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June 24/July 1, 2016

20,000 softball players, fans, families to stimulate Northwest Indiana economy this summer

South Shore Sports Promotions expects more than 20,000 softball players, families and fans to bring an estimated \$1 million to South Shore communities this summer in a series of softball tournaments lasting through September of this year. Tournaments like the National Softball Association Girls Fast Pitch "A" World Series and the International Senior Softball Association have booked nearly 5,000 room nights at local hotels for the coming season.

"The entire South Shore benefits from these tournaments, as local restaurants, businesses and attractions will see an increase in visi-

tors through weeks of competition," said Speros A. Batistatos, president and CEO of the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority.

Communities sharing a Northwest Indiana border in Illinois will also feel the impact of the upcoming tournaments. Teams will be housed in hotels with locations ranging from Lansing, Illinois, to LaPorte, Indiana. Athletes will be competing in various sports complexes found in Crown Point, Munster, Hammond, and LaPorte among others.

Fans will also take part in opening ceremonies for tournaments, which in years past have welcomed crowds of

10,000 and more to areas like downtown Crown Point and Michigan City.

"I have used the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority for all teams needing assistance while playing at PGF tournaments, and couldn't be happier with the level of service provided," said Bill Conroy, the National Futures Director of the Premier Girls Fast Pitch Series.

For more information on the upcoming softball tournaments, South Shore Sports Promotions or the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority, visit www.alongthesouthshore.com or call 219-989-7770.



"Red Fury" wins Spring soccer championship with 11-0-1 record

The team called Red Fury won the Spring 2016 Seasons Soccer U-11 Tournament Championship by finishing the season with a record of 11-0-1. Pictured are, top row, left to right: assistant coach Jason Gilman, Dylan Keseley, Jonathan Bobos, Kozmelina Morales, Xavier Alanis, Fernando Balderas, and head coach Frank Oliva; bottom row, left to right: Addison Gilman, Pauly McCoy, Sofia Oliva, Kylie O'Neill, Carl Johnson, and Alexis O'Neill.

St. Elijah Cathedral's Annual SerbFest slated for this weekend, June 24 to 26

Family dining, tamburitza music and great food and pastries are on the agenda for St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Cathedral's annual SerbFest, scheduled for Friday, June 24, thru Sunday, June 26, according to Joe Dejanovic, festival chairman.

The festival hours will be held from 12 noon to 12 midnight, Friday and Saturday, and 12 noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday. People at work are encouraged to come and have lunch on Friday at noon, said Dejanovic. Ongoing carry

outs will also be available. St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Cathedral is located at 8700 Taft (Rt. 55), one mile south of U.S. Route 30 in Merrillville.

A family friendly dining atmosphere and theme will be emphasized complete with a beer garden and specialty foods including fresh "on-site spit roasted" barbecued lamb and pig, "cevaps" (spicy char-grilled sausages), sarma (Serbian style stuffed cabbage) and other delicious entrees.

In addition there will be a variety of mouth-watering pastries including "Krofne" (large sugar-coated Serbian donuts), palanchinkas (crepes), homemade cookies, cakes, and the infamous Serb style apple and cheese strudels.

"This event has grown virtually by word of mouth as the best kept secret in cultural festivals featuring great food, entertaining music and hospitality," said Dejanovic. "We pride ourselves in serving (See *SerbFest* P. 6)

Fireworks in Indiana: Buy legally, store and use safely

As Independence Day celebrations draw near, the Indiana State Fire Marshal is reminding Hoosiers about the safe and legal ways to buy and store fireworks.

Fireworks should only be purchased from a vendor with a valid Indiana fireworks sales permit. Fireworks vendors must have a permit from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's (IDHS) Fire and Building Safety Division, which is overseen by the State Fire Marshal. If a sales permit is

not on display, it is okay to ask employees to see it before purchasing any kind of fireworks.

If a fireworks retailer is not displaying, and is unable to provide a copy of its permit, citizens can call the IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety at 317-232-2222.

Additional reminders to consider when purchasing fireworks:

- Fireworks cannot be sold to or purchased by anyone younger than 18.
- Check packages and labels

to make sure only 1.4G consumer fireworks are purchased; any other types of fireworks are illegal for consumer sales or purchases in Indiana, and may be more explosive.

- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Be sure fireworks are out of the reach of children.
- Consider buying glow sticks instead of sparklers for children; sparklers can burn at temperatures high enough to melt glass.

Crown Point resident among 13 local staff members from two Purdue campuses recognized for job excellence

Thirteen Purdue University Northwest employees have been recognized as 2015-16 Outstanding Employees, including a Crown Point resident. Recognized at the PNW Calumet Campus were Cheryl Lutgen of Crown Point, Marketing and Communications Coordinator; and Outstanding Operations/Technical Assistant Employees Debra Grant of Hobart, Administrative Assistant for the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science.

Also recognized by PNW were Outstanding Clerical Employees Pamela Jostes of Highland, Student

Financial Services, and Alan McCafferty of Hammond, University Library Archives.

Outstanding Service Employees were Maria Carrillo of Whiting, Building Services, and Shannon Hassel of Hammond, University Police. Outstanding Administrators Suzy Giannini of Schererville, Interim Associate Director of Admissions, and Amber Schuler of Griffith, Academic Advisor for the Department of Construction Science and Organizational Leadership also made the cut.

Outstanding Administrative Leaders Kris Falzone of Schererville, Associate Vice Chancellor for Marketing

and Communications, and Sandra Steele of Hobart, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management were also recognized.

At PNW's North Central Campus honorees included Outstanding Clerical Employee Cindy Christ of Valparaiso, English Department; Outstanding Service Employee Galinda Rodriguez of Michigan City, Building Services; and Outstanding Administrative-Professional Employee Maria Watson of Valparaiso, Administrative Assistant for the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

The employees were hon-

ored at a Service Recognition Luncheon held recently at each campus. With recent approval by the Higher Learning Commission, Purdue University Calumet and Purdue University North Central have unified to become Purdue University Northwest (PNW), a comprehensive regional university comprised of the Calumet Campus at Hammond and North Central Campus at Westville. When it welcomes its first class of students this fall, PNW will become Indiana's fifth largest public university, enrolling more than 15,000 students and offering 70+ degree programs.



Preparing for anthrax emergency

Franciscan Alliance's five Northern Indiana hospital campuses were among those statewide that recently participated in an anthrax emergency preparedness drill. Besides hospitals, emergency management agencies and health departments combined efforts to take care of the most patients as quickly as possible, said Lori Postma, who is shown coordinating the drill. In the exercise, the hospitals received and treated simulated anthrax patients, ranging from those who were treated and released to others in critical condition.

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Geocache for prizes in State Parks centennial challenge

Visitors to Indiana State Parks this year can play the Centennial Geocache Challenge for a chance to win prizes, including a 2017 Annual Entrance Permit. The Centennial Geocache Challenge is a self-guided activity to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Indiana State Parks in 2016.

A Centennial Cache is located at each state park. Participants can download a Centennial Geocache Passport at www.instateparks100.com. The passport is a game card that

that resembles a bingo card with park names inside each square. When participants find a Centennial Cache, they stamp the square for the corresponding park using a property-specific stamp inside each cache.

Completing five parks in at least one row on the passport makes the participant eligible for prizes. Completing more rows increases a player's entries into the prize contest. Twelve entries are possible per passport.

Prizes include a 2017 Annual Entrance Permit,

a \$50 camping gift card to state parks, a \$50 DNR Inns gift card, a \$25 gift card to Cabela's, and Indiana State Parks Centennial Coins.

Information on the caches is at www.geocaching.com, where you can search by property name or by property ZIP code. Caches can be found and documented through October 30. Passports must be mailed, or scanned and e-mailed, to the challenge organizers at Indiana Dunes State Park by November 6. The mailing address is: Indiana Dunes

State Park, 1600 North, 25 East, Chesterton, IN, 46304. The e-mail address is dunesnc@dnr.in.gov. Learn more about

geocaching and how caches can be placed on DNR properties at www.geocaching.dnr.in.gov. Turkey Run and McCormick's Creek were Indiana's first two state parks, established in 1916 as a gift to Hoosiers on the 100th anniversary of Indiana statehood. A list of centennial activities is at www.instateparks100.com.

