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Winfield American

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October 18, 2019

Jerry Ross teacher nominated for 'Best Buddies' Champion of the Year

Best Buddies Indiana recently announced that local educator Jennifer Ciochina, of Crown Point, has been nominated for the Best Buddies Champion of the Year award.

Ciochina, a teacher at Jerry Ross Elementary School, was informed this summer of the honor, and it was made official at the Champion of the Year Kick-Off Celebration in Indianapolis, where 12 nominees from around the state were honored for their contributions and leadership within the Best Buddies Organization. The Best Buddies Champion of the Year will be named at the annual Gala event at the Indiana Roof Ballroom on November 9.

The Best Buddies



Jennifer Ciochina and her Best Buddy, Jeff.

Champion of the Year award recognizes leaders around the state who support, promote, and encourage Best Buddies' global volunteer movement to create opportunities for

one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)



Jennifer Ciochina, parents, and students at the Best Buddy Walk.

such as autism, Down syndrome, and more.

Champion of the Year Nominees are selected based on their individual, professional, and philanthropic

achievements as well as their passion for the Best Buddies mission.

Ciochina has encouraged and developed the mission and practices of Best Buddies

in the Crown Point community by creating a Best Buddies chapter at Jerry Ross Elementary School, fundraising for the organization,

(See *Jerry Ross* Pg. 4)

DeMotte native, chaplain in the U.S. Navy supports the nation's nuclear deterrence mission

Lt. Nathan Boon is a Navy chaplain serving with Strategic Communications Wing One, a versatile command capable of consisting of three Navy squadrons and a Wing staff that employs over 1,700 active-duty sailors and 100 contractors to provide maintenance, security, operations, administration, training, and logistic support for the E-6B Mercury aircraft fleet.

Boon is a 2005 graduate of Baptist Bible College and is responsible for providing a spectrum of support service to individual sailors and their families.

Boon credits success in

the Navy to many of the lessons learned growing up in DeMotte.

"I come from a farming town where I learned hard work and to never give up," said Boon.

The mission stems from the original 1961 Cold War order known as 'Take Charge and Move Out!' Adapted as TACAMO and now the command's nickname, today, the men and women of TACAMO continue to provide a survivable communication link between national decision makers and the nation's nuclear weapons.

The commander-in-chief issues orders to members

of the military who operate nuclear weapons aboard submarines, aircraft or in land-based missile silos. Sailors aboard TACAMO E-6 Mercury aircraft provide the one-of-a-kind and most-survivable communication needed for this critical mission.

"It is a very supportive command that executes a very important strategic mission," said Boon.

The Navy's presence aboard an Air Force base in the middle of America may seem like an odd location given its distance from any ocean; however, the central location allows for

the deployment of aircraft to both coasts and the Gulf of Mexico on a moment's notice. This quick response is key to the success of the nuclear deterrence mission.

"I am proud to be a part of the 24/7 response force ready at all times to deter adversaries and threats," said Boon.

Sailors serving from America's heartland take pride in the vital mission they support as well as the nuclear deterrence they help provide.

"The Navy is an opportunity to serve my country and my God at the same time," said Boon.



DeMotte native Lt. Nathan Boon is a Navy chaplain serving with Strategic Communications Wing One.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana partner with B-Dubs for a day

Last year, 18-year-old Madison Healy, a member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana since she was a 5-year-old, was shadowing a server at Buffalo Wild Wings during the annual Community Day. She was offered a job at the end of the event because she did so well and is still working there more than a year later.

This year, Club members were shadowing Healey, who credits Boys & Girls Clubs for contributing to her success. "I'm so thankful for the Teen Enterprise

program at the Club. It has opened many doors for me such as this Give Back - Community Night. Because I was involved and was prepared with essential skills such as understanding business basics, a solid work ethic and social skills, I performed well and B-Dubs hired me for a position I was not even applying for."

Healy plans on attending Indiana University, majoring in Elementary Education.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana members teamed up with team members of Buffalo

Wild Wings from across the Region. Youth were able to shadow servers, play games, participate in ice cream and wing-eating contests, and interact with guests. This was Buffalo Wild Wings 6th Annual Community Day where 10% of all restaurant sales benefited Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana.

