

# IRS reminds taxpayers to take advantage of recent tax changes

Comet staff report

The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers as part of their year end tax planning to be aware of recent tax changes as well as recently reinstated tax deductions.

"Some tax breaks and a review of your current tax situation may result in a bigger refund or less taxes to be paid come tax time," said IRS Spokesperson Jodie Reynolds.

The Internal Revenue Service offers these tax tips to consider.

**First-Time Homebuyers Tax Credit** - First-time homebuyers should begin planning now to take advantage of a new tax credit available for a limited time. The credit applies to primary home purchases between April 9, 2008 and June 30, 2009. This tax credit must be paid back in equal payments over 15 years. The credit is 10 percent of the purchase price of the home, with a maximum available credit of \$7,500 for either a single taxpayer or a married couple filing jointly. First-time homebuyers are those who have not owned a home in the three years prior to a purchase.

**Real Estate Tax Deduction** - There is an additional standard deduction for those who

don't qualify to itemize their tax deductions, but pay real estate taxes. The additional deduction amount is equal to the amount of real estate taxes paid up to \$500 for single filers or up to \$1,000 for joint filers. This deduction is available for the 2008 and 2009 tax years. This property tax deduction is in addition to the standard deduction used by filers.

**Tuition and Fees Deduction** - You may be able to deduct qualified tuition and required enrollment fees up to \$4,000 that you pay for yourself, your spouse, or a dependent. You do not have to itemize to take this deduction. However, a taxpayer cannot take both the tuition and fees deduction and education credits (Hope & Lifetime Learning Credits) for the same student in the same year. Income limits and other special rules apply to each of these provisions. To determine whether your expenses are qualified, refer to IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education. IRS Publication 970 also describes other education-related tax benefits.

**Educators' Out of Pocket Expense Deduction** - The educator expense deduction allows teachers and other educators to deduct the cost of books, supplies, equipment and software used in the

classroom. Eligible educators include those who work at least 900 hours during a school year as a teacher, instructor, counselor, principal or aide in a public or private elementary or secondary school. Worth up to \$250, the educator expense deduction is available whether or not the educator itemizes deductions on Schedule A.

**Recovery Rebate Credit** - If you did not qualify or did not receive the maximum amount for the 2008 Economic Stimulus Payment you may be entitled to a Recovery Rebate Credit when you file your 2008 tax return. Review the tax return filing instructions including the Recovery Rebate Credit worksheet.

**Recordkeeping** - Are your tax records organized? The IRS encourages taxpayers to take the time now to gather and organize their records to reduce stress at tax time.

**IRS.gov Web site** - Check out the latest tax changes on the IRS.gov Web site and remember to e-file your tax return which helps ensure you do not miss out on any tax deductions, credits and benefits.



## McClain named to House committees

State Rep. Richard McClain (R-Logansport) was assigned to the Ways and Means Committee and the Statutory Committee on Ethics by Republican Leader Brian C. Bosma. McClain will serve on these committees for the next two years since assignments are made biannually.

Standing committees are an integral part of the legislative process in the House of Representatives. Legislation will get assigned, at the speaker's discretion, to the committee it most pertains to. Committees will then work out the details of the proposed legislation before it is heard on the House floor. A wide variety of legislation will be heard in committee during the upcoming session.

The upcoming 2009 legislative session runs from Jan. 7 to April 29. For questions or comments regarding this session, Rep. McClain can be reached at h24@IN.gov, or call his office at 1-800-382-9841.

## Hershman lauches 'virtual office'

State Sen. Brandt Hershman's senate district launched a new online "virtual office." The service will allow public interaction with state officials and government by a click of the mouse.

To access current legislation, view live hearings, provide immediate input and receive e-updates log onto [www.in.gov/Senator.Hershman](http://www.in.gov/Senator.Hershman).

rests. They also issued 56 truck citations for over 10,000 pounds gross weight.

Citizens are encouraged to report suspected methamphetamine activity by calling the Indiana State Police Methamphetamine Tip Hotline at 1-800-453-4756.

