



The Torch

The official newsletter for Indiana state employees

Employees load the wagons with food and money

State employees scattered across Indiana combined their efforts and collected more than 81,000 non-perishable items and raised \$9,400 for local food banks. Money will be used to purchase additional needed non-perishables.

“I couldn’t be more proud of the efforts of state employees during this food drive,” said First Lady Cheri Daniels. “We had an

overwhelming response to our call to help fight hunger in our state.”

Employees with the Department of Child Services blew away the competition by collecting nearly 43,000 items. Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) employees with the Vincennes District came in second with 4,724 and third place went to the Indiana Department of Revenue. Revenue employees collected 3,283 items.



The top five donors to the food drive from the Evansville Psychiatric Children’s Center proudly display their Olympian style medals for their efforts.

Employees to be honored

Public Employee Appreciation Week will once again be observed by the state of Indiana. The week of May 4 through 8 has been set aside for this purpose.

One of the main events of the week will be the Governor’s Public Service Achievement Awards ceremony. This annual event honors state employees who have made Indiana state government more efficient, provided more responsive customer service and/or stretched tax dollars. All claims must be measurable and documented. Nominations must be made by the agency heads.

Rounding out the top 10: Evansville Psychiatric Children’s Center, State Personnel Department, Department of Homeland Security, Hoosier Lottery, Indiana State Police, Logansport State Hospital and INDOT’s Fort Wayne District.

Donations collected from the Indianapolis area benefitted Gleaners Food Bank. “The Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Food Drive generated nearly 40 tons of food for our bank alone,” said Pamela Altmeyer, Gleaners President and CEO. “This

impressive effort truly exemplifies the generosity that Indiana is known for. We want to extend a special thanks to everyone who assisted in feeding our hungry neighbors.”

Overall, 68 state agencies participated and 165 state employees volunteered to coordinate the event. The food drive benefitted 75 regional food banks and/or pantries.

Retiree Medical Benefits Plan still exists

Many have asked about the status of SEA 501, the Retiree Medical Benefits Plan. As of March 30, 2009, it remains in effect. No changes have been made to the plan.

While the governor’s budget did recommend that the program sunset at the end of this fiscal, the ultimate decision about the future of the plan will be made by the Indiana General Assembly, most likely as part of the budget bill. The State Budget Agency will continue to administer the plan as it exists today.



Governor Mitch Daniels conducted a question and answer session with Indiana Wesleyan University students in Marion. (Photo by Casper Hamlet)

Nine teams participated in the inaugural IndiCANa event, a can structure building competition, with the Indiana Office of Technology taking top honors. Photos from the food drive may be found at www.in.gov/firstlady/2465.htm

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Submit your story ideas in an e-mail to: spdcommunications@spd.in.gov



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SECC recognizes 2008-09 donors at awards ceremony

The 2008-2009 State Employees' Community Campaign (SECC) awards ceremony was held March 16 at the Indiana Statehouse to recognize agencies for their amazing efforts during this year's SECC.

First Lady Cheri Daniels, 2008-2009 SECC Chairperson, spoke to attendees and thanked the agency coordinators for their hard work during the



Pictured left to right: First Lady Cheri Daniels and Department of Revenue employees Bill Bahler, Iris Griggs and Brenda Jefferson. The Department of Revenue raised more than \$97,000 and increased agency pledges by 44 percent from last year's campaign.

campaign. Laura Halt, American Cancer Society, Central Indiana, spoke about the work the organization is doing to eliminate cancer as a major health problem through the use of research and education. The American Cancer Society received more than \$30,000 in pledges through this year's SECC.

More than 7,000 state employees pledged in excess of \$1.25 million to more than 1,600 charitable organizations, the most ever in its 30-year history. A total of 54 agencies reached the per capita giving level, meaning they raised at least \$50 per person within their agency.

Champion-level givers, those who give at least one-half hour's pay per paycheck, represented only 18 percent of the givers, but accounted for more

than 50 percent of the amount given.

Torchbearers, those who give at least \$1,000, reached an all-time high of 193. These individuals contributed more than \$314,000, nearly 25 percent of the total amount raised.



Laura Halt, of the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Cancer Society (ACS), addressed the crowd. State employees pledged more than \$30,000 to ACS in this year's campaign.

Explore Employee Discounts **Be the first to know**

Now that we have regional coordinators, discounts to state employees are available from nearly every corner of the state. Log onto the employee discount page frequently to see the latest offers – they're not just for Indianapolis anymore: www.in.gov/spd/2439.htm

Now is the time to quit smoking

With an increase in tobacco taxes just around the corner, there's never been a better time to quit smoking.



