



# THE GAD-A-BOUT™

DECEMBER 2022

Outdoor Information • Museum • Frontier Post

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GAD-A-BOUT TERRITORY



THE WHITEWATER CANAL HOUSE IS OPEN DURING SPECIAL EVENTS. TOURS CAN BE SCHEDULED AT OTHER TIMES BY CONTACTING HISTORIC CONNERSVILLE PAGE 8



LEFT TO RIGHT: SHERRY DICKERSON, PAM AND JOHN MINNIX - JOHN SERVED IN THE U.S. NAVY SEABEES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



CENTERVILLE'S TROOP 16 BOY SCOUTS, THEIR LEADERS & MANY OTHER VOLUNTEERS HELPED MAKE THE 9TH ANNUAL VETERANS APPRECIATION DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS - SEE PAGES 12 THRU 15

ADVERTISER INDEX PAGE 26 / ARTICLE INDEX PG 19

READ ABOUT COVER PHOTOS ON PAGE 2

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INDIANA



# THE GAD-A-ABOUT™

DECEMBER • Volume XXXII • N0. 386

Created in 1990 & Published Monthly  
by Kentucky Colonel Ray Dickerson

## IN THIS ISSUE

Or by the name given to me by Golden Eagle  
in 1995 LOKA'DWE ICHUTAKU YUSHEDON'  
Translated "Man who gets things done!"

### TO CONTACT THE GAD-A-ABOUT

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### SPECIAL FEATURES

Centerville United Methodist Church Next Monthly Food Ministry is Saturday, December 17, 2022 from 10:00-11:00 AM. Page 10  
65th Annual Ford 65th Annual Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show January 20-22 & 25-29, 2023. . . . .Page 11  
68th Annual Ford 68th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show February 17-19 & 22-26, 2023 . . . . .Page 11  
9th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dec. 12, 2022 held at the Kuhlman Center in the Wayne Co. Fairgrounds Page 12-15

### REGULAR FEATURED WRITERS

#### ROAMING THE OUTDOORS

#### Editorial Comment & Opinion

by Ray Dickerson (Postponing Gad-a-bout, Obeying Stop Signs, Tourism, Tourism, Hoosier Hospitality, . . . . .Page 3,5,7,16

#### LAKE MICHIGAN

#### Fishing Lake Michigan

by Mike Schoonveld (Respooling Tools That Work) . . . . .Page 4

#### OUTDOOR HUMOR:

#### Misfires & Snags

by Dan Graves (Saucers And Sleds Are Dangerous). . . . .Page 5

#### OUTDOORS & TRAVEL

#### Outdoors with Rich Creason

by Rich Creason (150 Year Old Artifacts See Light Of Day Again) . . . . .Page 6 & 7

#### WHITEWATER VALLEY HISTORY

#### New Adventures In Old Places

by Donna Schroeder (The Whitewater Canal And Canal House) . . . . .Page 8 & 9

#### INDIANA INDIANS

#### News of Native American Indians in Indiana

by Shirley Willard (Count Down Childhood Memories To Go To Sleep) . . . . .Page 10

### GAD-A-ABOUT DEPARTMENTS

#### Indiana Department Of Natural Resources

#### Current Events & News Releases

. . . . .Pages 18-19

#### Indiana State Police

#### Current Events & News Releases

. . . . .Pages 20-21

#### Gad's Corner - Activity Page

#### Post The Gad-a-bout on Line @

[www.thegadabout.com](http://www.thegadabout.com) . . . . .Page 17

#### Eric & Cara, [www.IndianaOutfitters.com](http://www.IndianaOutfitters.com)

#### Post The Gad-a-bout on Line @

[www.thegadabout.com](http://www.thegadabout.com) . . . . .Page 22

### ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left Photo: . THE WHITEWATER CANAL HOUSE IS OPEN DURING SPECIAL EVENTS. TOURS CAN BE SCHEDULED AT OTHER TIMES BY CONTACTING HISTORIC CONNERSVILLE . . . . .See Page 8

Top Right Photo: Sherry Dickerson, Pam and John Minnix attended the 9th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner . . . . .Page 12-15

Bottom Photo: Centerville Boy Scout Troop 16 - Front Row Left to Right: Life Scout Andy Purcell, Tenderfoot Scout Aaron Shuman and 2nd Class Scout Cameron Stiggleman. Back Row Left to Right: Asst. Scoutmaster Jack Rider, Life Scout Gavin Stiggleman, 1st Class Nathaniel Sweigart, Star Scout Matthew Laster, 2nd Class Isaiah Hollingsworth and Scoutmaster Mark Culbertson /

### ADVERTISER INDEX

. . . . .Page 17

## CRESTLINER BOATS



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# Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson  
The Gad-a-bout

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND I  
HOPE EVERYONE HAS A  
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR

## POSTPONING GAD-A-BOUT FOR NEXT 3 MONTHS

When I began publishing The Gad-a-bout again after the Covid 19 in 2020 interrupted everyone's lives I told about my wanting to clean out my building here on South Street that I wanted to turn it into The Gad-a-bout Museum and possibly include a Frontier Post here too. You may have noticed since 2020 I've had three titles across the cover underneath THE GAD-A-BOUT heading. Outdoor Information, Museum & Frontier Post.

Unfortunately due to one thing or another I've not been able to find the time to clean out my building and do The Gad-a-bout too. So I've decided to postpone The Gad-a-bout for three months to be able to clean out the house, barn and hopefully be able to finish cleaning up the property I started several months ago. I'm not as young as I used to be, but hope to be around for quite a while longer.

I don't know how many of you readers ever attended "Frontier Days" I and several like minded friends put on down at Treaty-Line Pioneer Village from 1991 to 2001.

Prior to actually producing a full scale re-enactment I researched the Life and Times of Miami Chief Little Turtle, William Wells and Francis Slocums lives from 1778 to 1847 for quite some time traveling to their areas of travel. I attended pre-arranged meetings with all the Indian tribes here in Indiana and got permission from them to read my script at our re-enactment on loud speakers. At the Miami tribe meeting one of the ladies spoke up to me about the fact that my story was written by a white man.

My answer to her was I knew that, but if she could remember when General Harmer invaded Kekionga (Fort Wayne) October 1790 one of his responsibilities was to destroy the village including 184 log cabins and a great number of wig wams which also destroyed most of their recorded history. Harmer also burned all of the Indians' crops creating a hardship due to the fact that winter was fast approaching.

I wrote the 27 page script I gave her and copies to all of their members attending the meeting to illustrate what we were reading over the loud speakers, that it was as accurate as possible given the circumstances of what actually happened.

The script also contained information of the worse defeat of the American Army back then when General St. Clair was defeated by the Indians in the spot that would later become Fort Recovery. St. Clair's army was defeated by Miami Chief Little Turtle.

My explanation seemed to satisfy everyone

attending those meetings and they all gave me approval to read it over the loud speaker while the re-enactors carried out the actions on the field. We used dog soldiers to help maintain safety on the field at Treaty Line Pioneer Village.

I'm looking at a poster I made for the debut of the first Frontier Days at Treaty Line which was held on August 31 to September 2, 1991 at Treaty Line Pioneer Village. (See Below Center)

That was my introduction to Frontier Days and I've been wanting to re-visit some of the history from those by-gone days. That is what the Frontier Post on my cover represents. However only time will tell if it ever comes about.

My first order of business is to clean out my building beginning this coming Monday, December 12, 2022. After its cleaned out than I will fill it with a life's work of all my Gad-a-bout activities I've created from scratch. What's that ole saying "If it is to be, it's up to me." Or something like that.

Only time will tell if I'm on the right track and have enough time left to accomplish my goal.

### STOPPING FOR STOP SIGNS & OBEYING SPEED LIMITS

For rather a long time I've been trying to bring it to the attention of readers the necessity of stopping for stop signs and obeying speed limits. I won't be doing that for awhile, but I want to remind you at this time please know that stopping for stop signs and obeying speed limits are critical, both for you and all who are using the highways with you. When I returned home from the Air Force I had an interest in becoming a law enforcement officer or a conservation officer. I applied for both, but it wasn't in my future, instead I've been writing since that time and still see a great need for law and order for the safety of the millions of people driving and are passengers in vehicles on highways day in and day out. So please don't become a statistic, drive like your life depends on your driving skills - **IT DOES!!**

### THOMAS COLLINS, II RECEIVES TOURISM INDUSTRY'S HIGHEST HONOR FROM LT. GOVERNOR

Thomas Collins, II Receives Tourism Industry's Highest Honor from Lt. Governor; Retired CVB Director Recognized with Visit Indiana Leadership Award. 16 Receive Hoosier Hospitality Awards.

Retired CVB Director Recognized with Visit Indiana Leadership Award 16 Receive Hoosier Hospitality Awards

INDIANAPOLIS (Dec. 8, 2022) – Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) announced today at Newfields that Thomas Collins, II, owner and president of the Luke Family of Brands, is this year's recipient of the Will Koch Indiana Tourism Leadership Award.

The Luke Family of Brands began as a supplier of home heating fuel and has since diversified its assets. From convenience stores across the state to a popular Northwest Indiana orchard, an Indianapolis restaurant and the creation of the Indiana Dunes Pavilion, Collins, II consistently demonstrates extraordinary commitment to supporting tourism.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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### FRONTIER DAYS

Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, 1991

at

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Admission: \$1.00 Adults,  
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Sept. 1 & 2, 1 to 3 p.m. (EST)

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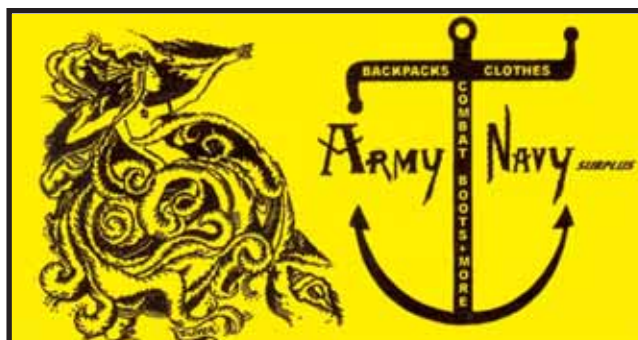
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## Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

### RESPooling TOOLS THAT WORK

Should fishing line be changed every year? Experts say yes for reels filled with monofilament line. Some say fluorocarbon line will last a couple years and braid will last three or four years. I replace the line on my reels more often than that since I know the only thing between my rod tip and the fish at the hook is the fishing line. I also know fresh line is better than used line.

You decide when it's time to replace the line on your reels and when you decide it's time, the first step is to remove the old line. I've used many methods over the years, from just hand grabbing and pulling to special power tools designed to do the work for you. Most of the time, I use an attachment that fits on a power drill.

When I say "attachment" it can be a loose term. The simplest is sticking a pencil or a long nail in the drill's chuck, attaching the line and pulling the drill's trigger. It works but it wastes pencils and nails and I'm sure chucking a nail full of tightly wound line into a line-recycling bin is a no no. Here's a couple of better options.

