

KICKING OFF SUMMER ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!

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May 26, 2023

Indiana's economic momentum to continue with legislative support

Governor Eric J. Holcomb and Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers recently recognized the Indiana legislature's bold investment in economic development following the 2023 legislative session. The adoption of House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1001, the governor's agenda bill, creates a new \$500 million deal closing fund, provides additional resources for megadeals over \$5 billion, creates a new site acquisition fund for shovel ready development and invests an additional \$500 million in the nationally innovative READI program that has already leveraged \$8.54 billion in quality of place investments throughout the state.

"Indiana's economy is thriving, and these renewed commitments and expanded investments in economic development will ensure that momentum continues for years to come," said Gov. Holcomb. "Equipped with these specific strategic tools and programs, we'll be in a position to do even more to better the lives and opportunities of Hoosiers statewide. Implementing quality of place initiatives, future-proofing our manufacturing sector and enabling the state to better compete for and win new high-tech, fast-growing industries of the future will remain our mission every day."

In addition to historic eco-

nomie and community funding, the legislature made unprecedented investments into education, public safety, career training for high school students and mental health—critical issues for improving the quality of life for all Hoosiers, creating a more robust workforce, and driving Indiana's economy for decades to come.

"I've never been more energized about the future of Indiana," said Sec. Chambers. "I'm grateful to the legislature for the support for our economic development strategy, which emphasizes a bold, aspirational and comprehensive approach. These new tools and increased fund-

(See *Indiana* Pg. 4)



Porter Lakes Elementary School awards Students of the Month

Congratulations to our April Students of the month. Each classroom teacher selected a student who exhibits the qualities and characteristics that are a good example to others. Each student received a PLE Student of the Month wristband, a certificate and a special treat from PTO. Pictured are front row: Charlotte Michalski, Silas Boryla, Eveygrace Kozlowski, Emilia Geyer, and Cambria Worley; seated are Wyatt Justice, Leilani Soneye, Emma Cox, Emmett Howell, and Elliott Leonard; and back row: Sofia Campos, Aubrey Toth, Michaela Riley, Tae-Min Soneye, Beau Manjarrez, Nola De Perio, and Hunter Kuznik.

NIPSCO announces 2023 Environmental Action Grant winners

Nipsco recently announced the 2023 Environmental Action Grant recipients. The program provides support to 15 local nonprofit organizations in their efforts to restore the environment and provide stewardship and sustainability education across northern Indiana with funding from Nipsco and the NiSource Charitable Foundation.

"We are excited to support these new projects that will enhance and restore our environment in new and unique ways," said Rick Calinski, Nipsco director of public affairs and economic

development. "Partnering with these organizations in their efforts to educate and conserve the environment is one way that we can improve our lives and our communities in northern Indiana."

This year's projects focus on animal preservation, habitat restoration, youth outdoor nature education and sustainability programming. Many of the selected projects and programs include a significant volunteer and community engagement component, encouraging community members to give back through environmental stewardship projects.

- The Nature Conservancy in Indiana, Festival de la Monarca: A celebration educating the public about endangered Monarch butterflies and their migration patterns while celebrating the culture of their annual migration to Michoacan, Mexico.
- Art Barn School of Art, Inc., Monarch Maker Gardens/Educational Arts Programming: Art Barn continues to develop a Monarch butterfly habitat along with related educational art programs.
- LC Nature Park, Habitat Restoration Project, Allen

County: The park strives to educate the public while restoring the park to its native landscape while protecting native flora and fauna for future generations.

- Elkhart Environmental Center: EnviroFest strives to connect the community to the environment in a fun atmosphere to celebrate organizations and businesses that are helping to make a difference.
- The Wetlands Initiative, Volunteer Stewardship Events/Collaborative Habitat Restoration, West Branch of the Little Calumet River: Restoring native

habitats in former industrial areas, while providing the surrounding communities with open space and recreational opportunities.

- Trees Indiana, Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom, Fort Wayne: Developing an innovative outdoor learning space designed to provide youth with year-round positive experiences that can help shape their lives.
- LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District, Kankakee River Days: Canoemobile is a floating classroom that brings students out on local waterways in 10-person

canoes to learn about science, history, geography and culture.

