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# Winfield American

Vol. 18, Issue 876

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March 22, 2019

## Startup propels PNW students to nationals

Imagine if a car could alert you of a nearby motorcycle by detecting its engine. That is the ingenious idea conceived by Purdue University Northwest's marketing students Kristin Augustyne and Rada Tanasijevic.

The two College of Business students are representing Purdue Northwest in the highly competitive National Student Startup Madness Competition—a nationwide tournament-style competition for college student digital media startups.

(See *Startup* Pg. 2)

## School students enjoy ice skating at new Bulldog Park rink

Students from St. Mary School in Crown Point enjoyed a morning of ice skating at the new Bulldog Park ice skating rink. The students walked over from St. Mary's with their teachers and parent chaperones. The trip was organized by Assistant Principal Candace Wadas.

According to fifth grader, Alex Calzonzi, "It was fun. It was one of the best field trips we've ever been on!"

Crown Point Parks Department Director Jennie Burgess explained that St. Mary's was the first school group to ever visit the new rink. Even Mayor David Uran stopped by to hear the laughter and witness the children enjoying this unique and



enjoyable excursion.

Pictured are St. Mary's third graders Rachel Mumaugh and Audrey Pagorek receiving a little help

from their teacher, Rachel Skinner; and St. Mary's 6th graders Caroline Linklater, Sofia Valdez, and Addison.



## Indiana students continue graduating better prepared for college as AP exams increase again

In partnership with the College Board and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the Indiana Department of Education recently announced another year of increases in the number of Advanced Placement exams offered, taken, and passed.

"Preparing students for success beyond high school is a priority for Indiana's K-12 education system," said Dr. Jennifer McCormick,

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction. "The continual increase in the number of schools offering AP exams, and the number of students passing exams shows once more Indiana is preparing students for the rigors of post-secondary experiences. We have the responsibility to aid in the preparation of students for their next four decades not just their next four years beyond high school. I congratulate and thank the

teachers, administrators, students, and partners whose work has made this possible."

AP is a research-based method to facilitate student participation and success through delivery of college-level courses and corresponding exams in the high school setting, to qualified high school students. Research suggests students who perform well in AP courses are predicted to not only outperform their peers, but have

greater college success. For the 2017-2018 school year, Indiana reported the following increases:

- For the 2018 graduating class, 25,892 Indiana public school students took an AP exam, compared to 24,659 in the class of 2017.
- Since 2008, the percentage of Indiana public school graduates taking an AP exam during high school increased from 20% to 38.9%.
- In the past 10 years, the

number of Indiana public school students scoring 3 or better on at least one AP exam has increased from 6,284 to 13,403.

• In the past three years, the number of Indiana public school students scoring 3 or better on at least one AP exam has increased 12.6%.

"Our recent data show more Hoosier high school students are earning early college credit through AP and dual credit courses than ever before,"

said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers. "We are encouraged by this trend, as early college credit leads to higher success rates and cost savings for students and the state."

For more information regarding IDOE efforts to expand AP in Indiana schools, and for AP related data visit [www.doe.in.gov/ap](http://www.doe.in.gov/ap).

For more information regarding early college credit data visit [www.in.gov/che](http://www.in.gov/che).

## With tails wagging, therapy dogs come to another Franciscan Health hospital

With a prayer and a blessing for a half-dozen dogs and their handlers, Franciscan Health Munster recently welcomed the pet therapy program to its hospital.

The pet therapy program is currently at Franciscan Health Crown Point and Michigan City. It has grown to include 29 dogs, including nine that will be visiting in Munster. Dogs must be certified by Therapy Dogs International or Alliance of Therapy Dogs to participate.

"Bless these therapy dogs and their handlers as they begin their ministry today for our patients and staff," said Rev. Francis S. Tebbe to pet therapy program participants and hospital staff during the blessing and introduction in the hospital's lobby.

