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INDOT and **ISP** ask for community help to catch lighting wire thieves

Lighting wire thieves are at it again on Indiana's state highways. Back in 2014, with the cooperation of the Indiana State Police, INDOT, and community members, wire theft was effectively stopped after arrests were made and preventative measures were enacted. Now, Indiana taxpayers are being ripped off again and highway safety is being compromised, all due to brazen metal scrapper thieves who are stealing the wiring from highway light poles.

Once again, community help is needed. Criminals are getting away with thousands of feet of highway lighting wire and causing many thousands of dollars in damage. If residents see something suspicious, they are asked to report it immediately to 911.

Here are some clues that might identify a thief:

- · Look for the INDOT logo - Thieves might be suited up in construction gear, but it's unlikely their outfits or trucks will display the INDOT name or logo.
- Is the crew working at night? - INDOT crews will never engage in electrical work in the



high voltage, this sort of work is extremely dangerous in the and their efforts to make dark.

 Watch for traffic control measures - INDOT crews will always have significant traffic control to alert drivers of maintenance work. Electrical repairs are never a single-truck job, and we use large, yellow and white vehicles. Our trucks have flashing signs and crews use a significant number of cones and barrels. Conversely, thieves will almost always have a single truck, and will try to appear (See INDOT Pg. 2)

New ship featuring clean, innovative ballast system makes recent stop at Port of Indiana

Limited, the largest international bulk ship owner in Canada, recently welcomed the Federal Caribou to the Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor, one of seven new oceangoing lakers equipped with a ballast water treatment system, which is a first for the Great Lakes.

This vessel protects the lakes by treating its ballast water two times; by conducting an exchange in the North Atlantic, and through filtration and a chlorine disinfection treatment on the ship.

The Northwest Indiana dark. Because of the wiring's Forum is a partner with the Port of Indiana and FedNav the Region's port on Lake

Michigan a leader in the maritime industry.

"The Northwest Indiana Forum works to build economic development in the seven-county Northwest Indiana region in harmony with environmental protection," said Kay Nelson, director of environmental affairs, Northwest Indiana Forum. "Being a part of the celebration to protect the health and well-being of the Great Lakes is an exciting story and highlight."

For more information, contact Raeann Trakas, director of marketing for the Northwest Indiana Forum, at rtrakas@nwiforum.org or 219-763-6303, ext. 181.



Photos provided by Heather Ennis

The Federal Caribou, a new ship with a state-of-theart water ballast treatment system designed to keep the Great Lakes cleaner, recently stopped at the Port of Indiana. Those pictured in the photo below are Heather Ennis, president and CEO, Northwest Indiana Forum (left) and Kay Nelson, director of environmental affairs, Northwest Indiana Forum.





Indiana's forests help drive the state's economy in ways many don't suspect

an updated report from the DNR Division of Forestry. The report, titled "Indiana

again this year.

The report summarizes the economic contribution of the Hardwood Industry: Its entire Indiana forest products manufacturing chain. The full

landowners to the secondary industry that processes boards into products and the entire

Indiana's forests contrib- Economic Impact," was industry. That includes mea- report is at www.dnr.in.gov.

for your child. Be mindat monsters in movies and can handle the truth about bad guys being a reality of life. Or your child may be a 10-year-old who cannot

(See Children Pg. 6)

coffins, and hardwood ply- billion. ute \$13.5 billion annually to originally published in 2005, suring the financial impact Indiana has a history of wood-based products.

the economy, according to and was updated in 2010 and of the industry from forest manufacturing quality hardwood products. The state is a port came mostly from 2012. leading producer of office fur- Some of the highlights are:

niture, manufactured homes, • Total economic impact of kitchen cabinets, caskets and forest products was \$13.5

Laboratory upgrade enhances

- Every board foot of timber processed had a \$43 economic impact.
- 84% of logs processed in Indiana were harvested in-(See Forest Pg. 8)

When tragedies occur, all children should be given age-appropriate information they can absorb

Tragedies seem to be occurring more frequently these days, with more prominence in the news, and many children, including those challenged with special needs, are exposed to trauma through the media and in conversations.

"Children hear information from other children and from the activities around them. Your child will pick up information very quickly after a traumatic event happens," said Dodd White,

president and CEO of ECC. "It's important for parents and guardians to set a tone of openness and support with their children, and to reassure children that they are safe." Dodd and the staff at ECC offer the following tips and advice:

• Use age appropriate language. Talk with your child about the tragedy in a way that is appropriate for his or her age. Elementary schoolers may have questions about their own safety and

security. Older children may want more information about the cause of the tragedy or want to talk about how it could be prevented.

