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# Winfield American

Vol. 20, Issue 1,003

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September 24, 2021

## Pets to be blessed at St. Mary Church on Sunday, October 3

Known for his love of creation and his relationship with animals, the Catholic Church has the custom of blessing animals on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, whose life the Church remembers every year on October 4. In this brief ritual, people thank God for the companionship and assistance that animals provide to humans, and ask a blessing.

The Blessing of Animals

will take place at St. Mary Catholic Church on Sunday, October 3, at 2 p.m.

Those who bring their cats, dogs, birds, snakes, hamsters, and other pets will gather in the grass on the west side of St. Mary Catholic Community School, near the playground. During the ritual, Father Kevin Huber will proclaim a scripture reading, offer petitions, impart the prayer of blessing,

and sprinkle the animals with holy water. Everyone is invited to participate, Catholic and non-Catholic and all animals are welcome. The pastor simply asks that pets are on leashes or are appropriately contained.

St. Mary Parish is a Catholic community built on the foundations of worship, hospitality, service, and education. Located in the historic district of Crown

Point, this community has provided Christian witness to South Lake County since 1865. Masses are celebrated every weekday at 7:45 a.m., Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. and Sundays at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12 p.m. Everyone is welcome and no reservations are necessary.

For more information about St. Mary call 219-663-0044 or visit online at [www.stmarycp.org](http://www.stmarycp.org).



Father Kevin Huber with Aubrey Charles and her dog Oliver.

## The most common contaminants our pets are exposed to and how to avoid them

*Contributed by the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine*

This issue grabbed headlines when it was revealed that domestic dogs and horses were suffering from health issues and premature death from exposure through drinking water to chemicals emitted by a chemical plant in Bladen County, North Carolina.

The offending chemicals—perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are added to everyday products to make them water, grease, and stain-resistant—fall to the ground with rain.

They then permeate soils and the water table for some 18 miles in every direction.

Most residents of this rural area get their drinking water from private wells that do not benefit from community clean water filtration systems or standards.

A court challenge by local clean water advocates prompted a local judge to order Chemours Fayetteville Works to provide local residents with water filtration systems to filter out offending chemicals. But many locals say they can't rest easy until the factory closes altogether.

If you do live within the pollution radius of a factory, you'll want to get your drinking water (and air quality) tested for contaminants on a regular basis to make sure you, your family members and pets aren't getting poi-

soned. If the results aren't good, it may be time to see if any neighbors are experiencing issues and start asking some questions to get to the bottom of where the pollution might be coming from.

There are of course many other threats to pets even if you don't live near a pollution 'point source'. In one study, researchers found that the brains of dogs exposed to the heavy and constant air pollution of Mexico City had significantly elevated inflammation and pathology profiles (including neurofibrillary tangles that cause Alzheimer's in humans) compared to dogs from more rural, less polluted regions.

Since our pets spend lots of time walking and running

through—not to mention rolling around in and even nibbling on—the grass, it's not surprising that they are much more likely to pick up and ingest contaminants than their owners. If your dog or cat develops a skin rash, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive salivation, dilated pupils, lack of coordination, or respiratory difficulties, it may be related to chemical exposure. Regarding longer-term effects, one study in Massachusetts showed that dogs whose owners used pesticides in their own yards had a 70 percent higher chance of developing malignant lymphoma. Indeed, one-third of the 700 dogs in the study were diagnosed with this typically terminal canine cancer.



If your dog or cat wants to run free in a neighbor's yard or at the park, wait 24-72 hours after the lawn in question has been treated with chemicals of any kind (fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides) to minimize exposure to and ingestion of potentially haz-

ardous substances. You can also lobby your neighbors and local officials to give up the harsh synthetic chemicals; some will be more open to the idea than others, so make sure you have a good way to protect your pets even if your requests aren't complied with.

