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# Winfield American

Vol. 19, Issue 959

Serving Winfield, Lakes of the Four Seasons, and Winfield Township since 2002

October 30, 2020

## Diaper Insecurity Month observed with fourth annual 'Diaper Drive'

For the fourth consecutive year, Franciscan Health is working to ease a silent crisis that impacts many parents in Northwest Indiana and the South Suburbs. The annual Diaper Drive has become a tradition during Diaper Insecurity Month in October, with the goal of making sure that families have one less worry prior to the holidays.

The 2019 drive resulted in 30,000 diapers being delivered to families in need. During this pandemic, drive organizers are asking donors to provide monetary donations and reduce the risk of purchasing and delivering physical diapers. Monetary gifts allow the purchase of twice as many diapers due to discounted hospital purchase rates.

"As in previous years, the Diaper Drive sheds light on the silent crisis of diaper need within our communities and the incidents of child abuse and neglect it may lead to. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, diaper shortages around the country, created by disruptions in supply chains and bulk buying, have made it more difficult for families to maintain a steady supply of diapers for their children. This year, your support is needed more than ever," said Danielle Crowder, community health improvement manager for Franciscan Health's Northern Division.

The community can contribute to these efforts by donating to the Prenatal Assistance Program at [www.franciscanhealthfoundation.org](http://www.franciscanhealthfoundation.org).

org/DiaperDrive or by calling the prenatal assistance number at 877-773-6285. All donations go to Franciscan Health's Prenatal Assistance Program for distribution.

- Nearly one in three families struggle to afford diapers.
- Diapers can cost \$70 to \$80 a month. It costs about \$1,000 a year to diaper a child.
- No state or federal child safety-net program allocates dollars for the purchase of diapers.
- Infants require up to 12 diapers a day, and toddlers require about 8 diapers a day.
- Cloth diapers are not accepted at the majority of child care centers.
- Most childcare facilities, even free and subsidized, require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers.

## DNR stocks Coho salmon in Northwest Indiana

More than 36,000 Coho salmon were recently stocked in multiple rivers and streams in Northwest Indiana last week. Bodine State Fish Hatchery released Coho salmon into the Little Calumet River and Trail Creek. A total of 14,000 fish were stocked into the East Branch of the Little Calumet. About 22,000 fish were planted into Trail Creek. These fish were approximately 7.2 inches long.

Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery plans to stock approximately 16,500 Coho salmon into the Little Calumet and 8,500 into Trail Creek on Oct. 29. Fish stocked will be approximately 6.5 inches long. When fin-



ished, each Lake Michigan tributary will have received nearly the same number of fish or about 30,500.

Coho salmon stocked this fall will stay in the streams

until next spring, when they will migrate to Lake Michigan. They will spend one to two years there until they return to the streams

(See *DNR* Pg. 3)

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana raises over \$300,000 in Return2Learn Campaign

Nearly 200 supporters of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana stepped up in a big way to help the organization raise over \$300,000. The efforts were part of Boys & Girls Clubs' Return2Learn \$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge, which raised money for the organization's fall programming.

In total, 184 individuals donated \$201,173 and helped the organization secure an additional \$100,000 from an anonymous donor offering a dollar-for-dollar match. Boys & Girls Clubs of

Greater Northwest Indiana's President & CEO Ryan Smiley attributed the success of the campaign to the support the organization has within the community.

"It's hard to truly express how grateful we are to our donors who really showed up to support Boys & Girls Clubs," Smiley said. "To raise \$200,000 in such a short time is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to how much our communities believe in the work we are doing."

Like many businesses and organizations, Boys & Girls

Clubs re-evaluated its services to fulfill the needs of children and their families this fall. With academic success serving as one of the organization's priority outcome areas, Club staff knew it would be a focus during the school year.

In response, local Clubs have extended their hours and are open during the school day to provide kids enrolled in virtual learning with a safe, supportive place to go during the day and complete their school work. The Return2Learn \$100,000 Matching Gift campaign was implemented to provide

needed resources to keep youth on track this academic school year.

"After the sudden closing of schools last spring, an extended summer, and the start of a much different kind of school year, we knew it was imperative to partner with schools and help kids and parents with virtual learning and eLearning teaching models," Smiley said. "Our Clubs essentially transformed into mini-classrooms to ensure youth can stay on track academically."

