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# Winfield American

Vol. 21, Issue 1,019

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January 28, 2022

## Robotic lung surgery arrives at Franciscan Health Crown Point

Robotic lung surgery, a minimally invasive technique that has advantages over traditional surgical methods, is now benefiting patients at Franciscan Health Crown Point.

Thoracic surgery specialist Jason Fitzgerald, MD, began performing lung procedures in June 2021 using the da Vinci Xi surgical system from Intuitive Surgical, Inc. Many of the surgeries he's done have been on cancer patients. "You can do more complex procedures with smaller incisions, so they recover faster and have less pain," Dr. Fitzgerald said.

Traditional open surgery requires the surgeon to make a large incision in the chest and then spread the ribs to see



Thoracic surgery specialist Jason Fitzgerald, MD, shows the robotic arms of the da Vinci Xi system, which translate the surgeon's hand movements.

the lung directly. "It's pretty painful and there's more blood loss," Dr. Fitzgerald said. Video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) is less invasive, using smaller incisions to insert a camera

and surgical instruments. However, Dr. Fitzgerald said the instruments in VATS are limited in their mobility and the visualization is just two-dimensional.

The da Vinci technology

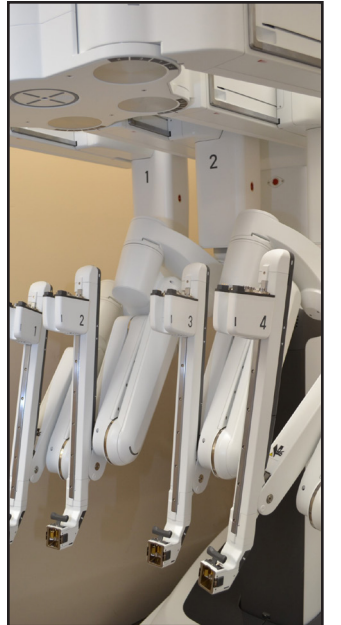


Thoracic surgery specialist Jason Fitzgerald, MD, demonstrates the high-definition 3D camera viewer and controls used for surgery with the da Vinci Xi system.

has multiple arms and a high-definition 3D camera that are inserted through small incisions. The operator sits at a control console next to the bed in the operating room and controls the movement

of the robot.

"Basically, you're looking through a camera inside the patient. It's 3D and has a huge amount of detail, much more than you can get on a (See **Robotic** Pg. 8)



A closer view of the robotic arms of the da Vinci Xi surgical system from Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

## Advanced imaging technology for breast cancer screening available locally

For women with dense breast tissue, the risk of cancer is greater than for those who do not so it is important to get regular screening mammograms. To provide the best care possible, Community Healthcare System now offers advanced imaging technology that is able to detect cancer through dense breast tissue. The technology was approved by the FDA for breast cancer screening and is used in addition to mammography for women with dense breast tissue and no prior diagnosis.

Invenia ABUS 2.0 (Automated Breast Ultrasound System) is clinically proven to increase cancer detection in dense breast tissue by 35.7%. Dense breast

tissue not only increases the risk of breast cancer by four to six times, it also makes cancer more difficult to detect when using mammography alone.

An ABUS screening exam, in addition to a traditional mammogram, helps create a more complete evaluation of dense breast tissue. The exam is non-invasive and provides 3D ultrasound images.

Valparaiso Health Center at St. Mary Medical Center is the first location within Community Healthcare System to offer ABUS with availability at other Women's Diagnostic Centers in the next few months:

- Community Stroke & Rehabilitation Center, 10215 Broadway, Crown Point

- St. Mary Medical Center Cancer Care Center, 300 W. 61st Ave., Hobart
- Valparaiso Health Center of St. Mary Medical Center, 3800 St. Mary Dr., Valparaiso
- Community Hospital Outpatient Center, St. John 9660 Wicker Ave, St. John
- St. Catherine Hospital, South Entrance, 4321 Fir St., East Chicago, IN

"Community Healthcare System's Women's Diagnostic Centers are always aiming, in terms of new technologies, to be ahead of the curve," said Janushi Dalal, MD, a breast radiologist on staff at St. Mary Medical Center. "ABUS complements our comprehensive breast screening

program and demonstrates a commitment to investing in patient care."

