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**IU women visit Purdue for 6 p.m. tip**

Grace Berger


# The Herald-Times

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# AWAKENING YOUNG WRITERS

Shane Gibson, Sycamore Land Trust's environmental education director, helps hand out copies of his book "Wake Up, Woods" Friday to every student at Unionville Elementary School. (Rich Janzaruk / Herald-Times)

## Local author shares writing process with Unionville students

**By Emily Cox**
The Herald-Times

For Shane Gibson, Sycamore Land Trust's environmental education director, a love of nature developed at a young age. A love of writing came later, and last year, the two combined as Gibson published his first book, "Wake Up, Woods."

As the students of Unionville Elementary School sat cross-legged on the gym floor, Gibson projected pictures of himself when he was their ages — canoeing on Sugar Creek near Turkey Run State Park, riding his bike, climbing in a tree or proudly holding a fishing pole.

Gibson said his dad got him interested in hunting, fishing and being in nature.

"He loved it, and it made me love it," Gibson said. "So I started sharing it with my kids. I started sharing it with teachers or kids that I worked with in schools, sharing my love of nature."

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Victoria Rosinko listens Friday as Shane Gibson talks about writing his book. (Rich Janzaruk / Herald-Times)

LEGISLATURE 2020

## Income tax council voting is at issue

Bill that would change procedures advances to state Senate for consideration

**By Ernest Rollins**
The Herald-Times

No taxation without representation.

That is one of the arguments state Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, made on the Indiana House floor last week as he sought the support of his colleagues at the Statehouse for a bill that would change the voting procedures on local income tax councils. The House passed the bill Thursday and it was referred to the Senate for consideration.

Thompson, who authored House Bill 1065, said on the floor Thursday that the current voting procedure for income tax councils allows for taxation without representation. He added a small group of elected officials can make changes to a local income tax that affects an entire county.

House Bill 1065 changes the voting procedures for local income tax councils, among other tax provisions. Under Indiana law, a local income tax council has the power impose, increase or decrease the income tax for a county. Each fiscal body included on the income tax council are allocated a certain number of votes out of 100 based on what percentage of the population the elected body represents. The law also states that the fiscal bodies vote as a bloc when taking action on local income taxes.

In Monroe County, the local income tax council is composed of the Bloomington City Council, Ellettsville Town Council,

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## National CNA certification is offered at Hoosier Hills

**By Emily Cox**
The Herald-Times

Hoosier Hills Career Center, which offers career development programs for students in nine area high schools, was the first in the state to offer a certified nurse assistant apprenticeship. Now students can also earn national certification from the United States Department of Labor, meaning they can get jobs anywhere in the country.

Once students earn the state certification, they can earn a national certification by working a minimum of 1,000 hours through apprenticeships, said Christi McBride, director of Hoosier Hills Career Center. Students can do this through the center while still in high school. Amanda Johnson, Hope Montgomery and Kennedi Wooten, 2019 graduates who did CNA apprenticeships, all exceeded the minimum requirement and currently have jobs in the health care field.

JOHNSON

MONTGOMERY

Family members, community members, teachers and current students gathered on

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## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST FOR SOUTH-CENTRAL INDIANA

| Today | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 62 53 | 56 31 | 38 32 | 37 28 | 37 27 |
| More clouds than sun. Rain likely at night. | Cloudy, with periods of rain. | Rain/snow showers begin in the afternoon. | Rain mixed with snow. 1" accumulation in p.m. | Snow showers early. 40% chance of rain. |

**Updates online**

The latest National Weather Service forecast, radar and severe weather alerts are at **HoosierTimes.com/weather**, where you can also see an hour-by-hour forecast.

# Experts: Old infrastructure hurts US steel mills

Associated Press

GARY — Aging infrastructure could be adversely affecting operations at steel mills along the Lake Michigan shoreline in northwestern Indiana, according to experts.

An explosion rocked ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor in East Chicago just after Christmas and damaged a furnace and control room. Gary Works, in Gary, suffered extensive flooding just before Thanksgiving that forced the temporary shutdown of its blast furnaces.