## Volunteers support a number of projects for Opportunity Enterprises

The mission of Opportunity Enterprises (OE) is to maximize self-sufficiency and enrich the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Through the provision of a number of programs including, but not limited to, residential, respite, curriculum-based day programs, transportation, daily living skills, employment and job coaching, OE relies on the generosity of others, like volunteers, who help bring the mission to life.

"Our volunteers are such valuable partners," states Julie McKean, senior director of facilities, safety and compliance. "Opportunity Enterprises serves individuals with disabilities throughout Northwest Indiana. With facilities in Lake, Porter, and



Pictured from left for their 'patio project' are Henry Ryan, Ron Uylaki, Alejandro Hernandez, Tabitha Widen, Katelyn Mathas, John Jimenez, Chris McMillan, Amy Ross, Carla Spencer, James Faroh, and Will Price; and Barton Malow.

LaPorte counties, OE maintains over 170 acres and over 132,000 square feet of space in 16 different properties and supports programs and services through another 12 leased properties. Like you and me, our clients are proud

of their homes and take pride when projects are completed to beautify or improve their living spaces. We have a small but dedicated facilities team who more than appreciates when individuals and outside groups offer their

support to ensure our properties are in the best condition."

First Merchants Bank, Edge Youth Group, and Barton Malow offered their volunteer service by completing several projects. A team from First Merchants Bank,



Pictured from left for their 'edge' project are, front row, Sam Dull, Charlotte Sterling, Mr. Sterling, and Mitchell Sterling; back row: John Clements, Madeline Clements, Marissa Clements, Madelynn Stillman, Molly Page, Lori Page, Margaux Fortney, Sophie Clements, William Torres, Emmanuel Anthony, and Cathie Dull.

led by the current board chair, John Freyek, brought their handiwork to life beautifying and landscaping OE's respite home in Merrillville. Cutting back bushes, re-landscaping areas of the home, and spreading fresh mulch were

some of the activities this group completed.

The Edge Youth group offered similar services for the Annabelle group home located in Valparaiso. Young teens and their parents, coordi-

(See *Volunteers* Pg. 4)

