

Winfield American

Vol. 23, Issue 1,126

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

St. Mary School students enjoy outdoor adventure at Camp Tecumseh

The 5th grade students from St. Mary Catholic Community School recently visited Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana. The students participated in the Foundations For Success program, which focuses on the five pillars of selfconfidence, communication, leadership, trust, and problem solving.

The students were placed into groups and were tasked with applying these pillars to nature related activities. Some of these activities included: building a campfire, shelter building, reading a map while navigating the nature trails, rock climbing, and completing the team obstacle course.

At the culmination of each activity, students were asked to reflect and journal how they can incorporate these five pillars into their daily schooling and lives. Two fifth graders, Olivia Valdes and Haley Gibens said, "We can especially use the pillars of self-confidence and leadership by believing in ourselves and being a leader for others."

Overall, all the students worked together to successfully complete their tasks and create lasting memories.

"My favorite activity was the rock-climbing wall because it taught me to be more

confident with activities and I can take that confidence back into the classroom," said student TJ Raggs.

Mary Catholic Community School offers grade levels Junior Pre-Kindergarten (for three-yearolds) through grade eight. Students in all grades are provided with opportunities for fun projects and activities to make learning interesting and relevant. St. Mary's is currently accepting applications for new students for the 2024-2025 school year. To learn more about St. Mary's School visit school.stmarycp. org or call 219-663-0676 to request a tour.



Anna DeVries getting ready to complete her reflection and journal.



Working as a team. From left to right: M. Sawochka, Andrew Hernandez, Graham Kolodziej, Kassidy Tran, and Olivia Luttrell.

ers of 'The PNW Big Sell ersity Northwest announce Purdue Univ

Three innovators were awarded investment capital for their startup pitches after earning judges' top picks in the 13th annual The PNW Big Sell pitch competition.

The PNW Big Sell is hosted by PNW's Office of Commercialization and Research and sponsored by PNW's College of Business, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) and Centier Bank.

Jonathan Rose earned first place and \$10,000 for the pitch for ModMath. The application is intended to assist students with dyslexia and dysgraphia complete math exercises with a digital interface instead of a physical writing utensil and paper.

Emily Edwards earned second place and \$3,000 for the pitch for Paradise Spreads. Edwards' business involves a collection of organic, gluten-free, plant-based spreads and snacks. Edwards previously earned second place for Paradise Spreads in the 2021 The PNW Big Sell and has received subsequent support from PNW CMEC staff for further commercialization.

Danielle Cruz-Lopez received third place and \$1,000 for Sepsis Slayers, a business that aims to reduce sepsis-related deaths within the medical field.

Ten finalists presented to a panel of four judges inside PNW's Commercialization and Manufacturing Excellence Center (CMEC). The competition was also aired and streamed on WJOB and JEDtv.

"The PNW Big Sell pitch competition provides aspiring entrepreneurs from all walks of life to present their innovative ideas for potencommercialization," said Niaz Latif, interim provost and vice chancellor for

Academic Affairs and associate vice chancellor for Commercialization Research. "We appreciate the community sponsorship that we receive each year, which helps to recognize these talented individuals and promote potential startups in Northwest Indiana."

"The PNW Big Sell serves as a valuable opportunity to support regional entrepreneurs and forward a university goal of fostering transformative innovation for our communities," said Alexandra Moran, clinical instructor of Entrepreneurship.

"We appreciate the contestants' ingenuity and look forward to continuing to support their business goals."

Mont Handley, entrepreneur in residence and associate director of CMEC, and Moran jointly directed the event. A panel of four judges included Vincent Arcuri, professional casting director; John Fountain, professor of Journalism at Roosevelt University; Max Moses, former for-profit and non-profit director; and Alex Wisniewski, co-founder and CEO of Cultivation Connect.

Big Sell can be viewed ondemand via subscription at jedtv.com. For more information about The PNW Big Sell, visit www.pnw.edu/ thepnwbigsell.

