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Winfield American

Vol. 17, **Issue 814**

Serving Winfield, Lakes of the Four Seasons, and Winfield Township since 2002

anuary 19, 2018



Porter Lakes Elementary School recognizes Students of the Month

At Porter Lakes Elementary School, each classroom teacher selected a student who exhibits the qualities and characteristics that are a good example to others. Each student was invited to a cinnamon roll and milk breakfast sponsored by the PTO, and received a PLE Student of the Month wrist band. Pictured are, first row: Kate Niemand, Kyle Sabo, Ryan Peterson, and Brooklyn Swiatkowski; second row: Aydan Bracas, Mya Wargo, Julianna Dragon, Addison Medrano, and Phoenix Bickers; and back row Rachael Taneff, Aaliyah Black, Maddie Dimichele, Kyler Hixon, Ryker Torbeson, Landen Murray, and Keegan Brennan. (Not pictured: Willow Negrete)

Local Breast Care Center receives gift of appreciation from late patient's colleagues

Staff members at Vibra Hospital of Northwest Indiana, located in Crown Point, recently donated \$1,200 toward the Franciscan Health Crown Point Breast Care Center in appreciation of the service it provided a late colleague of theirs who was treated there.

Funds were derived through various efforts conducted last fall. Chuck Nordyke, center-left, Vibra senior vice president; said annual donations are planned henceforth. Also shown, from left, are Vibra employees Hristina Jakimoska, receptionist; Rikki Vargas, administrative assistant; Natalie Jesko, chief marketing officer; and Lisa Chandler, clinical liaison.

Rick Peltier, center-



right, Franciscan Health Foundation executive director; accepted the donation and expressed gratitude to the hospital for the effort.

"I am truly appreciative of Vibra's generous support of our breast cancer services," Peltier said. "I am touched to accept this gift on behalf of the Franciscan Health Foundation in memory of one of their own. This is the season of giving and for remembering those we love who are no longer with us. I look forward to continuing our partnership with Vibra Healthcare."

Fire Marshal urges abundance of caution following fatal fires

With the recent uptick of tragic home fires and continued cold weather across the state, Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson urges Hoosiers to keep safety in mind while using alternative heating sources or cooking.

"Home fires occur more often in winter than any other season, and alternative heating sources are one of the leading causes of home fires and fire-related deaths each year," said Greeson. "Fires caused by alternative heating equipment account for 19% of home fire deaths in the United States."

Hoosiers are encouraged to avoid using space heaters and other alternative heating if possible. Here are some other alternative heat safety tips to follow while cold weather continues in Indiana. **Alternative Heating**

• Keep at least a three-foot

heating ers at all times.
• Space heaters should be

• Space heaters should be kept away from loose or flammable objects such as clothing, curtains, bedding and furniture.

perimeter around space heat-

- Only one space heater should be plugged into each electrical outlet. Never overload electrical outlets.
- Do not leave space heaters on in unoccupied rooms.
- If it is necessary to pur-

chase a space heater, consider purchasing one with a built-in tilt sensor that automatically shuts off if tipped over.

- Refuel kerosene space heaters outside the home in a well-ventilated area. Be sure to let them cool down first if they were recently used.
- Appliances such as ovens should never be used for heating. Doing so can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fireplaces

- Fireplaces should be regularly cleaned and inspected by a certified professional. Gas fireplaces should have proper ventilation, with a working carbon monoxide detector nearby.
- Use only dry, seasoned firewood to prevent build-up of creosote, which can prevent the chimney from venting properly.
- Do not close the damper

too early with hot ashes in the fireplace. Doing so can force dangerous levels of carbon monoxide into the home.

• Avoid using flammable liquid to start fires in fireplaces or wood stoves. Always have a fire extinguisher on hand in the event the fire gets out of control.

Remember, fires should always be extinguished and

(See **Fire** Pg. 2)

Fifty-nine fifth grade students graduate from D.A.R.E. program

Last month, 59 fifth grade students from St. Mary's School graduated from the D.A.R.E. program. They began this program in early fall with Sergeant Dave Benson from the Crown Point Police Department as their instructor.