Sister Marlene Shapley,

vice president for mission integration, told participants, "You with your dogs, your animals that are bringing comfort to our patients, you're bringing little miracles to our patients every day. So on behalf of the administration and on behalf of the sisters, I thank you for your generosity and your willingness to share your animals with us."

Sean Leahy, administrative director of operations at Franciscan Health Munster, praised the pet therapy program, saying, "We're very excited to be embarking on this new journey. We truly hope it brings love, peace and enjoyment to those we're privileged to serve."

Julie Canady, administrative assistant in the Franciscan Alliance marketing depart-



Sister Marlene Shapley, vice president for mission integration, welcomes guests to the blessing and introduction of the pet therapy program as pet therapy program coordinator Julie Canady listens with her therapy dog, Meiko.

ment, began the program and participates with her therapy dogs Meiko and Frankie. "We get such pleasure out of

visiting everyone — staff, patients and visitors — with our dogs," she said.

At Franciscan Health



Sassy is one of the trained therapy dogs taking part in the Franciscan Health pet therapy program.



Rev. Francis S. Tebbe delivers a blessing to one of the therapy dogs at the blessing and introduction of the pet therapy program.

Munster, therapy dogs will visit patients from 1 to 3 PM on Wednesdays.



## LOFS-Winfield Little League has new division for individuals with intellectual, physical challenges

The LOFS-Winfield Little League has announced that they have added a 'Challenger Division' this season. Registration is now open for this division and the cost is \$40.

The league needs many volunteers and donations to help make this program a success.

Regina Wagoner will serve as vice president of the Challenger Division. For more information contact her at brbawag@gmail.com or 219-306-0197.

Registration for the Challenger Division as well as other Little League baseball and softball divisions can be found by visiting [www.leagues.bluesombrero.com/lofsll](http://www.leagues.bluesombrero.com/lofsll).

The Little League Challenger Program is Little League's adaptive baseball program for individuals with physical and intellectual challenges. Any individual with a physical or intellectual challenge may participate. If an individual can participate in the traditional Little League baseball or softball program with reasonable accommodations they should do so.

The Little League Challenger Division accommodates players ages 4 to 18, or up to age 22 if still enrolled in school. The Senior League Challenger Division accommodates players ages 15 and

above (no maximum age).

Flexibility and adaptability are key during Challenger games. Little League provides all chartered teams with a rulebook that includes a 'best practices' guide to operating a Challenger game. Typically, games are 1 to 2 innings long and last about an hour. All players play defensively and bat every inning.

Buddies are individuals who assist Challenger athletes in the areas of batting, base running, and defense, but only as needed. Often buddies are peer athletes who are participating in the Little League baseball or softball program.

(Startup from Pg. 1)

Augustyne and Tanasijevic's startup project, called 'Sound Cycle', recently advanced to a final round of 32. They are now competing against teams representing 27 college and universities across the country.

"As soon as I heard their idea for Sound Cycle, I knew they had a winner," said Matt Hanson, clinical assistant professor of Marketing in PNW's College of Business and the team's faculty advisor. "Both students have a personal connection to motorcycle safety, and the technology they proposed was a simple solution that could save potentially thousands of lives."

Sound Cycle uses sonar sensing technology in vehicles to detect the distinct sound wave of a running motorcycle engine, then alerts

the driver of a nearby motorcycle.

Hanson said national competitions like this allow PNW business students the unique opportunity to identify a need in the marketplace, form a viable solution, and translate it into a viable startup business with real-world, positive impact.

Augustyne and Tanasijevic are competing against teams from institutions like the University of Illinois, Notre Dame, Cornell, Syracuse, Tufts, University of Chicago and Michigan's two flagship state institutions, among others.

If they advance to the "Entrepreneurial Eight" national finals at the South By Southwest Interactive, Augustyne and Tanasijevic will have the chance to pitch Sound Cycle to renowned

business and investment leaders who can help them on the road to innovative success.