Statewide outdoor recreation plan available

The latest in a long line of 5-year plans to help determine the future public outdoor recreation needs of all Indiana residents and plan for that future is available from the Department of Natural Resources.

Just as similar organizations in other states, the Indiana DNR is required to create a comprehensive state-level outdoor recreation plan every five years.

This planning process keeps Indiana eligible to obtain funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) that DNR then re-grants to park boards in counties, townships, cities, and towns.

The new 138-page Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

(SCORP), which covers 2016-20, can be downloaded at www.dnr.in.gov/outdoor/4201.htm.

The site also includes information on how the study

is done. To order CD-ROM copies or for more information, contact DNR Outdoor Recreation's Greg Beilfuss at 317-232-4071.



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State fire investigators thank public for helping find criminals

State fire investigators are thanking the public and reminding them that their help is important to finding criminals who set fires. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Indiana State Fire Marshal welcome the public's help in providing information related to fire investigations throughout the state. The IDHS is reminding all Hoosiers that any additional information from citizens can help expedite cases for investigations.

"While we never want to see someone's home or business burn under any circumstances, it is especially troubling when the fire was set intentionally," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "We as an agency try to work

as quickly and as diligently as possible during our fire investigations, but we always welcome help from the public."

Citizens are reminded to always be aware if they see a fire in their area. Should a fire start nearby, those in the area should keep a safe distance and call 911.

If someone is seen fleeing from the area where the fire has occurred, take note of the person's appearance and pass this information on to the authorities.

IDHS took part in 549 fire investigations last year, 164 of which were determined to be intentionally-set fires.

As a result, 41 suspects were arrested in connection to these fires. So far, IDHS

(See State Pg. 7)

'100 Days for 100 Years' underway at state parks

One-hundred consecutive days of programs to celebrate the Indiana State Parks centennial in 2016 began last month.

'100 Days for 100 Years' runs through September 4, with a history-related program or celebratory event in at least one state park property on each day. Some days will feature programs at more than one of the 32 parks and lakes in the state parks system.

Lieber State Recreation Area on Cagles Mill Lake will kick off '100 Days' with its centennial celebration

this Saturday and Sunday. Activities start at 1 p.m. each day and include beach games and hugs from Smokey Bear.

Turkey Run State Park is hosting history hikes, demonstrations and crafts on each of the 100 days. Turkey Run and McCormick's Creek were Indiana's first two state parks, established in 1916 as a gift to Hoosiers on the 100th anniversary of Indiana statehood.

Also during the 100 days, DNR staff will post on social media several times per week about the history of the state parks system.

The celebrations will carry over into the Indiana State Fair. On the afternoon of August 14, Indiana State Parks will host a Centennial Birthday Party at the Natural Resources Building with Smokey Bear, cupcakes, history games and more.

Indiana State Parks also is offering a variety of activities for visitors to do on their own or with friends and family, according to Ginger Murphy, deputy director for stewardship at the DNR Division of State Parks, and coordinator of Indiana State Parks

Centennial Celebration.

"From our Centennial Fitness Challenge to workshops for teachers featuring our new Centennial Curriculum to our SPR Go! Bingo Game, there are lots of ways to make state parks an outdoor priority this year," Murphy said.

A list of centennial activities is at www.instateparks100.com. People can find events in the DNR Upcoming Events calendar at www.dnr.in.gov by property or by searching the keyword "centennial."

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Indiana Dunes State Park offers beach yoga

Indiana Dunes State Park has partnered with the Valparaiso Family YMCA and Duneland Family YMCA to offer beach yoga classes every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday this summer.

Certified instructors will incorporate both challenging and relaxing postures. Each class lasts about one hour and is suitable for most levels, including beginners.

Beach yoga runs through September 4. Tuesday, Friday and Sunday classes are at 9 a.m. The Thursday class is a sunset session at 7 p.m.

Classes are near the beach pavilion. Visitors should arrive at least 10 minutes early and bring a beach towel or

yoga mat. Each class costs \$10 per person. Classes will be canceled in the case of inclement weather.