#### THE SODA BOTTLE METHOD

This one requires a little DIY work in advance. Start with an empty plastic 12 or 16-ounce soda-pop bottle and bottle cap. Drill a quarter-inch hole in the bottle's cap (the closer to dead-center in the top of the cap, the better). Then insert a two-inch or longer, quarter-inch stove bolt into the hole in the cap (from the bottom-up) and then tighten a nut on the bolt's shaft to secure it to the bottle cap. Screw the bottle cap back on the plastic pop bottle, insert the bolt in a drill, attach the line and wind it on the bottle - off the reel. The larger diameter of the bottle removes line faster than just using a nail or pencil. I can wind several reels full of line on one bottle, but when it gets filled up and cumbersome, just remove the bottle and screw the cap on a different bottle.

Once the cap is removed, it's simple to crush the plastic bottle, separate the bottle and line and both can then be recycled - separately. Don't toss a bottle filled with fishing line either into a plastics recycling bin or a fishing line recycling container. They are different materials.

#### THE STORE-BOUGHT OPTION

I've tried a few "store-boughts" that frankly, don't work much better than sticking a nail in a power drill



*Whether* homemade or manufactured, a line-unspooling tool is something every angler needs to own. Author Photo

but I've finally found a line stripper that not-only works but it works better than any I've used previously. It's called the Line Stripper Max from Berkley and it couldn't be more simple. It is a "drill-powered" attachment that will work on either a corded or cordless model.

The shaft that fits into the drill's chuck is inside the tool which is good for two reasons. Without the shaft just sticking out the end "Max" will store on a shelf or in a drawer handily when not in use. More importantly the "hidden" shaft and the flange that guards it keeps the line from slipping off and winding on the chuck of the drill. That happens frequently when using a nail and can happen using the bottle tool.

Tie the line to the cone-shaped arbor of the line-puller, then manually make a few wraps of line to make the line snug-up and not slip when the drill is turned on. Then trigger the drill and the used line will pile on the line stripper.

Then comes the clever part of the tool. Once the line is removed from the reel (or several reels) just twist the flange on the narrow end of the cone to remove it. Once the flange pops off the line will eas-

ily slide off. Replace the flange and "Max" is ready for next time. Dispose of the used line by taking it to a special recycling bin found at over 17-thousand marinas and tackle shops or mail it to Berkley Recycling, 1900 18th Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa, 51360.

THE END

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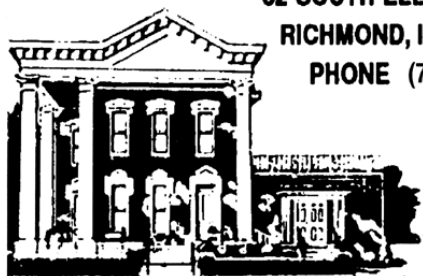
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# Misfires And Snags



by Dan Graves  
"Humorist Writer"

## SAUCERS AND SLEDS ARE DANGEROUS

(Some people go out of their way to stick their foot in a bear trap. I've never seen a bear do the same. What does that tell you about bears and people?)

A trickle of sweat coursed its way down my forehead. A tightness gripped my chest as I shuffled my feet and studied the slope before me. Glistening white from a fresh powder, small swirls of snow curled across it in front of windy gusts, lending it the appearance of a ever moving, living thing. In the distance at its base, small forms moved like ants in a mirage, waiting for the next victim of this winter monster and the meal it promised. My throat constricted in a mixture of fear and determination as I prepared to launch myself into the unknown.

As a last minute precaution I checked my gear, for my life could depend on it. Even the slightest flaw in preparation could result in disaster, leaving my lifeless form in a crumpled heap at the bottom at the mercy of the ants.

Taking a deep breath I realized it was now or never. Was I a man or a mouse? Deep down inside I knew I was neither, but rather a chicken. My mind screamed "NOOO"---- You're a man. Go for it!" Taking a deep breath I launched myself from the precipice and plum-

meted down the side of the monster. The wind howled past my ears as I gained speed, then turned to a shriek as my velocity increased to breathtaking heights.

Suddenly, something was going very wrong. I began a slow spin to the left as the side of the saucer began plowing snow, sending it in a shower up my back. I had to correct or die. Shifting my weight I straightened, only to reverse the spin in the other direction. Finally out of control, I spun helplessly as vivid images of stark moments in my life flashed before my eyes. This was it. I was done for. Nothing could save me. Now traveling backward at 400 miles per hour, the rear edge of the saucer dug into the snow and I was flipping uncontrollably down the vertical face of the cliff.

Arms and legs flailed the air as I bounced from ledge to ledge, each impact putting me closer to unconsciousness. After an eternity of terrible punishment I plowed to a stop amidst the ants at the base of that horrible hill. With my face buried in the snow, I heard one of them from what seemed like a dream, lean over and say, "You all right, man"? With a mouthful of snow I replied, "Yeff, I fink I'm on'y gonna need two ambuwances an' fwee doctors". From an even greater distance that I realized was from the top of the hill, came a yell from a small voice. "Hurry up Papaw. It's my turn." As I stood on shaky legs and inspected myself for multiple fractures or worse, I knew it was my responsibility to warn the father of my grandson about the dangers of allowing him to attempt such a foolhardy risk as the one I had just taken, especially seeing as how he was only four years old. It would be suicidal for one so young to traverse such a risky venture. As I clawed my way back up the hill I measured the distance I had gone. No less than 100 feet. No wonder it had seemed like an eternity. No sooner did I reach the crest than my grandson jerked the saucer out of my hand and launched himself over the edge.

Horried, unable to warn him of the peril, I watched as he sailed down the hill in perfect control and bettered my distance by at least fifty feet. The only thing he didn't do on the way down was stand up and wave a flag or do a hand stand on the accursed saucer. "Why you little----" I hissed. I tried to hit him with a snowball, but due to my injuries I nailed a little old lady who had been down numerous times and was returning to the top. I didn't know it was so difficult to run and barely stay two jumps ahead of someone her age in only three inches of snow.

During the afternoon I made numerous attempts to conquer the Matterhorn, but they always ended the same way. Whoever invented the saucer sled and made it only two feet in diameter must have been looking up from down there and laughing as I tried to wad my 6-foot-three inch frame on what seemed no bigger than a hub cap. I looked like Ichabod Crane riding a dinner plate. I did learn one thing, however, and I'll pass it on to whomever might be contemplating such idiocy.

If you are going to wipe out, fall forward on your nose. The nose acts like a rudder in snow

and gives you a little control over your direction. It also avoids having snow packed up your proboscis from sliding down the hill backwards, face down. If you feel a crash is imminent, bail out and dig your heels into the snow. This will probably result in a head-over-heels tumble, but form means nothing at this point and your nose will serve to stop you more quickly.

Why do we gripe about cold weather and snow and then go outside and play in it? I've never seen anyone attempt to fly a kite in a hurricane or fish in a flash flood, but let two inches of the white stuff accumulate and everyone has the urge to risk life and limb on a hill or mountain covered with rocks and tree stumps. It's called winter sports. Winter sports can be classified into two main categories: those require one to hurl oneself down any number of precipitous inclines on sleds, skis or snow boards and those that involve skating on thin ice over a pool of bottomless, frigid water. Neither option holds any appeal to me, but the idea of being bested by a four-year-old on a big hubcap had me wondering what I can do that he can't. After much deliberation it came to me. I would stand on the hubcap, bend down, grip the handles and go down the hill in a ski jumpers crouch.

Having assumed the position, I asked for a little shove to get the show on the way. It was a success. For about two feet. Trying to maintain balance on something with a round bottom is like water skiing on an upside-down canoe. Opening my eyes, I saw my grandson standing with a look of pity on his face as he held out a hand to help me to my feet. "When are you gonna grow up, Granpa?" he asked.

He, he. I've got him now. I bet he can't wiggle just the little toe on each foot. I'm going to show him how it's done just as soon as the cast comes off.

## Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The Will Koch Indiana Tourism Leadership Award is presented annually and is the highest tourism honor given by the state. The award is named for the late Will Koch, long-time owner and president of [Holiday World & Splashin' Safari](#). Visit Indiana and the Koch family established the honor to pay tribute to Koch's many meaningful contributions to tourism, business and society.

"Collins, II is a leader in every sense of the word," Lt. Gov. Crouch said. "He has been instrumental not only in supporting Indiana tourism and economic development but also in his community service. He is well deserving of this honor."

Collins, II supports numerous charities. His recent donation to the Boys and Girls Club caused a ripple effect throughout his company. Shortly after that donation, employees expressed their interest in getting involved in their communities. In response, Collins, II created a program called Serving U. Employees now have the opportunity of paid volunteer days, grants, a giving match pro-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Just a few of the Civil War musketballs found by Gary Persinger.



A small portion of the Civil War relics found with a detector by Persinger.

## Outdoors



With Rich Creason

### 150 YEAR OLD ARTIFACTS SEE LIGHT OF DAY AGAIN

(ALL PHOTOS WERE TAKEN BY GARY PERSINGER)

After the beginning of the Civil War in April of 1861, fighting quickly spread across the southern states. The mountains and valleys of southern West Virginia saw many months of conflict with the sounds of gunfire, the rattle of sabers, and the screams of wounded soldiers. When the battles were over, remnants of the skirmishes were left behind. Fired and dropped bullets were quickly stomped into the soil by the boots of running soldiers. Fallen leaves covered lost buttons, buckles, and other items of uniforms. Muskets, canteens, spurs, and more were lost on this site. The soldiers moved on, but the remains of their time spent in this area was buried over many decades.

A century and a half later, Gary Persinger walked slowly through these hills and valleys, swinging his Minelab Equinox 800 metal

detector. When his machine sounded, he dug a deep musketball which had been hidden from daylight for nearly 15 decades. A few more swings of the detector and he recovered another round ball. Then, a third. And a fourth. His next signal was much louder and covered a larger area. After much digging with his shovel, Persinger unearthed a complete 12 inch wood-fused cannonball. He then knew he had found a previously undiscovered battle site.

Persinger wasn't always that fortunate. In his younger years, he said he walked mountains, valleys, and beaches just looking for treasure. He dug roots for food. He said he often wanted to buy a metal detector, but even in to his late twenties was unable to afford one. When asked in what area he conducted his searches, he replied, "I live in the rugged country of southern West Virginia. The Civil War was fought and skirmished along the cliffs and steep mountains of this county in which I live." Finally, he purchased a high-end, brand name machine. He continued walking miles through the West Virginia countryside. A few items came to his pouch, but not what he was expecting. Persinger used this detector for 14 years, but finally decided to try a different brand. After spending some time with this one, he changed again. This time he selected the Minelab Equinox 800. This was only one year ago.