While the majority of support for the challenge came

from within the region, donations also came in from South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Nevada. Smiley said these donations reflect the far-reaching impact Boys & Girls Clubs have on past and current members.

"Whether these donations were from people who have personal experience with Boys & Girls Clubs or who have loved ones who have been impacted by the work we do, we are extremely grateful for their support," Smiley said.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana

has been opening doors to great futures for Lake and Porter County youth for over 60 years. Clubs are open after school and provide great places for youth in grades K-12 to meet friends and have fun while in a safe, supervised environment. Clubs are open during holidays and in the summer. Annual membership is only \$40. For information on membership, volunteer opportunities, or to make a tax-deductible donation, contact your local Club by calling 219-64-2582 or visiting [www.bgcgreaterwni.org](http://www.bgcgreaterwni.org).

## Nipsco warns customers to be aware of holiday, Covid-19 scams during pandemic

Nipsco has seen a recent uptick in customer reports of scammers calling homes and businesses posing as Nipsco employees. As the holiday season approaches, Nipsco expects scam attempts to continue to rise—an issue impacting many energy companies around the U.S.

Recent and common reports from Nipsco residential and business customers state that they have received calls and texts from people claiming to be Nipsco employees and demanding payment to avoid their service being disconnected. However, the company wants to emphasize

that Nipsco does not call and demand immediate payment via a prepaid card.

If customers are unsure of their account status, they may log into their account at [www.nipsco.com](http://www.nipsco.com) or contact Nipsco's Customer Care Center at 1-800-464-7726. Additionally, customers should NOT call any number they are given.

Scams related to the Covid-19 pandemic are also on the rise. Calls from scammers to homes and businesses posing as Nipsco employees continue to occur—an issue impacting many energy companies around the United

States.

Recent, and common reports from Nipsco residential and business customers state that they have received calls and texts from people claiming to be Nipsco employees and demanding payment to avoid their service being disconnected. However, the company wants to emphasize that Nipsco does not demand immediate payment by meeting us in person or using a specific type of payment method. If a customer receives a suspicious call like this, they should hang up and immediately contact Nipsco's Customer Care

Center at 1-800-464-7726 to check on the status of their account. Additionally, customers should NOT call any number they are given.

Nipsco can provide additional help to customers who have been financially impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. We will provide advanced notice and communications following any changes to these decisions and we will continue to work with customers on our most flexible arrangements. Assistance is available and to learn more, visit [www.nipsco.com](http://www.nipsco.com) or you can speak with a representative.

Additional tips for customers to avoid potential scams:

- Call us first – If you are unsure about a phone call, email, program, offer or person claiming to be affiliated with Nipsco, call our 24-hour Customer Care Center at 1-800-464-7726.
- Guard your personal information – Never give personal information, including your Nipsco account number, social security number and/or banking information to unconfirmed sources. We only ask for a social security number when establishing new service or verifying a customer's identity.

- Know your payment options – We will never ask for a pre-paid debit card or money gram as a payment method. To more easily spot a potential scam, learn more about our payment options at [www.nipsco.com/bills-and-payments](http://www.nipsco.com/bills-and-payments).

- Never agree to meet in person – Some scammers ask customers to meet them in person to make payments with cash or prepaid cards, which you should avoid.
- Ask to see ID – Our employees and contractors carry photo ID badges and will gladly show you upon

(See *NIPSCO* Pg. 2)

[www.winfieldamerican.com](http://www.winfieldamerican.com)

(NIPSCO from Pg. 1)

request.

- Use caution with cash – Our employees do not collect cash payments nor deliver cash refunds or rebates to customers. Refrain from sending cash through the mail to prevent loss or theft. For more information on authorized, secure payment methods and locations, visit [www.nipsco.com/bills-and-payments](http://www.nipsco.com/bills-and-payments).
- What to do if someone visits your home or business
- Ask to see ID – Our employees and contractors carry photo ID badges and will gladly show you upon request.
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Got stuff for the paper?

News and Event Submissions

Community events and news items should be submitted through our website at [www.winfieldamerican.com](http://www.winfieldamerican.com). News and event items are published free-of-charge as editorial space and time permits. **Submission does not guarantee placement.** For guaranteed placement of your community event promotion please visit our website at [www.winfieldamerican.com](http://www.winfieldamerican.com) or call our office at 219-662-8888 to place a paid advertisement.

Classified Ad Placements

Place and pay for your classified ads online at [www.winfieldamerican.com](http://www.winfieldamerican.com).