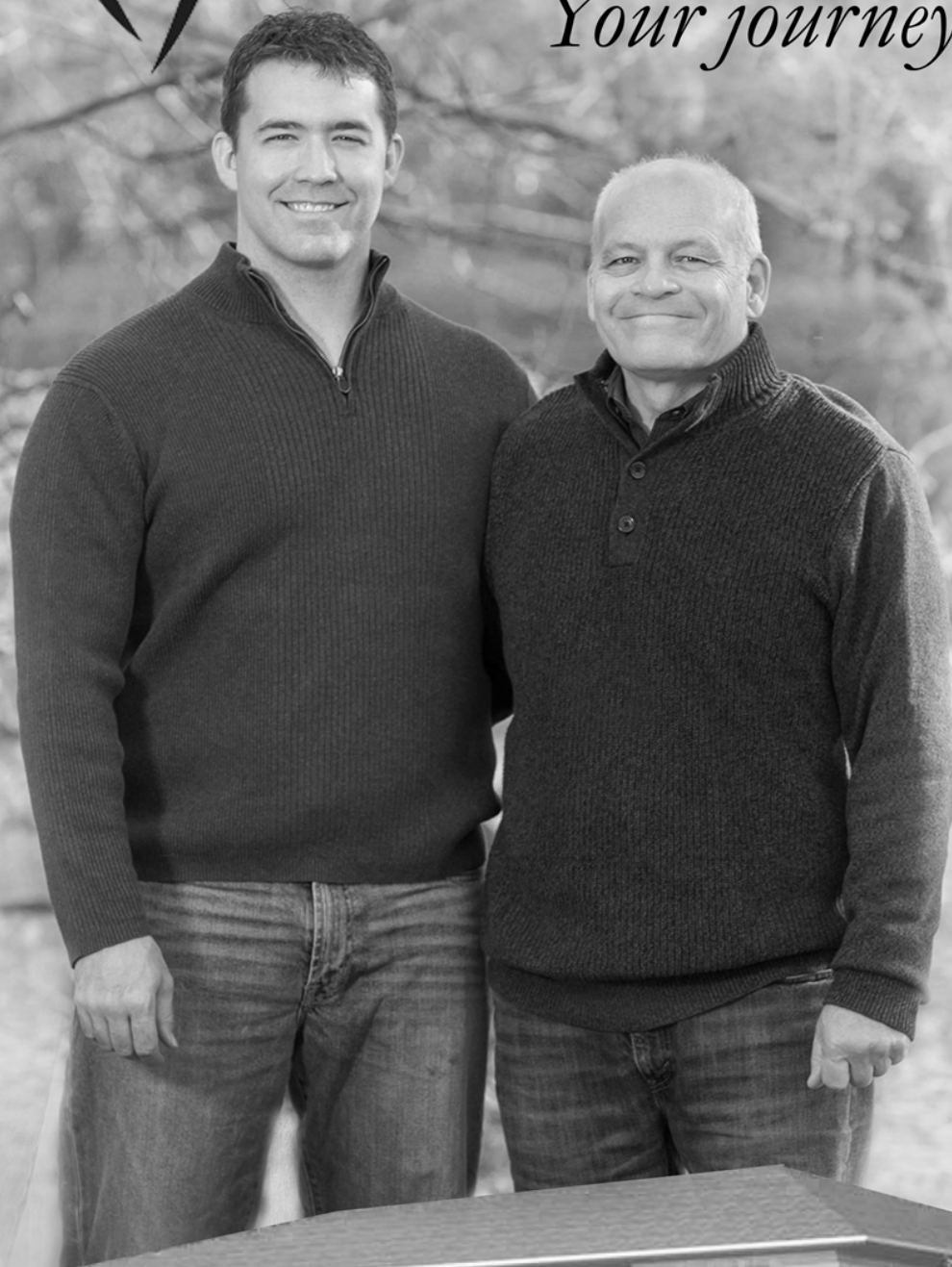
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## Get vaccinated to prevent Covid, flu ‘double-whammy’, say emergency physicians

There are early signs that the coming flu season could be severe, and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) joins other health experts in recommending that everyone eligible get vaccinated against Covid-19 and the influenza (flu) to help prevent the spread of either virus.

“Last year, more people staying home and covering their faces when they did go out kept flu numbers historically low, but this year the situation could be dangerously different,” said Mark Rosenberg, DO, MBA, FACEP, president of ACEP. “Unfortunately, misinformation is rampant, and the risk of getting or spreading either virus increases as more people dismiss proven public health protocols.”

The flu and Covid-19 are different respiratory viruses with similar symptoms. Based on all of the available information, health experts agree that the COVID vaccine is safe and effective, and the flu vaccine is recommended for everyone six months of age and older. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently updated its guidance to clarify that it is safe to get the flu shot at the same time as the Covid-19 vaccine—if you’re eligible for a first, second or third shot.

Those with chronic health conditions, elderly individuals, racial or ethnic minorities, and healthcare and other essential workers are particularly vulnerable to these viruses. Flu season starts in the fall and can last until spring so emergency physicians suggest getting a flu shot by the end of October, in time for colder weather and before holiday travel.

“We should be taking every precaution to protect ourselves and our loved ones from either virus. Getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to avoid the double whammy of flu and Covid,” said Dr. Rosenberg.

Learn more about the flu, Covid-19 and the available vaccines at [www.emergency-physicians.org](http://www.emergency-physicians.org).

## Residents of Lake, Porter counties can resume feeding birds, DNR announces

The Indiana DNR had recommended a statewide moratorium on bird feeding earlier this summer to slow the spread of a still-undetermined illness that is killing birds across the state. Biologists identified more than 750 possible cases in 76 counties that involved a specific set of clinical signs, including crusty eyes, eye discharge, and neurological issues.