• Share what is appropriate ful about the personality of your child. Your child may be a 6-year-old who laughs

(See Laboratory Pg. 2)

Center in Hobart, Community



The ribbon cutting during the opening ceremony of the new analyzer equipment in the Central Laboratory of Community Healthcare System.

LOFS Fire Auxiliary to host 'Crazy Bunco' night

The Lake of the Four Seasons Fire Auxiliary will host their Fall Crazy Bunco on Friday, September 30, at the LOFS station. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for food and basket sale, and games will begin at 7:30 p.m. The theme is 'South of the Border' and guests are welcome to wear

sombreros. Tickets are \$13 and participants must be 18 to play. Call in advance for reservations to earn a Bunco Buck.

Contact Cathy at 219-988-5394 or via e-mail to cwaitk@aol.com.

The LOFS Fire Auxiliary are also planning a pancake

breakfast on Sunday, October 9, from 7 a.m. to noon at the LOFS station. There will be two surprise guests for the kids from 10 a.m. to noon, namely Princess Elsa and Captain America.

Our 'Stop, Drop, & Donate' to collect food for the food pantries will only be

run on Saturday, December 3, for both Lake and Porter counties. The new LOFS phone directory for 2017-18 will initiate ads and resident information starting in November. They will be available on March 1, 2017.



Church to hold Fall Festival to raise funds for community garden

The Church of Four Seasons community garden has been a success. Approximately 40 people have been served per week with many kinds of fresh produce and herbs. The church sends "huge thanks to all the people who built the garden, planted and tended it, and who worked at the market stand." All donations received will go to fund the garden for next year and to the local food pantries.

"Cosmetic and general dentistry for the whole family."

On Friday, September 30, from 5 to 9 p.m., the church will be holding a Fall Festival to share an evening of family fun with the community and raise funds for the garden. There will be food, crafts and games, pony rides, a silent auction, a hayride and a bonfire. Tickets will be available at the church office or on the night of the festival.

For more information, contact the church office at 219-663-7803.

(INDOT from Pg. 1)

as discreet as possible. They have also been known to pose as a stalled motorist.

• Suspicious activity – Does something seem amiss, but you just can't put your finger on it? Report suspicious activity just in case!

Despite additional security measures, and the mortal danger presented by stealing live electrical wires, the thieves persist, especially along I-80/94 and Cline Avenue in Northwest Indiana. The result is darkened highways, threatening the safety of drivers, and a growing cost to Indiana taxpayers as INDOT crews replace missing wires to relight highways.

Copper theft is a wasteful drain on taxpayer dollars. Breaking into a single junction box can result in a \$4,000 to \$15,000 loss, depending on the thickness of wire stolen and damage to the box. Often,

thieves will target multiple boxes in one night.

Wire theft also threatens highway safety. Without signals and lights, drivers can become confused or find it hard to see ahead of them. Without overhead signs to communicate about collisions ahead, drivers can't effectively plan their routes.

INDOT asks that all Hoosiers remember to call 911 to report suspicious activity.

(Laboratory from Pg. 1)

Hospital in Munster, and St. Catherine Hospital in East Chicago – the first hospital system in Northwest Indiana with this capability.

"Our hospital system has invested more than \$5 million to bring the latest, most advanced technology available to our labs for the greatest impact on the safety and quality of care for our patients," said Donald P. Fesko, president and chief executive officer, Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, parent company to the Community Healthcare System. "Installation of the new analyzers represents another step in our commitment to continuously improve the quality of our patient care."

The new analyzers, the Cobas 8100 and two Cobas 8000, enhance and consoli-

date the testing process for blood samples and chemistry panels ordered by physicians. The equipment helps to make the lab more efficient by reducing manual sample han-

Adding on testing to an existing sample is accomplished by adding the test into the computer. Robotics retrieve the sample and process the add-on test. Previously, the sample needed to be manually retrieved and placed back on the instrument. The analytics of the 8000 series line is bidirectional, so test samples are archived on the analyzer, streamlining the process and adding to the efficiency.