Winfield  American

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219-662-8888

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(DNR from Pg. 1)

where they were stocked for spawning.

Anglers should take care when fishing these areas. These fish are currently under the legal size limit and are sensitive to being caught.

If you are catching undersize Coho, consider moving to a different area of the stream or try switching your method of fishing. These new fish are crucial to the continued existence of the northwest Indiana trout and salmon fishery.

For more information about Bodine State Fish Hatchery, visit [www.wildlife.IN.gov/5459.htm](http://www.wildlife.IN.gov/5459.htm).

For more information about Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery, visit [www.wildlife.IN.gov/5465.htm](http://www.wildlife.IN.gov/5465.htm).

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**Keep telehealth and telemedicine options.**
- **Improve Mental Health/Indiana's behavioral health system.**
- **Stop sexual assault crimes, one is reported in our paper every day.**
- **Continue to support and vote for union policies - always has.**



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# General Classifieds

Submit your general classified ad or real estate classified ad online at [www.winfieldamerican.com](http://www.winfieldamerican.com).

## Got Junk?

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## Help Wanted – Home and Office Cleaning

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## Help Wanted – Automotive Technician

In an effort to increase our level of service to our customers, Crown Point Auto Repair is adding technicians to our team. If you know of, or have friends or family that you feel would be a good addition to the Crown Point Auto Repair team, have them stop in at 1510 N. Main Street, Crown Point, IN, and talk to Bill. Or call the shop at 219-663-1847 or Bill's cell at 708-305-3666 for an appointment. (998)

## 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](mailto:chief@lofsfire.com). (998)

## This day in history

October 30, 1974

Muhammad Ali became the heavyweight champion of the world for the second time when he knocked out champ George Foreman in the eighth round of the "Rumble in the Jungle," a match in Kinshasa, Zaire. His victory made him only the second dethroned champ in history to regain his belt.

The match was Africa's first heavyweight championship match. The government staged the event in hopes that it would draw attention to the country's beauty and vast reserves of natural resources. Ali agreed. "I wanted to establish a relationship between American blacks and Africans," he wrote later. "The fight was about racial problems, Vietnam. All of that."

Sixty thousand spectators gathered. The ex-champ had been taunting Foreman, and the young boxer was eager. When the bell rang, he began to pound Ali with his signature sledgehammer blows, but the older man simply backed himself up against the ropes. Ali's trainer later called this strategy the "rope-a-dope".

By the fifth, Foreman began to tire. His powerful punches became glances and taps. In the eighth, Ali unleashed a barrage of punches that seemed to bewilder Foreman. A hard left and chopping right caused the champ's legs to buckle, and he plopped down on the mat. The referee counted him out with just two seconds to go in the round.

[www.history.com](http://www.history.com)



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## DIRECTOR PROFILE: MICHELLE KATSAROS



Crown Point resident, member of the Winfield Chamber of Commerce

Funeral Director with Geisen Funeral Homes for over 13 years

Monument Representative for Geisen Funeral Homes

Crown Point Tri-Kappa member, Co-Chair for Crown Point 4th of July Parade

Enjoys spending time with her husband Gus and daughter Ella



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- ⇒ **50% payroll donation pledge:** Due to the current hardship from the coronavirus, my wife Mary fully supports my pledging 50% of each and every paycheck I earn as your Commissioner to charities in the Second District for all four years of my term. Families, food pantries, environmental programs, etc.
- ⇒ **No Defunding:** As your 2nd District County Commissioner I would never support defunding our Lake County Police and Correctional Officers nor any First Responders throughout Lake County.
- ⇒ **Leadership Team:** Bring all governmental agencies to common goals. Forge a cooperative relationship of trust for the good of each and every citizen through quarterly meetings for open and honest government.
- ⇒ **Endorsements -**
  - Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors - GNIAR
  - Teamsters Local No. 142
  - Laborers Local No. 81
  - Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor
  - United Steelworkers Local 1066
  - Congressman Pete Visclosky

# Women reminded to check in for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Every year, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and healthcare providers want women to be aware of the risks and signs and set an appointment with any questions.

“October is a good reminder to have your annual exam,” Midwest Express Clinic Director of Clinical Operations, said. “It’s one of those things that women really shouldn’t ignore,” said Kaitlyn Steinberg, FNP-BC.

Breast cancer is the most common form of the disease in women after skin cancers,

according to the American Cancer Association.

