

Community news

By **Staff report**

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Gary student wins essay contest

Raquel Atkins, a fifth-grader at Glen Park Academy in Gary, won first place in the National Center for State Courts' (NCSC) 2018 Civics Education Essay Contest, which is divided into three categories: elementary, middle and high school. The contest, which focused on the separation of powers, asked students to answer this question: "Why did the Founding Fathers create the three branches of government?" In all, 582 students from 26 states, Washington D.C., India and Italy participated. The winning essays are selected based on accuracy, creativity and originality. This year, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor and retired Alaska Supreme Court Chief Justice Dana Fabe judged finalists' entries. The justices favored fifth-grader Raquel Atkins' essay because it included images. Chief Justice O'Connor said the essay "was completely reflective of children's new learning pattern." The NCSC is a nonprofit court organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts.

Residences at Coffee Creek welcomes new staff

Residences at Coffee Creek, 2300 Village Point, Chesterton, has announced Kaitlynn Redmon as executive director and Natalie Reisen as marketing coordinator. Both will serve as an integral part of the leadership team as the doors open to new senior living residents this summer. Redmon joins the team with ten years of senior living experience. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Indiana University South Bend and has a minor in business administration. Redmon is a licensed Indiana Health Facility Administrator and has had extensive training in residential and **dementia** care throughout her career. Reisen joins the team with six years of healthcare marketing and senior living experience. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication from **Purdue University** North Central and holds a Masters of Business Administration from University of Saint Francis. In addition, she is also a Certified Dementia Practitioner. Slated to open this summer, Residences at Coffee Creek is locally owned and operated, providing a collection of private, senior living apartments, with maintenance-free living and personalized care, if needed. More information is at 219-921-5200 or www.ResidencesatCoffeeCreek.com.

Valpo financial advisor named among Best-In-State

Dan Wilburn, an independent financial advisor at LPL financial in Valparaiso, was recently recognized by **Forbes** as one of the 2018 Best In State Wealth Advisors. Advisors selected for the inaugural list were assessed on their financial expertise, community involvement and client retention data.

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Wilburn, president of R.B. Smith Co., Inc., has been providing financial services to more than 250 clients in the Northwest Indiana area for over 25 years. More information is at www.rbsmithinc.com.

Catholic Foundation accepting grant applications

The Catholic Foundation has announced the availability of grant funding through its Mercy Fund. Created by Bishop Donald J. Hying in recognition of Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy, the inaugural grant cycle will prioritize projects that embody spiritual and corporal works of mercy within the Diocese of Gary. All Catholic tax-exempt 501(c)3 organizations located within the Diocese of Gary and any organization listed within the Catholic Directory are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$5,000. Applications deadline is June 1. Winners will be announced Aug. 10. Guidelines and applications are at www.catholicfuture.org. More information is with Liz Metts at 219-769-9292, Ext. 290, or lmetts@catholicfuture.org.

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