He said, "I could go back to bad sites and I was recovering the items I knew were there, but couldn't pinpoint with the other detectors where they laid beneath the soil." At the site where he found the large cannonball, he made numerous trips. He would become exhausted from digging deep targets and carrying all of his finds back home. Persinger unearthed a




Civil War artillery shell found by Persinger with his Minelab detector.

nice bayonet, a Enfield ramrod, many cartridge box finials, buckles, buttons, locks and keys, spoons, and hundreds of pulled and dropped bullets. He has even found many of the tiny percussion caps with his Equinox.


At this same site, he found several shoulder scales, artillerist tools, and a Burnside block, an invention which chambered a .54 caliber bullet which had an effective range of 200 yards. Further searching uncovered a cache of 621 bullets hidden on top of a rock and cov-

# STEVE'S MARINE



AT BROOKVILLE LAKE • 765-458-7527

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Assorted Civil War relics found with a metal detector by Persinger.



Just a few of the assorted bullets discovered by Persinger.



This cannon ball was found at a Civil War battlefield.

ered with debris. Finally, a complete multi loaded Austrian Lorenz .54 caliber musket (minus the wooden stock) made his Minelab machine sing out.

Persinger does little or no research when deciding where to hunt. He said, "Just miles of walking". He finds most of his best hunt sites just by observing the terrain, and deciding where groups of soldiers would camp, travel, and set up ambushes for the opposing troops. He almost always detects alone, but mentioned his son is starting to get interested after seeing all of his great finds. When asked if he plans on continuing with his Minelab Equinox 800, he exclaimed, "I have no expectations of leaving this magnificent machine."

Besides finding numerous items in the wide valley, Persinger found Confederate items on the hillside on one side of the valley and Union artifacts on the other. It doesn't take much imagination when standing alone in an area like this, surrounded by these long buried relics, to picture the fierce fighting going on in this now peaceful valley.

Persinger has found Civil War relics in many other areas of his West Virginia mountain home. He has glass topped display boxes which he constructs himself to showcase his many finds. Among these finds is a sword and a bayonet in very good condition, and several artillery shells including a read shell which he just recently found.

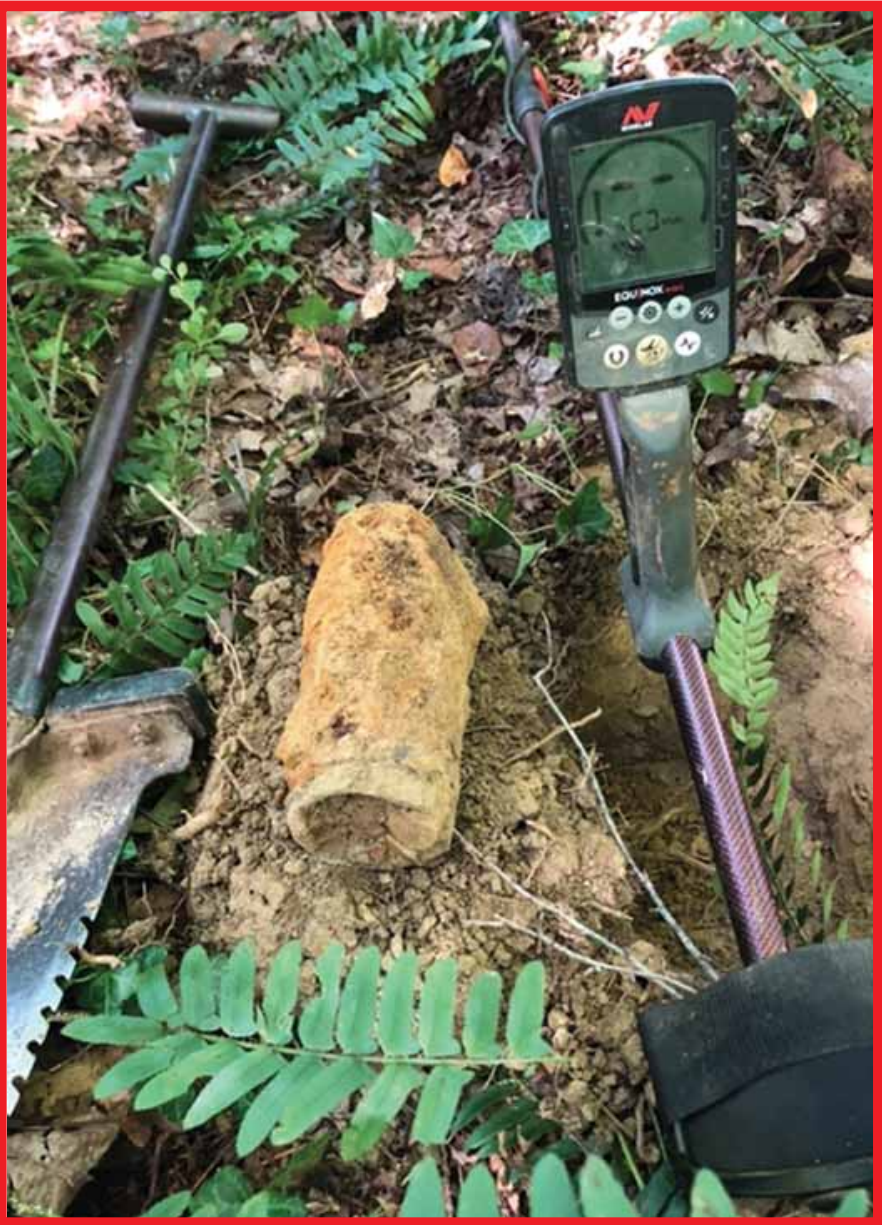
Not all of his time is spent searching for Civil War artifacts. He sometimes detects yards at older house sites. At one house, he discovered over 200 flat buttons, a Spanish reale, a wax seal fob, several thimbles, and a handful of old coins. His oldest military button from 1830 was found in this yard. Everything else found on this trip was determined to be even older than that button.

Persinger detected with other machines for over 15 years before discovering the Minelab Equinox 800. After what he calls "pounding the ground" for only a year with his new Minelab, he has found a quantity and quality of items of which other searchers only dream.

The author may be reached at [eyewrite4u@aol.com](mailto:eyewrite4u@aol.com).



This Civil War bayonet is a rare find.



Artillery shell found with the pictured Minelab Equinox 800 detector.

### We Are Looking for Metal Detecting Sites by Rich Creason

My wife, Susie, and I have been metal detecting together for over 40 years. We are always looking for new areas to search. If any of you readers have an older house, more than 80 years old, we would like to get permission to detect your yard for coins, buttons, relics, etc. We also are looking for farm fields which used to have a house site, cabin, school, church, etc. on the property where we can search when the crops are off. If you are interested, we would be glad to teach you how to use one of our detectors on your property while we are there.

We also search for lost rings if you know the general area where they were lost. Please reply if we can have permission to metal detect on your land. Thanks, Rich.

Call 765-215-3478 or email at [eyewrite4u@aol.com](mailto:eyewrite4u@aol.com).

## Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

gram, community clubs and a mentorship program for employees who serve on a Board of Directors.

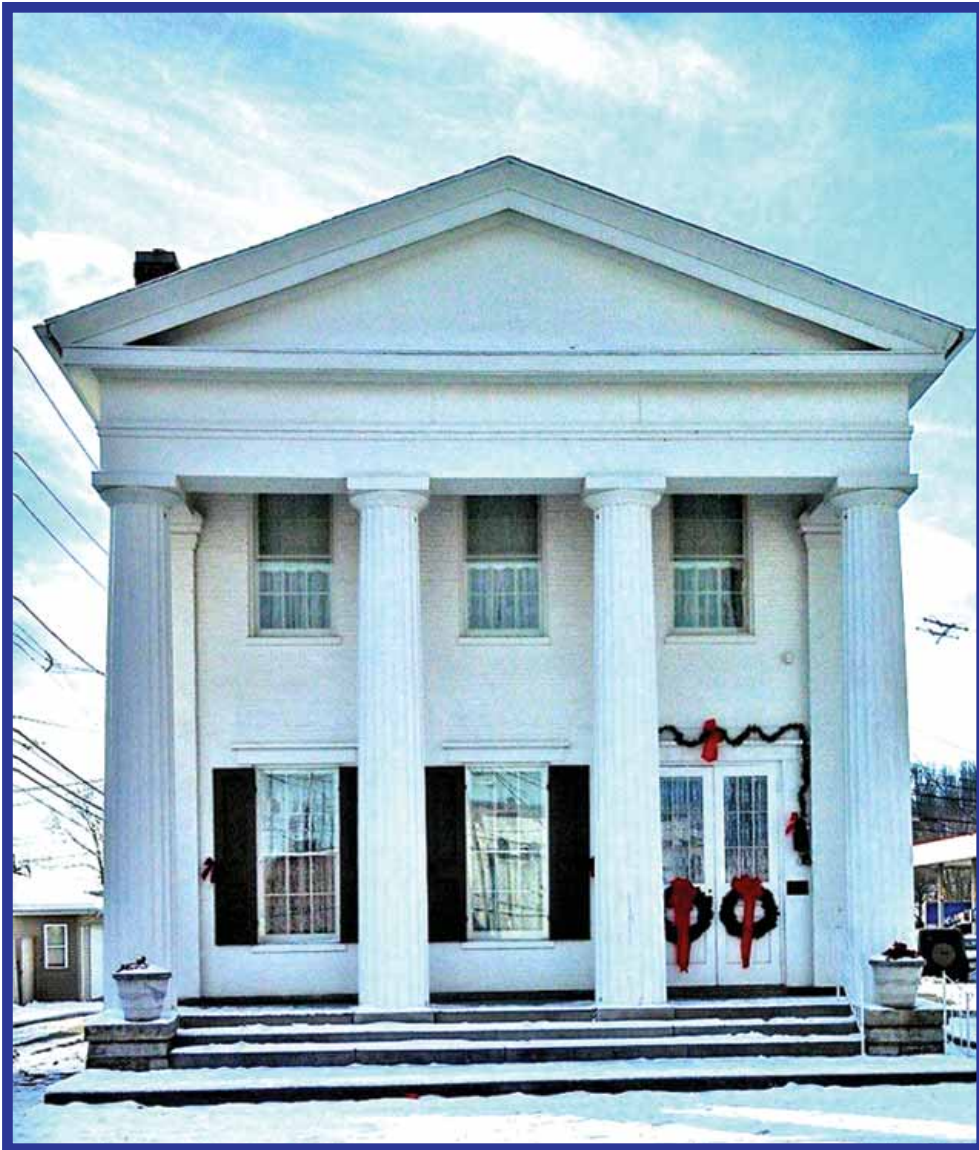
"I am completely humbled by this honor," Collins, II said. "I accept this award on behalf of my family, Luke Family of Brands, the company and all the great people I work with every day."

Nominations for the Will Koch Indiana Tourism Leadership Award are submitted by community leaders and members of Indiana's travel, tourism and hospitality industry. A panel reviews submissions.