Purdue University Northwest (PNW) is a premier metropolitan university dedicated to empowering transformational change in our students and in our community. Located in Northwest Indiana, near Chicago, PNW values academic excellence, supports growth, and celebrates diversity. For more information about PNW, visit www.pnw.edu.

NIPSCO marks Electrical Safety ical safety tips to customers

May is National Electrical Therefore, it is important to Safety Month and NIPSCO consider all downed wires the importance of safety by providing tips and guidelines to help keep customers safe around electricity.

"Safety is at the forefront of everything we do at NIPSCO," said Orville Cocking, NIPSCO Senior Vice President of Electric Operations. "That is why it is important for everyone to understand how to safely utilize electricity to power everyday life, and how to respond when encountering an emergency."

What to Do if You Find a Downed Power Line

Downed wires can pose serious risks, including electric shock and fire hazards.

even if it appears that the wire is not live.

If a downed wire is encountered, follow these safety tips:

- Stay Away and Keep Others Away: Maintain at least 50 feet from the wire and the surrounding area. If you are in a populated area, warn others to stay away.
- Call 911: Call 911 and provide as much detail as possible about the downed wire and its location. Let them know if anyone requires medical attention.
- Call NIPSCO's 24/7 Electric Emergency **Hotline:** Call our 24/7 emergency number

1-800-4-NIPSCO (1-800- the vehicle, but it is impera-464-7726). Let the operative to stay inside your car er line to 911 and NIPSCO: Use Caution and Prevent is reminding customers of as energized and dangerous, tor know you have called and do not attempt to exit. Await assistance from emer-911 and notify them of the downed wire. Provide as much location detail as you can.

> • Wait for Assistance: Remain calm and wait for emergency responders to arrive and safely remove the downed wire. Keep in mind that electricity can travel through the ground, trees and other objects. Never move these objects or use another object to move a downed wire.

If inside a vehicle and a downed wire falls on it, follow these instructions:• • Stay Inside the Vehicle and Remain Calm: Your instincts may tell you to exit

• Report the downed pow-

A recording of The PNW



act as a catalyst for electric

• Only Exit the Vehicle if You're in Immediate **Danger:** If you absolutely need to exit your vehicle, exit by jumping away from the vehicle and try landing with both feet close together. Avoid making contact with the metal frame of the vehicle. Walk away by shuffling your feet.

tempt to move the wire.

Keep in mind that if you see trees near power lines, that can also pose serious risks. Sometimes after storms, branches can break and trees can fall, pulling down power lines. Treat this as an emergency and follow the tips above on what to do if you encounter a downed power line.

Power Generator Safety:

Generators are handy when it comes to outages; however, it is crucial to make sure that everyone is taking steps to stay safe when using them. Below are some tips to follow. • Use Generators Outside Only: Make sure to position the generator (especially gas-powered generators) in a well-ventilated area away from doors, windows and garages to avoid the potential for carbon monoxide entering the home. Use Only Outdoor-Rated, Grounded **Extension** Cords: Look for extension cords with a GFCI (See NIPSCO Pg. 2)

www.winfieldamerican.com

Department of Natural Resources recreation and fishing guidebooks are online

Your latest guides to exploring Indiana's great outdoors are now available at your fingertips and at a DNR property near you.Indiana.

2024 The Indiana Recreation Guide is available now at www.on.IN.gov/rec-

And your 2024-2025 guide

to Indiana fishing, the Indiana Fishing Regulations Guide, is available at www.on.IN.gov/ fishingguide.

The DNR's 2024 Indiana Recreation Guide is the source for information on state parks, state forests, lakes, fish & wildlife areas, nature preserves, state park inns, and

guide includes a great facilities chart and information about accessibility and fees.

other DNR properties. The

Soon, free printed copies of each will be available at local retail outlets, state parks, lakes, and other DNR properties.

Annual entrance passes

for state park properties can be purchased in person at the gatehouse or offices of state park properties during business hours, at www.shopINstateparks.com any time, or at the Boat, Sport and Travel Show.

Indiana resident passes cost \$50. For individuals 65 years old or older, the price is \$25. Annual passes for vehicles with out-of-state license plates are \$70. Normal daily gate fees for residents at most properties are \$7 per in-state vehicle. For more information on Indiana state park properties, visit www.stateparks.IN.gov.