"Many steel mills in the U.S. are more than a century old," said Anthony B. Sindone, a clinical assistant professor of Finance and Economic Development at Purdue University Northwest, noting that much of the infrastructure at the Gary Works and ArcelorMittal plants is "rather aged."

"While some capital improvements have been made at these and other plants around the country, these improvements have not essentially replaced the century-old equipment in large numbers," Sindone told the (Northwest Indiana) Times.

But steelmakers haven't been in the best financial position to make major capital investments due to depressed steel prices, according to the newspaper.

Steel traded at $550 per metric ton on Nov. 29, which still was down nearly 29% from the same day in 2018, Sindone said.

"Based on these price pressures as well as competitive challenges, it is no surprise that steel production plant and equipment remain as old as they are," he said.

Water pipes are aging and in need of replacement everywhere, not just at steel mills, according to Charles Bradford, a New York City-based steel industry analyst with Bradford Research.

Integrated steel mills have made major investments in relining blast furnaces and other projects, but maintenance is often the first thing that gets deferred when cost-cutting is needed because of a downturn in market conditions, Bradford said.

"When you're an accountant running one of these companies, maintenance looks like an obvious place you want to cut, even though it might be deadly," he added. "That's the way you kill people."

Micah Pollak, an assistant professor of economics at Indiana University Northwest, said there should be no reason that a plant or factory can't operate far longer than a century if it has been properly maintained and modernized.

"It is true, in general, that the older a plant is the more expensive it can be to continue to maintain and modernize it," Pollak said. "However, provided these investments are made, there is no reason it cannot continue to operate safely."

ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor has been ramping back up operations at the furnace that transforms pig iron into steel for appliances, cars, and countless other uses. Recovery from the outage "will allow us to continue meeting customer demand as anticipated," said William Steers, an ArcelorMittal spokesman.

Shane Gibson, Sycamore Land Trust's environmental education director, talks to Unionville Elementary students Friday about writing "Wake Up, Woods." (Rich Janzaruk / Herald-Times)

## WRITING

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Hands rose in the air as he asked if students remembered maple syrup day from the last school year — a day when students tasted sap and syrup, made spiles and learned about the syrup-making methods of the Native Americans and pioneer settlers.

Gibson got interested in how words tell a story through a comedic radio show, but he didn't become interested in writing until his senior year of high school, he said. In college, the margins of his notebooks were filled with doodles and writing. He still has a notebook with Wayne's World on the front from his high school poetry class. Through the years, he kept track of what he wrote, whether observations jotted down in a notebook or a poem written on an index card while in the woods. A poem that Gibson wrote in 2011 was the basis for "Wake Up, Woods."

His book will be distributed by the Library of Congress's Center for the Book during the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. Each year, a list of books for children are selected from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands for this honor.

The book has informational text and verses about plants that are native to Indiana and can be found in the spring. Gibson said what he loves about the book is that it can be read multiple ways and isn't just for young people.

"If you just want to look at the pictures and look at all the labels of the bees and the different animals associated with a plant, you will learn a ton," he said. "There's so much to learn. If you want to read all the factual information, you can do that. If you want to just read the poems, you can do that. You can even read just a page at a time. You don't even have to read the whole book at once."

After Gibson read a segment to the students, principal Lily Albright presented him with a copy of the book signed by students and told him the school raised hundreds of dollars for Sycamore Land Trust.

The surprises weren't over, though, because each student got their own copy of the book, thanks to the Unionville parent teacher organization. As the books were brought into the gym, students stood up, cheering and clapping.

Iris Wade, a second grader, said after hearing Gibson share his stories and the process of writing "Wake Up, Woods," she felt inspired to keep writing — she and her friends have already written a book series. The surprise of being given the book was a good one, she said, because she thinks reading is a really good way to pass the time.

"Wake Up, Woods" is written by Gibson and Michael A. Homoya and illustrated by Gillian Harris, all Hoosiers. Those interested in purchasing the book can contact Gibson at gibbyshane74@yahoo.com.

Contact Emily Cox at 812-331-4243, ecox@heraldt.comor follow @HT_InSchool on Twitter.

## CNA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Wednesday for a ceremony where Montgomery and Johnson received their certificates. While Wooten couldn't make it because of working a double shift, she earned the certification as well.