The Women's Diagnostic Centers of Community Healthcare System also offer 3D mammography with same-day appointments and, in most cases, same-day results. The centers have earned national accreditations for breast imaging, mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, breast ultrasound and ultrasound guided breast biopsy.

"Our strongest weapon against breast cancer is early detection," said Mary Nicholson, MD, medical director of Community Hospital Women's Diagnostic Center in Munster and regional director of Breast Imaging Services for Community Healthcare

System. "By offering ABUS in addition to mammography for patients with dense breast tissue, we anticipate improving detection for small cancers that may not be seen on a mammogram alone in these women."

Some women are more likely to have dense breasts, such as those who are premenopausal; use postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy (HRT); OR have a lower body mass index (BMI).

Women less likely to have dense breasts are those who have gone through menopause; have had children; or use the hormonal therapy tamoxifen, either to lower breast cancer risk or to treat breast cancer.

Aromatase inhibitors, which are another type of hormonal therapy, may also decrease breast density, but the impact doesn't appear to be as substantial

Only a mammogram can show whether a patient has dense breasts. The American Cancer Society recommends that women receive yearly mammograms beginning at age 40. Women who have been informed they have dense breast tissue should talk with their doctor about their risk and consider additional screening. Contact your insurance company about coverage for an ABUS screening.

For more information, check on location availability, and to make an appointment, call 800-809-9828.

## Purdue Northwest receives \$3.8 million for TRIO Educational Talent Search

Purdue University Northwest's TRIO program was awarded renewed grants from the U.S. Department of Education for its federally funded Educational Talent Search programs to continue serving first-generation and economically disadvantaged college students.

The pre-college programs provide counseling, aptitude assessment, career exploration, financial assistance information, college visits, college application help and

more at the Hammond and Westville campuses. The program coordinators service students in Lake, La Porte, Porter, and Starke counties.

The new five-year grant cycle through August 2026 awarded around \$2 million for Hammond and \$1.8 million for Westville. The grants are increased from \$1.2 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, in the previous cycle.

"This level of support and resources is unparalleled," Maceo Rainey, TRIO

Director of Educational Talent Search, said. "Most communities don't have a TRIO program. It's a huge advantage for taxpayers in Northwest Indiana. In communities like Lake, Porter, La Porte, and Starke counties, 80% of the residents do not have a four-year bachelor's degree. TRIO is helping to close that gap."

The Educational Talent Search teams' focus in the new grant cycle includes supporting workforce devel-

opment by shaping graduation pathways with intervention resources, industry role model matches, and skills inventories.

PNW's Educational Talent Search programs are two of five federally funded TRIO programs. The others include Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and the McNair Achievement Program. Student Support Services received \$1.7 million in 2020 for its current five-year cycle.



Maceo Rainey, center, TRIO Director of Educational Talent Search, poses in a group photo with students in PNW's Educational Talent Search program in July at Target Field in Minneapolis. The group attended a Minnesota Twins baseball game while on a four-day trip to visit colleges and universities in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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

Nominations open for 2022 Influential Women Awards; deadline February 15

Every aspect of life here in Northwest Indiana is shaped by powerful women. They carve new paths, launch new ventures, save lives, teach the young, and so much more – often without recognition. Now, there’s an opportunity for these individuals to finally earn well-deserved recognition among their peers.

Each year, the Northwest Indiana Influential Women Association hosts an awards banquet to honor the efforts of outstanding women, and members of the public are welcome to submit nominations on their behalf. This is also an outstanding opportunity for companies to demonstrate their support for women in their fields.