- Limberlost and Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Sites, Invasive Species Cleanup: Removing harmful invasive species from author Gene Stratton-Porter's cabin at Wildflower Woods in Rome City and Limberlost's Loblolly Marshes in Geneva
- Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Woodland Vernal Pond Dock: Restoring access to Merry Lea's Vernal Pond, where students also assess the overall biodiversity

(See *NIPSCO* Pg. 2)

High-visibility 'Click It or Ticket' enforcement taking place through June 4

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute is urging people to buckle up ahead of the summer holidays.

State and local law enforcement agencies are teaming together to increase patrols as part of the national 'Click it or Ticket' high-visibility enforcement event. The overtime patrols are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with grants administered by ICJI.

Officers will be out in full force leading up to the Memorial Day holiday to make sure drivers and passengers are buckled up and

children are properly secure. Their goal is to reduce the number of traffic injuries and fatalities from lack of seat belt use.

Data from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute shows that unbuckled motorists make up almost 40% of all passenger vehicle deaths in the state. Since the 'Click It or Ticket' initiative began more than 20 years ago, seat belt use has gone up over 30% in Indiana to 93%, which remains higher than the national average of 91.6%.

Despite making progress and advances in vehicle safe-

ty, in 2022, 236 unbuckled vehicle occupants lost their lives on Indiana roads – the third highest in the past decade. Young drivers, especially males, were the most likely to speed and the least likely to be buckled during a crash.

Nationally, there were 11,813 unbuckled vehicle occupants killed in crashes.

"These numbers are not just statistics, they represent real people and families that have been forever changed by the tragedy of a traffic crash," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "Many of the people we lost would

still be alive today had they made the decision to buckle up. Seat belts make a difference. They save lives."

Research has repeatedly demonstrated the safety benefits of seat belts and the dangerous consequences when people choose not to use them. Buckling up can reduce the risk of injury or death in a crash by up to 65%. Without a seat belt fastened, people can be ejected from a vehicle and killed, and that risk increases if the driver is speeding or impaired.

Tragically, vehicle collisions continue to be a leading cause of death for children

ages 1 to 13, and NHTSA data shows that approximately 46% of all car seats are being used incorrectly. Parents and caregivers who do not buckle up are more likely to have kids who are improperly restrained.

"The loss of a child due to inadequate vehicle safety measures is a tragedy. However, it is also preventable," said Jim Bryan, ICJI Traffic Safety Director. "We owe it to our children to prioritize their safety and take every necessary precaution when it comes to their well-being."

Indiana law requires the

driver and all passengers to buckle up. Children under age eight must be properly restrained in a child car seat or booster seat according to the child restraint system manufacturer's instructions.

During the campaign, participating law enforcement agencies will be taking a no-excuses approach to seat belt law enforcement, writing citations day and night. Drivers can be cited for lack of seat belt use, as well as for each unbuckled passenger under the age of 16.

The NHTSA reports that in 2021, 57% of passenger

(See *Click It* Pg. 5)

New Outdoor Indiana magazine features fishing for tiny fish

Outdoor Indiana magazine's May-June issue features a cover article on microfishing, the catch-and-release pursuit of tiny fish species most anglers ignore or don't know about. The issue also includes a feature on Goshen College's Merry Lea Environmental Center at Wolf Lake in Noble County. Another feature highlights forest bathing, which is the practice of immersing oneself in nature and living in the present moment with the goal of receiving physical and psychological benefits. Outdoor Indiana is available now at Indiana State Park Inns across the state for \$4. Subscriptions are \$15 for one year (six issues, a 27% savings over cover price) and \$28 for two years (12 issues, a 42% savings).

(NIPSCO from Pg. 1) associated with this wetland and learn about the critical role that vernal ponds play in nature.