Allen Long, Shift Manager at the Portage restaurant said, "Being with Buffalo Wild Wings for almost 5-1/2 years now, there is nothing that I enjoy more than highlighting our Team



Up for Kids mission in our communities. We host these events not just to raise money, but to raise awareness about the important services and programs offered

at Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana's ten area Clubs. Our mission statement for Buffalo Wild Wings, Team Up for Kids is: We believe that there is

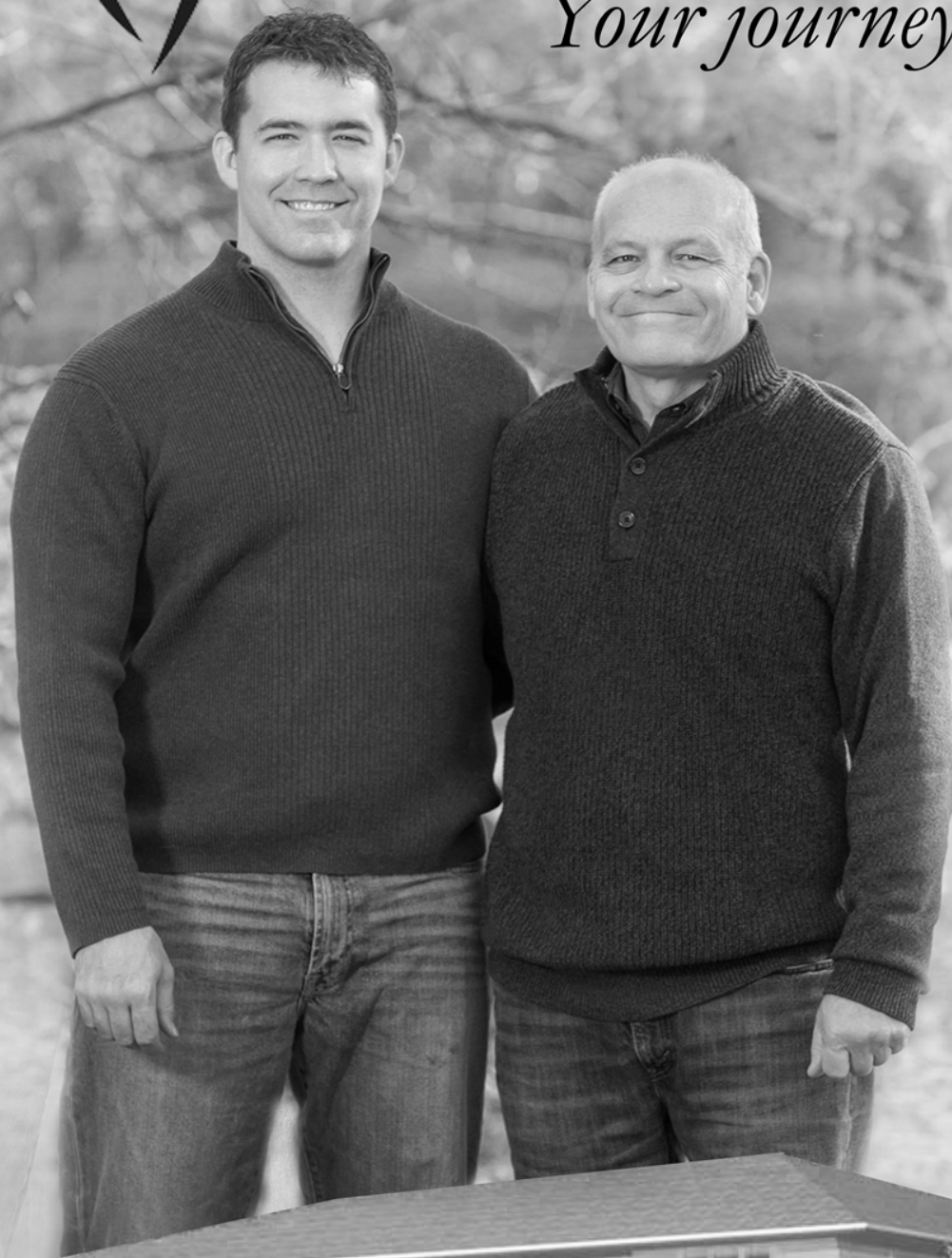
a Champion in every child. We are committed to helping build communities where all kids can thrive and belong to a team."

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Across the street from Lakes of the Four Seasons

Franciscan Health hosting third annual Diaper Drive during October

For the third year, Franciscan Health is recognizing Diaper Insecurity during October by hosting its annual Diaper Drive to benefit families in need throughout Northwest Indiana and the South Suburbs.

