

# Post-Tribune

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## Handling the ups and downs

Porter County foundation weathers financial markets, meets projections for fund's returns

By Shelley Jones  
For Post-Tribune

Despite a poor year in 2022, Porter County's nonprofit foundation, also known as the body that manages the money from the sale of the former Porter Memorial

Hospital, has managed to maintain an annual rate of return of 5% since the fund was established in 2016.

Moving forward, the foundation board, composed of the county council and board of commissioners, was told Tuesday at its quarterly meeting to expect a 6.4%

rate of return.

The portfolio total was \$163,563,708 as of Dec. 31.

"You really should have real growth in this portfolio over time, so real growth to the corpus," said Amanda Black, CEO of Capital Cities, the Indianapolis firm that helps the county manage the hospital proceeds. "That's good math. We like this."

The cumulative return on the

investment has been 38.5% since 2016, meaning if "you were to liquidate everything right now that would correspond to almost \$52 million in gains," Black said. The board has dispensed \$31.5 million since the start of the portfolio.

Black told the group the rate of return used to be much higher than the 5%. "We had 2022 bringing that down significantly, but even with 2022 in play 5% was exactly

what the goal was when this was established in 2016," she told the board.

With a scatter plot graph, Black showed 2022's performance to be an isolated case. The bond return was down 13% and the stock return down 20% for 2022.

"Obviously, I think that we all know that it was a very difficult

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Lake Station Edison senior Mikaylah Baber, 17, uses a virtual reality headset as her friends Dante Taylor, left, and Aliyah Lawson look on during the "Bridging the Gap in a Diverse World" program for juniors and seniors at the school on Tuesday. ANDY LAVALLEY/POST-TRIBUNE

### LAKE STATION EDISON

## Students urged to have plan of attack after high school

By Michelle L. Quinn  
For Post-Tribune

Anne-Therese Ryan posed a scenario to the Lake Station Edison's Freshman and Sophomore classes: Jada, a 17-year-old who uses a wheelchair, gets a job in a clothing store.

The young woman was doing everything she was asked, said Ryan, the Indiana Civil Rights Commission's public outreach coordinator during the school's Bridging the Gap program March 21. Then her boss tells her she doesn't want her to work in front anymore.

Confused, the employee asks her boss why, and the boss tells her that Jada "doesn't promote the image" the owner wants to project.

"What motivated this?" Ryan asked, to which the students overwhelmingly agreed that discrimination was the overriding factor.

Ryan, along with her boss, Gregory Wilson, and several other dignitaries from academia and business showed up at Lake Station Edison High School's inaugural "Bridging the Gap" program March 21. The program aimed to get students thinking about what comes next after high

school.

Their plans don't have to include college if they don't want, event co-organizer Lorraine Guillen-Wentz of Latin Media said. They could go straight into a career if they like, but they need to have a plan of attack to do so.

The vendors on-hand included NiSource, Work One, Anthem, First Financial Bank, Cleveland Cliffs, the Lake Station Police Department and Purdue University and Indiana University Northwest.

"The kids don't necessarily go to the businesses, so our purpose today was to bring the businesses

to them," she said.

If someone had told Wilson he was going to be the state's leader on Civil Rights, he'd have told them they were nuts, he said. Back when he was a kid, he wasn't thinking about much except hanging out and having fun.

"There were days that I just sat there and wanted to do anything but sit there in class," he told the group. "But I had a teacher, John Hall, who reminded me that showing up is the first step, because now that you're here, why not do something while

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## Boy's injuries lead to charges

Hammond man accused of neglect of girlfriend's son

By Meredith Colias-Pete  
Post-Tribune

A Hammond man faces serious felony charges after Chicago doctors concluded his girlfriend's 2-year-old son was left with "devastating" brain injuries while in his care.

Marc A. Burnett, 20, was charged Wednesday with four counts of neglect.

The top charge, Level 1 felony neglect of a dependent resulting in catastrophic injury, carries a potential 20- to 40-year sentence.

He posted a \$5,000 cash bond Friday. His initial appearance is scheduled for April 3 before Magistrate Mark Watson.

Staff at the NW Indiana ER & Hospital, 7904 Cabela's Drive, called police around 9 p.m. March 8 after the child was brought in with "suspicious" injuries. The boy was quickly airlifted to a Chicago pediatric hospital. Doctors there said the initial care the Northwest Indiana site provided likely saved the boy's life.

The mother said she was at work at a restaurant in Illinois and let Burnett watch the boy.

He was tossing the boy in the air in a bedroom when he "missed" and the kid fell off the bed and hit his head on the metal corner of a folded closet door.

The boys initial injuries — a bruised forehead, mark on the back of his neck, bloody nose, "unequal" pupils, and other bruising — didn't match the story, doctors said.

When the child fell, Burnett expected him to "pop back up". Instead, he held an arm out "stiffly" and his eyes remained closed.

The child vomited, he said. He took him to the bathroom, then changed his diaper in the hallway.

Burnett admitted he didn't call 911, because he was scared. He tried to give CPR and called the

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## Author explores nation's racial divide in IUN talk

By Carole Carlson  
For Post-Tribune

For Debby Irving, the startling realization she knew little about racial injustice didn't come until she was 48 when she took a college graduate-level course.

That course quickly evolved into a deep internal examination for Irving, a suburban Boston elementary teacher who came to an understanding of what she didn't know about racial oppression.

Irving, 63, left her teaching job and decided to chronicle her experiences in a book called "Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race," published in 2014.

The book became a bestseller and Irving now shares her message across the country of why it's so difficult for white people to talk

about racism.

She came to Indiana University Northwest Wednesday, offering two workshops on ways to stimulate better conversations about race and a second one that explored social beliefs and attitudes she believes perpetuates oppressive patterns.

IUN students and staffers spent the year discussing her book as part of its One Book, One Campus, One Community series.

Students from Merrillville High and Bishop Noll Institute, along with other community members, participated in the morning program, co-sponsored by an Indiana Humanities INcommon Grant and the IU Northwest Diversity Advisory Council.

Today, Irving's views are

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Debby Irving, the author of "Waking Up White," talks with Merrillville High junior Zion Broadway on Wednesday after her workshop that explored positive ways to have conversations around racism. CAROLE CARLSON/POST-TRIBUNE

TODAY'S WEATHER



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