# ISP issues report

Comet staff report

Indiana State Police at the Lafayette Post has released statistics for November. Troopers issued 1,538 traffic citations and wrote 906 traffic warnings. Troopers also arrested 20 drunk drivers and made 75 criminal ar-

rests. They also issued 56 truck citations for over 10,000 pounds gross weight.

cent light bulbs (CFLs) which are energy-efficient, money-saving replacements for traditional incandescent light bulbs.

Changing your incandescent light bulb to a CFL reduces energy demand, which reduces the amount of coal burned and mercury emitted.

"We want to stress that one person can make a difference," Commissioner Easterly said. "It all starts with one person making a simple, small change. Multiply that small change by the six million Hoosiers living in Indiana and you create a large state-wide impact. That's an impact that can truly change the future."

Participating in Hoosiers Care is easy and free. The first step is to complete the pledge which asks participants to promise to take one easy step to start changing the future.

To take the Hoosiers Care pledge, visit [www.HoosiersCare.IN.gov](http://www.HoosiersCare.IN.gov).

## Washington Twp.

Marilyn Hile  
Deer Creek 859-4871

Deer Creek Presbyterian Church will host its monthly Saturday morning breakfast on Jan. 3 at the church. Serving will be from 7 to 10 a.m. Proceeds will go to Bonnie Cossairt to help her with her medical expenses.

Deer Creek Presbyterian Church has a new book for the book club to read entitled "Ninety Minutes in Heaven" by Don Piper. Discussion will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 26. in the church library.

Deer Creek Community Center will have a Euchre Party there on Jan. 25. A light supper will be served. Cost is \$10.

Faith Lutheran Church will have a Family Fun Night on Jan. 9 starting at 6 p.m. with a covered dish meal to share.

## Burlington

Cheryl Milburn  
Burlington 566-3453

The town council will meet at 10 a.m. today, Wednesday, in the town hall for a year-end meeting.

Community Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the park.

Park Board will meet at 7 p.m. Jan. 7.

Kiwanis Club will meet Saturday at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and meeting at the fire station.

Stillers will host a New Year's Eve celebration for members and friends of the Church of Christ. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and those attending should take a snack and white elephant gift.

Alters will host a New Year's Eve party for members and friends of Faith Church of Christ, starting at 8:30 p.m.

Faith Family Life Center will be open for volleyball from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 8 for anyone in sixth grade and older.

The First Brethren Church will have a communion service at 5 p.m. Jan. 1.

## Camden

Mary Whitfield  
Camden 686-2553

Camden American Legion Auxiliary Unit 413 will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the Legion Home. Hostesses will be Twylia Wertz and Grace Arion.

Volunteer firemen will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the Fireman's Lounge.

Blood pressure checks will be given at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Fireman's Lounge.

Mount Zion Lodge No. 211, F.&A.M., will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Masonic Temple.

Camden Lions Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 7 in the Fireman's Lounge. The meal will be provided by Mike Gillam and Eric Foreman.

Camden Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Jan. 8 in the Reading Room at the Camden library.

United Methodist Women have cancelled their meetings for January and February.

Students will return to school on Monday.

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Today, too many children, teens and sibling groups are in desperate need of qualified, matched foster parents to guide them on their way to a brighter tomorrow.

You can help give a child a winning start. Learn more about becoming a foster parent by attending one of The Villages' upcoming Foster Parent Info Nights.

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 6:00 p.m., Villages Office, 300 Main St., Suite 201 in Lafayette

To learn more about the many ways you can make a difference in a child's life, call 1-800-465-9144 or visit [www.VillagesKids.org](http://www.VillagesKids.org).



## Police & Fire Calls

Police reports are gathered from available records on file at local police departments. This information is a matter of public record and does not imply guilt or innocence. Information for fire reports is also gathered from reports on file with local fire departments.

### Delphi Police Dept.

Dec. 22, 2 p.m. - Theft, 100 block of S. Washington St. Cash and gift certificates stolen from an unlocked vehicle owned by Mark A. Wagoner, Cutler, while parked near the courthouse. Sgt. Brook McCain investigated.

Dec. 26, 9 a.m. - Property damage, SR25. Jorge Roman-Morales, 28, Delphi, ran off the road. Officer David Yeager responded.