- Anthony Wayne Area Council/Boy Scouts of America, Scout Camp Ecological Restoration Project: Creating educational opportunities for youth to learn how to increase biodiversity by identifying and removing invasive species from the restoration site and planting native plants and shrubs selected to best support for wildlife.
- Mongo Community Development Association, Mongo Town Park Pollinator Garden: The garden will serve as a screen between the park and a neighboring industrial area, as well as incorporating native species and pollinator-friendly plants.
- Highland Community Foundation, Erie Lackawanna Bike Trail Wetland Restoration: Restoring the land to native plants will help to absorb standing water, provide wildflower beauty, supply nectar and seeds to local pollinators, migrating birds and other wildlife.
- The Vine Learning Center, Prairie Restoration and Outdoor Classroom Engagement Areas, Steuben County: The outdoor spaces will encourage exploration with all of the senses, engage children's minds in the wonder of nature around them and introduce the concept of land stewardship.
- Indiana University Kokomo, Sustainability Week: The event will provide locally sourced foods, speakers and education on crucial sustainability efforts to IU Kokomo students and the community.
- Marshall County Park and Recreation Department, Invasive Species Control in Mill Pond and Memorial Forest: Targeting bush honeysuckle, the invasive species control effort will improve the park's natural areas based on quality ecological data.

In its eighth year, Nipsco's Environmental Grant has donated \$499,000 to date, helping 124 projects come to fruition across northern Indiana. This year's grants provide between \$2,000 and \$5,000 to each organization chosen, for a total of \$60,000. In addition to Environmental Action Grant funding, Nipsco works to establish early successional pollinator habitat on rights of way, forges partnerships with community organizations for restoration efforts and supports the planting of thousands of trees in northern Indiana each year. Nipsco has been recognized as a Tree Line USA utility by the Arbor Day Foundation. To learn more about what Nipsco is doing to support the environment, visit www.NIPSCO.com/Environment. Share

Market swings making you uneasy? Let's talk.



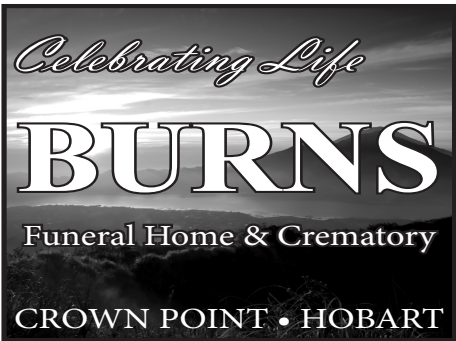
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Across the street from Lakes of the Four Seasons

(Indiana from Pg. 1)

ing will enable us to better attract and grow investments in future-focused industries, like electric vehicles, semiconductors, life sciences and agbiosciences, creating quality, high-paying careers for Hoosiers today and for years to come.”

HEA 1001 enacts a number of economic development priorities proposed by Gov. Holcomb and Sec. Chambers, including new updates to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation’s (IEDC) toolkit, including funding for cash performance grants and site acquisition; a \$500 million expansion of the Indiana Regional Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI); increased funding for Indiana Manufacturing Readiness Grants; and new funding to accelerate entrepreneurship and innovation.

With this new budget, Indiana’s investment in economic development will increase \$350 million from 2021 and 2022.

HEA 1001 makes the following changes to Indiana’s economic development toolbox:

- **New Deal Closing Fund:** The creation of a new \$500 million Deal Closing Fund will continue to allow the IEDC to better compete for in-demand investment and new jobs with transformative investments in future-focused industries. Approximately 5% of these funds will be reserved for economic development projects in rural counties with a population under 50,000.
- **New Site Acquisition Fund:** HEA 1001 allocates \$150 million over the biennium to support the IEDC’s strategic sites initiative, ensuring that competitive land and infrastructure is available for new investment. The first project, LEAP Lebanon Research & Innovation District, was selected due to its strategic location and has already marked a significant win in a \$3.7 billion investment by Eli Lilly. This funding will allow the IEDC to develop the next opportunity in Indiana while creating a return on investment to the state through the sale of property.
- **Tax Credit Flexibility:** The legislation formalizes an annual tax credit bucket of \$250 million per year, providing the IEDC flexibility to leverage incentives to attract new investment and job opportunities for Hoosiers.

viding the IEDC flexibility to leverage incentives to attract new investment and job opportunities for Hoosiers.

- **READI 2.0 - Investing in Quality of Place:** Continued appropriations of \$500 million over the biennium will expand quality of place and quality of life investments being made through the nationally recognized READI program. More than 95 percent – or \$474.9 million – of READI’s initial grant funds have already been designated to accelerate 347 projects and programs across 17 Indiana regions that are expected to result in more than \$8.54 billion (16.8:1 investment leverage ratio) invested in Indiana’s communities. READI 2.0 will build on this momentum, allocating significant matching funds to accelerate capital and infrastructure construction projects and advance Indiana’s quality of place to retain and attract top talent.