Due to the generosity and support of Franciscan Health employees as well as community organizations and residents, the drive continues to expand. Last year's effort collected 20,000 diapers, distributing them to local organizations and helping more than 1,000 families in Northwest Indiana.

Collection sites span every Northern Indiana and Illinois Franciscan Health hospital campus: Crown Point, Dyer, Hammond, Michigan City, Munster, and Olympia Fields. Drop-off sites are also spread throughout Franciscan's Physician Network offices and fitness centers within the region.

"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," said Franciscan Health Hammond Prenatal Care Coordinator Danielle Crowder.

In continuing Franciscan's ministry of caring for our most vulnerable, all proceeds will benefit local families that struggle to provide their child with the basic need of diapers. Individuals or organizations interested in assisting

(See Drive Pg. 6)

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This day in history

October 18, 1931

Thomas Alva Edison, one of the most prolific inventors in history, died at 84 on this day in 1931. He developed serious hearing problems at an early age, and this disability provided the motivation for many of his inventions.

Edison's experiments were guided by his intuition, but he also took care to employ assistants who provided the mathematical and technical expertise he lacked. In 1877 he stumbled onto one of his great inventions, the phonograph, while working on a way to record telephone communication.

Although the discovery of a way to record and play back sound ensured him a place in history, it was just the first of several Edison creations that would transform late 19th-century life. Among other notable inventions, Edison and his assistants developed the first practical incandescent light bulb, and a forerunner of the movie camera and projector.

Perhaps his greatest contribution to the modern industrial world came from his work in electricity. Edison developed a complete electrical distribution system for light and power, set up the world's first power plant in New York City, and invented the alkaline battery, the first electric railroad, and other inventions that laid the basis for the modern electric world. He continued to work into his 80s and acquired 1,093 patents in his lifetime.

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Winfield American

Businesses collaborating on gas safety seminar October 31

An association of many of the Region's leading construction and industrial firms is planning to educate other NWI companies about the latest developments in gas hazards and technology.

The Northwest Indiana Business RoundTable, which is an association of dozens of businesses that come together to collaborate on safety, is welcoming all proj-

ect managers, safety experts, field supervisors, and others that want to learn about new safety best practices to attend its Fall Safety Seminar.

Pete Engelbert of Job Safety Associates and Jim Moody of Industrial Scientific will be presenting the latest information about topics such as gas detection, sensor technology, sampling techniques, gas stratification

and pocketing, peer to peer communication, live monitoring, and more.

The event is scheduled for October 31 at the Purdue University Northwest campus in Hammond. To register visit www.nwibr.org. Sponsors include the Construction Advancement Foundation (CAF), Brock Industrial, Pekron Consulting, and Total Safety.

(Jerry Ross from Pg. 1)

organizing a Best Buddies Walk Team, creating the Jerry Ross Coffee Cart program featured on ABC 7 Chicago's Disability Report, and previously serving as Best Buddies president while a student at IUPUI. Ciochina has also been nominated for Crown Point's Elementary Teacher of the Year the past two years.

"I am so honored and thrilled to have this opportunity to help promote inclusion, acceptance, kindness, and the awareness of this life-changing organization. I have witnessed these friendships and opportunities change lives for people of all ages and abilities," she said.

Part of Ciochina's nomination will include a fundraising challenge to be completed by early November. She has committed to raising \$3,000 to further the development of Best Buddies' outreach in Indiana and in our local community. Anyone may contribute to the cause by visiting

www.bestbuddieschampion.org or by ordering a special t-shirt at www.legacyteamsports.com.

There will also be a special fundraising night on October 24 at the Crown Point Culver's Restaurant from 4 to 9 p.m.

"This nomination is due to Jenn's amazing leadership and dedication to Best Buddies and our mission of inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities," said Marcia Clutter, deputy director of development, Best Buddies Indiana, who can be reached at 317-436-8440 ext. 40.

Ciochina and Best Buddies are dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of individuals with these disabilities by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking and communication skills, and feel valued by society. Best Buddies

Indiana, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, opened in 2002 and offers programs throughout the state, serving more than 6,500 people each year through over 100 chapters in schools, colleges, communities, and workplaces.