Beginning March 31, the federal tax on cigarettes is going up 62 cents and the federal tax on other tobacco products, such as small cigars and spit tobacco, increases too. But, by quitting now, you've got a chance to be on your way to a healthier life.

The revenue from the increased federal tobacco tax will help fund the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) which is designed to help expand health care coverage for kids.

Today's tough economy makes it hard to

quit using tobacco. But, as never before, there are resources out there to help people quit, including the free Indiana Tobacco Quitline, 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669). Or log on to learn more at www.indianatobaccoquitline.net

Open daily from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m., the free Quitline is staffed with trained "quit coaches" ready to assist Hoosiers with advice and counseling on ways to quit. Another way to quit is to talk with your doctor or dentist. They can help with a prescription designed to help you break your addiction to nicotine.

"Regardless of how you quit, it's important that you try," said Karla Sneeegas, executive director, Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation agency. "The pressures that all of us face make it doubly hard, but in the end, you'll feel better and save money, too."

While there, sign up to receive notices whenever updates are made to the discount page. That way, you'll be among the first to know the latest.



Original artwork by Jerry Williams

Indiana State Museum offers summer camps discounts for state employees

The 2009 camp season unleashes six weeks of excitement and educational activities beginning June 8 at the Indiana State Museum. It's never too early to start thinking of summer. Bring your sunglasses, sunscreen and a smile to the camp of your choice. Each week offers a

Exploring Nature Camp

June 8 – 12; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Ages: 7-10
- Cost: \$100 member
- Registration deadline: May 25

Join the Indiana State Museum and Eagle Creek Park as we explore the fossils, plants and wildlife found in our parks and backyards. Through the exhibit Footprints: Balancing Nature's Diversity, campers will explore Ice Age fossils, native species and learn how to protect their environment. Campers put that knowledge into practice at Eagle Creek Park through hiking, exploring pond life and cooling off in a crazy creek stomp!

Indiana Archaeology: The Adventure Beneath Your Feet

June 22 – 26; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Ages: 9-12
- Cost: \$100 member
- Registration deadline: June 8

Have you ever wondered how archaeologists explore ancient civilizations? Now you can find out. Discover first-hand how archaeologists use artifacts from 12,000 years ago through today to understand how people lived in the past. Test your skills with prehistoric tools using pump drills, and throwing spears with an atlatl. See if you have what it takes to become an archaeologists and uncover the secrets of the buried past!

Picture This! Photography Camp

July 6 – 10; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Ages: 12 - 15
- Cost: \$185 member
- Registration deadline: June 22

Point and click, it's that easy! Or is it? Campers will sharpen their skills with 35mm film photography while learning how to properly expose, shoot and then print black and white film in the camp's darkroom. Later in the week, families are welcome to attend the Photo Exhibit. Each camper needs a non-disposable, non-digital 35mm camera.

Fiber Arts Camp

July 13 – 17; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Ages: 9-13
- Cost: \$185 member
- Registration deadline: June 29

Knitting, crocheting, quilting and cross-stitching, oh my! Campers will learn basic fiber art techniques, get a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum's textile collection and meet the museum staff who preserve them. Campers can keep all supplies used, including instruction manuals, for

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new topic that will encourage teamwork and creativity while building lasting memories.

As a state employee, you are entitled to discounted member rates for the museum's summer camps until May 25.

State agencies taking advantage of Project Search

Have you heard of Project Search Indiana? If not, maybe your agency should take a look.

Project Search (PSI) is a work immersion program that provides training and education employment and education opportunities for students with developmental and cognitive disabilities transitioning from high school. While on the job, interns learn job skills and build a resume. A few state agencies have already taken advantage of the program in their day-to-day operations.

At the Indiana Commission on Public Records (ICPR), a PSI intern recently completed an eight-week internship in the Micrographics and Imaging Services Division. Brian Taylor, an ICPR supervisor, said his agency had a great experience with intern Christopher Aldridge.

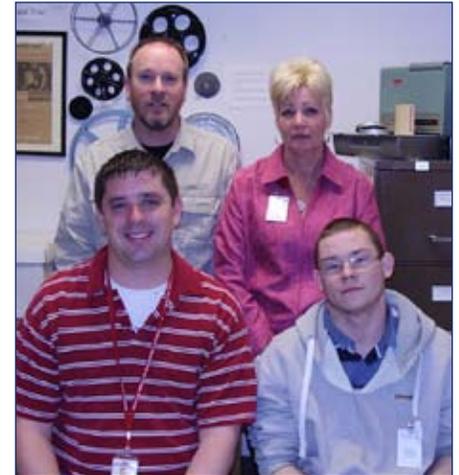
"Christopher was very quick to learn what was needed for the preparation of the records," Taylor said. "By the end of the first week he was averaging three cubic feet of records per day."