- **Accelerating Smart Manufacturing:** Legislative appropriations will allocate \$40 million over the biennium to advancing and future-proofing Indiana’s manufacturing sector, doubling the funding available to businesses through the Indiana Manufacturing Readiness Grants. The program, which first launched in 2020, is designed to incentivize companies to adopt smart manufacturing technologies and modernize their operations, ensuring that Indiana’s largest industry is equipped to support the global economy of the future.

- **Increasing Funding for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Marketing:** HEA 1001 also includes increased funding to the IEDC to expand support for entrepreneurship and innovation through programs like the Indiana Small

Business Development Center and through investments in startups and scaleups through Elevate Ventures, Indiana’s venture development partner. This funding will better position Indiana – which was recently named the No. 1 state to start a business (Forbes) – as a global destination for entrepreneurs and innovators. Additionally, increased funding will allow the IEDC to increase its promotion of the state as a globally competitive and innovative destination for business, helping attract new investment and new industries to Indiana.

In addition to HEA 1001, Gov. Holcomb and Sec. Chambers applaud a number of legislative updates that will strengthen Indiana’s overall business climate and economic development competitiveness, including:

- **House Enrolled Act 1002:** A comprehensive education and career readiness bill that aims to assist high school students in becoming ready for careers and sets up career scholarship accounts for Indiana’s youth.
- **House Enrolled Act 1005:** Aims to address Indiana workforce needs by adding housing in communities across the state through adjusting residential tax increment financing language, and creating a infrastructure assistance program.
- **Senate Enrolled Act 176:** Small Nuclear Reactors: Further positions Indiana as a leader in laying the groundwork for future small nuclear reactors.
- **Senate Enrolled Act 419:** State Tax Matters: Includes a new tangible personal property retail (sales) tax exemption for Wind and Solar device components. This provision may help further renewable investment in Indiana.



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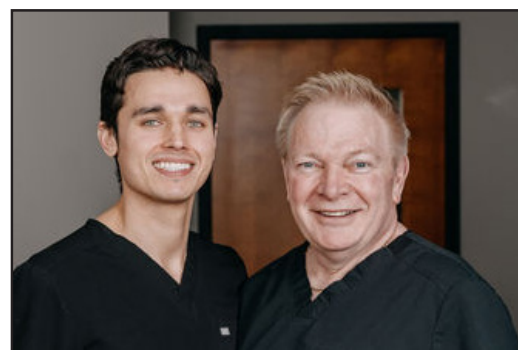
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Residents should be prepared for tornadoes

Tornado season has arrived and the past decade's devastation in Arkansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Missouri, Alabama, Indiana and other states in and around 'tornado alley' is an important reminder that advance planning can save lives when a funnel cloud forms.

The United States experiences approximately 1,000 tornadoes each year, and an average of 20 of those are generally considered to be devastating, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Twisters kill 60

people on an annual average, mostly from flying or falling debris. Large hail, which may precede or follow a tornado, is also a threat.

"While meteorologists can predict tornadoes in a limited way, they cannot precisely identify who or what might be struck by a funnel cloud," said Greg Seiter, public affairs manager for AAA Hoosier Motor Club. "Therefore, it's important to be prepared."

The suggestions the club makes for preparing beforehand include:

- Keep emergency and first

- aid kits available, including a battery powered radio, extra batteries, food, and water.
- Prepare a disaster communications plan with your family members.
- Learn your children's school disaster dismissal policy.
- Identify a safe shelter area in your home, away from windows. Choose the interior part of a basement, or an inside room on the lowest floor like a closet, bathroom, or center hallway.
- Practice getting to your

shelter in a "safe place plan" with your family.

- Know where your utility switches are located and how to turn off gas, water, and electricity.

Home insurance coverage for damage related to a tornado will vary from state to state. Damage or loss to vehicles may be covered in the comprehensive coverage portion of automobile policies.

For more information on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, visit www.noaa.gov.



Make water safety a priority this summer

With summer on its way, Indiana Conservation Officers remind Hoosiers to make water safety a priority now and throughout the summer.

"We urge all Hoosiers to recognize the danger water poses when on or around our waterways," said Capt. Jet Quillen of the Department of Natural Resources Division of Law Enforcement.