Submitting a nomination is free and simple. Simply visit [www.NWIIWA.org](http://www.NWIIWA.org) and find the nominations option beneath the Awards Banquet tab. The eligibility criteria is broad and applicable to a wide variety of different industries. One award will be given to an Influential Woman winner in each category, and one will go to an ‘Up-and-Coming’ winner.

The event does not only celebrate women, men and companies are eligible for recognition too. Additional awards are given for the Empowering Business of the Year, Community Leader of the Year, and Supporter of the Year, based on their efforts in supporting and empowering females throughout the business community. Visit [www.nwiwomen.com](http://www.nwiwomen.com) for additional eligibility information.

The deadline for nominations is February 15. The awards banquet will be held on September 29 at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville. The evening will also feature food, drinks, and opportunities for business networking with many of the Region’s largest companies.

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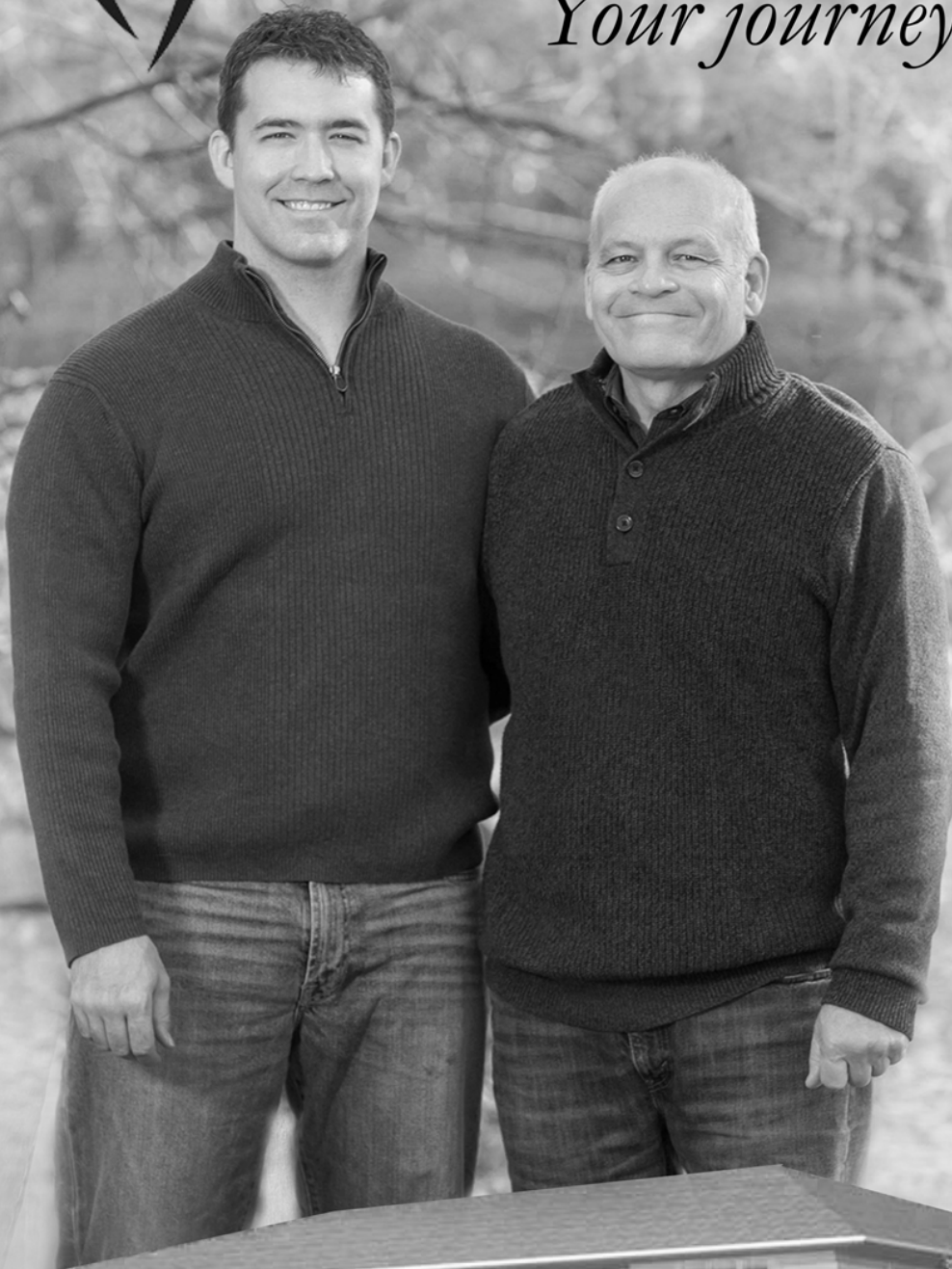
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Certified diabetes educator welcoming new patients in Crown Point