The students learned many valuable lessons about "saying no" to drugs, alcohol, and bullying from each of the 11 visits with Sergeant Benson. Each student completed a D.A.R.E. book, participated in the lessons, and wrote and presented a report on what they learned to graduate.

All the students were excited and very enthusiastic throughout the program. The knowledge they gained from



St. Mary's class essay winner, Dane Lach, delivers his speech to his 5th grade classmates and those in attendance at the D.A.R.E. graduation.

Sergeant Benson will help them to make good choices throughout their lives. St. Mary Catholic Community School in Crown Point offers grade lev-

els Junior Pre-Kindergarten (for three year olds) through grade eight.



Assistant Police Chief Jim Janda; Police Chief Pete Land; Principal Tom Ruiz; Dane Lach;, Maggie Mance; Georgia Cappas; Ellis Dumas; Michael Inman; Sergeant Dave Benson; and bicycle winner Jake Biederstadt

To learn more about St. Mary School's upcoming Open House on January 28, visit www.stmarycp.org/school.

www.winfieldamerican.com

'Eagles in Flight' weekend at Turkey Run State Park from January 26 to 28

Join Turkey Run State rom January 26 to 28 for a weekend all about bald eagles and other birds.

Activities include live birds of prey programs, eagle viewing tours, owl prowl night hikes, and songbird banding led by a researcher. There will be children's activities, too.

A silent and live auction will be held by the Friends of Turkey Run and Shades State Park. All proceeds go toward those two parks.

Overnight lodging is available at the Turkey Run Inn. Contact the Reservation Center at 1-877-LODGES1 or visit www.IndianaInns. com, and use Group Code EAGL18.

The program fee for the

(Fire from Pg. 1)

any alternative heating sources turned off before going to bed or leaving the home.

Cooking and cooking equipment are another major cause of home fires. It is estimated that U.S. fire departments respond to more than 150,000 home fires caused by cooking equipment each year.

Kitchen Safety

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking food. If there is a need to leave the kitchen even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- Regularly check food that is cooking and use a timer to avoid forgetting items.
- Keep any flammable objects such as oven mitts, utensils, food packages and towels away from the stovetop.
- Use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- Clean food and grease from burners and stovetops, and be sure that the oven is clean and free from residue.

More than half of non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occur when residents try to fight the fire themselves. Below are tips for addressing kitchen fires.

- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- Keep a lid nearby when cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- In the event of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- If the fire is too large to address safely, evacuate the home and call 911.

For more information on fire safety, visit www. getprepared.in.gov, or follow Indiana Department of Homeland Security on Facebook at www.facebook. com/IndianaDHS,

whole weekend is \$15 for ages 14 and older, \$10 for ages 4-13, and free for ages under 4. Standard park entrance fees of \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-

state vehicle may apply. Turkey Run State Park is located about two hours south of Winfield-LOFS at 8121 East Park Road in Marshall, Indiana.

Greet the morning with the Birds'. Breakfast will

bald eagles at Mississinewa Lake's annual Sunrise Eagle Watch on January 20. Meet at the Miami State Recreation Area boat launch at 6:30 a.m. to caravan to the largest documented bald eagle roost in Indiana. Participants should dress for the weather and bring binoculars, cameras, and spotting scopes.

After the Sunrise Eagle Watch, eat 'Breakfast with

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be served at 9:30 a.m. at the Mississinewa office in Miami SRA. Birds from Salamonie Raptor Center will be present. Donations will be accepted.

Registration is required by calling 260-468-2127. Handicapped parking is available at the roost; make requests during registration. For more information on other UWIS

Sunrise Eagle Watch at Indiana's Mississinewa Lake on January 20

programs, see www.dnr. IN.gov/uwis or www.facebook.com/UpperWabash. Mississinewa Lake is located at 4673 South, 625 East in Peru, Indiana.



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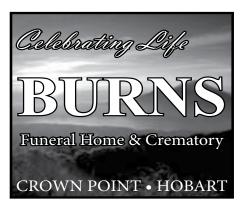
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Dr. Kristina Kauffman Dr. Nicholas Kauffman Kauffman Dimitt NEW PATIENTS SEEN SAME DAY!