The actions of many Hoosiers significantly helped the DNR’s work related to the disease outbreak. By taking down their feeders and submitting more than 4,300 reports, residents enabled DNR staff track the disease, detect regional differences, and provide updated recommendations for feeding birds.

Residents throughout Indiana may again put out their feeders if they are comfortable doing so and are not observing sick or dead birds in their yards. DNR strongly encourages residents who do so to clean seed and suet feeders at least once every two weeks by scrubbing feeders with soap and water, followed by a short soak in a 10% bleach solution. Hummingbird feeders should be cleaned at least once a week with a 10% bleach solution and rinsed thoroughly.

DNR biologists also encourage Hoosiers to continue reporting any sick or dead birds they find to [www.on.IN.gov/sickwildlife](http://www.on.IN.gov/sickwildlife).

For more information and to sign up to receive updates, visit [www.on.IN.gov/song-birddeaths](http://www.on.IN.gov/song-birddeaths).

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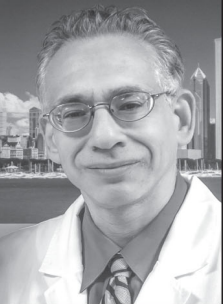


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Harvest season is here; motorists urged to remain alert to slow moving equipment

Harvest season is here and for some that means visiting pumpkin patches and apple orchards, but the Indiana State Department of Agriculture wants to remind motorists that harvest season also means farmers will begin harvesting this year's corn and soybean crops.

That means more slow-moving agricultural equipment will be traveling on Indiana's rural roads and highways. We want to re-

Hoosier high school students invited to compete in national poetry contest beginning October 1

Today, the Indiana Arts Commission announced educators and students are invited to sign up to participate in the Poetry Out Loud program.

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program for high school students that encourages the study of poetry by offering free educational materials and a

(Volunteers from Pg. 1)

nated by group leader, Cathie Dull (OE's Volunteer of the Year), re-energized the outdoor space and lawn of this home. The group enjoyed this project so much, they have adopted the Annabelle home to support any future projects needed by this property.

Barton Malow took on a large project for OE's Airport group home located in Portage. Not only landscaping the property of this group home, Barton Malow and over 20 of its team members built a new concrete patio space making it more accessible for the client residents that live in this home to use and enjoy. To complete the project, Barney Family Foundation is funding the purchase of outdoor furniture for the newly renovated space. This project is part of

mind everyone to stay alert and be courteous to ensure we all get home safely.

In 2019 in Indiana, farm equipment vehicles (other than trucks) were involved in three accidents, with one fatality, according to the National Highway Traffic Administration.

"Harvest season is a busy time for both farmers and motorists, I want to remind everyone to slow down and be courteous on our rural

dynamic recitation competition to high schools across the country. The Indiana Poetry Out Loud state competition will be held virtually in March 2022. The champion will advance to the national finals, to take place in April 2022, where \$50,000 in awards and school stipends will be distributed.

Barton Malow's 'Community Week' in which the company's various office locations offer their volunteer service and select a project to complete. Will Price of Barton Malow's Portage location encouraged his teammates to select Opportunity Enterprises for their 'Community Week' project.

In addition to enlisting Barton Malow team members to help with the patio project, Price engaged Herc to provide equipment needed to build the patio and Ozinga to supply the concrete in-kind.

"I am completely amazed by the magnitude of help provided by Barton Malow and all the groups that dedicate their time and supplies to ensure we are providing the best of all possibilities to our clients. We do what we

roads and highways," said Bruce Kettler, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. "Slow moving farm equipment typically travels at 25 miles per hour or less, so be sure to exercise caution when approaching."

Farm equipment during harvest season could include tractors, combines, grain carts, grain wagons and large trucks hauling agricultural products. These vehicles are wide, sometimes taking up

Poetry Ourselves will again welcome students from across the state to submit their original poetry beginning October 1.