A board-certified nurse practitioner, who is also a certified diabetes care and education specialist, has joined the staff at Franciscan Physician Network Crown Point Maternal Fetal Medicine and Genetics.

Suzanne Rossiter, AGPCNP-C, CDCES, CHWC, specializes in diabetes care and education, with an emphasis on blood sugar control, medication management, risk reduction and health promotion. She can assist patients in use of diabetes tools such as continuous glucose monitoring systems and insulin pumps.

Rossiter believes in behavioral modification and lifestyle coaching to develop healthy habits, including diet, physical activity, sleep and stress management.

Rossiter received her training at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Valparaiso University, and Indiana University in Indianapolis.

Crown Point Maternal Fetal Medicine and Genetics is located at 297 West Franciscan Lane, Suite 104 in Crown Point. Virtual visits are available. To make an online or in-person appointment, call 219-213-2280.



Suzanne Rossiter

Purdue University Northwest ready to go with annual Homecoming events

Purdue University Northwest hosts its annual Homecoming celebration with a month's line-up of activities for the university community and alumni through February 18.


Homecoming is one of the largest spring semester festivities for PNW with a schedule across several weeks that relish the spirit of the PNW Pride, brings students together for fun in-person themes, and welcomes back alumni to attend basketball games and network with current students.

Homecoming 2022 is also a part of PNW's 5.75 Roaring Ahead year-long celebration, a pivotal academic year recognizing the fifth year of Purdue Northwest and the 75th anniversaries of PNW's legacy institutions, Purdue Calumet and Purdue North Central.

The culminating act is the MANE Event on February 17. PNW invites alumni and the community to join students, faculty, and staff to cheer on the Pride women's and men's basketball teams as they host the Lake Superior State University Lakers at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively. Doors open at the Fitness & Recreation Center at the Hammond campus at 4 p.m.

A full schedule of events and updates, as well as details to RSVP, can be found at [www.pnw.edu/homecoming](http://www.pnw.edu/homecoming)

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Sixty-five police officers earn Phoenix Award for stopping overdoses with Narcan

The Porter County Substance Abuse Council (PCSAC) and the Council's Drunk Driving Task Force recently presented 65 police officers from various Porter County jurisdictions with the Phoenix Award for the use of Narcan to save lives during drug overdose events.

Chuck Harris, former Porter County coroner, found it fitting to establish the Phoenix Award specifically for first responders that were able to successfully curtail overdoses with Narcan when the opioid epidemic was beginning to rapidly unfold over five years ago.

"As coroner, you see the ultimate results of the overdose, after the fact," said Harris. "By the time I arrived on a scene, the first responders had worked on the victim to revive them from the overdose without success."

In 2021, there was an increase in opioid deaths due to fentanyl and multiple doses of Narcan are required to revive the victim. Indiana reported a 32% increase in fatal overdoses during a 12-month period ending in April 2021, according to the CDC. As of last week in December 2021, Porter County reported 36 overdose deaths. The once novel life-saving strategy of administering Narcan has morphed into a common and accepted best practice, and

Indiana now serves the community via vending machines in Porter County and across Indiana.