Betty Cash received the Visit Indiana Leadership Award. After seven years as the executive director, she retired from the Perry County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Before her role as director, Cash served on the tourism commission in Perry County for 13 years. She worked tirelessly to bring visitors to Perry County, supporting the local community and businesses. Her peers from SIRM (Southern Indiana Regional Marketing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



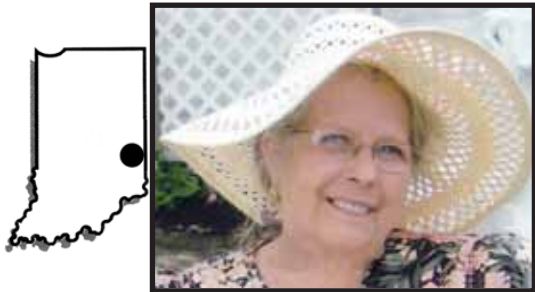


Whitewater Canal House Decorated for Christmas. (Photo by Donna Schroeder)



Mary Gray. (Photo by Donna Schroeder)

# Visit Fayette County, IN For The Fun Of It!



by Donna Schroeder  
Fayette County Historical Museum  
**THE WHITEWATER CANAL  
AND CANAL HOUSE**

While many businesses had flourished in Fayette County in the early days, there was no practical way to transport goods or people in or out of the community. The Internal Improvement Bill for the State of Indiana in 1836, including the Whitewater Valley Canal Bill, was the beginning of a new era.

Work was immediately begun, and the canal reached Connersville in the fall of 1845. The first boat to reach Connersville, “The Patriot”,

was piloted by Gayle Ford, and the arrival was met with great celebration.

Ford (1815-1894) and his wife, Elizabeth (1819-1887), were members of two of the county’s founding families. She was the daughter of Hiram Woodcock, who built, in 1838, the first practical bridge over the Whitewater, near where the bridge on East 5th Street is now located. Gayle’s father, Silas, was one of the town’s first innkeepers.

Goods immediately began to flow in and out of town. By the end of November of 1845, the exports included fifteen hundred bushels of wheat. Although the canal brought settlers, merchants, and goods to Connersville, it wasn’t without its problems. The canal, powered by water diverted from the Whitewater River, was affected by droughts and floods. The company failed and went into receivership by 1854.

The railroad also added to the obsolescence of the canal system. The present day Whitewater Valley Railroad offers excursions between Connersville and Metamora. The rails were built on the towpath formerly used by the mules to pull the canal boats. Two notable citizens had served as president of the canal company: Samuel Parker (1805-1859), a local attorney and member of Congress, and businessman Meredith Helm (1796-1859). Canal House was

among the assets disbursed when the canal failed. Both men were involved in the transition of the building to the Savings Bank of Indiana in 1854.

In 1857, the building was sold to attorney Elisha Vance. It became the home of the Vance family, including a son, Dr. Samuel Vance. Upon buying the property, Elisha Vance added the kitchen on the south side of the house.

In 1936, the Vances sold the house to Finly Gray (1863-1947) and his wife, Alice (Green) Gray (1865-1943). Mr. Gray was a two term mayor of Connersville and served as Representative to the U. S. Congress. Mr. Gray was largely responsible for the implementation of rural electrification. He also was the driving force, as mayor, for sanitary sewers and a safe water supply at a time when people still used the canal as a source of both drinking water and waste disposal. The Grays modernized the house and changed the appearance by adding fireplaces inside and a balcony to the front porch.

In addition to their property in town, the Grays owned several hundred acres of farmland in the southwestern part of the county. Their only child, a daughter named Mary, passed away prior to the deaths of her parents. When Alice died, part of the farm was donated to the

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Canal House Dining Room. (Photo by Donna Schroeder)



Canal House Parlor. (Photo by Donna Schroeder)



Alice Gray and Finly. (Photo by Donna Schroeder)



Canal House Kitchen. (Photo by Donna Schroeder)

Audubon Society. At Finly's death, more land and Canal House were bequeathed. The land is now known as the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary.

The society chose to sell the house. It was owned by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars for a time and was sold to Historic Connersville, Incorporated in 1971. Restoration was finished in 1973. While many local volunteers took part in the restoration of Canal House, Bob Gray, Finly's nephew, took the lead in bringing it back to its original appearance.

The house is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the state. The beautiful fluted Doric columns on the front porch are made of native yellow poplar. The door and window frames inside are tapered, giving the illusion of added ceiling height. The vaults in the two main lower rooms were built with two sets of heavy metal doors to secure the assets of the Canal Company. Each vault has a lock that weighs seventeen pounds. Many of the furnishings in the house belonged to the Grays, including the ornate dining table, the china, and the rocking chair in the dining room, and the grandfather's clock in the parlor.

The parlor set in the sitting room is an heirloom of the Lake family from Jackson Township. The square grand piano is said to be the first to come to the county. It was bought for Susan Goodlander by her father in the 1850s. The portrait above the piano is Thomas Clarke, a fourteen year old who showed great bravery in the Civil War.

There are also examples of various Connersville industries on display. The large mirror in the foyer was made by the French Mirror Company, and a bedroom suite by the Connersville Furniture Company graces the upstairs. Most of these items have been accumulated through the generosity of donors who were pleased to share items with the community and place them in an appropriate setting.

The flower garden behind the house features part of the original brownstone Clio Fountain, brought here after it was replaced with a marble replica.

Canal House is open during special events. Tours can be scheduled at other times by contacting Historic Connersville.

Historic Connersville also owns and maintains the Fayette County Historical Museum at 200 W 5th Street and the First Ward Hose House, the remaining one of the city's original three firehouses, located at 7th and Washington



The Canal Garden. (Photo by Donna Schroeder)

Streets.

We are a non-profit, all volunteer organization which is solely funded by dues and donations. Your support is appreciated.

The museum is open Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tours at other times are available upon request by calling (765) 825-0946. For more information, see Historic Connersville on Facebook or visit [www.historic-connersville.org](http://www.historic-connersville.org).

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## News of Native American Indians in Indiana



by Shirley Willard  
Fulton County Historian, Rochester, Indiana

## Count Down Childhood Memories To Go To Sleep

What is your earliest childhood memory? Can you remember something that happened when you were only one or two years old?

They say memory begins about age four. So if you remember something that happened before that, you are probably remembering being told about it and you formed a memory or picture in your brain.

I think I remember crawling down the back steps when I was only a year old and lived in Morocco, Indiana. My mother was in the hospital having an operation, so her mother (my grandmother) came to take care of us kids. I was only a baby and could not walk good yet. But I crawled down the steps from the back door to the yard, apparently looking for Mom. I can see this in my mind but I see myself as a baby. When you actually do something, you don't see your self as a whole person. You only see what is visible to your eyes.

When I was five, we lived in Williamsport, Indiana. I remember the high school band marching down our street. I wanted to see where they came from, so instead of following them, I went in the opposite direction to see if I can find where they came from.

I was all alone so these are my real memories. I walked by a high fence that had a couple of big dogs behind it. They ran along side the fence and barked at me. I crossed the street to get away from them.

I did not find the school nor where the band came from, so I turned back and went home. When I got to our back yard, my three brothers were looking for me. They yelled, "Here she is!" Mom had missed me and sent them to search.

I was told never to take off and leave our yard like that again.

Another early memory is when our little dog, Rags, was hit by a car and killed. Rags was the cutest dog we ever had. He was like one of the little pups in Disney movies. We had been visiting Grandma on her farm near Wolcott, Indiana. We were saying good bye and were all standing by our car, parked on the gravel road in front of her house. A car came and as it passed us, it did not slow down. Our beloved little dog ran under the car and was killed. The car stopped and the parents and kids got out. We all stood crying.

## News From INDIANA DNR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

This 58-acre nature preserve includes a portion of the Clifty Creek canyon, which features towering sandstone bluffs and a karst sink.

The action increases the number of state-designated sites protected by the Nature Preserves Act to 297.

Also regarding nature preserves, the NRC approved the dedication of a 207-acre addition to Bluffs of Beaver Bend Nature Preserve in Martin County, nearly doubling its size to approximately 412 acres.

In other action of note, the NRC:

Granted preliminary adoption to amend 312 IAC 1-1-26 and 312 IAC 6-7-5, which governs the Ordinary High Watermark on the Lake Michigan Coastline, aligning the rule with the Lake Michigan ordinary high water mark statute at IC 14-26-2.1-1. Granted preliminary adoption to amend 312 IAC 5-6-3.5, Special Boating Zones, and Temporary Structure Standards on Clear Lake, to establish an idle zone on the Steuben County lake.

Approved the following meeting dates for next year: Jan. 17, March 21, May 16, July 18, Sept. 19, and Nov. 21.

The NRC is an autonomous board that addresses topics pertaining to the DNR. More details on these and other actions are at [nrc.IN.gov/meetings-and-minutes/current-meeting-agenda](http://nrc.IN.gov/meetings-and-minutes/current-meeting-agenda) under "November Agenda."

The next regularly scheduled NRC meeting is Jan. 17, also at Fort Harrison State Park.

NRC members include the DNR director, heads of three other state agencies (Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Destination Development Corporation, and the Indiana Department of Transportation), six citizens appointed by the governor on a bipartisan basis, the chair of the DNR's advisory council, and the president of the Indiana Academy of Science. The Academy of Science president and the agency heads, other than the DNR director, may appoint proxies to serve the commission in their absences.

### BROWN COUNTY SP RANKS 6TH IN COUNTRY FOR BEAUTY

Brown County State Park ranks sixth on a list of most beautiful state parks in the country according to a study done by [Travel Lens](http://TravelLens.com). Brown County.



Brown County State Park ranks sixth on a list of most beautiful state parks in the country according to a study done by Travel Lens.

The online publication used Yelp and TripAdvisor reviews, the number of times they mentioned the words beautiful, stunning, and breathtaking, as well as a park's Instagram popularity and Google search data to compile its list of the "most aesthetically pleasing" state parks.

Based on their research, the park just outside of Nashville, Indiana received 86 total Yelp reviews, 42 "beautiful" reviews, one "stunning review, six "breathtaking" reviews and 49 total aesthetic reviews.

"Brown County State Park offers stunning views of the Brown County Hills Region, provides a diversity of trails for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians, and welcomes overnight guests for camping, cabin and lodge stays," said Terry Coleman, director of Indiana State Parks. "As with all of our Indiana State Parks, the staff who work in the park provide service that allows guests to focus on those natural resources, history, and making great memories with family and friends."

Travel Lens also ranked Brown County State Park 13th for Most Instagrammed State Parks.

This is just the latest of a long list of special recognitions Indiana's largest state park has received. Last year, the park was added to the National Register of Historic Places, and it is a fixture on various "best of" rankings for its mountain biking trails.

The park comprises nearly 16,000 acres, most of them heavily wooded.

More about Brown County State Park is at [on.IN.gov/browncountysp](http://on.IN.gov/browncountysp).

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# 9th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner

## FOR OUR VETERANS PRESENTS

(Photos by Ray Dickerson)

Sherry and I had a wonderful time at the 9th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner.