For more information on Student Startup Madness, visit the website [www.studentstartupmadness.com](http://www.studentstartupmadness.com).

## 'Night of Old Time Memories': Historical Society member to host informal discussion April 4

The public is invited on Thursday, April 4, at 7 p.m. to the Seasons Lakehouse Ballroom to hear Lakes of the Four Seasons resident and Historical Society member Walter Pluchinsky host an in-

formal roundtable discussion with other local senior citizens.

Attend for an evening of accounts growing up in the mid-1900s, sharing their interesting personal stories about life without electronics

and other 21st century conveniences, and describing their experiences in days gone by. Children, teens, and adults are all welcome. Charcuterie boards, sweets, and a refreshment table will be available.

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#### 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.

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Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra to present ‘The Keys to France’ on April 5

Join the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and Music Director-Conductor Kirk Muspratt for ‘The Keys to France’ on Friday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m. at The Auditorium at Living Hope Church located at 9000 Taft Street near the Crown Point-Merrillville border. The concert will feature Winston Choi, piano, and John W. W. Sherer, organ.

French composer Saint-Saëns was at the peak of his career when he wrote his popular Organ Symphony, featuring an ingenious use of the organ along with other keyboard instruments.

He said of the work, “What I have here accomplished, I will never achieve again.”

Chicago pianist Winston Choi returns by popular demand to perform Saint-Saëns’ unique and light-

hearted Piano Concerto No. 2, his most popular. A showcase of instruments carry the haunting tune in Ravel’s famous Boléro as it builds to its ascendant conclusion.

“The combined sound of the organ and the orchestra will blow the roof off the hall,” Maestro Muspratt said.

Tickets are \$33 to \$73 with student tickets at just \$10. All ticket holders are invited to join the Maestro before the show at 6:15 p.m. for a pre-concert lecture about the evening’s concert. This concert is generously sponsored by The Times, Crown Point Community Foundation, BMO Harris Bank, MonoSol, John Cicco’s Menswear and the Giragos Family.

Call the Symphony office at 219-836-0525 for more information.

South Shore Line expands ‘Kids Ride Free’ program to create affordable Spring Break adventures

The South Shore Line will be expanding its Kids Ride Free program from March 23 to April 6. SSL has selected this promotional time frame to cover an average portion of scheduled spring breaks across the four-county area.

The ‘Kids Ride Free’ program allows up to three children 13 years of age and under to ride free with a paying adult on off-peak and weekend trains. However, in an effort to help families enjoy spring break, the program will be available on all trains during the promotion.

“Spring break doesn’t have to mean traveling far from home. Our goal is to make travel more affordable and see more families taking advantage of this family-friendly offer. There are so many exciting places, events, and attractions to explore along the SSL. We hope that families create great memories right here in Northwest Indiana, Chicago and South Bend,” said Nicole Barker, director of Capital Investment and Implementation.

To make spring break planning easy, visit [www.mysouthshoreline.com](http://www.mysouthshoreline.com) for a list of spring break play-

cation adventures throughout South Bend, Northwest Indiana, and Chicago.

This spring break promotion is part of the SSL’s ongoing efforts to provide affordable and convenient transportation to and from communities throughout North Central and Northwest Indiana and Chicago.

The South Shore Line is a commuter rail line operated by the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District between Millennium Station in downtown Chicago and the South Bend International Airport in South Bend, Indiana.