Participants can register in advance by calling the Duneland Family YMCA at 219-926-4204. Participants also can show up for day-of

registration at the main beach pavilion for any session.

For more information, call the nature center at 219-926-1390 or the Duneland Family YMCA at 219-926-4204. Indiana Dunes State Park is located at 1600 North 25 East in Chesterton.

State Farm donations help area schools and non-profits

State Farm has donated eight computer monitors to St. Mary's Community Catholic School. Agent Bob Moreth worked to get the new monitors for St. Mary's.

"As you can imagine, State Farm uses a lot of office supplies across the country," said Moreth. "We just wanted to give back to the communities we live and work in."



SEASONS SOCCER 2016 FALL REGISTRATION

Seasons Soccer offers opportunities to children ages 4 to 14!

- Our In-House League includes co-ed divisions of U6, U8 and U11
- Our Travel League includes both boys and girls divisions of U8, U10, U12 and U14. (Note: Travel League registration ends June 27)

Registration is simple, we will be having an in-person registration on June 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the LOFS 19th Hole for In-House and Travel Leagues, also we are having an in-person registration on July 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the LOFS 19th Hole for the In-House League. Registration can also be done online at www.seasonsoccerclub.org and click on "Registration".

Registration Cost:

- In-House League is \$65 • Travel League is \$105.
- There is an additional \$25 charge if your child needs a Travel Uniform.

- TRAVEL LEAGUE REGISTRATION ENDS JUNE 27
- IN-HOUSE LEAGUE REGISTRATION ENDS JULY 22
- THERE WILL BE NO LATE REGISTRATION

Any questions of concerns regarding registration or any other club information can be directed to our website at www.seasonsoccerclub.org



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- THURSDAY JULY 14 - HARLEY - 9pm
- SATURDAY JULY 16 - EVERAFTER - 9pm
- SUNDAY JULY 17 - DAY DRINKIN' WITH DAVE ALAMILLO - 4pm
- THURSDAY JULY 21 - DJ KENNY G - 9pm
- THURSDAY JULY 28 - DJ KENNY G - 9pm
- SUNDAY JULY 31 - DAY DRINKING WITH HARLEY - 4pm

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This day in history

June 24, 1997

U.S. Air Force officials released a 231-page report dismissing long-standing claims of an alien spacecraft crash in Roswell, New Mexico, almost exactly 50 years earlier.

The town of Roswell became a magnet for UFO believers due to the strange events of early July 1947, when ranch foreman W.W. Brazel found a strange, shiny material scattered over some of his land. Air Force officials announced they had recovered the wreckage of a "flying disk." A local newspaper put the story on its front page, launching Roswell into the spotlight of the public's UFO fascination.

The Air Force soon took back their story, saying the debris had been merely a downed weather balloon. The "Roswell Incident" faded until the late 1970s, when claims surfaced that the military had invented the weather balloon story as a cover-up. Believers in this theory argued that officials had in fact retrieved several alien bodies from the crashed spacecraft, which were now stored in the mysterious Area 51 installation in Nevada.

On July 24, 1997, the Air Force released yet another report on the controversial subject. The document stated definitively that there was no Pentagon evidence that any kind of life form was found in the Roswell area in connection with the reported UFO sightings, and that the "bodies" recovered were not aliens but dummies used in parachute tests conducted in the region.

www.history.com

Winfield Farmer's Market to open next week in Government Center parking lot

Winfield's Farmer's Market opens Wednesday, June 29, from 3 to 7 p.m., in the Winfield Government Center's parking lot. Applications for vendors are still being accepted. There is

no fee for vendors.

Fresh fruit and vegetables from local farmers, Mexican food, bakery items, hand-made jewelry, crafts, antiques and more will be featured at this year's market. The mar-

ket is sponsored by the Town of Winfield and Winfield Township.

For further information contact Winfield Township at 219-663-7027.

June is Coastal Awareness Month in Indiana

Coastal Awareness Month in June is a chance for Hoosiers to celebrate north-west Indiana's unique natural resources and the region's importance to the rest of the state.

Lake Michigan is a source of recreation, drinking water, industrial resources and more.