- Follow these basic safety tips:
- Discuss the dangers of water with your family and loved ones before going out.
 - Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
 - Go with a buddy.
 - Do not venture around flooded or fast-moving waterways.
 - Wear a life jacket.
 - Keep an extra watchful eye on children.
 - Avoid alcohol.

If you go boating, make sure you know the rules and boat safely. Reduce speed in unfamiliar areas and be aware of unusual water conditions respective to your size and type of boat. These are not only safety tips, but also important environmental considerations, such as preventing beach erosion. Regardless

of your boat type, assess water levels before going out and monitor your speed while underway.

Designate a sober boat operator. Alcohol causes impaired balance, blurred vision, poor coordination, impaired judgment, and slower reaction time. Wave action, sun exposure, and wind can magnify these effects. It is illegal to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft in Indiana while intoxicated due to alcohol or drugs. Indiana law defines intoxication as having a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or greater.

Each life jacket should be United States Coast Guard approved, in good working condition, and size appropriate for the wearer. New life jackets are designed to be lighter, less obtrusive, and more comfortable than those of the past. Inflatable life jackets allow mobility and flexibility for activities like boating, fishing, or paddling, and can be much cooler in warmer weather than older-style life jackets.

To learn more about boating education and safety, see www.on.IN.gov/boatered.

(Click It from Pg. 1)

vehicle occupants killed at night (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.) were not wearing a seatbelt. That's why one focus of the campaign is nighttime enforcement.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to make sure children are in the right

car seat and that it's used correctly and properly installed. Resources can be found at www.nhtsa.gov/TheRightSeat. To schedule an appointment with a certified car seat safety technician at one of Indiana's 100 fitting stations, visit www.on.in.gov/SafeKids.

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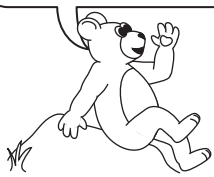
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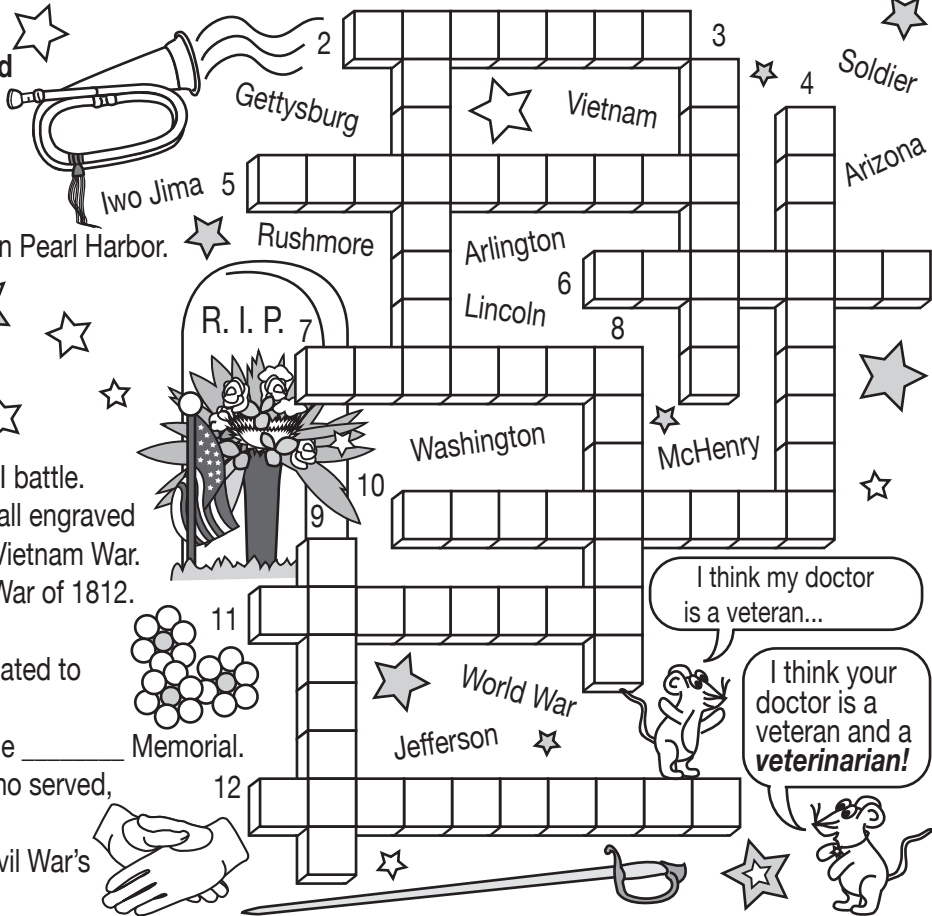
Remember On Memorial Day