I took my camera, but didn't think I would use it much, wrong! For some reason I got the urge to take photos, lots of them. A few of them are included in this article.

Previously I was in Phillips Drugs located at the corner of South 7th and Main street in Richmond, Indiana picking up some pills when Tina McGraw who works there invited me to attend the 9th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner being held in the First National Bank building at the Wayne County fairgrounds. I thanked her and told her if I wasn't busy I would try to attend it. (See her and her husbands photo I took at the event that night at right)

Sherry told me she found out more about the Veterans event from Tina McGraw when we visited Subway in Richmond and they happened to be there too. She visited with them while I was waiting in line to order our food.

I'm well aware of Troop 16, having been a member of it back in the 1950's until I joined the Air Force in the fall of 1959. Troop 16's Scoutmaster, Mark Culbertson is my cousin. He spends countless hours tending to his responsibilities as Troop 16's Scoutmaster as well as farming during the day. He is standing on the far right of the Scout photo.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Tim and Tina McGraw enjoying a relaxing moment at the 9th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner held in the First Bank building in the Kuhlman Center located at the Wayne County Fairgrounds Saturday evening December 3, 2022. Thanks to Tina, my wife Sherry and I was invited to attend that evening. It was one of the most inspiring events I've attended since I left the Air Force in 1963. Thank you Tina and all those who made this event happen. Photos by Ray Dickerson



Centerville Boy Scout Troop 16 - Front Row Left to Right: Life Scout Andy Purcell, Tenderfoot Scout Aaron Shuman and 2nd Class Scout Cameron Stiggleman. Back Row Left to Right: Asst. Scoutmaster Jack Rider, Life Scout Gavin Stiggleman, 1st Class Nathaniel Sweigart, Star Scout Matthew Laster, 2nd Class Isaiah Hollingsworth and Scoutmaster Mark Culbertson. These Scouts were busy as beavers and deserve a huge thank you from all who attended. **THANK YOU!**



**Buddy Strunk**  
U.S. Air Force

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U.S. Army

**Phone: (765) 973-9200 ext. 1651**

**E-mail: [ronaldw@co.wayne.in.us](mailto:ronaldw@co.wayne.in.us)**





Special Thanks from all the Veterans to Roger Richert who put on a very entertaining job as MC for this event. Roger Richert owns Richmond Furniture Gallery and is that familiar voice you hear on TV and Radio "I'll Save You Money! \$\$\$ located at 180 Fort Wayne Avenue in Richmond, IN. 765-939-3325.

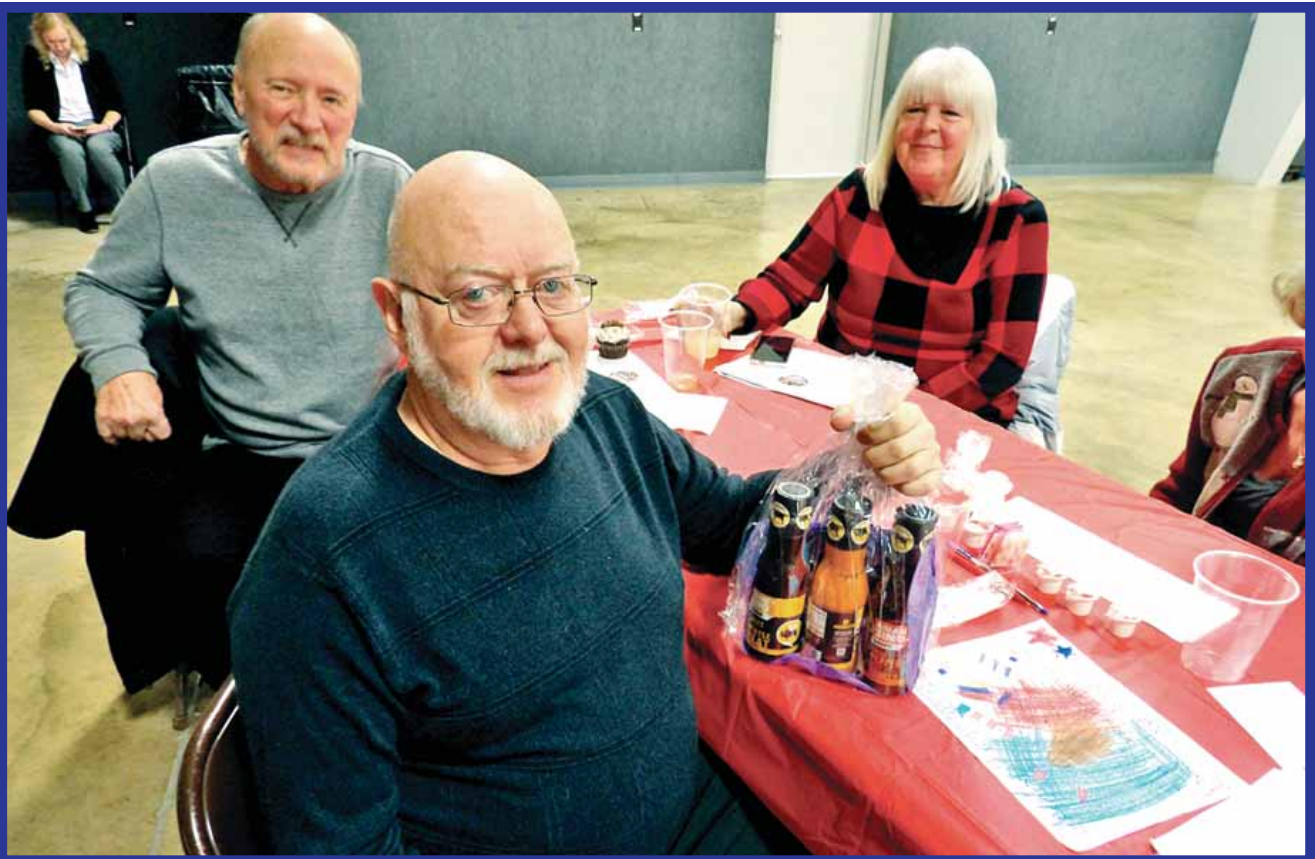
VETERAN DOOR PRIZE WINNER



Centerville Boy Scout Troop 16, 2nd Class Scout Cameron Stiggleman delivering one of the Door Prizes to me after Roger Richert called out my name as a winner. I was across the room talking to Bob Larkin who I hadn't seen for several years. We used to work together on the Penn Central Railroad in Richmond.



Sherry Dickerson standing with Pam and Veteran John Minnix. Some time ago I had the pleasure of meeting John Minnix who served his country in the Navy Seabees near Muncie, Indiana at a Navy Seabee ceremony. My dad was a Navy Seabee, I was attending their event to write about it in The Gad-a-bout.



Another door prize winner, Veteran Ron Weadick holding a sack of Lemonade, sitting behind him is Veteran Buddy Strunk. Sitting across from Buddy is his wife, Rose and sitting across from Ron is his wife, Sandy who the photographer didn't manage to include in the photo. Ron and Buddy are both Veteran Service Officers, their office is in the Richmond Courthouse Annex at 401 East Main Street. Ron sends me an article to put in The Gad-a-bout when he has important information for my veteran readers. See their advertisement at bottom of page 12.

Assistant Scoutmaster Jack Rider is standing on the far left.

Another busy fellow, Roger Richert, was the MC for the entire evening. (Many know him by his voice when you hear "I'll Save You Money!")

The scouts were busy beavers all evening. The first order of business for them was at 5:00 Posting of the American Flags in a close order drill formation. Next everyone stood up and sang the National Anthem. Once everyone was seated, The Scouts passed the food out to everyone at the tables for Food

and Fellowship. I hope the Scouts found time to eat also. Also at approximately 5:15 p.m. the "Justified Band began playing music, everyone was allowed to dance it they chose to do so.

Also helping to setup and serving volunteers was Charles Elementary Students and Northeastern Elementary Students.

A rough count one of the veterans did, he counted the number of tables with six people sitting around each tables, figured to be 384 people.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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Centerville Boy Scout Troop 16 passing out the meals to all the Veterans and guests attending the 9th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner.

## Veterans Appreciation Dinner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The meal was fit for a king and his queen. I wish I had taken a photo of my plate before I scooped it down. It included a cup of chocolate ice cream too.

At approximately 5:45 it was time to for Roger Richert to put on his top hat and begin drawing out names for the door prizes. See photo on page 15 for a photo of all the door prizes just waiting to be won.

Door Prizes was handed out by the Scouts and the School Students. On page 13 is a photo of 2nd Class Scout Cameron Stiggleman bringing me my door prize. I wasn't at my seat, he brought it to where I was standing, I was talking to a former Penn Central railroad friend, Bob Larkin. We worked together at the Richmond Yard Office back in the 1970's. When Roger called my name, he said something about my publishing The Gad-a-bout the rest was lost in the laughter from the crowd.

Slowly but surely the table pictured on the opposite page of the door prizes began to dwindle. I don't know how many there was on that table, but a lot of veterans won a door prize that evening.

At the top of page 15 is a photo of the Justified - Band. Lindsey Barnette was the singer. They made a good team, the music was very good, a bit loud at times, but the younger generation likes it that way.



Sitting across the table from Sherry and I was Sherrys sister Vickie and her husband, Veteran Kenneth Greene. Kenneth was one of the lucky Veterans whose name was called out that he had won a door prize. It was a complete fishing outfit donated by one of the many businesses and corporations who donated all the door prizes that evening.

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Performing on the stage was the Justified - Band. They played really well and Singer Lindsey Barnette sang all her songs with true feeling in her voice!



Lots of Door Prizes displayed for all to see and hope they were lucky enough to get one of them.

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# Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Cooperative) nominated Cash. That group calls her an innovator, a forward-thinker, and a cheerleader.

Crouch and IDDC also presented 16 tourism industry representatives with a Hoosier Hospitality Award for their high level of service in tourism-related jobs at hotels, restaurants, attractions and other destinations.

"These award winners represent the best of our state from the Leisure and Hospitality Industry," IDDC's Secretary and CEO, Elaine Bedel said. "These individuals dedicate their time and service to showcase to visitors and their communities what a great place Indiana is to work, live and visit."