Fishing and hunting licenses can be purchased and printed at www.INHuntFish. com. They can also be purchased at retailers, county clerk offices, and most DNR properties throughout the state, as well as at the Boat, Sport and Travel Show.

Purdue University Northwest announces wide range of summer camp programs for K-12 students

Parents looking for fun and engaging programs for their children for summer 2024 can check out more than 20 programs serving a variety of interests for K-12 students. PNW summer camps allow participants to have fun while gaining memorable hands-on

experiences.

Various camps' themes and activities will include robotics, artificial intelligence, forensics, nursing, leadership, environmental sciences, psychology, sports and more. Students can explore their areas of interest, deepen

their knowledge, meet peers with similar interests, engage with knowledgeable PNW faculty members, and build their skills for future education and work careers.

Several PNW summer camps are made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Indiana Youth Programs on Campus. The grant supports higher education institutions in providing high-quality programming for K-12 students.

Registration is required for all camps. For a list of camp programs, additional information, updates or to register,

visit www.pnw.edu/camps.

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values academic excellence, supports growth, and celebrates diversity. For more information about PNW, visit www.pnw.edu.

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra concludes season with Romeo and Juliet

The Northwest Indiana Symphony and conductor Kirk Muspratt conclude the 2023-24 season with "Romeo & Juliet," one-night only, Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Auditorium at Living Hope Church.

The romance and tragedy of Shakespeare's famed

• Use a Transfer Switch

to Prevent "Back-Feed":

The installation of a trans-

fer switch safely allows the

home's wiring system to be

easily and cleanly attached

from NIPSCO's system. This

couple, Romeo and Juliet, comes to life in two different musical interpretations. Tchaikovsky's overture-fantasy features a well-known love theme that has been used in many movies and television programs. Prokofiev's ballet, composed in 1935, features actors Erika and Ryan Morrison narrating excerpts from Shakespeare's text.

"These magnificent composers present Romeo and Juliet with music that is the height of romance," Maestro Muspratt said. "This is the eternal story of true love."

Maestro Muspratt will host

a pre-concert discussion before the concert beginning at 6:15 pm to talk about the history and nuance of the pieces to be performed. The guest artists will also join the discussion. This talk is free to all ticket holders.

Tickets for the concert range from \$40 -\$75 each

and students are \$10. Group sales are available at a discount. Call the Symphony office at 219-836-0525 or visit the website at www. NISOrchestra.org to order tickets for Romeo and Juliet.

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circuits needed most until (NIPSCO from Pg. 1) (ground-fault circuit interpower is restored— such as rupter) to avoid getting to a fridge or furnace fan. shocked if cords get wet. Transfer switches require in-• Don't Plug a Generator stallation by a licensed elecinto a Regular Household trician. If a transfer switch is Outlet: Keep the extension not installed, shut off the main cord for the generator sepabreaker of the service panel to rate from the outlets in the help prevent electricity from home. Only connect individfeeding back into the power grid or household circuits, ual appliances to the receptacle outlet of the generator. which could cause hazards. Otherwise, it may damage the · Avoid Overloading the home's wiring, start a fire and Generator: Don't overback-feed electricity into the load the generator with utility system and energize too many appliances and a line thought to be without equipment. Read and folpower. This can seriously inwattage guidelines jure or kill a NIPSCO workin the owner's manual. er because they wouldn't Keep Children and know the line is live. Pets Safe: Keep children and pets away from por-• Use a Different Extension **Cord to Power Your Home:** table generators at all times. • Turn it Off Safely: Before Use a separate extension shutting down the generator, cord exclusively for the genturn off all the equipment beerator powering the home.

ing powered by it. Ladder Safety: Ladders and Electricity Don't Mix

Outdoor spring projects are underway, and it is important to note that ladders and electricity don't mix. When allows the user to control the completing outside work and flow of electricity to those carrying a ladder, make sure to use caution when carrying the ladder near overhead electrical lines.