Educators and students that are interested in the Poetry Out Loud must sign up by November 19 to participate. Visit [www.iac.in.gov](http://www.iac.in.gov) for more information,

do because of the generosity of others," McKean said.

To learn more about OE or to support the organization by volunteering or making a gift, call (219) 464-9621, or visit [www.oppent.org](http://www.oppent.org).

- most of the road, and often travel at speeds no greater than 25 mph.
- The following list includes several safety tips for motorists approaching large farm equipment:
- Farmers will pull over when they are able to let motorists pass, but it may take time for them to get to a safe place to do so.
  - Be patient. Farm equipment is wide, sometimes taking up most of the road.
  - Be careful when passing. Do not pass in a designated "No Passing Zone" or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevation structure or tunnel.
  - Do not try to pass a slow-moving vehicle on the left without ensuring that the vehicle is not planning a left turn. It may appear that the driver is pulling over for you to pass when it is actually preparing to turn. You will drive right into its path, endangering yourself and the farmer.
  - Avoid tailgating, as some farm equipment might have to make sudden stops along the road.
  - Allow plenty of time to get to a destination, be aware of alternate routes and avoid distractions.



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*This week in history*

**September 25, 1978**

A Pacific Southwest Airlines jet collided in mid-air with a small Cessna over San Diego, killing 153 people. The wreckage of the planes fell into a populous neighborhood and did extensive damage on the ground.

David Lee Boswell and his instructor, Martin Kazy, were in the process of a flying lesson in a single-engine Cessna, practicing approaches at San Diego's Lindbergh Field airport. After two successful passes, Boswell aimed the Cessna toward the Montgomery Field northeast of San Diego.

At the same time, Pacific Southwest Flight 182 was approaching San Diego. The Boeing 727 was carrying 144 passengers and crew members from Sacramento. Though air-traffic controllers at Lindbergh had told Boswell to keep the Cessna below 3,500 feet altitude as it flew northeast, the Cessna did not comply.

The pilots of Flight 182 could see the Cessna clearly at but soon lost sight of it and failed to inform the controllers. Meanwhile, the conflict-alert warning system began to flash at the air-traffic control center. However, because the alert system went off so frequently with false alarms, it was ignored. Within a minute, the planes collided.

The fuel in the 727 burst into a massive fireball upon impact. The planes nose-dived straight into San Diego's North Park neighborhood, destroying 22 homes and killing seven people on the ground.

[www.history.com](http://www.history.com)

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New Outdoor Indiana magazine features ducks

Outdoor Indiana magazine's September-October issue features a cover article on duck species that can be found around the Hoosier state, highlighted by the cover photo of a colorful wood duck.

The issue also includes an article on native Hoosier Avriel

Shull, whose home designs continue to be iconic decades after her premature death.

Outdoor Indiana is available now at most Barnes & Noble stores in Indiana for \$4. Subscriptions are \$15 for one year (six issues, a 38% savings off cover) and \$28 for two

years (12 issues, a 42% savings off cover).

Subscribe for yourself at [www.shopINstateparks.com](http://www.shopINstateparks.com) or by calling 317-233-3046. To read article excerpts from this issue, go to [www.OutdoorIndiana.org](http://www.OutdoorIndiana.org).

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Legacy Foundation awards grant to Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry to pay meat processing fees on donated livestock, deer

Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry has received a \$2,500 grant from the Legacy Foundation to support its 'Meat the Need' initiative.

According to Feeding America, approximately 67,650 Lake County residents regularly struggle with food insecurity – 22,980 of whom are children. Deb Treesh, executive director of Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, said that the funds received will be used to pay processing fees on donated livestock and deer, with the meat being given to agencies serving food-insecure residents within Lake County.