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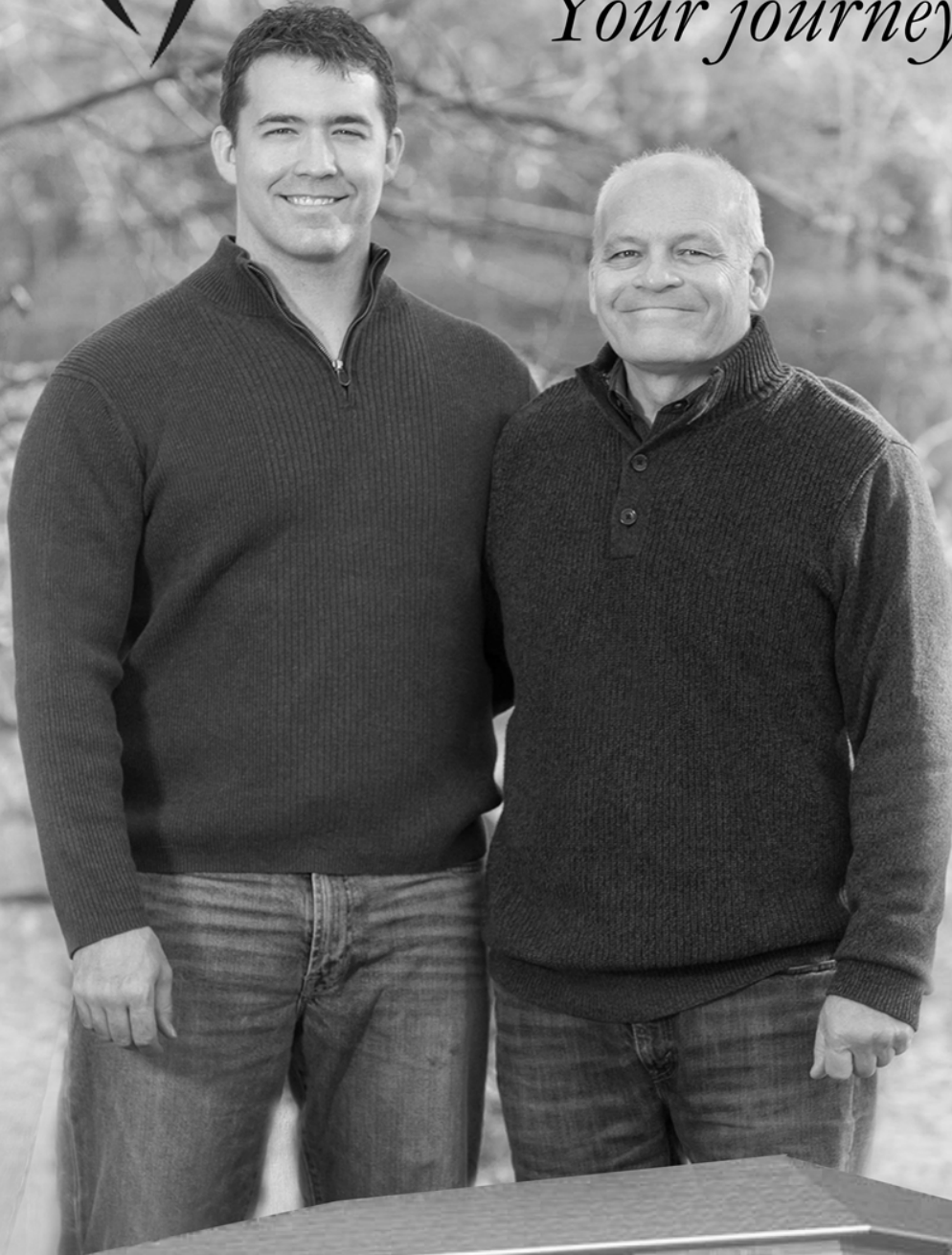






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**Purdue Northwest, Lakeshore Media partner for March 27 discussion and networking event**

Purdue Northwest and Lakeshore Public Media are partnering to host a panel discussion and free networking event for professional women in the Region.

Themed after the new book, 'Brave, Not Perfect', five Purdue Northwest alumnae share their experiences and wisdom about what it takes to be a successful woman in today's workplace.

The panel discussion will include women from a variety of backgrounds and industries. The event takes place on March 27 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Great Hall of the Dworkin Complex at the Westville campus of Purdue Northwest. Networking and light refreshments will follow the discussion.