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Franciscan HEALTH

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra annual gala concert coming Friday, October 25

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and Music Director and Conductor Kirk Muspratt have unveiled the 2019-20 season and the brochure is now available. The season consists of five concerts, two classical and three pops, as well as the annual Concert with Courses Gala. "I promise each of you a season of your most requested favorites," said Maestro Muspratt. "Please join us for a spectacular 78th season."

After a season of following the music to a number of local venues, the symphony has announced they have a new home: The Auditorium at Living Hope Church, located at 9000 Taft Street, on the Crown Point-Merrillville border. The symphony noted they received rave reviews of this venue last year, from its intimate setting to its superb acoustics, and are excited for everyone to experience it.

This season's remaining concerts are:

- **Holiday Pops**
Featuring tenor Jesse Donner, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Chorus, Crown Point High School Choir, and Plum Grove Strings Three performances: Wednesday, December 11; Thursday, December 12; and Friday, December 13; all at 7:30 p.m.
- **Vivaldi, Rachmaninoff, & Beethoven**
Featuring Yana Reznik, piano, and Michele Lekas, violin on Friday, March 6, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.
- **Carmina Burana & Firebird**
Featuring Katherine Weber, soprano; Thomas Alaan, countertenor; Nick Ward, baritone; and the Symphony

(Drive from Pg. 3)

the drive can call 877-773-6285.

All proceeds will be delivered to the following organizations prior to the Thanksgiving holiday: Franciscan Health Prenatal Assistance Programs; Nurse Family Partnership; Mental Health America of Northwest Indiana; Women's Care Center (Hammond, Merrillville, Michigan City); Duneland Healthy Families; Salvation Army (Michigan City); Respond Now; and Aid for Women.

Chorus on Friday, April 3, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

- **West Side Story in Concert**
Featuring Brittany Hebel (Maria), Erich Bucholz (Tony), Kate Tombaugh (Anita), Bill McMurray (Riff), and the Symphony Chorus. Two performances: Thursday, May 14, and Friday, May 15, 2020, both at 7:30 p.m.

Additionally, the symphony will present their annual Gala, 'A Concert with Courses', featuring flights of fine music and cuisine on Friday, October 25, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Halls of St. George in Schererville.

Join the orchestra and chorus as they entertain with light classical and movie music intermingled with delicious cuisine. The soloist will be their very own concertmaster Michele Lekas.

The evening will conclude with Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'. Tickets are \$165 per person and includes dinner and the concert. There will also be a silent auction. Tickets may be purchased online.

Subscribers can 'Compose Their Own Series' by picking only the concerts they wish to attend. Options are available to attend all five concerts in the season, or to pick four or three concerts. Subscriptions can be purchased throughout the season in relation to the number of concerts remaining.

Single tickets range from \$35 to \$75 each.

Season brochures, subscriptions and tickets are available now by calling 219-836-0525 ext. 200 or by visiting www.NISOchestra.org.

High school students invited to explore PNW campus; events starting tomorrow in Hammond

Purdue University Northwest invites high school students and their families interested in learning more about the university to attend one of two upcoming Preview PNW events.

"Preview PNW offers a unique opportunity for future students and their families to gather a full understanding of the education and resources PNW offers," said Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions Karen Stachyra. "These events offer a chance to meet with faculty members, current students, staff and alumni to ask questions

and to learn how PNW values student success."

Preview PNW will be held at the Hammond Campus on Saturday, October 19, starting at the Student Union and Library Building, 2233 173rd Street. The Preview PNW at the Westville Campus will take place on Saturday, November 16, starting at the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, 1401 U.S. Highway 421.

On both dates, check-in will begin at 8 a.m. and programming begins at 8:30 a.m. The event is free and

open to prospective students of all ages and their families. Attendees will tour the PNW campus and learn about undergraduate programs; campus life and housing options; the admissions process, financial aid and available scholarships; NCAA Division II athletics; PNW's Honors College; study abroad opportunities and more.

Registration is encouraged via the Preview PNW website at www.pnw.edu/preview.

For more information about PNW, visit www.pnw.edu.

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‘Bunco for Books’ event to be held at the Crown Point Library November 1

Bunco players of all skill levels are invited to come out for a night of dice rollin’ fun to help raise money for books. ‘Bunco for Books’ is a fundraiser hosted by the Friends of the Crown Point Library. Proceeds go to-

wards the purchase of books and other supplies to support the Crown Point Library’s literacy outreach efforts including Book Babies, book discussion groups, and more.