**The 2022 Hoosier Hospitality winners are:**

- Tessie Anderson**-Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center
  - Shyla Beam**-Vincennes Knox County Visitors and Tourism Bureau
  - Alan Brown**-Newfields, Indianapolis
  - Manny Cortez**-CommunityPro-Education, Goshen
  - Denise Davis**-Indianapolis Airport Authority
  - Kathaleen (Kate) Garrett**-Metro Diner, Mishawaka
  - Eric Ivie**-Hendricks County Parks and Recreation
  - Ariene (Ari) Mambo**-Newfields, Indianapolis
  - Mark McKinney**-Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne
  - Linda Meek**-Hilton Garden Inn, Edinburgh
  - John Mellinger**-Visit Indy
  - Cory O'Sullivan**-Electric Key Records and Roux-Ga-Roux's, Franklin
  - Bruce Sigmon**-Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center
  - Debra Wayman**-Hope Medora Goes Pink Festival
- Staff at Toodleydoo Toys - Franklin  
The Team at the Veteran's National Memorial Shrine & Museum - Fort Wayne  
Nominations for Hoosier Hospitality Awards are submitted by community members and destination patrons and are reviewed and selected by IDDC. Outstanding service is a significant factor in determining whether a person returns to an individual business or destination

violation. The vehicle had a light out, and the plates on the car returned to a different vehicle. During the traffic stop, Trooper Love identified the driver as 42-year-old Jennifer R. Collman of Jeffersonville and the passenger as Ben J. Davis, 60, of New Albany.

As a result of information gathered during the stop, Trooper Love continued his investigation and also requested the assistance of Officer Purlee from the Clarksville Police Department and his K9 partner, "Dozer." During the stop, K9 Dozer alerted on the vehicle. A subsequent search of the car and occupants uncovered approximately 74 grams of suspected methamphetamine, over 9 grams of suspected cocaine, marijuana, digital scales, glass smoking pipes, pills, suspected counterfeit money, and a pellet gun that had the appearance of a revolver-style handgun.

Both occupants were arrested and transported to the Clark County Jail on the following charges: **Ben Davis:**

- 1. Dealing in Methamphetamine – Level 2 Felony
- 2. Dealing in Cocaine – Level 3 Felony
- 3. Dealing in Marijuana – Level 6 Felony
- 4. Possession of Methamphetamine – Level 6 Felony
- 5. Possession of Cocaine – Level 5 Felony
- 6. Possession of Counterfeit Money – Level 6 Felony
- 7. Possession of a Legend Drug – Level 6 Felony
- 8. Possession of a Controlled substance - A Misdemeanor

9. Possession of Marijuana – B Misdemeanor  
10. Possession of Paraphernalia – C Misdemeanor  
**Jennifer Collman:**

- 1. Possession of Marijuana – B Misdemeanor
- "All subjects are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court."

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 4,845 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$960 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,744-\$2,283, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call **508-824-6978**. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org), or you may mail your contribution to **P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718**.

**ISP SELLERSBURG INVESTIGATING FATAL CRASH, MAKE ARREST**

Scott County - December 2, 2022: Troopers from the Indiana State Police post in Sellersburg are investigating a fatal crash that occurred Friday afternoon. Troopers arrested an Austin man in connection with the crash.

Around 4 pm Friday, the Scott County Sheriff's Department requested ISP assistance investigating an injury crash involving an SUV and a motorcycle near the intersection of SR256 and South Dowling Street in Austin. Trooper Tate Rohlfing, an ISP crash reconstruction investigator, and Trooper Ben Davis responded to the scene.

The Trooper's preliminary investigation indicates a green 2006 GMC Envoy, driven by Terry G. Richards, 56, of Austin, was traveling northbound on South Dowling Street and approaching the stop sign at SR 256. At the same time, a black 1985 Honda Shadow motorcycle, operated by 36-year-old Michael W. Taylor II of Scottsburg, was eastbound on SR 256 and approaching the same intersection. The investigation indicates the GMC Envoy entered the intersection and collided with the side of the motorcycle. Michael Taylor was ejected from the motorcycle and sustained life-threatening injuries. Scott County EMS personnel transported Mr. Taylor to Scott Memorial Hospital. Tragically, Mr. Taylor was pronounced deceased upon arrival.

Terry G. Richards was uninjured in the crash; however, officers observed evidence at the scene and while talking with Terry Richards that indicated alcohol was potentially a factor in the crash. Richards submitted to a certified chemical test and tested over .08 BAC, which is the legal limit in Indiana. After being cleared at Scott Memorial Hospital, Trooper Ben Davis arrested Terry Richards on the following charges:

One count of Causing Death When Operating a Vehicle with an ACE of .08 or More, a Level 4 felony.

Notification to next-of-kin was made to the family of Mr. Taylor by the Scott County Coroner.



**INDIANA STATE POLICE K9 MACK HAS RECEIVED DONATION OF BODY ARMOR**

Indiana State Police K9 Mack has received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Mack's vest was sponsored by Susy and Michelle Presswood and Waymire of Fairmount, IN and was embroidered with the sentiment "Born to Love-Trained to Serve-Loyal Always".

## News From The Indiana State Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21



**TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO FELONY DRUG ARREST**

Clark County - Wednesday, December 7, 2022: a New Albany man was arrested on multiple dealing charges following an early morning traffic stop in Clarksville early Wednesday morning.

Just after Midnight on Wednesday, Trooper Brandon Love stopped a gray Pontiac passenger car traveling west on Eastern Boulevard near I-65 for vehicle equipment and possible registration

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The Austin Police Department, The Scott County Sheriff's Department, Scott Co. EMS, and the Jennings Township Volunteer Fire Department assisted in the investigation.

**INDOT AWARDS MORE THAN \$119 MILLION THROUGH COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT PROGRAM**

*Community Crossings provides state matching funds to local communities for road improvement projects*

LAWRENCE, Ind. – Earlier today Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Commissioner Mike Smith announced 229 Indiana cities, towns, and counties that received a combined \$119.4 million in state matching funds for local road projects through Community Crossings, a component of the Governor’s Next Level Roads program.

“Modernizing and improving transportation infrastructure is a key component of driving economic development in the Hoosier state,” said Gov. Eric Holcomb. “The Community Crossings program continues to help take communities to the next level by providing safe, reliable roads and bridges for residents and visitors alike.”

Communities submitted applications for funding during a highly competitive call for projects in July and August. Applications were evaluated based on need and current conditions, as well as impacts to safety and economic development. Funding for Community Crossings comes from the state’s local road and bridge matching grant fund. The Community Crossings initiative has provided more than \$1 billion in state matching funds for local construction projects since 2016.

“Community Crossings is a tremendous opportunity for towns, cities and counties to enhance local road networks across the state,” INDOT Commissioner Mike Smith said. “INDOT looks forward to partnering with locals to deliver on projects that will have a positive impact on safety and bring business to Indiana. I’m excited to see the progress in these communities throughout the coming year.”

To qualify for funding, local governments must provide local matching funds of 50 percent for larger communities or 25 percent for smaller communities and have an asset management plan for maintaining existing roads and bridges. State law requires annually that 50 percent of the available matching funds be awarded to communities within counties with a population of 50,000 or fewer.

State lawmakers identified long-term funding for Community Crossings as part of House Enrolled Act 1002, passed by the legislature and signed into law by Gov. Holcomb in April 2017.

The list of all communities receiving matching funds in the 2022 summer call for projects is available online.

The next call for projects will open in January 2023.

**Stay Informed**

Get updates on INDOT projects and programs via:

- **Facebook:** [facebook.com/indianadepartmentoftransportation](https://www.facebook.com/indianadepartmentoftransportation)
- **Twitter:** [@INDOT](https://twitter.com/INDOT)
- **TrafficWise:** [511in.org](https://www.511in.org)
- **Mobile App:** [iTunes App Store](#) and the [Google Play store for Android](#)



**DEER SEASON DATES**

- Deer Muzzleloader:** Dec. 3–18
- Wild Turkey Fall Archery:** Dec. 3, 2022–Jan. 1, 2023
- Pheasant (Cock only):** Closes Dec. 15
- Dove:** Dec. 17, 2022–Jan. 2, 2023
- Crow:** Dec. 13, 2022–March 1, 2023
- Snipe:** Closes Dec. 16
- Quail (north of Interstate 74):** Closes Dec. 15
- Quail (south of Interstate 74):** Closes Jan. 10, 2023
- Ducks (North Zone):** Closes Dec. 11, reopens Dec. 26, 2022–Jan. 3, 2023



**Grab your muzzleloaders and go hunting**  
‘Tis the season for deer hunting!  
**Muzzleloader season is Dec. 3–18.**  
Make sure to follow the regulations for firearms as you participate this year:

- Muzzleloading rifle/shotgun:**  
Barrel caliber: .44” minimum  
Bullet diameter: .357” minimum
- powder and bullet loaded from muzzle and single bullet\*
  - sabot bullets permitted
  - multiple barreled guns permitted
- \*can have powder loaded from the breech end only during youth and firearms seasons

- Muzzleloading handgun:**  
Barrel length: 12” minimum, measured from the base of the breech plug (excluding tangs and other projections to the end of the barrel, including the muzzle crown)  
Barrel caliber: .50” minimum  
Bullet diameter: .44” minimum
- loaded from muzzle and single shot

# Gad’s Corner

Photos sent to The Gad-a-bout for Gad’s Corner Activity Photos should have enough information as possible. Send Photos to: **The Gad-a-bout, 105 E. South St., Centerville, IN 47330.** Send Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to return photo. or E-mail jpg photos to: [raythegadabout@gmail.com](mailto:raythegadabout@gmail.com)

**ADVERTISER INDEX**

**ANDERSON**

9 Guns Pg 20

**BROOKVILLE**

52 Pik-up Convenience Store Pg 5  
Brookville Lake Guide Service Pg 3  
Biltz Monument Company, Inc. Pg 21  
Pioneer Restaurant Pg 3

**BROOKVILLE LAKE AREA**

Barton Bay Pg 14  
Frames Outdoor Pg 19  
Jay’s Midlake Restaurant/Bait Shop Pg 16  
Parkside Marine & More Pg 2  
Quakertown Marina Pg 19

Steve’s Marine Pg 6

**CAMBRIDGE CITY**

A - T & I Service Pg 9

**CENTERVILLE**

Methodist Food Ministry Pg 10  
The Old Clock Shop Pg 13

**CONNERSVILLE**

Fayette County Museum Pg 8  
Matt’s Custom Guns 9

**DUBLIN**

Rihm’s Meat Processing Pg 13

**GREENFIELD**

Highsmith Guns Pg 15

**GREENSBURG**

Tree City Metal Sales Pg 4

**INDIANAPOLIS**

Department of Natrual Resources Pg 18-19  
Indiana State Police Pg 20-21  
[www.IndianaOutfitters.com](http://www.IndianaOutfitters.com) Pg 22

**KNIGHTSTOWN**

Knightstown Meats & Catering Pg 15

**LAKE MICHIGAN AREA**

Fish Lake Michigan Pg 4

**LIBERTY**

Bertch Hardware Pg 18  
Liberty Restaurant Pg 18  
Pizza King Pg 10  
Woodruff’s Supermarket Pg 10

**MILROY**

Milroy Shoes Pg 20  
Troyers Country Store & Bakery Pg 20

**REDKEY**

Hatzell Bros Roofing Pg 14

**RICHMOND**

Army Navy Store Pg 3  
Koons Home Supply Pg 5  
Mendenhall Hardware Pg 2  
Mighty Muffler 18  
Tri County Awards Pg 13  
[Wayne Co. Veterans Services Office Pg 12](#)

**WEBSTER**

C & C Webster Store Pg 15

**2023 RENFRO SPORT SHOW INFORMATION**

CINCINNATI SPORT SHOW JAN 2023 Pg 11  
INDIANAPOLIS SPORT SHOW JAN 2023 Pg 11



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# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## RV NONPROFIT WINS NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

A Year to Volunteer, a nonprofit group dedicated to encouraging RV campers to volunteer at sites across the country, received the National Association of State Parks Directors (NAPD) President's Award late last month for its nationwide service.