Memorial Day is a day to remember. We especially want to remember and honor people who have served and died in service to our country. Across our country we build, name or do things to honor people we want to remember. These memorials can be anything from a prayer service to a bridge! They help to keep memories alive. 1 They let us cherish our freedom.

Fill in the puzzle with the names of things and places that honor our leaders and war heroes:

1. Mount _____ in South Dakota has the faces of four presidents carved on a granite cliff.
2. The USS _____ (Hawaii) is a floating memorial where the ship was sunk in Pearl Harbor.
3. A beautiful marble building in Washington, D.C. with a statue of our 16th president seated inside is called the _____ Memorial.
4. Many U.S. heroes are buried in the _____ National Cemetery in Virginia.
5. This four-sided pillar in Washington D.C. is 555 feet high. It honors our country's first president and is called the _____ Monument.
6. The _____ Statue shows Marines raising the U.S. flag after a World War II battle.
7. The _____ Veterans Memorial in our nation's capital is a black-granite wall engraved with the names of service men and women who died or are missing in the Vietnam War.
8. Fort _____ in Maryland defended our country against the British in the War of 1812. The battle moved Francis Scott Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner."
9. The Tomb of the Unknown _____ in Arlington National Cemetery is dedicated to Americans killed in our wars, but whose bodies could not be identified.
10. This circular building in D.C. with a statue of our third president is called the _____ Memorial.
11. Dedicated in 2004, the _____ II Memorial in Washington honors those who served, the 400,000 who died, and those who supported our nation in that war.
12. The _____ National Military Park marks a terrible battle that marked the Civil War's turning point. Abraham Lincoln made a famous famous speech here.



A Famous Memorial

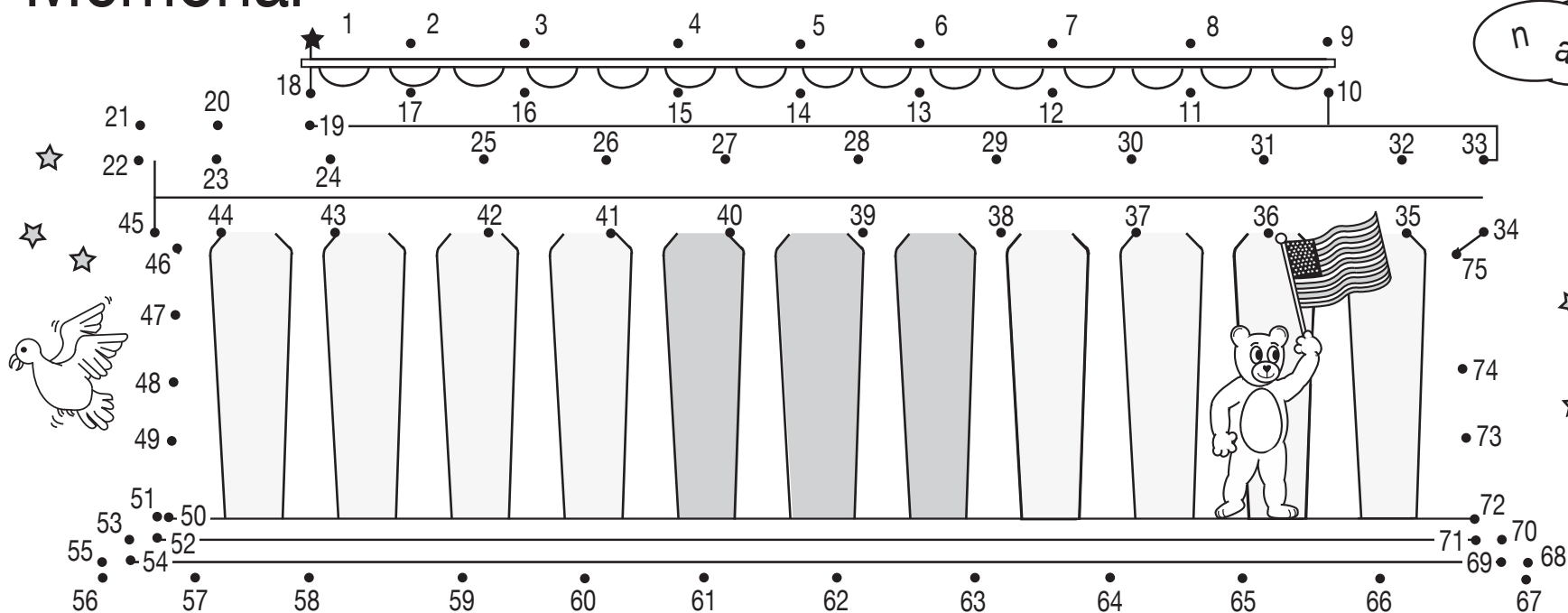
The memorial below is in Washington, D.C. It was built to honor a special president. Follow the numbered dots to see it. Look at clue # 3 above to see its name.