The list of police departments with officers that received 2021 Phoenix awards includes Hebron PD, Asst. Chief Scott Sejda; Valparaiso PD, Lt. Jerame Simpson, Ofc. John Patston, Ofc. John Nuppnau; Michelle Kodicek, Mark Lamotte, Jeff Kopil; Jacob Myers, Jon Watson, Ryan Sobierajski, Chris Allison, Caleb Hall, Jason Wray, Carol Pytynia, Ben Teufel, John Patston; Chesterton PD, Alexies DeJesus; Burns Harbor PD, Cpl. Austin Haynes, Sgt. Timothy Lucus, Asst. Chief Jerney McHargue; Portage PD, Ofc. Robert Demitroulas, Ofc. Katie Crook, Lt. Troy Williams, Lt. Joseph Mokol, Ofc. Lou Stanko, Ofc. Courtney Overton, Ofc. Mark Speckhard, Ofc. Andrew Smith, Ofc. Creighton Price, Lt. Janis Crafton, Ofc. Brian Graves, Ofc. Jake Wirick, Ofc. Laura Lightfoot, Ofc. Anthony Ortiz, Ofc. Flora McHenry, Cpl. Robert Nichols, Ofc. Daniel Martinez, Ofc. Benjamin Tobey, Ofc. Steven McGraw, Ofc. David Hudson, Ofc. Alex Leighty, Ofc. Anthony Bohling, Ofc. Jesus Campos, Ofc. Demario Hathorne, Ofc. Gabriel Acevedo, Ofc. Christopher


(See Narcan Pg.8)



Chuck Harris, PCSAC President and originator of the Phoenix award, holds the award.

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I hope the groundhog sees the...



# Newspaper Fun!

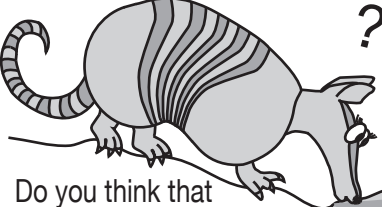
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...sun so we can keep having winter fun.

Kids: color stuff in!



Are you awake, Mr. Groundhog? I don't mean to hound you, but maybe you can predict the winner of the Super Bowl, too? Hello!

Do you think that a groundhog can predict the weather? On February 2, some people will get up very early to watch the groundhog come out of its home. They will stand around the groundhog's hole in the ground and study the sky. As soon as they see the groundhog poke out of its hole they will snap pictures. Who do you think will see the funnier sight...the people or the groundhog?

**Read the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle:**

- a long winter's nap
- a warm-blooded creature
- another name for the groundhog
- curls into this to sleep
- something people believe in or think will happen without facts or proof
- the groundhog's \_\_\_\_\_ pumps more slowly when it hibernates
- the groundhog is part of this family
- young are born in this month
- males are about two feet long and weigh about twelve pounds; females are \_\_\_\_\_
- to tell about an event before it happens


## Time to Rhyme!

Find and circle the ten words that rhyme with "ground."

count  
mound  
frowned  
wound  
pound  
crowned  
groaned  
hound  
browned  
crouch  
sound  
pounce  
found  
crowd  
round



Our whole family doesn't weigh a pound!

Zzzz



## Groundhog Weather Forecaster?

Hey, let me shine!



1 underground  
2 squirrel  
3 forecast  
4 mammal  
5 hibernation  
6 heart  
7 ball  
8 spring  
9 April  
10 superstition  
11 Ahhhh...I'm ready for springtime weather!  
12 Look at the mound of dirt!

What's that sound? Do I hear cheering?

smaller woodchuck

11. it is said that when the groundhog pokes out of his hole and sees the sun there will be six more weeks of winter, but when he sees clouds, \_\_\_\_\_ is near

12. where the groundhog lives


## Football Fever

Find and circle these football terms:

touchdown tackle  
offense referee  
defense kickoff  
teams field goal  
huddle quarterback

Look at him bound off to watch the game!

Off to watch the Super Bowl...chicken wings, potato chips, veggies and dips...yay!