The event will take place at the Crown Point Community Library on Friday, November 1 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 per person or \$30 for ‘Friends’ members and include game entry, dinner (Rosatti’s Pizza), and two raffle tickets. Tickets can be purchased at the Crown Point Library.

For more information, or to support the event with a raffle donation or sponsorship visit www.crownpointlibrary.org/about/

library-friends or call Laura at 219-306-4599.

The Friends of the Crown Point Library is a non-profit organization, dedicated to enhancing and promoting the use and enjoyment of the Crown Point Community Library.

The organization meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 10 a.m. in meeting room 2 at the Crown Point Library. New members are welcome.

INDOT offers scholarships, jobs to engineers in training engineering scholarship

The Indiana Department of Transportation is offering civil engineering students scholarships of up to \$3,125 per semester, and paid employment during summer breaks and upon graduation.

Students must be accepted or enrolled full time in one of Indiana’s certified civil engineering schools and apply using the form at www.INDOTScholarship.IN.gov. Applications for the 2020-21 school year must be submitted by Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

INDOT’s scholarship program uses federal funds to offer \$3,125 per semester or \$2,083 per trimester for up to five years of post-secondary civil engineering education. Scholarship funds can be applied to educational expenses, fees and books. In return, recipients will work for INDOT in full-time, paid positions during their summer breaks and upon graduation.


Students must be accepted or enrolled full-time in one of Indiana’s Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology certified civil engineering programs. Eligible programs include Purdue University Fort Wayne, Purdue University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Trine University, Purdue University Northwest, University of Evansville, University of Notre Dame, and Valparaiso University.

Learn more about the INDOT Engineer Scholarship program the application process at www.INDOTScholarship.IN.gov. Students or parents with questions may contact Talent Development Manager Adam Beasley at ABeasley2@indot.in.gov or call 317-234-7930.

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Winfield American 

Visclosky announces grant awards for Northwest Indiana fire departments, including LOFS and Crown Point

Congressman Pete Visclosky recently announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded a grant to Northwest Indiana fire departments under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

The \$968,192 grant award will be used to purchase self-contained breathing apparatuses for the fire departments of Crown Point, Hobart, Lake of the Four Seasons, and Schererville. According to FEMA, the primary goal of the AFG program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters, and this funding is used for critically

needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel and enhance operations efficiencies.

Visclosky stated, "It is encouraging to see how our Northwest Indiana fire departments, who often help one another during emergencies, are also helping each other by successfully applying for federal resources to support firefighters as a region."

Lake of the Four Seasons Fire Department Chief Jason Gikas stated, "This grant an-

nouncement made my week and will help our department update our equipment. I hope we can continue to look for opportunities to successfully apply for resources with other regional departments in the future."

City of Crown Point Fire Department Chief Dave Crane stated, "Self-contained breathing apparatuses are an

essential tool for firefighters and are used in any type of unsafe environment. We are pleased that this funding will provide our firefighters with the necessary and compliant equipment they need to protect themselves and respond to emergencies."

For additional information on FEMA's AFG program, visit www.fema.gov.

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Visit the Final Weekend of 'Parade of Homes' in Doubletree Lake Estates in Winfield

The Home Builders Association of Northwest Indiana has chosen Winfield to host the Parade of Homes this year. This 10-day event brings back the old school Parade of Homes with five different builders, houses next to each other, and fully decorated homes top-to-bottom in the Doubletree Lake Estates subdivision.

Plus, as an added kick, there will be a festival feel to the event with a big tent and live entertainment every night. On some days there are food trucks as well.

Colleen Johnston-Hatami who has been a resident of Doubletree for 18 years, could not be more proud of the event. In 2003 there was a Parade of homes in Winfield and Colleen was an Interior Designer for one of the homes. This year she is on the Design Team for two of the Homes in the parade.

The entire community has been involved to make this event a success, the Crown Point Varsity Dance Team will be volunteering one day, as well as the Century 21 Affiliated interns from Crown Point High School. Wiseway Market, Nipsco, Wise Guys, People Bank, Homefly, and Community Bank are sponsors.

Come see the homes before it ends on Sunday.

- Thursday ~ 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Friday ~ 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturday ~ noon to 8 p.m.
- Sunday ~ noon to 8 p.m.



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