The Central Laboratory of Community Healthcare System processes approximately 3 million tests annually, said Elizabeth Yee, Vice President, Clinical Ancillary Services. As the number of lab tests continues to increase, it is essential for the laboratory to upgrade its capabilities and improve efficiencies to provide the best service

"By streamlining the process with automated equipment and reducing the opportunity for error, the laboratory can ensure the highest quality and turnaround," Yee said.

"Combining the new analyzer technology with other state-of-the-art processors such as our bar-code specimen tracking system, enables our hospitals to attain new levels of patient safety and security," Yee said.

For more information visit www.comhs.org.

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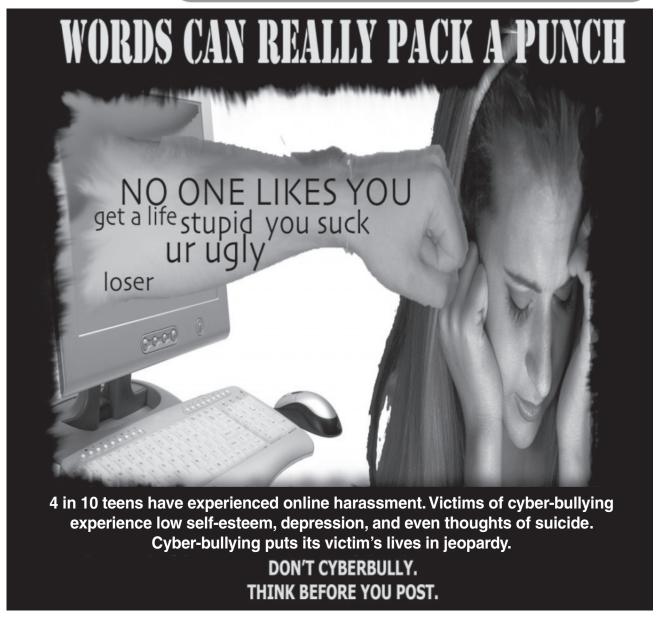
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Don't scrimp on vehicle maintenance, advises local auto mechanic

Bill Wilson and his crew at Crown Point Auto Repair know about cars and think you should, too. They need regular maintenance. Little problems can quickly turn into big problems when they are ignored, and a vehicle's life expectancy is greatly increased when it's treated with a little care.

Technician certification organization ASE surveys show a well-maintained vehicle not only lasts longer, it retains more of its resale value.

With a sluggish economic recovery and today's consumers watching their finances carefully, it's no surprise that the average age of vehicles in the United States is more than 11 years old, according to automotive research firm R.L. Polk and Co. With motorists holding on to their vehicles longer than ever before, maintenance takes an even greater importance in keeping roads — and people — safe.

"It's tempting to avoid car maintenance in tough economic times, but that's not a financially sound method to manage the big investment you've made in your vehicle," notes Tony Molla, vice president of communications for the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). "Surveys of our certified technicians show that a wellmaintained vehicle lasts longer, retains more of its resale value, pollutes less, and gets better mileage than one that's been neglected — to say nothing of being safer to operate."

According to the pros at ASE, neglect causes components to wear out faster than they would otherwise (poorly aligned tires, for example) and can result in minor prob-

Olthoff and Tippy to host 'Meet and Greet' in Lakes of the Four Seasons

State Representative Julie Olthoff and candidate for Lake County Commissioner Jerry Tippy will be holding a 'Meet and Greet' on Sunday, September 25, from 2 to 4

The event will be held at the Lakes of Four Seasons Clubhouse. Cheese, crackers and popcorn will be served. All are welcome to come.

Rep. Olthoff authored a law "protecting your private property rights.

It allows the LOFS POA to decide itself (not the state) if it would welcome doorto-door campaigning. As of today, the POA does not," according to information provided by Olthoff.

lems growing into more expensive repairs (worn brake pads will eventually damage the more expensive rotors). ASE suggests motorists, whether they are do-it-yourselfers or take their cars to ASE-certified technicians,

become familiar with their owner's manual and follow the service schedules. "The owner's manual is underutilized; it summarizes systems to check and provides schedules based on normal or severe driving," notes Molla.

While some people might relish a weekend tinkering with the family car, today's technological advances under the hood and busier lifestyles find more consumers in search of dependable, trustworthy automotive ser-

vice and repair.

If you're interested in learning more about proper vehicle maintenance, contact Bill Wilson, master mechanic and owner of Crown Point Auto Repair, or one his crew at 219-663-1847.