Remember these • Stay 10 Feet Away from Power Lines: Make sure to keep the ladder and your

body away from power lines. • Use Fiberglass Ladders: When possible, consider using fiberglass ladders. Electricity can travel through ladders made of metals such as aluminum and even wooden ladders, especially if they

• Use Caution Near Trees: Trees contain water and electricity can travel through water and harm you.

Aware

Surroundings: Don't let any tools or materials make contact with power lines.

Additional Electric Safety Tips:

• Inspect Electrical Cords and Equipment: Regularly check electrical cords, plugs and equipment for signs of damage, such as fraying, exposed wires or cracks. Replace damaged items immediately.

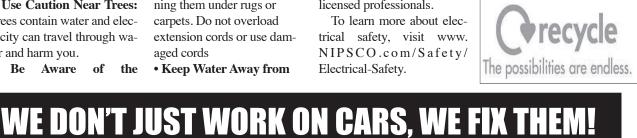
• Use Extension Cords Safely: Use extension cords temporarily and avoid running them under rugs or carpets. Do not overload

Electricity: Keep electrical appliances and cords away from water sources to prevent electrical shock.

• Unplug Unused **Appliances:** When not in use, unplug appliances to reduce the risk of fire and save energy.

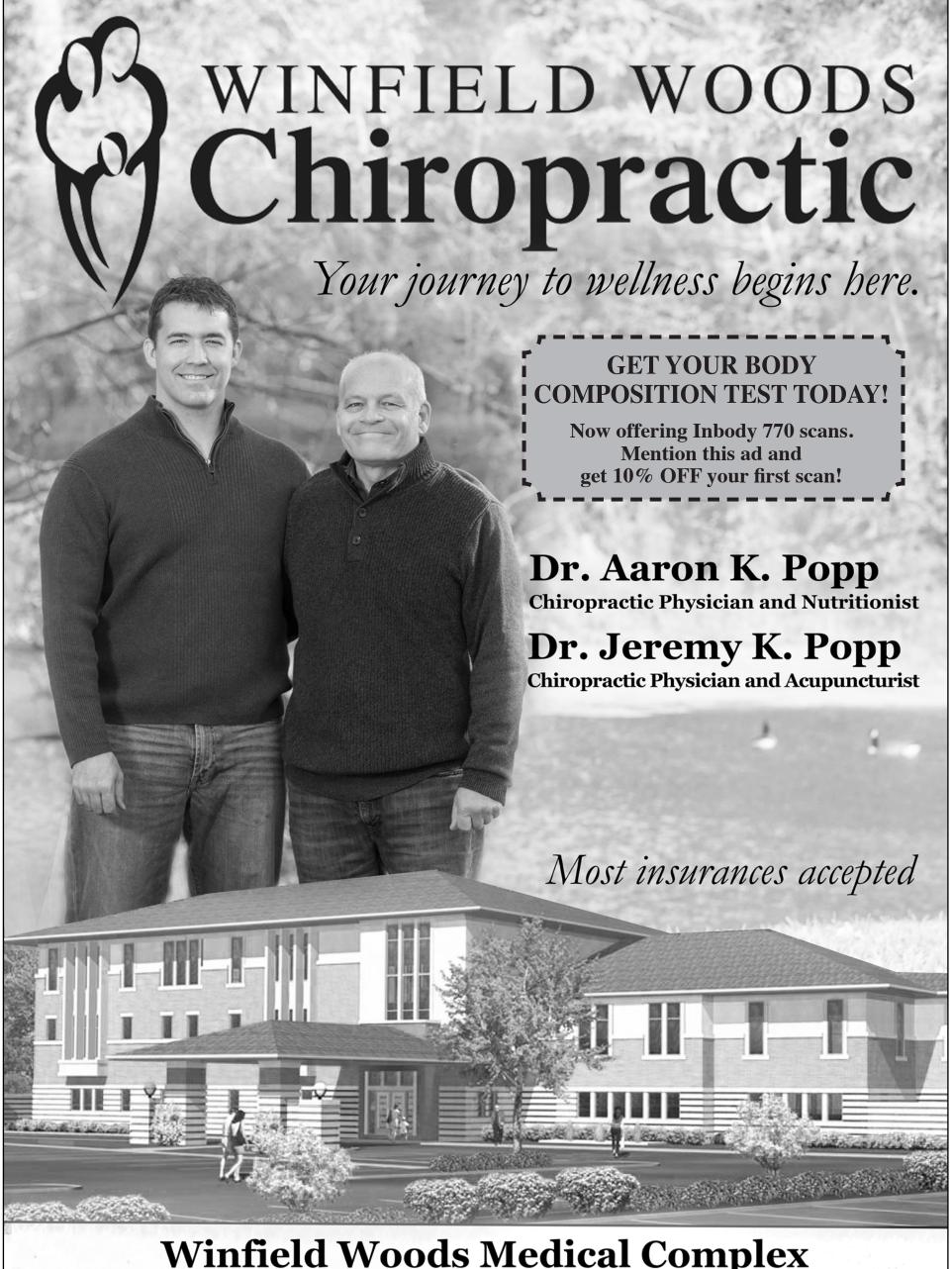
• Use Childproof Outlets: Install outlet covers to protect children from inserting objects into outlets.