This January, get ten free flowering trees from the Arbor Day Foundation

Residents of Indiana can start off planting 2018 with ten free flowering trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation any time during January 2018.

By becoming a part of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation, new members crabapples, three American redbuds, two Washington hawthorns, and three white flowering dogwoods.

"These beautiful trees will beautify your home with lovely flowers of pink, yellow and white colors," said

of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees are perfect for large and small spaces, and they will provide food and habitat for songbirds."

The free trees are part of the Foundation's Trees for America campaign. The

will receive two Sargent Matt Harris, chief executive trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between February 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members will also re-

ceive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a

\$10 contribution to 'Ten Free Flowering Trees', Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, 2018. Residents can also join online at www.arborday.org/ january.

This day in history

January 19, 1950

China bestowed diplomatic recognition upon the North Vietnam. Communist China's official recognition of Ho Chi Minh's communist regime resulted in much-needed financial and military assistance in Ho's battle against the French in Vietnam, and also pushed the United States to take a more intensive and active role in the conflict in Southeast Asia.

French colonialists and Ho's revolutionary forces had been fighting for control over Vietnam since the end of World War II. Although maintaining a neutral public stance, the administration of President Harry S. Truman was actually aiding the French with monetary and material assistance.

Shortly after the formal declaration of recognition, China began sending large quantities of military aid and many advisors into Vietnam.

The United States responded by taking a more active role in supporting the French in Vietnam. Two months after China's decision to recognize North Vietnam, the Truman administration officially declared its support for the French and asked Congress for increased military assistance, which was provided. Both the United States and China dramatically increased their roles in Vietnam in the years to come-while China continued to offer support and aid to the communists in North Vietnam, the United States became increasingly involved in fighting the communist threat in the Vietnam War.

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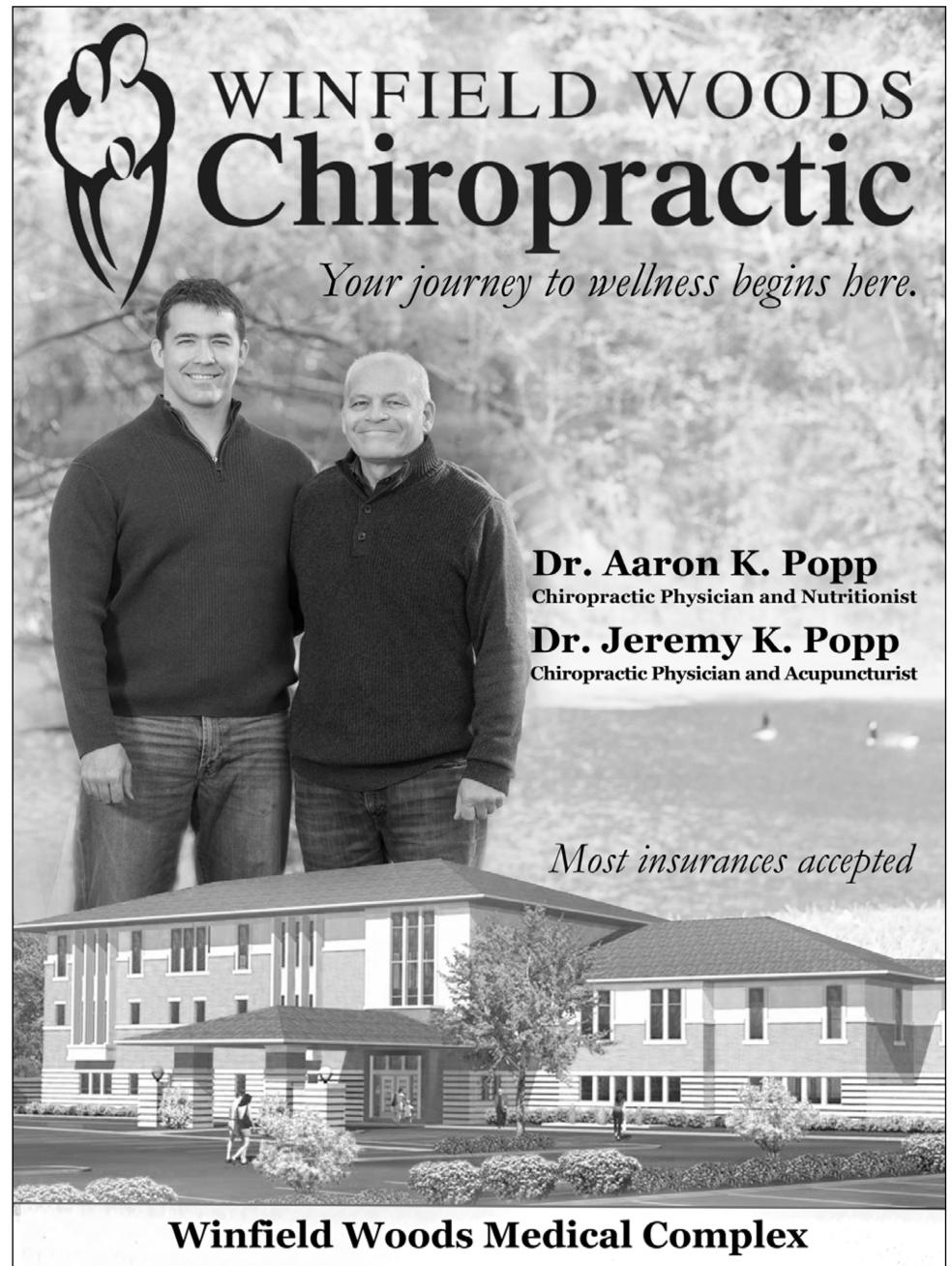
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Scammers targeting Nipsco customers throughout Indiana