"Stick it out," Johnson said to the students. "It's hard, but you guys can all do it."

John Delgado, state director of the office of apprenticeship for Indiana with the U.S. Department of Labor, said this is a community that supports its youth.

"Number two in the nation right now of where the jobs are is in health care," Delgado said. "Be proud of what you do, be proud of your occupation, do the best that you can."

Now, other career centers and high schools in the state have followed the lead of Hoosier Hills Career Center to offer a CNA apprenticeship, he said.

This is the third year that Hoosier Hills Career Center has offered the program, and it was also the first in the state to offer dementia friendly caregiver certification, McBride said.

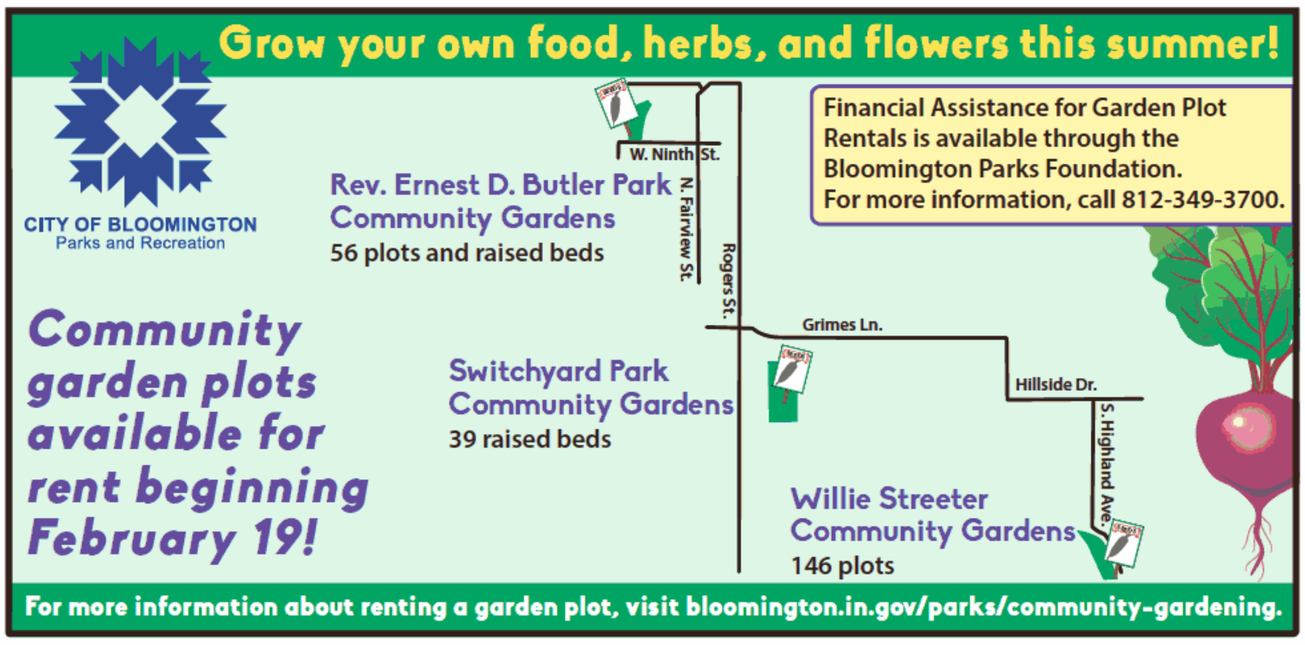
Students haven't had to pay for necessary physicals, criminal history checks and drug screenings due to a $582,000 grant from the Department of Workforce Development. With matching funds, Hoosier Hills Career Center ended up getting around $1.2 million.

"Our goal was to remove those barriers," McBride said.

Johnson, who now works at IU Health Bloomington and Jill's House, said looking back, she realizes how special it was to be able to earn the national certification at 18 years old.

"It's something that you don't think you're going to brag about but you really do," Johnson said.

Montgomery, who works at Stonecroft Health Campus, an assisted living facility in Monroe County, said some elderly people don't have families that visit them, so she has become like family to them.

"I love it," Montgomery said. "I wouldn't trade it for the world."

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