• Avoid DIY Electrical Work: Leave electrical repairs and installations to the licensed professionals.









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Across the street from Lakes of the Four Seasons

features dragonflies

Outdoor Indiana magazine's May/June issue features a cover story on the 97 species of dragonflies that can be found in the Hoosier State and how to enjoy watching

The issue also includes an article on Tippecanoe River State Park, which is near Winamac, and the upcoming vintage camper rallies to be held at Clifty Falls and Spring Mill state parks in June and August, respectively.

Outdoor Indiana is available now at Indiana State Park Inns across the state for \$4. You can subscribe online or by phone for \$15 for one year (six issues, a 27% savings over cover price) or \$28 for two years (12 issues, a 42% savings).

Subscribe ShopINStateParks.com or by calling 317-233-3046. To read article excerpts, go to www.OutdoorIndiana.org.

LOFS Lions Club looking for more volunteers to help serve Winfield and surrounding areas

Our chapter is LOFS LIONS and our motto is 'WE SERV'E. We serve the communities of LOFS (Lake and Porter County), Winfield Township, and West Porter Township.

Consider joining our chapter. We welcome you to visit us at our general meetings, which are usually held 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the LOFS Lakehouse Restaurant.

Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday and a social gathering is usually held the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Contact any Lion member or one of the present officers: Yolanda Hernandez, President. Tom Snowden 1st Vice. Danny Moynihan, 2nd Vice. Jeanette Titoff, Secretary. Chuck DeLasCasas, trea-

Our aim is To Serve!

New Outdoor Indiana magazine Crown Point Community School Corporation details **Summer Nutrition Assistance Program**

If your household income is less than 185% of the Federal level, the school aged children in your household may be eligible for a new program called SUN Bucks. Households that have been notified of eligibility by Direct Certification do not need to apply.

Participating families will receive \$120 for each eligible child on a card that you can use to buy food during the summer at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other authorized retailers. If you think your children are eligible, you can get SUN Bucks by filling out a simple application. To apply for SUN Bucks at www.indianasunbucks.com. Applications will be accepted until Friday, August 16, 2024 in order to get benefits for this summer. If you need assistance filling out an application, or if you have questions, submit a ticket to the online help form: www.idoe.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/11.

You will need to provide your child's name, school, date of birth, along with the names of other people in your household, your household income, and address where you would like the benefit card to be sent. You will not need to provide any documentation to apply. Receiving Summer EBT will not affect children or families' immigration status.

the children under 18 years of age in your household can also receive free meals during the summer at a summer meal site. You can call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (or text 914-342-7744 with the keyword "summer meals") to find the location closest to In addition to SUN Bucks you. Find more information by visiting the SFSP Site Finder.

If you have questions, you can contact the CPCSC Food Services Department at 219-663-3371





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This week in history

May 11, 1934

A massive storm sent millions of tons of topsoil flying from across the parched Great Plains region of the United States as far east as New York, Boston, and Atlanta.