(SerbFest from Pg. 1)

great ethnic food that keeps our festival guests coming back every year."

Live Tamburitza bands play throughout the festival in the hall and Serbian "kolo" dancing in the outside tent will be featured on Saturday night. Also on Saturday in the outside tent from 2 to 6 p.m., the Outlaw Country Roadshow Band will be featured, bringing a little 'country flavor' to the festival. For more traditional Serbian singing festival goers need only step outside behind the hall in the new 'Belgrade Gardens'.

Cathedral tours will be available throughout the festival and Frula, the chil-

The 45 miles of shoreline in Indiana is the most biologically diverse in the Great Lakes region

A lineup of Coastal Awareness Month activities is at www.cam.dnr.in.gov. Events include paddling, shipwreck tales, guided hikes, mu-

sic, festivals, and more. Check back often; more events may be added.

"We want people to celebrate Coastal Awareness Month by getting outside, exploring and finding something new," said Mike Molnar, director of DNR's Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program and its partners administer Coastal Awareness Month each year.

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General Classifieds

Classified ads must be submitted by Sunday at 3 p.m. to run in that Friday's Winfield American. Submit your ad online at www.winfieldamerican.com.

Seamstress, Tailoring, & Alteration Services

Seamstress and tailor, all types of garments, men's and women's, specializing in gowns, beaded, wedding dresses, prom, and more. ALL HEMS (pants only) \$3! Located in LOFS-Winfield. Call Terri of "Al-Terri-ations" at 219-988-5152 or 219-779-0405. (735)

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. (735)

Garage & Moving Sale

Golf carts, patio set, clothes, bikes, household items and much more. June 23-25, 8am-2pm Lakes of the Four Seasons 1882 Loganberry Ln. (733)

Winfield Annual Garage Sale

1749 Broadacre Road, LOFS, Thursday, June 23: 9am to 3pm and Friday, June 24: 9am to 3pm. Home decor and accessories, holiday decorations, nearly new adult clothing, small furniture and so much more! (733)

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Despite threats, European cities, warm weather spots top AAA's 2016 summer travel destinations list

Demand for travel to Europe remains strong, and AAA summer travel bookings show that Rome and London are at the top of many international travelers' itineraries this summer. Americans are also flocking to warm-weather destinations in the U.S., Mexico and Caribbean, and increasingly traveling to Canada to take advantage of favorable exchange rates.

The top international summer destinations, based on AAA bookings for travel June 1 through August 15, are Rome, Italy; London, England; Cancun, Mexico;

Vancouver, Canada; Paris, France; Dublin, Ireland; Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; Montego Bay, Jamaica; Calgary, Canada; and Amsterdam, Netherlands.

"Europe remains very popular with American travelers despite recent terrorism concerns," said Bill Sutherland, AAA senior vice president of travel and publishing. "A strong dollar, discounted pricing and a continued sense of resilience are motivating millions of Americans to venture across the pond for their summer vacations this year."

On May 31, the U.S. State Department issued a travel alert for Europe, citing the risk of potential terror attacks. Travel alerts are issued for short-term events that travelers should be aware of when planning to visit a country. This differs from a travel warning in which the State Department urges travelers to consider very carefully whether to visit a country or region at all.

"AAA urges travelers to exercise vigilance when traveling and be aware of their immediate surroundings."

Determining when and where to travel is very personal," continued Sutherland. "The strong interest in Europe and even Paris shows that many Americans are undeterred by recent global events."

Domestically, the great

American road trip is back, with nearly 56% of Americans planning a driving vacation this summer, according to a recent AAA survey. The lowest summer-time gas prices in 11 years are prompting Americans

to drive in record numbers. More than half of U.S. adults say low gas prices are encouraging them to hit the roads this year.

For more information and to begin planning a trip, visit www.aaa.com/travel.

(State from Pg. 1)

investigators have assisted with 208 investigations in 2016 where fires were determined to be intentionally set, and 10 arrests have been made.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal oversees the IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety. To report information to IDHS regarding arson, call 1-800-382-4628. All calls will be kept confidential.

For more information on fire safety, visit www.getprepared.in.gov.

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