## Is Winter Almost Over?

Why did the groundhogs cheer when they came out of their burrows and saw only clouds? Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks and find out:

^ \_ # \_ ) \_ { # \_

^ \_ + ^ \_ ( \_ } ? { \_ &

^ \_ + ( \_ { # + \_

Yay! It's cloudy.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
+	!	@	*	#	□	&	○	?
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
\$	□	<	●	{	●		~	}
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
(	^	*	*	*	>	)	%	

## Weather Superstitions and Forecasts?

Grrrr... Who woke me?

Don't look at me!

Fill in the blanks to spell weather words!

- \_\_ ain \_\_ ow
- cl \_\_ ud \_\_
- met \_\_ oro \_\_ ogis \_\_
- \_\_ liz \_\_ ard
- o \_\_ erca \_\_ t
- cli \_\_ at \_\_
- tem \_\_ era \_\_ ure
- dr \_\_ zzl \_\_

r y e b o \ m p b e z s i v t e t

### Match these weather superstitions and forecasts:

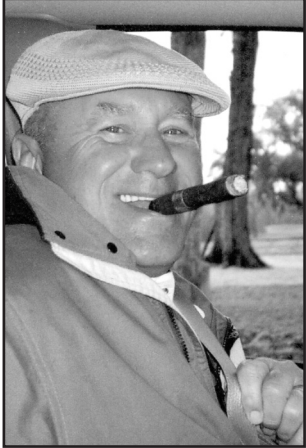
(More than 1 superstition can have the same forecast...you'll see!)

- If squirrels store large numbers of acorns
- When frogs croak louder and faster
- If March comes in like a lion
- When tree leaves flip over
- "Red sky at night, sailor's delight" Red sky in morning,...
- If animals grow heavy fur
- If a groundhog awakens from hibernation and sees sunshine and his shadow
- When your bones ache

- it is going to rain.
- it will go out like a lamb.
- it is going to rain.
- sailors take warning.
- it will be a long, cold winter.
- spring is far away!
- it will be a long, hard winter.
- rain is coming.

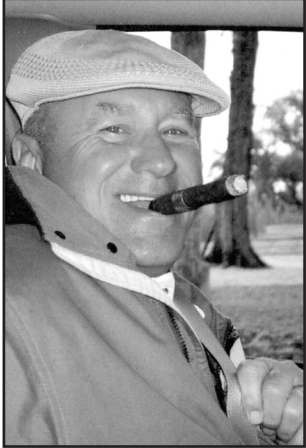
Obituary ~ James R. Cozmanoff

James R. Cozmanoff, “Coz”, age 81, of Lakes of the Four Seasons, passed away peacefully on Saturday January 8, 2022. He was born on April 9, 1940 in Gary, Indiana. Jim leaves behind a legacy of love, friendship, and hard work. He proudly served our country as both an Army veteran and retired Navy Seabee. He was a member of the Operating Engineers Local 150 for more than 50 years. Coz was an avid golfer, a pilot, and member of several service organizations. The blessing of his love for his family and friends will live forever in our hearts. James is survived by his sister- Carol Sims; first wife- Pat Cozmanoff; children- Lenee DeYoung, Jason Cozmanoff, and Cheryl Faulkner; Step-children- Jessica (Adam) Wotherspoon, William (Mallory) Mitchell; grand-children-Chase, Austin and Devyn Cozmanoff, Brittany Kyristina Larson, Luke and Jake DeYoung, Max and Anistasia Faulkner, Kady, Jena and Madie Wotherspoon, and William VI, Eden and Ella Mitchell; great-grandchild-Grayson. He is preceded in death by his parents- James and Stella Cozmanoff; his wife- Jennifer Cozmanoff. A visitation was held on Friday, January 14, 2022 at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)