Diagnosing it early leads to a 5-year survival rate of 99 percent.

Women aged 40 to 44 should consider a yearly breast cancer screening. Women aged 45 to 54 should get a mammogram annually. Women 55 and older can be screened every two years or continue every year.

MEC can offer a referral and help find a facility near you to have a mammogram.

All women should do monthly self-examinations,

feeling for any lump, thickening, hardened knot or any other changes. More information on how to perform a self-examination can be found at [www.nationalbreastcancer.org](http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org).

Midwest Express Clinic has locations in Crown Point, Merrillville, Schererville, Munster, Hammond and Dyer are open daily from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. An office in Portage is expected to open soon. MEC also has 11 offices in the greater Chicago area.



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- FOUR WINDS APARTMENTS

He met with the Lakes of Four Seasons officers and citizens and promised to demolish the partially build apartments and foundations as president of the Lake County Plan Commission. We succeeded in our promise.
- ZONE CHANGES

The Lake County Plan Commission then succeeded in re-zoning the entire west and north sides of Lakes of Four Seasons to R1. Elimination of possible loss in home values for all Winfield.
- COUNTY OPTION TAX

He never voted for this option tax. We delayed this so-called option tax for three years. Saving our taxpayers \$270 million dollars (\$270,000,000) in property taxes
- COUNTY WELFARE TAX

He fought this unconstitutional tax from 1992 through 2009 when finally, the state (we won our lawsuit in the state tax court) realized the constitutionality of this tax made it a uniformed state tax. This saves \$100 million (\$100,000,000) on your county tax bills every year. Since 2009, that is a total of one billion one hundred million dollars (\$1, 100,000,000)
- 911

His efforts saved county taxpayers two million dollars (\$2,000,000) when we moved the new mandated center to the Lake County Government Center. We also saved two million (\$2,000,000) on bidding out all the 911 equipment rather taking the bid the state negotiated
- FIRST RESPONDERS

As St. John Township Trustee for twenty (20) years, we supplied the Lake Hills Volunteer Fire Department with the best equipment available as their professional services are your most needed asset. As county commissioner, we still support these professional men and women who serve as volunteer firefighters. The training and commitment continues to expand. They are true professionals and give so much of their time training to protect Lakes of Four Seasons and Winfield. They truly deserve to have equipment that bring you the fastest and safest response time in all emergencies for your families, homes, businesses, and First Responders.



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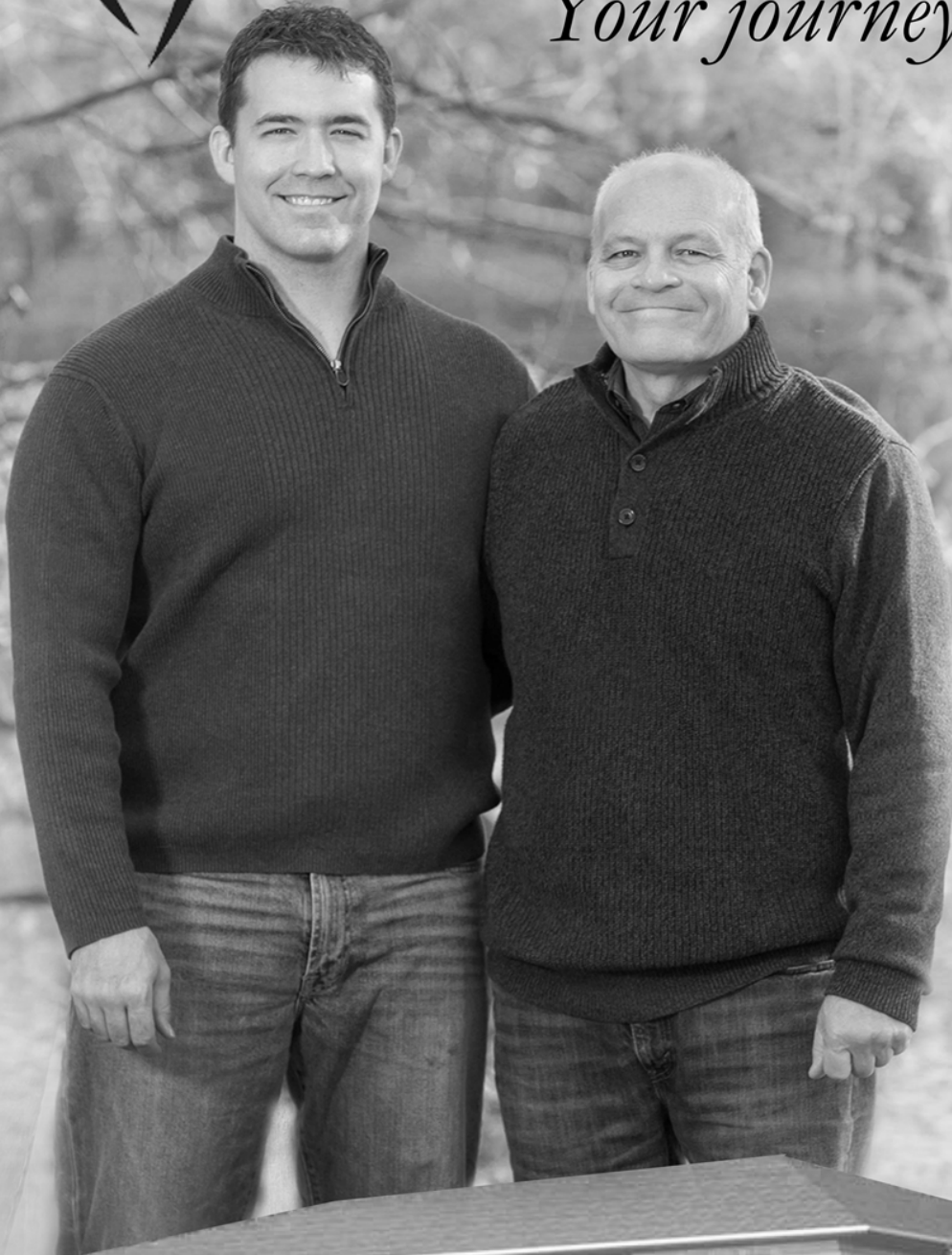
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219-663-6656