Taylor encourages other agencies to look at their needs and see how they could use the program. "It's a good cause and not only are you getting free help, but you are helping to introduce these kids to the world that is ahead of them when they get out of school."

The State Personnel Department also took advantage of Project Search and hired intern Rebecca Johnson to work in its Human Resources Data Division.

"It was wonderful to work with and mentor someone and hopefully make

If your child is interested in attending one of the camps, visit us at www.indianamuseum.org for more information on activities, policies and services. Before and after care is available. Pre-registration is required. Call 317.232.1637 to register, and be prepared to have a great summer.



Pictured in front, from left are Taylor and Aldridge with Tim Rathz, PERF and Debbie Martin, ICPR in back.

a good impact on their future," Jeana Jefferson, HR Data Supervisor said. "I would definitely welcome another intern through Project Search."

Sycamore Services of Danville works with the PSI interns from Ben Davis and Avon High School who interview with agencies. The agencies then select and place the interns based on the interviews.

"We are finding that the interns have a lot great skills," Virginia Bates of Sycamore Services said. "They are scanning documents, filing and picking up recyclables for Greening the Government."

Bates said Project Search is looking for more state agencies and businesses to make use of the program and "hopes for 12 to 15 interns next year rotating through three different jobs for 10 weeks."

For more information on Project Search, contact Virginia Bates at (317) 224-9633 or e-mail her at vmbates@sycamoreservices.com

Classifieds

Please respect the following rules when submitting items:

- Ads are limited to state employees only.
- Contact information must include either a phone number with area code (home or cell, no state numbers) or a home e-mail address.
- Submit ads via e-mail to spdccommunications@spd.in.gov, information must be included in the body of the e-mail, no photos or attachments. No bold or italic type, no ALL CAPS.
- Limit one ad per employee per issue; each ad has a limit of three items.
- Deadline is the 10th of the month prior to the next issue.
- No weapons, no animals, no food items.
- No real estate, for sale or rent, including mobile homes, manufactured housing, timeshares, etc.
- No Avon, Mary Kay, vitamins, etc.
- No memberships, businesses or professional services (i.e., tax preparation, car repair, etc.).
- Ads will run for one issue only.
- State Personnel Department staff reserves the right to edit and/or refuse any ads.

16mm Bell & Howell film projector w/separate amplified speaker; w matching cases w/ travel covers. \$50 obo. Call Ed, 317-257-7815.

2001 Cub Cadet lawn tractor; 14hp, hydrostatic, shaft drive, new battery, utility cart, like new. \$950. Call after 5 pm 317-244-2753.

2006 Flat bed tilt trailer; excellent condition. \$300 obo. 2001 Suzuki Intruder 1400; 1360 cc's, blue/black, cruise control, saddle bags, cover, maintenance & repair books, 27,000 mi. \$3,500 obo. Call 765-460-4925 or Josh_n_kristal@yahoo.com

Highlander TV series w/ Adrian Paul; all 6 seasons, each season has its own box, boxes & DVDs excellent shape. \$150. Nora Roberts' Sign of the Seven trilogy; book club edition hardcovers, excellent condition. \$15. Contact Lynne, 317-727-7847.

Prom dresses; A-line periwinkle gown w/ sheer wrap, size 13; matching strappy heels size 9 or 9 1/2. \$50. Red dress w/ sheer wrap; size 12. \$30. 4-pc formal dress; floor-length, plum. \$30. Call Amanda, 317-332-8678 or e-mail chevaughn4037@yahoo.com

Indoor wicker chaise w/ cushion; nice, dark wicker, good condition \$75 obo. Cheval mirror wicker w/ wrought iron bottom. \$50 obo. Microwave cart; wood. \$32. Call 812-405-2149

after 6 pm or e-mail: carosu29@comcast.net

2 small Victorian slipper chairs w/ rolled & button backs; professionally upholstered, dark blue. \$150 each or both \$275. Chippendale reproduction multi-drawer table. \$200. E-mail judygarroll@subglobal.net or call 812-552-3009.