More information is available at [www.pnw.edu/womens-history](http://www.pnw.edu/womens-history). The event is free, but attendees are asked to register at [www.PWC.Eventbrite.com](http://www.PWC.Eventbrite.com).

**Black Wings exhibit at Indiana's National Model Aviation Museum ends March 31**

The National Model Aviation Museum in Muncie, Indiana, will be hosting 'Black Wings: American Dreams of Flight', a Smithsonian traveling exhibition, through March.

The Wright brothers signaled the arrival of the new age of aviation with their historic flight in 1903—sparkling America's new fascination with and exploration of flight. Although many African-Americans were enthusiastic about flight, they faced racial discrimination and were denied access to formal training to become pilots and mechanics. The Smithsonian traveling exhibition, 'Black Wings: American Dreams of Flight', chronicles a powerful group of aviation proponents who challenged these obstacles and created their own legacy in the world of flight.

The exhibition is based on the book 'Black Wings: Courageous Stories of African Americans in Aviation and Space History'. The exhibit was created by exhibition curator Von Hardesty of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

The Smithsonian museum, located in Washington, D.C., maintains the largest collection of historic air and spacecraft in the world. It is a vital center for research of the history, science, and technology of aviation and space flight, and memorializes the national development of aviation and space flight. Learn more online at [www.airandspace.si.edu](http://www.airandspace.si.edu).

To learn more about upcoming events at the International Aeromodeling Center, home of the AMA in Muncie, visit [www.facebook.com/modelaircraftmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/modelaircraftmuseum).



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## IDEM seeks nominations for 2019 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management is now accepting nominations for the 2019 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence. These awards recognize individuals and organizations who have implemented outstanding environmental strategies into their operations and decision-making processes.

"These are Indiana's most prestigious environmental recognition awards," said IDEM Commissioner Bruno Pigott. "Each year I look forward to seeing the innovative practices employed by Hoosiers and organizations."

IDEM and Governor Eric J. Holcomb's office will present seven awards, one in each of the following categories: Energy/Renewable Resources; Environmental Education/Outreach; Five-Year Continuous Improvement; Greening the Government; Land Use/Conservation; Pollution Prevention; and Recycling/Reuse.

The public is invited to submit nominations, and organizations may self-nominate. Nominations are open to all Indiana facilities, gov-

## OCRA announces inaugural Great Lakes Main Street Conference schedule for August in South Bend

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs will host the inaugural Great Lakes Main Street Conference from Sunday, August 18 through Tuesday, August 20 in downtown South Bend, Indiana.

Organized by OCRA, Oakland County Michigan Main Street Program, and Downtown South Bend, the conference will bring together leaders in downtown and historic commercial district revitalization from all over the Great Lakes region to high-

(See OCRA Pg. 8)

ernment agencies, individuals and other groups that implement exemplary environmental projects or initiatives with measurable results. An instructional webinar, eligibility requirements and details about the nomination process are available at [www.idem.IN.gov/GovAwards](http://www.idem.IN.gov/GovAwards).

Nominations must be received by IDEM no later than 5 p.m. EDT on Monday, April 1, 2019.

Awards will be presented at the Annual Pollution Prevention Conference in September 2019. IDEM will also issue a statewide press release announcing the seven winners and summarizing their projects.

For questions about the nomination process, contact Cameron Maschino at 317-233-5434 or e-mail to [GovAwards@idem.IN.gov](mailto:GovAwards@idem.IN.gov).

## Obituary ~

### Valerie G. Struhs (nee Stetson)

Valerie G. Struhs (nee Stetson), age 70 of Crown Point, passed away peacefully March 14, 2019. She graduated from Hammond Tech High School, Class of 67. Valerie was a loving mother and grandmother. She will be greatly missed. Valerie was preceded in death by her

parents- Marvin and Delores Stetson. She is survived by her daughter- Nicole (Dave) Mochel; grandson- Hunter Ashlock; several extended family. A time of sharing took place on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)

## Purdue Northwest offers Artificial Intelligence-Machine Learning summer camp for high school students

Purdue University Northwest will offer its first Artificial Intelligence-Machine Learning Summer Camp Monday, July 8 through Friday, July 19 on the Hammond Campus.