Nipsco has received an influx in calls from residential and business customers reporting several hundred cases of unknown callers claiming to be affiliated with the company and demanding payment through a prepaid card.

Some reports have indicated that scammers have appeared in person knocking on doors, while other reports have indicated that the company's 1-800 customer service phone number was cloned to appear on caller

Nipsco is proactively notifying customers to remind them of important safety tips to avoid becoming a victim and emphasize that these calls are not from, or affiliated with, the company.

- Call Nipsco first If you are not sure about a phone call, email, program, offer or person claiming to be affiliated with Nipsco, call their 24-hour Customer Care Center at 1-800-464-7726.
- · Guard your personal information – Never give personal information, including your NIPSCO account number, Social Security numbers and banking information, to unconfirmed sources.

Nipsco only asks for a Social Security number when establishing new service or verifying a customer's identity.

- Know your payment options - Nipsco will never ask for a pre-paid debit card or money gram as a payment method. Learn more about thei payment options at www.nipsco.com/billingpayment-options so you can spot a potential scam.
- Never agree to meet in person – Some scams ask customers to meet them in person to make payments with cash or prepaid cards, which you should avoid.

If someone visits your home or business:

- Ask to see ID Nipsco employees and contractors carry photo ID badges and will gladly show you upon request.
- Use caution with cash Nipsco employees do not collect cash payments nor deliver cash refunds or rebates to customers. Refrain from sending cash through the mail to prevent loss or

For more information about scams, visit www.nipsco.com/staysafe.

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St. Mary School announces upcoming **Open House for prospective students**

On Sunday, January 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Mary Catholic Community School in Crown Point will hold its annual Open House and Pancake Breakfast. Those interested in learning more about the school's faithbased education are invited to attend.

According to school officials, St. Mary School offers a rigorous academic program and a safe, structured environment, within a warm, compassionate community. The school also offers a wide variety of sports, clubs, music, academic teams, scouts, and other extra-curricular activities for students to become involved with.

Open An evening House will also be held on Wednesday, January 31, from 6 to 8 p.m.., for those families who cannot attend the Sunday event. Attendees will have an opportunity to tour the school and meet the outstanding



Pictured are students Elizabeth Wong, Ellis Dumas, Mathew Zdanowicz, Ava Skinner, Addison Talaga, Neal Santos, and Cassie Ruiz.

faculty and staff.

St. Mary's School has space for new students at all grade levels (Preschool through 8th grade). For questions about the school, including tuition rates, visit www.stmarycp.org/school or call the school office at 219-663-0676. Call today to receive a certificate for a complimentary pancake breakfast for your family

along with your school tour. St. Mary's is an Indiana Department of Education "Grade A school."