Dec. 26, 3:50 p.m. - Property damage, W. Main St. at the railroad tracks. Neftali Alonso Ramirez, 25, Logansport, and Holly A. Muller, 45, Monticello. Yeager responded.

### Sheriff's Dept.

**Property damage**  
Dec. 14, 1 p.m. - CR270W. near CR640N. Andrew M. Combs, 23, Camden. Sheriff Tony Burns responded.

Dec. 16, 7:28 p.m. - SR39 near CR100N. Cassidy L. Oliver, 16, Delphi. Burns responded.

Dec. 19, 4:19 a.m. - SR29 near CR350S. Javier Mancera, 30, Logansport. K-9 Deputy Tony Liggitt responded.

Dec. 19, 6:18 a.m. - CR775S. near CR500S. Elizabeth M. LaFrance, 46, Rossville. Reserve Deputy Craig Myers responded.

Dec. 20, 11:30 a.m. - Deer Meadows Rd. at CR1410N. Peter J. Fife, 20, Delphi. Det. Steve Mullin responded.

Dec. 20, 1:29 p.m. - CR400N. at CR1136W. Brandon L. Dick-

son, 19, Monticello, and Geary Dudley, 57, Delphi. Mullin responded.

Dec. 21, 12:20 a.m. - US421 near Prince William Rd. Melvin F. Bennett, 55, Muncie, was cited for an infraction. Deputy Jay Schimmel responded.

Dec. 21, 1:53 p.m. - Deer Meadow Rd. near CR800W. Brandon K. Maxwell, 32, Delphi. Sgt. Dennis Randle responded.

Dec. 22, 6:20 a.m. - Prince William Rd. near CR350W. Monica L. Gangwer, 21, Cutler. Deputy John Chapman responded.

Dec. 23, 2 p.m. - 6755 CR100N. Vehicular damage done to a blue Dodge Neon in the IPC parking lot. Det. Kevin Hammond responded.

Dec. 23, 3:10 p.m. - SR18 near CR500E. Joseph F. Newkirk, 32, Crawfordsville. Burns responded.

Dec. 23, 10:45 p.m. - CR300W. at Towpath Rd. Colleen M. Appleton, 26, Delphi. Mullin responded.

Dec. 24, 12:50 p.m. - CR600S. at CR450W. Mark A. Ward, 53, Rossville. Mullin responded.

Dec. 23, 4:30 p.m. - SR75 near CR400S. Henry L. Hawkins, 60, Frankfort. Burns responded.

Dec. 23, 5:45 p.m. - SR18 near CR550W. Rick A. Reef, 46, Flora. Burns responded.

Dec. 24, 1:38 a.m. - CR74N. at CR900. Mark A. Flanagan, 50, Brookston. Thomas responded.

Dec. 24, 6:45 p.m. - CR650S.

at Wildwood Rd. Michael D. Thomas, 42, Camden. Liggitt responded.

Dec. 26, 8:15 a.m. - US421 near CR800N. Richard Metzger, 74, Lafayette. Chapman responded.

Dec. 26, 9:40 a.m. - CR175W. near CR1050N. Dennis B. Parks, 32, Delphi. Chapman responded.

Dec. 26, 10:15 a.m. - SR18 near SR29. Kenneth E. McBride, 52, Young America. Burns responded.

Dec. 26, 10:25 a.m. - CR1100N. near CR1050W. John W. Hobock, 40, Delphi. Passenger Jesika S. Jenssen, Delphi, was treated at the scene by EMS. Chapman responded.

### Criminal/non-criminal

Dec. 20, 3:35 a.m. - Assisting another agency, 815 W. Columbia St., Apt. 24, Flora. Flora police assisted with underage consumption of alcohol report. Schimmel responded.

Dec. 21, 6:40 a.m. - Public intoxication, 7098W. 650S., Rossville. Eric P. Alder, 25, Logansport, and Glenn D. Stonebraker, 41, Rossville, were arrested after an investigation of two suspicious vehicles idling in a private driveway. Randle investigated.

Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m. - Forgery, 1714W. 750N., Delphi. Personal checks belonging to Bonnie Brumbaugh were used without authorization. Hammond investigated.