Snapper zero turn mower; 52-in. cut, commercial quality, less than 100 hours, same as new. \$3,500 obo. 1929 Ford Model A; 2-dr sedan, all original, runs great. \$11,000. 1963 Pontiac Bonneville; 421 engine, completely restored, 4-dr hardtop, 16 bolt wheels. \$13,000. Call 812-755-5343 after 6 pm or leave message.

LG Dare cell phone; excellent condition, 3.2 mp camera, blue tooth, music player, removable memory, VZ navigator, touch screen, speaker phone, text talkability. \$160. Call Jackee Tucker, 317-691-8913.

2002 Chevrolet Silverado 4x4; loaded, excellent condition, 123K mostly hwy mi. \$10,400 obo. Contact Mike, 812-599-2100 or stackhousefirefighter@yahoo.com

Tell City antique bedroom suite; 5 pieces. \$1,200. Call 812-989-2848 or 812 256-5273.

Yakima RailRider; 2 roof rack w/ 48" bars; Fits 91-97 Jeep Cherokee/Wagoneer, 93-97 Grand Cherokee, 93-95 Grand Wagoneer & some 91-97 Isuzu and Kia. \$50. Call Sam, 317-834-0829 or jake1057@hotmail.com

2005 Keystone Sprinter 5th wheel camper w/ 2 slide-outs; good condition. \$18,000 obo. Contact Lea Ann Gehlhausen, shortyone@psci.net or call 812-549-7022 or 812-357-2747.

Antique school desk; dark stained wood bench & desk top, about 100 yrs old. \$75. Entertainment Center; solid oak light colored, has 2 4-shelving units 3' x 2.5' x 6.5', detached mid section 6' x 3' x 2.5', excellent condition. \$675. 2 light oak spindle bar stools; seats pivot. \$40. Call 317 752-5692 or e-mail pan4gold49@gmail.com

2003 John Deere 790 utility tractor 4x4; 72" finish mower, 300 series heavy duty front loader, tooth bar, JD canopy, 5' rear tiller, 200 hrs. \$15,500. New Generac generator; 3500 watts/max 4375 watts, 6.5 hp motor. \$500. 2006 Hyundai Elantra; silver, 5 spd manual, new tires, clean, power windows & locks, 4 cyl. Call for price. Contact Nelson, 812-623-4670 or halfbarrell@yahoo.com or clarnel@nalu.net

Kenmore washer & dryer; about 3 yrs old, excellent condition. \$200 for set. Contact roguecat_1@juno.com or 317-473-1051.

5-pc dinette set; good condition. \$700 obo. Queen-size bedroom suite; excellent condition.

\$900 obo. King-size bedroom suite; excellent condition. \$950 obo. Call 317-292-0039 or 317-457-8299.

8.5 HP Craftsman shredder/chopper; gas powered, excellent condition. \$400 Call 317-910-4523, leave msg.

Verizon Motorola Razr V3M; silver, Motorola headphones, cables & charger, original box, manuals & software, excellent condition. \$40. Contact rhodf@sbcglobal.net

Caparros satin sequined heels; ivory, size 8, 2 1/2 heel. Some wear & tear. \$15. Off-the-shoulder Jessica McClintock gown; ivory, size 16, embroidery & crystal detail at waist, excellent condition, perfect bridesmaid or prom dress. \$100. E-mail lw1157@me.com

Correction

Last month's article about online training needs mentioned self enrolling for training. However, enrollments for ethics training must be handled by human resources associates to ensure compliance within the six-week training requirements set forth in the Code of Ethics. Employees cannot self-enroll in this training, unlike other online training.

Continued from pg. 3

State Museum summer camps

use after camp to encourage their learning in these techniques.

Wildlife Survivor: Indiana

July 20 – 24; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Ages: 9-12
- Cost: \$185 member
- Registration deadline: July 6

What does it take to survive in the wild? What happened to Indiana's Ice Age animals? What animals live here now? Campers will discover the answers to these questions and more as they participate in hands-on fossil hunting and animal exploration. See how animals adapt to their environment, what happened to those that did not, and what we can do for the future.

History Alive!

July 27 – 31; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Ages: 9-13
- Cost: \$100 member
- Registration deadline: July 13

Are you ready to build a cabin? Were Hoosiers in the Civil War? Through hands-on activities and demonstrations, campers will experience what life was like for Hoosiers from the early 1800s to today. Campers will "pack" their own wagon for the journey west to Indiana, interact with a Civil War soldier and see firsthand how the Indiana State Museum preserves the Indiana story.