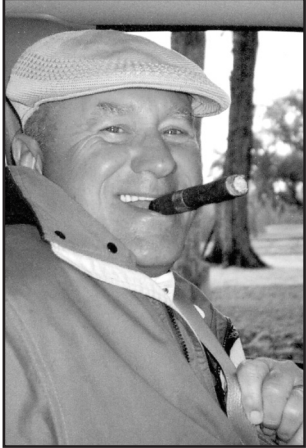
Obituary ~ Alice Gugeler Burgess

Alice Gugeler Burgess, age 93 of Lakes of the Four Seasons, passed away peacefully surrounded by her children on January 9th, 2022. She is survived by her children: Mary Ellen Burgess, Nancy Shaver, Tom Burgess, Susan Burgess and Glenn Burgess (Kelly), her 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, sister Ruth Larson, and many beloved nieces & nephews. Alice graduated from Northwestern University School of Nursing. She was a registered nurse at St. Mary Medical Center in Hobart for 20 years. Alice was a charter member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. For many years she was quite active in several committees within the church including the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Alice was a lifetime member of the VFW Auxiliary. Alice was known as a skilled baker (her pies were especially prized) and was often busy knitting blankets and afghans for her children and grandchildren. Alice was an AVID lifetime Cubs fan and the Cubs World Series Victory in 2016 was one of her happiest moments. Preceded in death by her husband of 43 years Robert Burgess, her parents Edward and Edna Gugeler, and siblings James, Albert, and Mary Gugeler. The family is extremely grateful for the staff at Crown Point Christian Village who showed extraordinary care and compassion during Alice’s stay there. A visitation was held on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. A Mass of Christian burial took place at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Winfield with Rev. Thomas Mischler, officiating. Memorials may be made to the St. Vincent DePaul Society on behalf of Alice Burgess. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)



Obituary ~ Gail Blanche Hoffman

Gail Blanche Hoffman, age 86, of Crown Point (LOFS) born on October 26, 1935 and entered into eternal life with her Lord and Savior on January 17, 2022 surrounded by loving family. She was born to John and Loraine (Underwood) Colins. Gail and her late husband lived life to the fullest. Her family was her pride and joy and always her priority. She was a member of the Four Seasons United Methodist Church since 1984. She was an award-winning design knitter who was involved in several knitting clubs. She started the first girls’ softball team in L.O.F.S in 1973. She was extremely involved with children’s ministries at her church. Gail enjoyed physical fitness including belly dancing, running, walking, weightlifting and going to the gym. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Lawrence, brother John Colins; brother-in-law Robert “Bob” Smith. She is survived by her children Sheree (Ken) Japchinski, and Lori (Bret) Botkin; grandchildren Kendra Jessen, Colin Japchinski, Coral (John) Barney, and Luke (Alli) Botkin. Great grandchildren; Emerald, Little John, Ruby, and Leo; sister Carol Smith; sister-in-law Karen Colins; and several nieces and nephews. A visitation was held on Monday, January 24, 2022, concluding with a prayer service at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, Indiana. Cremation followed. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude’s Hospital and/or an animal shelter or rescue of your choice. The family wishes to thank Hospice of the Calumet Area.



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## Governor encourages Indiana high school students to apply by February 4 for STEM team scholarship

Students are encouraged to apply for the 2022 Governor's STEM Team. Gov. Eric Holcomb developed the competition in 2017 to highlight Indiana's top high school students for their achievements in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

This program honors four outstanding high school students for their exceptional efforts and accomplishments in one of the STEM disciplines. Winning students each receive a \$1,000 deposit into an

Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings plan, administered by Treasurer Mitchell, and letterman jackets identifying them as members of the Governor's STEM Team.

The deadline for applications is 10:59 p.m. CT on Friday, February 4.

"Being selected as a part of the Governor's STEM Team is an incredible honor for a high school student – and I encourage all students interested in the fields of STEM to apply," said Dr. Katie Jenner. "In today's rapidly-changing world,

high-quality STEM learning opportunities are a crucial part of preparing students for future success. Through STEM, students are learning how to innovate and explore new ideas – important skills no matter the path our students select for their future."