Limit one (1) coupon per visit. Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 12/4/20



**10% off your 1st week of childcare!**

**KidZone Childcare**  
Winfield/LOFS  
219-226-4034

Located in Winfield/LOFS area. Now open under new ownership & accepting new enrollments! [www.kidzonewinfield.com](http://www.kidzonewinfield.com)

Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 12/4/20





**BUY ONE GET ONE HALF OFF!**

Equal or lesser value, entrees only, dine in only.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



Seasons Lakehouse is Located inside LOFS  
1048 North Lakeshore Drive  
219-988-2582

Valid for Wednesdays & Thursdays in the month of November Only.

Must present newspaper coupon; copies will not be accepted. Not to be combined with any other offer, discount or promotion. Not Valid on Thanksgiving Buffet. Expires 11/30/2020.







**\$2 OFF MEDIUM** **\$3 OFF LARGE**

**Buy a Fiesta and receive a FREE small cheese pizza!**

MUST PRESENT COUPON. OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED. Expires 12/4/20





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# LISA BECK

State Representative

***LISA WORKS HARD  
AND GETS THINGS DONE!***

✓ PRO UNION LABOR    ✓ PRO PUBLIC SCHOOLS    ✓ PRO GOOD JOBS



**Within the first two years of  
Lisa Beck's term, Lisa completed the following:**

- ✓ Helped hundreds of unemployed workers receive their proper unemployment payments
- ✓ As ranking minority leader of the Labor and Pension Committee, Lisa helped to raise the OSHA maximum fine from \$70,000 to \$132,000 for knowing and willful violations
- ✓ Helped to raise the Indiana Worker Comp Death Benefit from \$7,500 to \$10,000
- ✓ Drafted successful legislation helping any worker that loses their coal job because of the transition from fossil fuel to renewable fuel to receive free job training
- ✓ Drafted successful legislation that provided additional time for cities to pay assessment taxes, saving cities from having to make drastic budget cuts
- ✓ Formed the Small Business Task Force to help small businesses navigate through the Covid 19 pandemic process
- ✓ Organized an interactive Women's Health Fair
- ✓ Organized the Veteran's Pancake Breakfast to help raise money for new American Legion members
- ✓ Completed a Statewide Labor Tour to help inform Indiana labor of the recent legislative changes
- ✓ Organized three Small Business Training sessions
- ✓ Organized a Union Trade Fair



# LISA BECK

State Representative House District 19

219-741-8140    [www.LisaBeckForStateRep.com](http://www.LisaBeckForStateRep.com)