"More than ever, families are struggling to buy groceries. Food banks, pantries and soup kitchens work to protect the most vulnerable and underserved in our communities and these agencies continue to face increased demand," said Amber Zecca, fund development director of Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry. "To donate, farmers and hunters just need to take their livestock or deer to a local participating meat processor (call ahead to schedule livestock). After processing, local food banks and pantries are called to pick up the donation. There is absolutely no charge to donors."

"The Legacy Foundation's contribution will allow us to continue and expand on our mission of hunger relief by providing 8,000 more meals through local hunger relief agencies. We are so grateful for the continued support of our efforts in responding to the needs of those in the community facing hunger," said Treesh.

For more information, visit [www.HoosiersFeedingtheHungry.org](http://www.HoosiersFeedingtheHungry.org) or call 260-233-1444.

Local student Megan Supan graduates from Emory & Henry Health Sciences Campus

Twenty-seven students at Emory & Henry's Health Sciences Campus graduated with a Masters of Physician Assistant Studies at the Lincoln Theatre in Marion, Virginia. Megan Supan of Crown Point has graduated from Emory & Henry Health Sciences Campus with a Masters of Physician Assistant Studies.

"Class of 2021, we salute you," said Emory & Henry Provost, Dr. Michael J. Puglisi to the graduates. "You've persevered during these unprecedented times, demonstrating great resilience and unwavering commitment to your goal of earning your degree. You have made many sacrifices and put in many long hours of studying, while also providing high quality health care to your patients during this global pandemic. We have no doubt that you will be true leaders in your chosen healthcare profession."

Emory & Henry College's Health Sciences campus was launched in 2014 with the goal of preparing compassionate, patient-centered, highly-skilled health care professionals who not only provide quality healthcare to their patients but also actively engage in leadership and service opportunities within their professional organizations and communities.

For more information visit [www.ehc.edu/academics/school-health-sciences](http://www.ehc.edu/academics/school-health-sciences).

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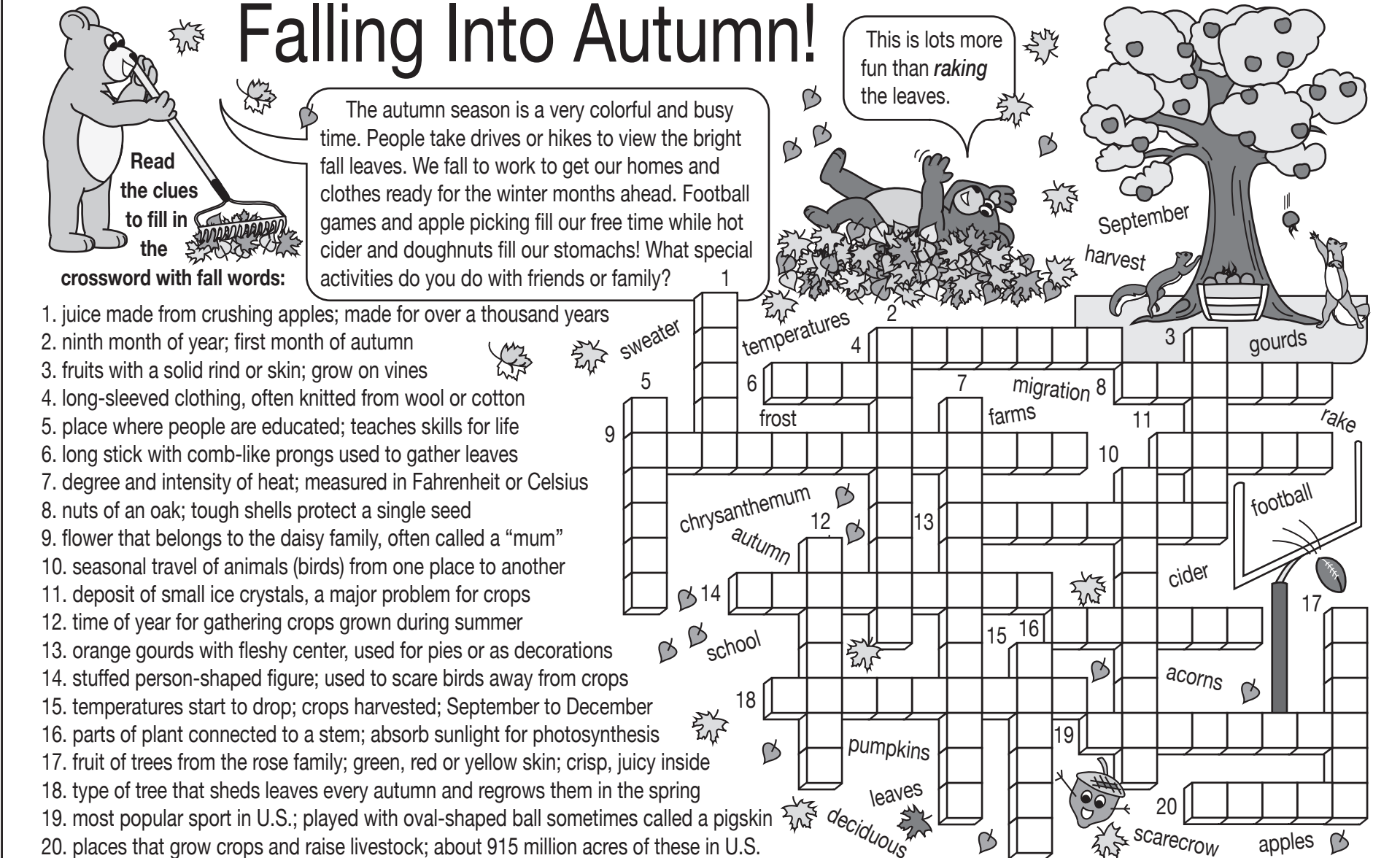
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**Falling Into Autumn!**