The group, known as Y2V for short and led by Phil and Shari Roos of Scottsdale, Arizona, was recognized for its efforts in at least seven states, totaling thousands of hours of service. Examples of work completed included roofing projects, rebuilding boardwalks, and trail improvements.

The award came about after Y2V was nominated by the Indiana DNR Division of State Parks in partnership with six other state park systems that also benefited from its services, including those from Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, and Tennessee.

In Indiana, Y2V did its work at Versailles State Park, named for the Ripley County town near which it is located. In 2020, Y2V completed a 110-foot-long wetland overlook with a 70-foot angled wing for the park's guests to enjoy.

"The work was the equivalent of or better than that of any contractor we might have hired," said Terry Coleman, director of Indiana State Parks.

Shari Roos said even she and her husband were surprised by the degree of success.

"When we set out on our journey in early 2020, we did not expect to have A Year to Volunteer evolve into the organization it is today," she said. "Meeting like-minded RVers who love to travel and give back just made it easy though, and we're so happy to have the opportunity to make a difference with state park systems all around the country!"

Also in 2020, the group removed and replaced 2,000 square feet of flooring in the park's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) group camp mess hall, started work on a gravel trail to the wetland overlook, and painted the exterior of two large buildings and the interior of two cabins. Thirty volunteers contributed more than 1,500 hours over 20 days.

In 2021, the group added Y2V2 to work on smaller projects with fewer people and shorter timeframes. That team returned to Versailles State Park to complete an accessible ramp for the wetland overlook. This year, the group returned to finalize the work, installing 12 culverts and spreading 400 tons of stone in low areas to maintain the appropriate grade, as well as completing a series of other projects.

More information about Y2V is at [aveartovolunteer.com](http://aveartovolunteer.com). More about NASPD is at [stateparks.org](http://stateparks.org). More about Indiana State Parks is at [stateparks.IN.gov](http://stateparks.IN.gov). If you have a group that is interested in contributing time or support to Indiana State Parks on this Giving Tuesday or any other time, contact volunteer coordinator Jody Heaston at [jheaston@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jheaston@dnr.IN.gov).

To see more DNR news releases, go to



The group, known as Y2V for short and led by Phil and Shari Roos of Scottsdale, Arizona, was recognized for its efforts in at least seven states, totaling thousands of hours of service. Examples of work completed included roofing projects, rebuilding boardwalks, and trail improvements. (DNR Photo)

[dnr.IN.gov](http://dnr.IN.gov).

## ENG PROJECTS BIDDING INFORMATION WEBPAGE UPDATE ON INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WEBSITE

Indiana Department of Natural Resources website. The page has been updated. View at this link: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/engineering/bidding/>

## FIREWOOD CUTTING PERMITS AVAILABLE AT BROOKVILLE LAKE, WHITEWATER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

The public is invited to cut up and remove certain downed trees at Brookville Lake and Whitewater Memorial State Park for firewood.

Trees eligible for firewood have fallen as a result of natural causes or have been dropped by property staff. They are along roadsides or in public areas such as campsites and picnic areas.

Permit sales and cutting are available beginning Wednesday and go through Feb. 24.

The cost of one pickup-truck load is \$10. All proceeds will be used for resource management and restoration efforts, including replacement of trees in campgrounds and other public areas.

A firewood permit must be obtained for each load at Mounds State Recreation Area or Whitewater Memorial offices between 8 a.m. and

4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Permits are not available on observed state holidays or weekends.

Firewood may be cut up to 30 feet from roadsides in designated areas; however, vehicles are not allowed off roads. The use of tractors, UTVs, and ATVs is prohibited. Wood may be cut and removed between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call the Whitewater Memorial office at 765-458-5565.

Firewood cut at Brookville and Whitewater is for personal use only and cannot be sold.

Mounds State Recreation Area ([on.IN.gov/brookvillelake](http://on.IN.gov/brookvillelake)) is at [1410 State Road 101, Brookville, 47012](http://1410 State Road 101, Brookville, 47012). Whitewater Memorial State Park ([on.IN.gov/whitewatermemorial](http://on.IN.gov/whitewatermemorial)) is at [1418 S. State Road 101, Liberty](http://1418 S. State Road 101, Liberty).

## BOONVILLE MAN INJURED IN TREE STAND FALL (WARRICK COUNTY)

Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating a tree stand accident that occurred Nov. 23 in Warrick County.

At approximately 2:06 p.m., Warrick County Dispatch received a call of a hunter being injured after falling from his tree stand near the area of State Road 61 and Square Deal Mine Road in Boonville.

Kenneth L. Nord, 80, of Boonville, was climbing into his tree stand when a strap broke, causing

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him to fall approximately 20 feet. Despite being injured, Nord called a friend for help.

Nord was transported via Life Flight to St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville with serious injuries to his arms and legs. He was not wearing a full body safety harness or other safety equipment at the time of the accident.

Other responding agencies included Warrick County EMS, Boonville Fire Department, and Warrick County Sheriff's Department.

Conservation Officers remind everyone using elevated platforms to always wear a full body safety harness, use a tree stand's safety rope, never try to put up or remove a tree stand by themselves, and to always inspect their tree stand before climbing up into it.

**F&W SANDHILL CRANES WEBPAGE  
UPDATE ON INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES WEBSITE**

Indiana Department of Natural Resources website. The page has been updated. View at this link: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/properties/jasper-pulaski-fwa/sandhill-cranes/>



**STATE PARK HOLIDAY GIFT PACKS  
AVAILABLE**

Don't know what to buy for the person who has everything? Giving a holiday gift pack from the DNR may be your solution.

The offer is available through Dec. 31, 2022, or when sold out. Gift packs can be purchased only at <https://stores.innsgifts.com/holiday-packs/>.

Cross those hard-to-buy-for people off your shopping list in a snap by giving them a 2023 holiday gift pack from the DNR.

A gift pack can be used the whole year, whether the recipient enjoys camping or sleeping in the comfort of an Indiana State Park Inn after enjoying the outdoors. The gift pack also saves you up to \$31 over buying the items individually. A limited quantity of gift packs is available.

The \$99 gift pack includes a 2023 resident annual entrance permit, a one-year subscription to

Outdoor Indiana magazine (six issues), and one of two \$65 gift card options. One gift card option can be used at the campgrounds — another gift card option is a \$65 State Park Inns gift card. You also have the option of upgrading either to \$100 by paying \$35 more.

Indiana has 36 state park properties throughout the state. The entrance permit grants gate entrance for 2023 to all state park properties beginning Jan. 1.

The inns gift card can be used at any State Park Inn, as well as at the award-winning Pete Dye-designed golf course at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. The card can also be used for lodging, meals in the dining rooms, or gift purchases.

The camping gift card can be used toward the rental of campsites, cottages, group camps, recreation buildings, rent-a-camp cabins, shelters, youth and rally camps, and cabins (excluding inns-operated cabins).

The camping gift card may also be used to purchase daily entrance, lake permits, horse tags, and any other items sold at gatehouses and park-operated stores and gift shops. The camping gift card cannot be used at any privately operated concessions, camp stores, marinas, or saddle barns.



**ICE BITES: LET THE ICE FISHING BEGIN**

Indiana Seasons change but your fishing habits don't have to—as long as you have the right equipment. As Indiana's waters cool, you can turn your attention to ice fishing. If you plan to ice fish, be sure to put safety first. Follow these tips for a safe and successful ice fishing season:

- Fish with a partner so that someone can call for help in case of an emergency.
- Carry ice picks to assist in pulling yourself out if you happen to fall through the ice.
- Wear ice cleats to avoid slipping and falling on the ice and possibly causing injury.
- Notify others where you will be fishing and when you expect to be home.
- Wear a flotation device and carry a rope in case of an emergency.

For more information on ice fishing, visit our Fishing Guide. Looking for places to fish? Visit our Where to Fish Map.

**HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOWS TO SHINE AT  
FIVE DNR DESTINATIONS**

On-site holiday light shows will shine at five DNR destinations this December. Santa

Ouabache State Park in Bluffton will host its ninth annual Wonderland of Lights nightly, Dec. 2–31, from 6 to 9 p.m. in its campground and throughout the park. The presentation features more than 40 light displays and a synchronized music and light show at the Civilian Conservation Corps fire tower. Cost is \$5 per vehicle.

Mounds State Park in Anderson will host its second Nights of Lights celebration Dec. 2–Jan. 1



on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only from 6 to 9:30 p.m. This year, 60 light displays will be featured in the campground along with decorated buildings throughout the park. Cost is \$5 per vehicle.

Lieber State Recreation Area in Cloverdale will host its second Lieber Winter Lights celebration Dec. 2–4 and 9–11 from 6 to 9 p.m. Donations will be accepted for the drive through the light display in the park and campground. There will be a photo opportunity available by the camp gate as you leave.

Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell is holding a drive-through holiday lights event in its campground on Dec. 2 and 3 from 6 to 9:45 p.m., the same weekend as its Holiday in the Village. Cost is \$5, and visitors can vote on the best-decorated site. The winner of the competition gets two nights of free camping in 2023. The campground is full for this event.

Starve Hollow State Recreation Area in Vallonia will host its first Christmas in the Campground on Dec. 17 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. The event will include a drive-through Christmas display and holiday activities in the Forest Education Center. The center is also where visitors can vote for their favorite campsites. A \$5 donation is suggested for this event.

Proceeds from the events go to the individual parks' Friends groups to fund park projects. Learn more about DNR Friends groups at [on.IN.gov/INstateparksfriends](https://on.IN.gov/INstateparksfriends).

**NRC APPROVES NEW NATURE PRESERVE  
IN GREENE COUNTY**

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) approved the dedication of Clemens Place on Clifty Creek Nature Preserve in Greene County during its regularly scheduled meeting yesterday at Fort Harrison State Park.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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PONTON BOATS - Weekend & Holidays		
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#### WINTER DRIVING TIPS FROM ISP SELLERSBURG

With colder temperatures in the forecast, it won't be long until winter driving conditions become the norm for many across the state, even here in the Sellersburg District. Unfortunately, many will only think about driving in snow and ice once confronted with the task. However, with our unseasonably warm temperatures, now is the time to prepare.

There is much that can be said and learned about winter driving. Below are a few common-sense tips, along with information gathered from our friends at the National Highway Traffic Administration (NHTSA) and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). Taking time to educate and prepare yourself now can save you a lot of time, money, and headaches once the inevitable winter weather hits. In 2020, an estimated 25,000 injury crashes occurred in wintry conditions (NHTSA).