The school is located at 405 East Joliet Street in Crown Point.

Local provider NITCO expands markets; purchases TV Cable of Rensselaer and Morocco

Telephone Co. has announced the acquisition of TV Cable of Rensselaer and Morocco. Since 1966, TV Cable of Rensselaer and Morocco has served the residents and businesses of Southern Jasper and Newton Counties. As a provider of ZING Cable TV, high speed internet, and voice services, TV Cable of Rensselaer and Morocco believed that being an active participant in the community it serves is critical to its success and the growth of the communities it serves.

"NITCO will continue that tradition," the company noted in a press release. "As Northwest Indiana's premier provider of broadband, telecommunications, infrastructure and telephone service since 1939, NITCO has been serving the residents and businesses of Lake,

Porter, Jasper and Newton Counties and now welcomes the residents of Rensselaer and Morocco as new customers."

TV Cable President Steve Filson had this to say about the change in ownership-"For over 50 years our family has served the community well, first with cable TV and then with the onset of the internet. Today we hand the keys to NITCO with the knowledge that family owned companies like ours and like theirs, believe in quality service and active participation in the community."

NITCO President Tom

Long echoed Filson's com-

"We would like to thank the Filson family for their leadership for over 50 years in developing and growing cable TV and internet services. We also welcome the employees of TV Cable of Rensselaer-Morocco and the residents and businesses of Rensselaer and Morocco to our family. For us, 2018 is 'The Year of the Customer' and we look forward to bringing to our customers new products and exciting service upgrades that will assure reliable service."

General Classifieds

Classified ads must be submitted by Sunday at 3 p.m. to run in that Friday's Winfield American. Submit your ad online at www.winfieldamerican.com.

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Fire Force Volunteers Needed

Lakes of The Volunteer Fire Force is in need of more dedicated volunteers to join our ranks. Have you ever thought of being a part of something bigger than yourself? Want to help your community by giving back through service? Please call 219-662-7576 and speak with Chief

Help Wanted - Automotive Technician

In an effort to increase our level of service to our customers, Crown Point Auto Repair is adding technicians to our team. If you know of, or have friends or family that you feel would be a good addition to the Crown Point Auto Repair team, have them stop in at 1510 N. Main Street, Crown Point, IN, and talk to Bill or Tim. They can also call the shop at 219-663-1847 or Bill's cell at 708-305-3666 for an appointment. (825)

CP, Boone Grove students receive \$5,000 scholarships; Beta Rho

The Beta Rho chapter of Tri Kappa is seeking candidates for their local scholarship awards. To be eligible, an applicant must have graduated from Crown Point, Andrean, Boone Grove, Merrillville or one of the Gary High Schools and be a sophomore or higher level student enrolled fulltime in an accredited college.

Interested candidates must have a 3.7 minimum GPA and demonstrate potential within their chosen career fields. Additional state scholarships are available in the areas of academics, fine arts and mu-

The deadline for submitting completed application packets is February 10, 2018. Contact Peggy Waluk at waluk@netnitco.net or 219-988-3639 for further information.



local residents. Taylor Cain (left), a graduate of Boone Grove High School, and Natalie Groff, of Crown Point High School, both received \$5,000 scholarships from the Beta Rho chapter of Tri Kappa.





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Indiana Arts Commission announces On-ramp 'accelerator' for entrepreneurs

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) recently announced the launch of On-Ramp, an accelerator program designed to assist early career creative entrepreneurs advance their business goals and objectives.

"On-Ramp is designed for artists and creatives looking to energize their business thinking, whether they are starting new, looking to deepen their business understanding, or find themselves at a professional crossroads," said IAC Executive Director Lewis C. Ricci. "The Arts Commission agrees with Governor Holcomb's efforts to develop and retain a strong, skilled workforce for the 21st century. It is critical in making our state a vibrant place to live and work."

The On-Ramp accelerator will give artists business skills, professional coaching for their business plans or career goals, new connections with potential Indiana supporters, partners or collaborators, and access to special funds to take them to the next level.