At the time the Great Plains were settled in the mid-1800s, the land was covered by prairie grass, which held moisture in the earth and kept most of the soil from blowing away even during dry spells. By the early 20th century, however, farmers had plowed under much of the grass to create fields.

The U.S. entry into World War I in 1917 caused a great need for wheat, and farms began to push their fields to the limit, plowing under more and more grassland with the newly invented tractor. The plowing continued after the war, when the introduction of even more powerful gasoline tractors sped up the process. During the 1920s, wheat production increased by 300%, causing a glut in the market by 1931.

That year, a severe drought spread across the region. As crops died, wind began to carry dust from the over-plowed and over-grazed lands.

The dust storms forced thousands of families from Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, and New Mexico to uproot and migrate to California, where they found work was scarce and pay meager during the worst years of the Great Depression.

www.history.com

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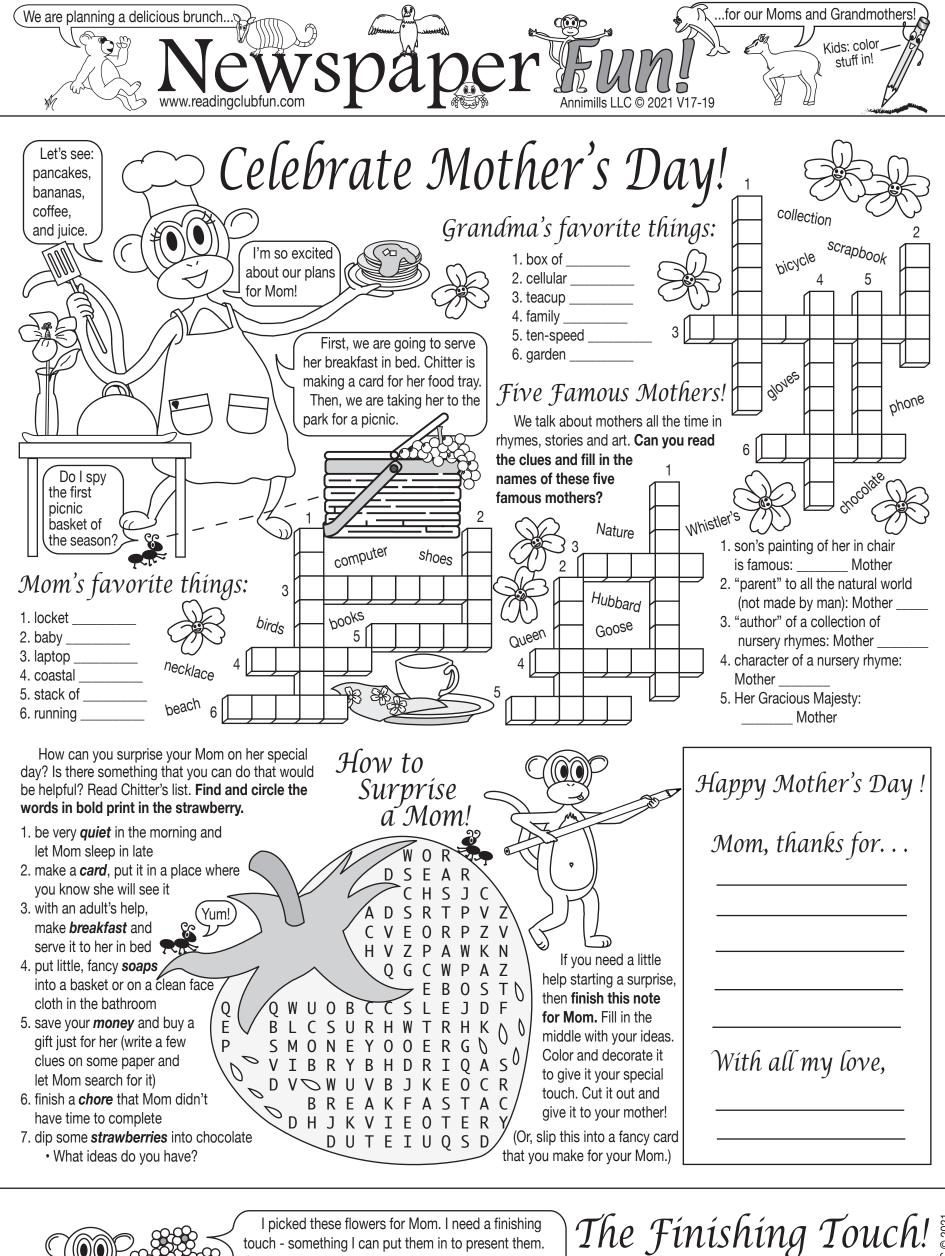
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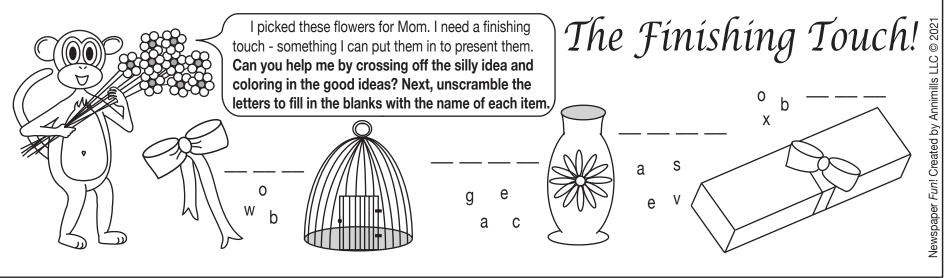