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'Singing Sands Star Gaze' at Indiana Dunes State Park this Saturday, September 24

The Singing Sands Star Gaze at Indiana Dunes State Park on September 24 will give visitors the chance to view deep space through provided telescopes with astronomy experts.

The event runs from 7 to 11 p.m. CDT at the Indiana Dunes State Park beach pavilion. Calumet Astronomical Society members will bring telescopes for deep-space viewing, and share their expertise and passion for star-

The park's interpretive naturalists will kick off the event with stories on American Indian sky lore. With a waning crescent moon setting early in the afternoon, good viewing of the night sky over Lake Michigan should be possible.

Constellation talks will highlight star formations visible over the dunes this time of year. In case of bad weather or cloud cover, the event will 25 East in Chesterton.

be canceled.

All activities are free to guests after paying the standard admission fee of \$7 per in-state vehicle or \$10 per out-of-state vehicle.

The star gaze is sponsored by Indiana Dunes State Park Interpretive Services and the Calumet Astronomical Society. For more information, call 219-926-1390. Indiana Dunes State Park is located at 1600 North

St. Jude House invites public to attend annual vigil

St. Jude House invites the public to attend a candlelight vigil that will be held Monday, September 26, at 6:30 p.m. The vigil is being planned to celebrate Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is observed nationwide during October.

Victims and survivors of domestic violence will be honored at this year's vigil and a survivor will be the featured speaker. Mayor David Uran, Crown Point Police Chief Pete Land, Sheriff John Buncich, and Prosecuting Attorney Bernard Carter have also been invited to address attendees at the vigil.

Vigil participants are invited to gather at the Courthouse in Crown Point, where a silent march and a candlelight ceremony will take place. The lighted candles are symbols of honor and hope for victims of domestic violence and those who are survivors.

St. Jude House is sponsoring this vigil for the community as a means to raise public awareness about the serious problem of domestic violence. Since opening its doors in 1995, St. Jude House has served more than 11,000 individuals who were fleeing dangerous situations in their

families or relationships.

The public is encouraged to attend the vigil and to bring children. For more information about the vigil or to request a speaker on the subject of domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault, please call St. Jude House at 219-662-7066 ext. 17.



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- * 11:15-11:45 Intro to Weapons * 12:00-12:30 BULLY PREVENTION
- * 12:45-1:15 Adult Gun & Knife Self-defense
- * 1:30-2:00 Intro to Taekwondo
- * 2:15-2:45 Board Breaking
- * 3:00-3:30 Intro to Weapons
- * 3:45-4:15 Self-defense Basics

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* 10:30-11:00 Fun with ATA Tigers

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Crown Point's St. Jude House seeks donations to help secure matching grant

St. Jude House has provided services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault since 1995. In the past twenty years, more than 11,000 individuals have received emergency assistance from the shelter. Those individuals include women, men, and children who needed a safe place to stay during a very difficult time in their

St. Jude House has applied

for a matching grant from the Lake County Community Fund of the Legacy Foundation. This grant, in the amount of \$10,140.00, will provide upgrades to the technology systems at St. Jude House. In order to receive this funding, St. Jude House must raise the same amount and is are asking the community for support as they replace refurbished equipment for both clients and staff.

The shelter is currently without Wi-Fi service, which assists clients with job searches and locating other community services. Outdated computers make it difficult to offer educational training and to submit required reports for accurate record keeping. With grant funds, the organization will be able to update new systems at the same time, which is both economical and effi-

Donations to support this matching grant may be sent to St. Jude House, attention Legacy Foundation grant, 12490 Marshall Street, Crown Point, Indiana, 46307.

All funds that are received will be applied to this grant. For more information on the grant or St. Jude House, contact Linda Perez, executive director, at 219-662-7066 ext

(Children from Pg. 1)

handle scary movies, and gets emotional when people are hurt. When answering your child's questions about tragic news events, let the unique personality of your child be your guide.

- Let your child know it is okay to talk to you about the tragedy. Spend time talking with your child. Let them know that they are welcome to ask questions and express their concerns and feelings. You might not know all the answers and it is OK to say that. At the same time, don't push them to talk if they don't want to. Let them know you are available when they are ready.
- Be calm. Your child will look to you for cues about how to react. It's OK for children to see adults sad or crying, but consider excusing yourself if you are expe-
- riencing intense emotions. • Reassure your child about his or her own safety. Point out factors that ensure your child's immediate safety and the safety of the community. Review your family's plans for responding to a crisis. Assure your child that he or

she is safe and loved.