Which president has a statue that honors him inside this building?

★ A _ r _ h _ m _ i _ c _ l _

b o a l

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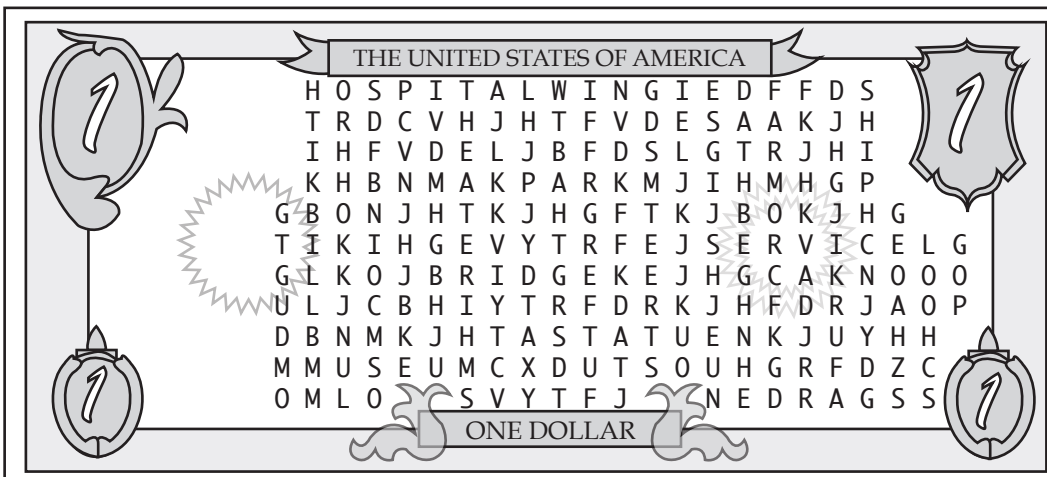
A Folding Memorial

On Memorial Day weekend, I will be in a "flyover" at the town parade. The parade is ending at a War Memorial in the town center.

This puzzle about memorials shows a "folding memorial" that we carry with us! It has a picture of a great leader on it.

Find and circle these things we use or name to remember special people:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------|------|
| hospital wing | library | ship |
| school | garden | coin |
| bridge | statue | bill |
| theater | street | park |
| museum | service | farm |



Corn Dogs baseball holding auditions for National Anthem and pre-game entertainment

Can you sing the National Anthem? Play it on an instrument? Have a band? The Lake County Corn Dogs baseball franchise is calling for auditions to sing “The Star Spangled Banner” prior to the start of home games this season.

The Corn Dogs are also seeking local talent to perform before games. You could be a solo performer, a dance team or high school band. All types of entertainers are welcome.

To be considered as a Corn Dogs National Anthem or pre-game performer, email a link to your performance, or a video or audio file (common formats please), to: info@corndogsbaseball.com. You can also mail submissions to: Lake County Corn Dogs, 8045 Euclid Ave., Munster, IN 46321.

A member of the Corn Dogs’ front office staff will review submissions and make the season’s selections. If chosen, you will get two tickets to a home game of your choice.