The PNW Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering will host the camp, which will offer high school students the opportunity to learn AI-ML concepts and implement them in fun game-based programming platforms.

The two-week session will last from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each weekday. Students must be entering ninth grade or higher in fall 2019 to be eligible to attend. The application deadline is June 7 and cost per student is \$100.

For more information, visit the Artificial Intelligence-Machine Learning Summer Camp site at [www.pnw.edu/ai-camp](http://www.pnw.edu/ai-camp), or contact Rose Benoit at 219-989-3106.

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### Porter Lakes Kindergarten Round-Up

Porter Lakes Elementary School on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. Children who reach 5 years of age before August 1, 2019 should enroll in Kindergarten. Spaces are limited, call the school to reserve a space at 219-306-8076, ext. 5000. Parents should bring child's certified birth certificate, child's immunization record and proof of residency to Round-Up and be prepared to complete enrollment documents. (880)

### Help Wanted – Home and Office Cleaning

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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](mailto:chief@lofsfire.com).



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# Students can apply for FAFSA loans using new mobile app through April 15

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education announced that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is open for the 2019-20 school year. With over \$300 million available in state financial aid—as well as billions of dollars in federal aid—it is more important than ever for Hoosiers to file the FAFSA on time by April 15, 2019.

This year, changes to the FAFSA will give students even more flexibility when filing for financial aid. The U.S. Department of Education recently revealed a new option for filing the FAFSA—a smartphone application. The myStudentAid app, available for iOS and Android devices, was designed to make it easier for the nearly 19 million students who file a FAFSA every year. Specifically, the app will benefit students who do not have a computer or high-speed internet at home.

It is important for all students to file the FAFSA regardless of family income. In addition to determining eligibility for state and federal financial aid, many colleges require a completed FAFSA to award merit and need-based scholarships. Filing the FAFSA is particularly important for Indiana's 21st Century Scholars who must file on time to earn the state scholarship that pays for up to four years of college tuition.

Students can file the FAFSA online at FAFSA.gov or using the myStudentAid app. The first step for students who have never filed the FAFSA is to create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID. Then, each student will need:

- Social Security Number
- Alien Registration Number (for non-U.S. citizens)
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)

Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

The U.S. Department of Education provides email and live chat assistance for FAFSA filers as well as a helpline at 800-4FED-AID. Hoosier families can also find FAFSA help through INvestEd Indiana at [www.investedindiana.org](http://www.investedindiana.org). For questions about state financial aid, students can contact the Indiana Commission for Higher Education by phone at 888-528-4719 or via email at [awards@che.in.gov](mailto:awards@che.in.gov).

## Indiana Conservation Officers urge Hoosiers to 'Spring Aboard' for boater education

Indiana Conservation Officers are again partnering with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators to encourage boaters to 'Spring Aboard' and enroll in a boater education course.

Online classes are available 24/7 and provide state-specific information needed for your boating location. Indiana Conservation Officers also offer classroom courses. Hoosiers can visit [www.boat-ed.com/indiana](http://www.boat-ed.com/indiana) for online courses.

For classroom course options, visit [www.register-ed.com/programs/Indiana](http://www.register-ed.com/programs/Indiana) for classes offered. Online users should use VIP Code: SpringAboard19 for discounts.



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## Arts Commission says art, nature, and history will abound across Indiana this year

The Indiana Arts Commission recently announced there will be more than 250 opportunities to engage with the arts this year through the Arts in the Parks & Historic Sites program.

"We're proud of the artistic talent in Indiana," said Anna Tragesser, IAC Artist and community services manager. "These activities are the perfect opportunity for any Hoosier to be creative and inspired by our state's rich natural and historical places."