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WAIT MINUTES, NOT HOURS!







BBB Scam Alert: Watch out for SAT prep scams

Submitted by Rick Walz - President/CEO BBB Northern Indiana

For parents of high school students, SAT and ACT scores are a huge deal. With college admissions and scholarships on the line, paying for tutors and test prep materials may be worth the price. But watch out for con artists eager to take advantage of this. Scammers with access to kids' names and school information - are tricking parents into paying for bogus SAT and ACT prep materials.

How the scam works

You get an unsolicited call from a person claiming to be from the College Board, the company responsible for the PSAT, SAT, and AP tests, or another educational organization. The caller claims to be confirming your address, so they can send test prep materials, such as books, CDs, or videos, that your child requested at school.

It seems so believable. Several people reported to BBB Scam Tracker that the caller even had their child's name, phone number, address, school information, and/or the date and location of their child's scheduled test.

Of course, there's a catch. The caller needs you to pay a deposit, sometimes several hundred dollars, for the materials. They claim it will be refunded when the materials are returned after a set number of days. Unfortunately, if you provide your address and credit card details, the materials will never arrive, and your deposit will never be refunded. Scammers now have your

credit card number and other personal information.

In a recent BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer shared, "Caller, Carson, stated my son had requested SAT prep materials through College Board student services. He had my address, my son's name, date and location of the SAT test my son is scheduled to take. Caller stated they needed parental permission prior to sending documents and that I needed to give him a credit card number for collateral. We would be sent the college SAT prep materials; the materials would be free of charge for 30 days and we would need to return the materials in the envelope provided and my card wouldn't be charged. The caller stated they send email reminders prior to the return deadline and will send shipping confirmation once the material package is mailed out. My card was charged \$249.95 instantly."

Another consumer shared on BBB Scam Tracker, "I received a call from Brad [redacted] with College Prep Tutors. Stated that my daughter (knew her name) had requested ACT and SAT study prep materials. He said that they would be sent out via USPS and were free if returned within 30 days, but needed to charge my card to initiate the process, and that it would be refunded upon return of the USB materials. He sounded very legitimate and provided a confirmation number. I should have looked further before committing as this appears to be a scam." (See SAT Pg. 8)

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YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for the 4th annual adult prom benefiting NWI No Child Hungry.



Saturday May 18, 2024 6:00 to 11:00 PM Design Barn Hebron, IN

Limited tickets available

Join us for Appetizers, Dinner, & Dessert as we dance the night away to Live Entertainment by Party Foul Band in our grooviest disco attire!