This list is by no means an exhaustive or complete list of winter driving tips, but we here at ISP - Sellersburg hope they will help you and your loved ones drive safely this winter. But remember, they only help if you read and apply them!

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?

• **Tires** - As outside temperatures drop, so does the tire's inflation pressure. Ensure your tires are correctly inflated to the recommended pressures. To find the recommended pressure for your vehicle, check the label on the driver's side door jam or in the owner's manual. Don't use the tire pressure

listed on the tire's side, as this is generally the maximum pressure, not the recommended pressure. The tread should be at least 2/32 of an inch or greater on all tires. Remember your spare!

• **Snow tires?** - All-weather tires are great for everyday use, but tests have shown that snow tires can significantly increase your traction on snow and ice compared to all-season tires. All-Wheel drive, traction control, and other computerized systems on your car are great for helping to maintain or regain traction, but they won't increase your traction.

• **Battery** - Your car's battery is also negatively affected by cold temperatures. Now is an excellent time to check your battery and charging system.

• **Wipers** - Worn or damaged wipers are no match for snow and ice. Check and replace them if needed.

• **Wiper Fluid** - During heavy snow or on a slushy roadway, it is easy to empty your washer reservoir. Make sure to top it off now with a winter-grade fluid.

• **Emergency Kit** - Even for the safest drivers, crashes, breakdowns, and getting stuck on an unplowed road can happen. Don't be caught off-guard; have an emergency kit with a blanket, flashlight, jumper cables, road flares, or emergency lights available. You may also want to pack a small shovel and some kitty litter or sand to help

get "unstuck."

#### WHEN YOU HIT THE ROAD?

• Make sure you dress appropriately when headed out - coat/gloves/hat? That quick trip to the store could turn into an hour's wait for a wrecker or to dig yourself out.

• Clear your windows and lights of snow and ice, and make sure you can see and BE SEEN.

• Leave early.

• Slow down.

• Increase your following distance. Instead of your normal 3-second distance, increase it to eight or ten seconds on slick roadways.

• Accelerate and brake slowly and smoothly.

• Turn off your cruise control.

• Buckle UP / Phone Down

#### BE PATIENT & COURTEOUS WITH OTHERS.

• Don't crowd snowplows or drive beside the truck on two-lane roads. Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) employees will be working very hard to keep the roads moving; give them the space they need.

• Check on family and neighbors who may not be capable of driving in winter conditions.

• We're all in this together!

#### GREENFIELD MAN ARRESTED FOR I-65 ROAD RAGE SHOOTING

Indianapolis, IN - Yesterday morning, at 9:15 a.m., Indiana State Police Dispatchers received a 911 call about alleged shots being fired from one vehicle at another vehicle on I-65 near Washington Street in Indianapolis. The incident involved the driver of a gray or silver Ram pickup Truck firing a shot at a Jeep Patriot during a road rage encounter. Troopers were able to locate the suspect vehicle a short time later near Holt Road and I-70 and the driver was detained.

Indiana State Police Detectives were called to the scene and preliminary investigation led them to believe, 33 year old Justin McGuire of Greenfield Indiana, was driving the Ram pickup and became engaged in road rage. During the incident McGuire allegedly fired at least one shot at the Jeep striking the Jeep that was occupied by an adult driver and two children. The driver of the Jeep drove to a safe location and immediately notified police.

As a result of the investigation, Justin McGuire was arrested at the Indiana State Police Post in Indianapolis last night, he faces the preliminary charges of three counts of Criminal Recklessness.

This interstate shooting investigation marks the



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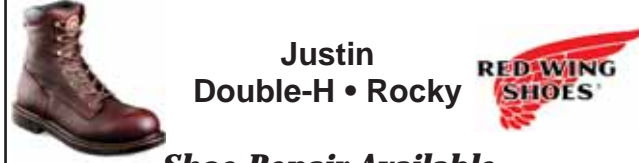
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61st shooting incident for Troopers at the Indianapolis Post on Indianapolis area interstates. Last year we investigated a total of 65 interstate shootings in the Indianapolis area.

McGuire was arrested on probable cause, actual charges will be determined by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office upon review of the case. All suspects are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

**PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING  
THE RICHARD ALLEN CASE**

The information below is being released on behalf of the Carroll County Prosecutor, Nicholas McLeland.

November 23, 2022

Re: Press Release concerning the Richard Allencase.

The Carroll County Prosecutor's Office appreciates the Judge hearing our arguments yesterday morning and looks forward to her ruling, we strongly believe the evidence shows Richard Allen was involved in the murder of Libby and Abby. Because the investigation is ongoing and given the intense public interest in this case, we think it would be best if the documents remain sealed. Regardless of the ruling, we believe we have a very solid case against Richard Allen and look forward to making our argument in trial.

Sincerely,

Nicholas C. McLeland

**TROOPERS INVESTIGATING SINGLE  
VEHICLE FATAL CRASH NEAR I-74 & I-465**

**Indianapolis, IN** - This morning at 8:27 a.m. Indiana State Troopers responded to a 911 call of a vehicle in the ditch near the interchange of I-465 and I-74 on the southeast side of Indianapolis. Sergeant John Haugh located the vehicle well off the roadway, heavily damaged with two adult males entrapped in the wreckage. He immediately called for paramedics and rescue personnel to respond. Sergeant Haugh, Senior Trooper Matt Wilson and Trooper Nick Cox were able to pull one of the men from the wreckage and provide medical aid. The driver was still heavily entrapped in the wreckage and Sgt. Haugh climbed into the vehicle and provided medical aid to the man until the Indianapolis Fire Department arrived. IFD was able to extricate the driver from the vehicle and he was transported to an area hospital by Indianapolis Emergency Services in critical condition. The passenger was pronounced deceased at the scene, he was not wearing a seatbelt.

Preliminary investigation determined the driver of a white Chrysler drove the vehicle off the road down into a deep crevasse and came to rest barely visible from the road or any of the ramps in the area. At this time investigators are not able to determine exactly what time the crash occurred.

The deceased passenger was identified as 29 year old Eddie Watson of Greenfield, Indiana.

The Marion County Coroner's Office responded to the scene to assist with the investigation and recover the remains of the deceased.

There is no further information to release at this time.

**LENGTHY STANDOFF IN JENNINGS  
COUNTY COMES TO CONCLUSION**

TA 12-hour standoff with an armed wanted man in rural Jennings County came to an end on Thursday afternoon when the suspect took his life.

The incident began shortly after midnight this morning when the Jennings County Sheriff's Office responded to a rural residence on County Road 550 West in western Jennings County, Indiana after receiving reports that a wanted man, Cory D. Jenkins, age 38, was at the residence. Jenkins was wanted on multiple felony warrants. When the deputies arrived on the scene, Jenkins barricaded himself inside the residence, holding family members inside against their will while in possession of a firearm. Deputies requested additional assistance from the Jennings County Sheriff's Office and the Indiana State Police. During the initial incident, Jenkins reportedly fired a gun inside the residence, although nobody was injured.

Troopers and deputies were eventually able to get three family members to safety after they climbed out a window of the home. The fourth person inside the residence with Jenkins was later allowed to leave. Additional resources, including two Indiana State Police SWAT Teams, the Jennings County SWAT Team, and negotiators responded to the scene. Over the next 12 hours, negotiators spoke to Jenkins in an attempt to have him leave the residence peacefully. He was observed holding a handgun multiple times during the incident.

The incident came to a conclusion shortly after noon today when Jenkins unfortunately took his own life.

Detectives with the Indiana State Police-Versailles Post are conducting a death investigation.

Cory Jenkins' family has been notified.

County Road 550 West and County Road 200 South in the area were closed throughout the duration of the incident.

The Indiana State Police was assisted by the Jennings County Sheriff's Office, Jennings County EMS, Spencer Township Fire Department, and Jennings County Coroner's Office.



During the search, troopers located approximately 3 ounces of methamphetamine, other controlled substances, hypodermic needles, and marijuana. (Indiana State Police Photo)

**CLARK COUNTY MAN ARRESTED FOR  
DEALING IN METHAMPHETAMINE AND  
OTHER CHARGES**

**Clark County – Wednesday, November 30, 2022:** Troopers with the Sellersburg Post All Crimes Policing Squad (ACP) arrested a Borden man on multiple drug-related charges Wednesday afternoon.

Trooper Brett Walters began an investigation in late November after learning about possible drug activity at the residence located at 121 Main Street in Borden, Indiana. The residence is located directly in front of the Borden Schools. Troopers used information gathered in that investigation and requested a search warrant for the home. On Wednesday, the ACP team served the warrant on the residence.

During the search, troopers located approximately 3 ounces of methamphetamine, other controlled substances, hypodermic needles, and marijuana.

As a result of the investigation, Troopers arrested the following:

**Joshua Tony Griffith, 47, Borden:**

1. Dealing in Methamphetamine – Level 2 Felony
2. Possession of Methamphetamine- Level 3 Felony
3. Possession of Paraphernalia - Level 6 Felony
4. Possession of Marijuana – Class A Misdemeanor

**Nicole E. Starrett, 47, Salem:**

1. Possession of a Syringe - Level 6 Felony
- Both Griffith and Starrett were incarcerated at the Clark County Jail without further incident.

“All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.”

**ISP INVESTIGATING CRASH AFTER  
CHILD RUSHED TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

Washington County - Wednesday, November 30, 2022: Indiana State Police (ISP) crash scene investigators and detectives are investigating a tragic early morning crash that sent a four-year-old child to the hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Around 8:30 Wednesday Morning, the Washington County Sheriff's Department requested ISP assistance with crash reconstruction after responding to a head-on crash involving injuries. ISP crash reconstruction specialist Trooper Tate Rohlfing and Detective Travis Baker responded to the scene to assist in the investigation.

As a result of the preliminary investigation, officers believe that a green 1996 Mazda passenger car, driven by 29-year-old Devin Roll of Pekin, Indiana, was eastbound and approaching a hillcrest on East Bill Miller Road just east of Blue River Church Road. At the same time, 58-year-old Rhonda Danser, also of Pekin, was westbound in a silver 2016 Kia Sportage and approaching the same hillcrest. As the two vehicles crested the hill, they struck head-on, colliding with the front driver's side of the other vehicle. Neither driver was seriously injured; however, a four-year-old child riding in the green Mazda was rushed by ground ambulance to Norton's Children's Hospital in Louisville with life-threatening injuries.

This crash is still under investigation.

The Washington County Sheriff's Department, the Pekin Town Marshall, the Washington County Ambulance Service, and the Pierce/Polk Volunteer Fire Department assisted in the investigation.

**TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO FELONY  
DRUG ARRESTS**

Clark County - Wednesday, December 7, 2022: a New Albany man was arrested on multiple dealing charges following an early morning traffic stop in Clarksville early Wednesday morning.

Just after Midnight on Wednesday, Trooper

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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