The three-day Creative Entrepreneur Course will be May 18 to 20 in Madison, Indiana, and focuses on business skills, career goals, and community engagement learning. Those who complete the course are also eligible to apply for the On-Ramp fellowship, which includes up to \$2,000 of project funding.

On-Ramp will provide those artists and creatives who are less experienced and overview of business concepts needed to develop a sustaining career. Those artists with more experience will learn how to be more strategic and successful with their existing work. More information on the specific training, mentorship and opportunities that On-Ramp provides is available at www. in.gov/arts/onramp.htm.

Applications for On-Ramp must be completed through the Arts Commission's online application system. E-mail to astarnes@iac. in.gov for further information. Deadline for application is March 1, 2018.

United Way of Porter County 'FAFSA Friday' program to continue through April

tion about FAFSA Fridays

and to make an appointment,

visit www.UnitedWayPC.

United Way of Porter County has partnered with three community partners to provide free FAFSA filing services. Known as FAFSA Fridays, the program offers services at two Porter County locations through April on the second Friday of each month. The program is available thanks to a partnership with Valparaiso University, Neighbors' Educational Opportunities, and Indiana Tech.

This opportunity is open to all seeking assistance to

file their college financial aid paperwork. Participation is by appointment only. Participants should bring a hard copy of their 2015 income tax information, including W2, and the student's social security number with them to the appointment.

Appointments are approximately 30 minutes long and available from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Program locations are United Way of Porter County in Valparaiso and Neighbors' **Educational Opportunities in** Portage. For more informa-

Northwest Indiana-based credit union

Three college scholarships available through

Members Advantage Credit Union is once again offering three college scholarships to qualifying high school seniors and to students in their first or second year in college.

Available scholarships include the following:

Gail Walker Scholarship: It is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior, college freshman or sophomore in the amount of \$1,000 to students with academic achievement.

Leona Bruno Scholarship: Annually, it is awarded to a graduating high school senior with scholastic achievement in the amount of \$1,000.

Learn to Earn Scholarship: Awarded to two college students working a minimum of 20 hours per week in the amount of \$500 each.

The deadline for scholarship application is Monday, February 12. Call 219-874-6943 or 877-874-6943 with questions. For scholarship qualification criteria and to apply, visit www.macuonline. org/college-scholarships.

Students collect books for sick children

The first-grade classes at St. Mary School in Crown Point learned about the true meaning of Christmas. In December the students began collecting books for a Children's Hospital in Chicago. With the generous support of the entire school, four large boxes of books were delivered to the hospi-

To further the Christmas spirit, first graders celebrated with a birthday party for Baby Jesus. Donations of various baby items were brought to school and, with the help of Sister Joanne Marie Schutz, the items were transported to the St. Clare Health Clinic in Crown Point, to be distributed to mothers and their babies.

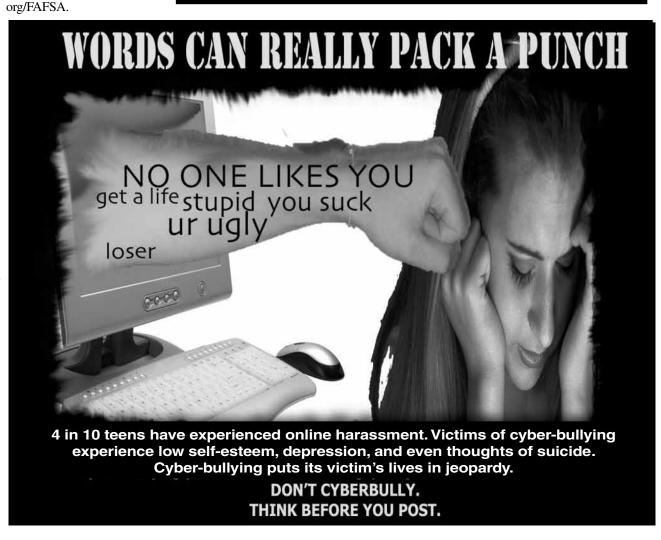
First grader Sara Cooley said, "It's good that we had a birthday party for Jesus because he is the meaning



Pictured are, back row: Jaidyn McWilliams, Arianna Barajas, Trinidy Boose, and Evelyn Devries; and front row: Samantha Hunt and Kaleigh Urbanek.

of Christmas and we helped babies in need." James Raggs added, "I like having the birthday party because we can help babies."

