitioners, who play an integral role within the practice. We encourage you to get to know them by scheduling an appointment with them soon!

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