The autumn season is a very colorful and busy time. People take drives or hikes to view the bright fall leaves. We fall to work to get our homes and clothes ready for the winter months ahead. Football games and apple picking fill our free time while hot cider and doughnuts fill our stomachs! What special activities do you do with friends or family?

**Read the clues to fill in the crossword with fall words:**

- juice made from crushing apples; made for over a thousand years
- ninth month of year; first month of autumn
- fruits with a solid rind or skin; grow on vines
- long-sleeved clothing, often knitted from wool or cotton
- place where people are educated; teaches skills for life
- long stick with comb-like prongs used to gather leaves
- degree and intensity of heat; measured in Fahrenheit or Celsius
- nuts of an oak; tough shells protect a single seed
- flower that belongs to the daisy family, often called a "mum"
- seasonal travel of animals (birds) from one place to another
- deposit of small ice crystals, a major problem for crops
- time of year for gathering crops grown during summer
- orange gourds with fleshy center, used for pies or as decorations
- stuffed person-shaped figure; used to scare birds away from crops
- temperatures start to drop; crops harvested; September to December
- parts of plant connected to a stem; absorb sunlight for photosynthesis
- fruit of trees from the rose family; green, red or yellow skin; crisp, juicy inside
- type of tree that sheds leaves every autumn and regrows them in the spring
- most popular sport in U.S.; played with oval-shaped ball sometimes called a pigskin
- places that grow crops and raise livestock; about 915 million acres of these in U.S.



Labels in puzzle: sweater, temperatures, frost, farms, migration, gourds, rake, chrysanthemum, autumn, school, pumpkins, leaves, deciduous, scarecrow, apples, cider, football, acorns.



10-digit dialing for telephone customers in area code 219 mandatory by October 24

All telephone users in the 219 and 574 area codes of northern Indiana are encouraged to start using 10-digit dialing instead of seven digit to make local phone calls this month. Time is getting short as the mandatory deadline date nears when you must dial 10 digits to make a call.