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Baby Bottle Ministry's generosity will benefit children

Sandy Lewis, second from right, a member of Holy Name Catholic Church in Cedar Lake, recently presented a check for \$2,100 to Jamie Donsbach, centerright, manager of the prenatal assistance program at St. Clare Health Clinic in Crown Point.

Lewis said the money was raised during the parish's annual Baby Bottle Ministry campaign, which takes place during Respect Life Month. She added the donation was made in appreciation of the program's pro-life support.

More than 44,000 coins were donated, not including paper currency and checks.

Donsbach thanked Lewis and called the gesture a blessing, adding the funds will be used to purchase diapers and other baby supplies.

Also shown, from left, are Rick Peltier, executive director of the Franciscan Health Foundation; Hillary Ray, patient service representative; Christine Geslakowski, patient care coordinator; and Wendy Bergstrom, a registered nurse. Not shown are church members Katie Karr and Louise Conway, who also were instrumental in the program.

St. Clare, located at 1121 S. Indiana Avenue, is under the auspices of Franciscan



Health Crown Point hospital. The clinic provides free primary health care for area residents who fall within established income guidelines, are uninsured and are not eligible for government assistance. The clinic is sustained through philanthropic support. For more information or to make a donation, call the foundation at 219-661-3401, or visit www. GiveToFranciscan.org.

Public invited to submit nominations for NWI Partners for clean air awards

The Northwest Indiana Partners for Clean Air (PCA) has begun accepting nominations for its Clean Air Awards program. The program is held annually by this coalition of Northwest businesses, Indiana industries, local, regional and state organizations as well as government entities that work together to promote clean air.

Nominations can be submitted for any Northwest Indiana business, industry, local or county government, organization or an individual who has voluntarily worked to protect our air during the 2017 calendar year. Self-nominations are also accepted.

The PCA nomination

form is now available at www.in.gov. The deadline to submit a nomination is March 15, 2018.

Four awards will be presented, one in each of the following categories: business, municipal, industrial and bicycle. The bicycling award will recognize an individual

The awards will be presented at the Northwest Indiana PCA's Luncheon on May 4, 2018.

Nominations are open to companies, organizations,

or entity for extraordinary efforts in promoting and/or participating in bicycling in Northwest Indiana.

The Northwest Indiana Partners for Clean Air's website is www.IN.gov/ idem/airquality/2587.htm.

Applications available for ICLEO program that assists future law students

Applications are now available for the Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity (ICLEO) program. The ICLEO program is designed to assist traditionally underrepresented groups in pursuing a legal career. The Supreme Court established ICLEO 20 years ago to help bring diversity to the legal profession. Applications are available online at www. courts.in.gov/cleo and are due by March 1, 2018.

ICLEO offers students a preparatory institute the summer before law school. This year, the institute is being hosted at Notre Dame Law School. The Summer Institute curriculum places a strong emphasis on academic rigor and provides professional development programming, field visits, and social events. Students who successfully complete the Summer Institute may be eligible for a scholarship for up to three

The scholarship is currently \$4,500 per semester. To be eligible, applicants must be college graduates by the time the six-week ICLEO Summer Institute begins in June, 2018. All applicants go through a rigorous application process that is separate from the Indiana law school application process.

Those interested in receiving updates about the Indiana CLEO program can subscribe at www.courts.in.gov/3681.htm.

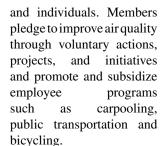
Contact ICLEO Director Ashley Rozier at ICLEO@ courts.in.gov with questions.

CP Adult Learning Center conducting open registration on Mondays and Wednesdays

The Crown Point Adult of the Center of Workforce Innovations, is having open registration on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for individuals wanting to attain their high school equivalency and to learn to speak, read, and write English.

Learn about the skill train-Learning Center, an affiliate ing available in welding, certified nursing assistant, CDL, entry level manufacturing, emergency management technician, pharmacy technician, and hospitality.

> For more information call 219-314-9904 or stop in at 122 North Main Street inside the Crown Point Community Library.



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