The Corn Dogs, who finished in first place during their inaugural season in 2022 and won the Northern League Championship, play their home games at Legacy Fields at Center Ross Park in Crown Point, Indiana. The Corn Dogs are set to defend their title, and the 2023 schedule is now out.

Opening day is Thursday, May 25 versus the NWI Oilmen. First pitch is 7 p.m.

South Shore Roller Derby announces golf outing fundraiser

South Shore Roller Derby will host its first golf outing fundraiser on July 10 at the Valparaiso Country Club. The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. with lunch at 11 a.m. The shotgun start is at 12 p.m. Registration is open now through June 26 for teams of four.

Fee includes green and cart fees, lunch, and two drink tickets. Register online or download the form through SouthShoreRollerDerby.org. The event will include prize drawings and on course games. Following golf, the event will conclude with a reception and awards ceremony.

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or have questions about the event, contact us at SouthShoreRollerDerby@gmail.com or visit www.SouthShoreRollerDerby.org. Registration is non-refundable. In the event of inclement weather, all efforts will be made to reschedule.

South Shore Roller Derby, Inc. is a competitive Flat Track Roller Derby League and 501(c)3 non-profit in Northwest Indiana. SSRD strives to improve individual athleticism, character, and community while promoting team unity. Members of SSRD are dedicated to community outreach through events, activities, and volunteerism.

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At Alpha Family Resale's grand opening event (official date to be announced in June), drawings will be held to win a Visa gift card!

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General Classifieds

Submit your general classified ad or real estate classified ad online at www.winfieldamerican.com.

Boat for Sale in LOFS
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Golf Cart Needed for Church
Golf cart / personnel mover needed for a church. Newer condition, gas or battery. Six-capacity preferred. Contact number: 219-663-7729, leave message and contact info with receptionist or machine.

Fire Force Volunteers
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? Call 219-662-7576 or e-mail to chief@lofsfire.com.

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Valpo's 'Day of Giving' 2023 achieves record level

Valparaiso University alumni and friends once again made history as the 10th annual Day of Giving exceeded \$1 million in gifts. The total amount of \$1,083,920 marked the third straight year that Day of Giving has raised more than \$1 million.

This year, Valpo received 1,812 gifts including 255 first-time donors – another new record. The Valpo Fund raised \$254,951, in addition to the very generous anonymous donor challenge of \$275,000, totaling \$529,951.

Donor gifts to Valpo Athletics provided more than \$271,000 to support all Beacon athletic teams, with

\$170,67 given for men's basketball and new head coach Roger Powell Jr. '16 M.S.

"Once again Valpo alumni and friends showed their overwhelming support and love of the University," President Jose Padilla said. "Each year they give more generously and to once again exceed \$1 million in gifts is

a clear demonstration of their commitment to our students, faculty, and programs. Thank you so much to everyone who made Day of Giving 2023 such a success."

During the past ten years of Day of Giving, Valpo alumni and friends have contributed more than \$7.5 million with more than 21,500 gifts. With

their gifts this year, 93 donors have given each and every year on Day of Giving.

More information of Valpo's Day of Giving may be found at www.valpo.edu/dayofgiving.

Valparaiso University is an independent, Doctoral-Professional University with a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum in Valparaiso.

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This week in history

May 26, 1865

Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith, commander of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi division, surrendered on this day in 1865, one of the last Confederate generals to capitulate. Smith, who had become commander of the area in January, 1863, was charged with keeping the Mississippi River open to the Southerners. Yet he was more interested in recapturing Arkansas and Missouri, largely because of the influence of Arkansans in the Confederate Congress who helped to secure his appointment.

Drawing sharp criticism for his failure to provide relief for Vicksburg, Mississippi in the summer of 1863, Smith later conducted the resistance to the Union's failed Red River campaign of 1864. When the Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee and Joseph Johnston surrendered in the spring of 1865, Smith continued to resist with his small army in Texas. He insisted that Lee and Johnston were prisoners of war and decried Confederate deserters.

On May 26, General Simon Buckner, acting for Smith, met with Union officers in New Orleans to arrange the surrender of Smith's force under terms similar to Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia. Smith reluctantly agreed, and officially laid down his arms at Galveston on June 2. Smith himself fled to Mexico, and then to Cuba, before returning to Virginia in November 1865 to sign an amnesty oath.

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