"The Governor's STEM Team program is an outstanding opportunity for young Hoosiers, not only because of immediate learning potential, but because of the benefits of long-term financial planning," said Treasurer Kelly Mitchell.

"CollegeChoice 529 plans are tax-deferred and offer flexibility for educational spending, and we are delighted to award these benefits to winning students."

The Governor's STEM Team program will recognize the top high school STEM students in the state with consideration for coursework, extracurricular activities, work/research projects, leadership roles and community service. Winners will be announced at a Statehouse ceremony in early May.

(Narcen from Pg. 6)

Leer, Ofc. Brandon Gardenhire; and Porter Police Department Tawni Komisarick, Jason Holaway; Sheriff's Department, Cpl. Bob Gosbin, Cpl. Tim Bell, Cpl. Nathan Graf, Det. Bill Marshall, Ofc. Bill Knapp; Ofc. Doug Schafer, Ofc. Chris Winterhaler, Ofc.

Jamison Smith, Ofc. Chris Vanderpool, Ofc. Tyler Ball, Ofc. Tyler McKinney, Ofc. Matthew Reynolds, Ofc. Andrew Brunton and Ofc. Aaron Estrada.

The Porter County Substance Abuse Council is a community resource and referral nucleus that provides

support to any public and private non-profit agencies, as well as federal, state, local and tribal governments working to prevent and reduce substance abuse in our community. PCSAC can be reached at 219-462-0946 or by visiting [www.portercountysac.com](http://www.portercountysac.com)

(Robotic from Pg. 1)

flat screen," Dr. Fitzgerald said. "The robot translates your hand movements, and it's just like having miniature versions of your hand inside the patient."

Dr. Fitzgerald said the robotic surgery system has been useful for lung cancer procedures and infections in the pleural space around the lungs. He's done biopsies and removed cysts from lungs. "Basically, anything in the chest outside the heart we can use it for," he added.

The result is that a lung cancer patient having a lobe of the lung removed can be discharged from the hospital two or three days after surgery. The average hospitalization is about five days for open surgery with a thoracotomy incision.

Lung cancer is the deadliest type of cancer, killing more people than breast, colon, and prostate cancers combined. With early detection, however, up to 90% can be cured. Franciscan Health offers \$49 screening specials, including a lung scan that can provide early detection of lung cancer before any symptoms develop.

A lung scan is recommended for those over age 50, a current or former smoker, have averaged smoking at least a pack of cigarettes

per day for 20 years and do not have signs or symptoms of lung cancer. To schedule a screening, go online at [www.FranciscanHealth.org/ScreeningBundles](http://www.FranciscanHealth.org/ScreeningBundles) or call 888-895-8774.

Dr. Fitzgerald is accepting

new patients at Franciscan Physician Network Cardiology Crown Point, 1205 S. Main St., Suite 101. For more information or to make an appointment, call 219-662-0077.

### *This week in history*

**January 30, 1968**

Viet Cong forces, supported by large numbers of North Vietnamese troops, launched their largest and best coordinated offensive of the war, driving into the center of South Vietnam's seven largest cities and attacking 30 provincial capitals from the Mekong Delta to the DMZ.

In Saigon, a Viet Cong suicide squad seized the U.S. Embassy and held it for six hours until an assault force of U.S. paratroopers landed by helicopter on the building's roof.

By February 10, the Tet Offensive was largely crushed, but with heavy casualties on both sides. The former imperial capital city of Hue took almost a month of house-to-house combat to regain. General Westmoreland echoed that appraisal four days later in a statement declaring that Allied forces had killed more enemy troops in the previous seven days than the United States had lost in the entire war.

Militarily, Tet was decidedly an Allied victory, but psychologically and politically, it was a disaster. The size and scope of the communist attacks caught the American public by surprise. The early reporting of a communist victory went largely uncorrected in the media. The heavy U.S. casualties incurred during the offensive, coupled with the disillusionment over the earlier optimistic reports of progress, accelerated the public's growing disenchantment with President Johnson's conduct of the Vietnam War.

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



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