The full transition will be mandatory by October 24 of this year.

The Federal Communications Commission is requiring this change to accommodate the implementing of the national "988" National

Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which will be fully applied by July 16, 2022.

Residential and Business customers in the 219 and 574 area codes should be aware of the following:

- Your telephone number and area code will not change.
- In these area codes, you will need to dial the area code + telephone number (a total of 10 digits).
- All long-distance calls will still require dialing 1 + area code + telephone number (a total of 11 digits).
- Calls that are currently lo-

cal will remain local.

- 10-digit dialing will not change the price of a local call, coverage area, or other rates and services.
- You can still dial three digits to reach 911 (emergency services), 211 (social services), 411 (directory assistance), 711 (telecommunications relay service), or 811 (call to request utility locate before you dig)
- Start including your area code when giving out your

phone number

- Make sure all preprogrammed numbers for local calls are set to include the area code (like fax machines, life safety systems, etc.)
- Make sure your website, stationery, checks, pet tags, etc. include your area code
- Any safety and security equipment must be programmed to include 10-digit local dialing unless they're already directed to long-distance or toll-free.

- Contact your medical alert of security provider if you are unsure if your equipment needs to be reprogrammed.
- All reprogramming must be completed by October 24.

Residents are encouraged to begin this process now.

Should you have any questions visit the [www.nitco.com/10Digit](http://www.nitco.com/10Digit) for more information.



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# My School expanding; new building set to open next summer

As Winfield grows, so is My School. They opened their current location in 1997, as one of the first businesses in the 109th Avenue and Randolph Street corridor.



Pictured left to right are Bob Null and Bill Hasse of Hasse Construction; My School owner Kathleen Hruby; Kathy Ireland of Horizon Bank; Tom Vavrek and Rachael Miller of Vavrek Architects; and Billy Hasse of Hasse Construction.



Pictured at the groundbreaking ceremony are Winfield Town Council members Zack Beaver and Jon Derinski; My School owner Kathleen Hruby; Winfield Town Council Member Dave Anderson; and Winfield Town Planner Nick Bellar.



Family, friends, and staff of My School. Their new building will be licensed for 178 children and is set to open in the summer of 2022 at 11200 Randolph Street.

## \$500,000 available for community recycling projects; October 15 deadline for applications

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management announced the availability of grant funding for recycling and household hazardous waste collection and disposal from the agency's Community Recycling Grant Program.

"IDEM is always looking to increase recycling in Indiana and these community recycling grants will fund projects that improve recycling efforts in communities throughout the state," said IDEM Commissioner Bruno Pigott. "Local governments, schools, and nonprofits are all encouraged to apply."

Counties, municipalities, solid waste management districts, schools, and non-profit organizations in Indiana are el-

igible to submit a Community Recycling Grant application requesting \$1,000 to \$100,000 in funding.

Applications will be accepted through October 15, 2021.

To apply, please visit IDEM's website at [www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov).

### St. Catherine Hospital seeking volunteers

St. Catherine Hospital, part of the Community Healthcare System that also includes St. Mary Medical Center in Hobart and the Community Stroke & Rehabilitation Center in Crown Point, is looking for volunteers, 16 years of age and older, who enjoy the opportunity to meet new people, keep active while providing important services, and experience the personal

satisfaction that comes from helping others. St. Catherine Hospital is located at 4321 Fir Street in East Chicago. For more information on how to make a difference as a volunteer, please contact Volunteer Services at 219-392-7031. All precautions and guidelines are observed, and masks are provided for health and safety.

Final funding determinations will be made in December 2021.

idem.IN.gov/recycle/2543.htm. For additional information, contact 800-988-7901 or send an e-mail to [crgp@idem.IN.gov](mailto:crgp@idem.IN.gov).

For more information on how to make a difference as a volunteer, please contact Volunteer Services at 219-392-7031. All precautions and guidelines are observed, and masks are provided for health and safety.

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