To see a complete list of 2019 arts activities at state

parks and state historic sites, including dates, locations, and program summaries, visit [www.in.gov/arts/files/IAC\\_2019-APHS-Activities.xlsx](http://www.in.gov/arts/files/IAC_2019-APHS-Activities.xlsx). For more information about a specific activity, contact the individual state park or historic site for details.

The Arts in the Parks & Historic Sites program was created to draw upon both traditional and non-traditional arts and artists to weave arts programming into the natural beauty and rural settings of Indiana. The Commission approved grants for program-

related projects that encourage the creation of, and public engagement with art, and experience Indiana's state park and forest system, and historic sites.

Arts in the Parks & Historic Sites is a partnership with Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Indiana State Historic Sites.

For more information about Arts in the Parks & Historic Sites, contact Anna Tragesser by e-mail to [atragesser@iac.in.gov](mailto:atragesser@iac.in.gov) or call 317-232-1281.

## AT&T funding boosts technology program aimed at Northwest Indiana high school students

A \$10,000 AT&T Aspire contribution to the Ivy Tech Foundation has provided a technology boost to an Ivy Tech Community College data and security program aimed at high school students.

The foundation will utilize its AT&T funding to purchase routers, allowing the community college to fully implement a state-of-the-art Data and Cyber Security Computer Lab in its computing and informatics program. Ivy Tech plans to recruit 100 current Early College and Dual Credit high school students from Northwest Indiana to participate in the program each semester.

"This is a win-win for our

community," said Ivy Tech Community College Lake Co. Campus Chancellor R. Louie Gonzalez. "With this support from AT&T, we're not only cultivating a higher quality workforce, we're also helping to decrease the dropout rate by keeping kids engaged in learning about interesting potential careers."

The local high school students will assemble the routers on their own; the technology will then be used to complement classroom and lab activities.

"This backing from AT&T is paramount, as the college works closely with dual credit students – particularly those who face social

or economic challenges – to encourage them to take rigorous college-level coursework that prepares them for possible careers in computing and informatics," said Ivy Tech Foundation Executive Director of Resource Development Cindy Hall.

"For our state and country to succeed in the 21st century, our workforce needs the right skills," said AT&T Indiana Director of External Affairs Richard Leverett. "So, we're proud to support efforts like this, which are creating opportunities for young people to expand their technology talents and move in to rewarding careers."

(OCRA from Pg. 6)

light asset-based strategies to community and economic development.

Multi-track sessions will occur throughout the two-day conference focusing on sustainability, economic vitality, and cultivating qual-

ity places. Local tours and networking opportunities are also components of the conference.

Early bird registration is now available through May 1 costing \$75 per person. After May 1, registration is

\$100 per person. Registration includes attendance of the breakout and keynote sessions as well as breakfast and snacks.

For more conference information visit [www.in.gov/ocra/2956.htm](http://www.in.gov/ocra/2956.htm).

## *This day in history*

### March 22, 1972

The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by the U.S. Senate and sent to the states for ratification on this day in 1972. The ERA was to provide for the legal equality of the sexes and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

First proposed in 1923, more than four decades passed before the revival of feminism in the late 1960s spurred its introduction into Congress. Under the leadership of U.S. Representative Bella Abzug and feminists Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem, it won the requisite two-thirds vote from the U.S. House in October, 1971. In March, 1972, it was approved by the U.S. Senate and sent to the states.

Hawaii was the first state to ratify, followed by more than 30 others within a year. However, during the mid-1970s, a conservative backlash against feminism begun by Phyllis Schlafly, eroded support for the ERA, which ultimately failed to achieve ratification by the requisite 38, or three-fourths, of the states.

Because of the rejection of the Equal Rights Amendment, sexual equality, with the notable exception of when it pertains to the right to vote, is not protected by the U.S. Constitution. However, by the late 20th century, the federal government and all states passed considerable legislation protecting the legal rights of women.

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



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