All guests will receive a Swag Bag. Multiple raffles with EXCEPTIONAL prizes will be held throughout the evening!







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Keep wildlife wild, asks Indiana Department of Natural Resources

This is the time of the year when you may start to notice nests and dens occupied by young wildlife around your home. If you do, help keep wildlife wild by remembering the following if you encounter a young animal alone.

Adult animals rarely abandon their young. Parents often leave young unattended for long periods of time to gather food and may only return a few times a day. A nest or den without a parent present does not necessarily mean that the young have been abandoned.

Do not hover to see if a parent has come back to its young. An adult animal will not return if people or pets are close to the nest or den. Give the young space and only check back periodically. If you can't tell if a parent has checked on a nest, place straw

or grass over the nest and return later to see if it has been disturbed.

Young wildlife should not be handled. Human scent is unlikely to cause parents to abandon their young; however, handling young wildlife and disturbance of a nest can alert predators to the young animal's presence. Young may also carry disease or parasites they can transfer to people or pets, and are capable of biting or scratching.

Rescuing young wildlife is legal, keeping them is not. Rescued wildlife must be given to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator within 24 hours. For a list of wildlife rehabilitators or more information on orphaned and injured wildlife, visit www.on.IN.gov/keepwildlifewild.

Public cautioned to avoid Flint Creek after Tippecanoe County fish kill

Following the discovery of a large fish kill, IDEM is advising the public to stay out of the waters around Flint Creek in Tippecanoe County.

IDEM Emergency
Response was dispatched to
a report of a significant number of dead fish in West Point,
Indiana. after notification
from conservation officers
with the Indiana Department
of Natural Resources.

The IDEM On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) noticed the fish kill stretching approximately 10 miles starting in a tributary to Flint Run in the area of 7700 700 W. Flint Run connects to Flint Creek, where dead fish were also observed. Flint Creek flows into the Wabash River, which is being evaluated for imme-

diate impacts.

Elevated levels of ammonia nitrogen were detected at the initial site. The OSC determined the source to be a leak from a large (30,000 gallon capacity) tank at the nearby Scott Miller Farm containing liquid nitrogen fertilizer. IDEM has contacted the property owner, who has implemented containment measures to stop the

fertilizer leak.

IDEM and DNR will monitor the area and is recommending that the general public and animals stay out of the tributary to Flint Run, Flint Run, and Flint Creek while mitigation efforts are ongoing.

IDEM will continue to monitor the situation and compliance staff will thoroughly investigate the cause of this incident.

Established in 1986, IDEM (idem.IN.gov) implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens in protecting Hoosiers and Indiana's environment.

(SAT from Pg. 7)
This consumer reported

losing \$250.

How to avoid test prep scams

Always be wary of unsolicited callers. someone calls out of the blue asking for payment, always research their organization before you share personal information or agree to receive services or products. Look up the business they claim to represent at BBB. org. Search the name along with the words "scam" or "complaint" to find out if others had negative experiences. Check BBB Scam Tracker to see if anyone else has filed a report about the company.

Double check with your child. If scammers say they

are calling because of a service your child requested, tell them you need to check with your child first and hang up. Make sure their claims are legitimate before you call back or accept a return call. Don't send any money or make a payment if there is any doubt about the call. The same is true for emergency scams.

Understand the College Board's practices. The College Board will never ask you for bank or credit card information over the phone or via email. If a caller suggests otherwise, hang up. Learn more about the College Board's policies.

Use your credit card when possible. Credit cards may refund your money if they

spot a fraudulent charge or if you report one in a timely manner. You may not be offered the same protection if you pay with your debit card or other payment options. Never agree to pay a stranger with a money wire, prepaid cards, or digital wallet, such as Cash App or Venmo.

For more information and to learn how to protect yourself, Google "BBB 10 Steps to Avoid Scams". If you spot a scam, whether you have lost money or not, report it to BBB's Scam Tracker at www.BBB.org/ScamTracker and the FTC at www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Your story can help protect consumers from similar scams.

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