- · Limit media exposure. Constant exposure to coverage of a tragedy can heighten anxiety. Do not allow young children to repeatedly see or hear news coverage of a tragedy. Even if a young child is engrossed in play, he or she is likely aware of what you are watching on television and can become confused or upset. Older children might want to learn more about a tragedy by reading or watching TV. However, avoid repetitive loops of news information once you have
- Avoid placing blame. Be careful not to blame a cultural, racial or ethnic group, or people who have mental illnesses.

Maintain your family routines. Continue your family's usual routines for waking up, dinnertime, and bedtime. The familiarity of these routines will help your child.

• Promote selfcare. Encourage your child to drink enough water, eat regularly, rest, and exercise.

And follow this advice for yourself too!

- Spend extra time together. Spend a little more time reading to your child. Take a few extra moments when tucking him or her in at night. If your child is having trouble sleeping, allow him or her to sleep with a light on or to sleep in your room for a short time. Extra hugs and cuddles are good too. All of these actions can improve your child's sense of security.
- Watch for signs of stress and anxiety in your child. Look for hyperactivity, irritability, regression, stomach aches/headaches, and separation anxiety. Take steps to relieve stress and anxiety.
- Get physical. Exercise can relieve stress and help you and your child get a better perspective.
- Pay close attention to your child if he or she has emotional problems, learning challenges, is going through major changes at home, or has experienced trauma in the past. Children can merge a new trauma and it

can heighten their anxieties. If your child has suffered a loss, is facing special challenges, or been exposed to other trauma, he or she may be at greater risk of a severe reaction to a new tragic event. Watch your child closely for any changes in mood or behavior.

• Do not dismiss or minimize your child's feelings. Your child might worry that someone will come and hurt him or her. Rather than saying she's being silly or that such things will never happen, help your child put things in perspective. Say how rare such things would be, and explain how unlikely they are. Address each concern. Point out that many children and parents out there have the same worries and we can instead focus on the definite "will happens" (fun things to do at home and at school and with friends and family) rather than on the very unlikely "might happens."

(Tips adapted from the Mayo Clinic, SpecialNeeds. com, and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.)

General Classifieds

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Fire Force Volunteers Needed

Lakes of The Volunteer Fire Force is in need of more dedicated volunteers to join our ranks. Have you ever thought of being a part of something bigger than yourself? Want to help your community by giving back through service? Please call 219-662-7576 and speak with Chief Campbell.

Help Wanted ~ Winfield Ace

Part Time Sales Associate. Must have following requirements open availability, all shifts (days nights, weekends, holidays) Able to lift 50# Minimum. Retail experience preferred Hardware experience a plus. If you are interested in being a part of our Ace team, please acquire information about application at Winfield Ace.

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September 22 and 23, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. 621 S. Court St., Crown Point (Court St. and Rose Ellen Dr.). (745)

2 Family Garage Sale

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Indiana Archaeology Month programs continuing throughout state in September

September hosts Indiana events for all ages as part of the 21st annual statewide celebration of archaeology.

Archaeology Month is an opportunity to learn about Indiana archaeology. Hoosier history buffs can meet archaeologists and learn about the state's past.

Events are held every September by universities, museums, organizations, and individuals throughout Indiana. The DNR Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology coordinates Archaeology Month.

Indiana Archaeology Month 2016 coincides with 200 years of statehood. The slate of archaeology programs this year has been designated an official Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project. This year's commemorative poster focuses on Corydon, Indiana's first state capital, and the archaeology that has been conducted there.

"As Hoosiers have been celebrating the state's bicentennial, many of us are already reflecting on Indiana's rich history," said Cameron Clark, DNR director and State Historic Preservation Officer.

A schedule of events and additional information for Archaeology Month is availtoric, or by contacting Amy Johnson at 317-232-6982.

Commemorative ers and shirts are available. Shirts are \$10 each and can be purchased from the Customer Service Center at 317-232-4200. Archaeologists have recorded more than 66,600 sites in Indiana since the early 1800s, helping to shape public understanding of the prehistoric

able at www.dnr.in.gov/hisand historic people. Free admission to state park when torch is in town

Several Indiana state parks will each offer free admission on the day the Bicentennial Torch is passing through that park on its relay across Indiana. The torch relay is patterned after the Olympic torch relay. Indiana's version will pass through all 92 counties in a five-week period. The relay will cover 3,200 miles, averaging 72 miles a day.

ties, the fees will be waived The relay started on

The annual Fall Tri-Cities Coin Show will be held on Saturday October 1 at St Matthias Church Hall, which is just south of St Anthony Hospital. The address is 101 West Burrell Drive in Crown Point.

September 9 in Corydon, the state's first capital, and ends October 15 in Indianapolis at the Statehouse.

It will pass through nine state parks, and on the day the torch is there, that park will waive admission fees as a way to help Hoosiers celebrate the state's bicentennial and the centennial of Indiana's system of state parks. At eight of the proper-

public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and admission is free. The show is sponsored by the Goodfellow Coin Club of Northwest Indiana.

Multiple dealers will be selling and buying collectible coins and currency, gold,

all day. At Indiana Dunes State Park (October 9) admission fees will be waived until 10 a.m. At most properties, admission costs \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-state

Four current Indiana State Parks employees and one retired employee are serving as torchbearers. They are Mark Young, property manager at Spring Mill State Park; Sam Boggs, property manager at

Tri-Cities Coin Show coming to St. Matthias on October 1

silver, and related items. Club members will be on hand to provide information on the Club and to answer questions on coin collecting. Additional show information may be obtained by calling 219-781-9619.

Chain O'Lakes State Park; Dwight Brooks, property manager at McCormick's Creek State Park; Dan Bortner, director of Indiana State Parks; and Marvin McNew, former director of Upper Wabash Interpretive Services.

Indiana State Parks' involvement is fitting because the system is celebrating its centennial this year. McCormick's Creek Indiana's first state park. Additional information about the torch relay is at www. indiana2016.org/torchrelay.

This day in history

September 23, 1933

A party of American geologists landed in Saudi Arabia and began its journey into the desert. Saudi King Abdel Aziz had granted the Standard Oil Company of California a concession to "explore and search for and drill and extract and manufacture and transport" petroleum and "kindred bituminous matter" in the country's vast Eastern Province.

The partnership between Abdel Aziz's government and Standard Oil became known as the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco). Texaco soon joined the partnership; about a decade later, so did Standard Oil of New Jersey and Socony-Vacuum

The company promised to provide the Saudi government with a steady income, along with an outright payment of 50,0000 British pounds; in return, Aramco got exclusive rights to all the oil underneath the eastern desert.

In 1938, the company's gamble paid off: its geologists and drillers discovered oil in "commercial quantities". The next year, Aramco exported its first tanker-load of petroleum.

In 1950, Aramco agreed to split its profits with the Saudi government. In 1980, after several years of squabbling over the price and availability of the country's petroleum, Saudis won total control of the company: It's now known as Saudi Aramco. The next year, the kingdom's oil revenues reached \$118 billion.

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Crown Point Classical Association's Fall garage sale

The Crown Point Classical Association and Crown Point High School Latin Club will be sponsoring its Group Garage Sale on Thursday, September 22, and Friday, September 23, from 8 a.m. to

3 p.m. The sale will be located at 621 South Court Street in Crown Point, which is the corner of South Court Street and Rose Ellen Drive.

All proceeds from the fundraiser benefit Crown Point

High School Latin programs and students including funds for scholarships, AP exam fees, and trips to the National Junior Classical League Convention.

(Forest from Pg. 1) state.

- The hardwood industry employed 30,845 people.
- An additional 64,908 jobs were generated in economic sectors supporting or supported by the hardwood industry.
- Annual wages of \$1.3 billion were paid.
- The industry generated an estimated \$43 million in state payroll taxes and \$20.1 million in local payroll taxes.
- Each acre of forest supports \$245 of hardwood wages paid annually.
- Total value of shipments of \$7 billion accounted for 2.4% of Indiana's gross domestic product.
- \$166 million was paid to landowners for timber.
- For every \$1 paid to landowners for timber, \$41 of value was added in the production of final products.
- Forest covers 4,879,577

acres in Indiana.

- 84.5% is privately owned.
- 97.5% is hardwood trees. • The timber value of man-
- aged forests is about 27% higher than unmanaged forests.
- Indiana's forest land increased by 41,504 acres per year from 2009 to 2014.
- The ratio of net growth to removal is 2.6, meaning Indiana grows 2.6 times the volume being removed.



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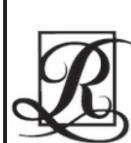
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