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# Winfield American

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May 17, 2024

## 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 self-confidence, 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 complet-

ing 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.

St. Mary Catholic Community School offers grade levels Junior Pre-Kindergarten (for three-year-olds) 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](http://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, Cassidy Tran, and Olivia Luttrell.

## Purdue University Northwest announces 2024 winners of 'The PNW Big Sell'

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 potential commercialization," said Niaz Latif, interim provost and vice chancellor for

Academic Affairs and associate vice chancellor for Commercialization and 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.

A recording of The PNW

Big Sell can be viewed on-demand via subscription at [jedtv.com](http://jedtv.com). For more information about The PNW Big Sell, visit [www.pnw.edu/thepnwbigsell](http://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](http://www.pnw.edu).

## NIPSCO marks Electrical Safety Month by providing electrical safety tips to customers

May is National Electrical Safety Month and NIPSCO is reminding customers of 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.

Therefore, it is important to consider all downed wires as energized and dangerous, 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 at

1-800-4-NIPSCO (1-800-464-7726). Let the operator know you have called 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

the vehicle, but it is imperative to stay inside your car and do not attempt to exit. The car's tires can possibly

act as a catalyst for electric shock.

• **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.

• **Report the downed power line to 911 and NIPSCO:** Await assistance from emergency responders. Do not at-

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: Use Caution and Prevent Hazards**

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)



## 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.

The 2024 Indiana Recreation Guide is available now at [www.on.IN.gov/rec-guide](http://www.on.IN.gov/rec-guide).

And your 2024-2025 guide

to Indiana fishing, the Indiana Fishing Regulations Guide, is available at [www.on.IN.gov/fishingguide](http://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

other DNR properties. The guide includes a great facilities chart and information about accessibility and fees.

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.shopIN-stateparks.com](http://www.shopIN-stateparks.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](http://www.stateparks.IN.gov).

Fishing and hunting licenses can be purchased and printed at [www.INHuntFish.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.pnw.edu).

## 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 of-

ten 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](http://www.on.IN.gov/keepwildlifewild).

(NIPSCO from Pg. 1)

(ground-fault circuit interrupter) to avoid getting shocked if cords get wet.

• **Don't Plug a Generator into a Regular Household Outlet:** Keep the extension cord for the generator separate from the outlets in the home. Only connect individual appliances to the receptacle outlet of the generator. Otherwise, it may damage the home's wiring, start a fire and back-feed electricity into the utility system and energize a line thought to be without power. This can seriously injure or kill a NIPSCO worker because they wouldn't know the line is live.

• **Use a Different Extension Cord to Power Your Home:** Use a separate extension cord exclusively for the generator powering the home.

• **Use a Transfer Switch to Prevent "Back-Feed":** The installation of a transfer switch safely allows the home's wiring system to be easily and cleanly attached from NIPSCO's system. This allows the user to control the flow of electricity to those

circuits needed most until power is restored— such as to a fridge or furnace fan. Transfer switches require installation by a licensed electrician. If a transfer switch is not installed, shut off the main breaker of the service panel to help prevent electricity from feeding back into the power grid or household circuits, which could cause hazards.

• **Avoid Overloading the Generator:** Don't overload the generator with too many appliances and equipment. Read and follow wattage guidelines in the owner's manual.

• **Keep Children and Pets Safe:** Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.

• **Turn it Off Safely:** Before shutting down the generator, turn off all the equipment being 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 completing outside work and carrying a ladder, make sure

to use caution when carrying the ladder near overhead electrical lines. Remember these tips:

• **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 are wet.

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

• **Be Aware of the**

**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 extension cords or use damaged cords

• **Keep Water Away from**

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.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit [www.NIPSCO.com/Safety/Electrical-Safety](http://www.NIPSCO.com/Safety/Electrical-Safety).

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**Across the street from Lakes of the Four Seasons**

## New Outdoor Indiana magazine 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 them.

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 at [www.ShopINStateParks.com](http://www.ShopINStateParks.com) or by calling 317-233-3046. To read article excerpts, go to [www.OutdoorIndiana.org](http://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, treasurer.

Our aim is To Serve!

## 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.indiana-sunbucks.com](http://www.indiana-sunbucks.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/service/customer/portal/11](http://www.idoe.atlassian.net/service/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.

In addition to SUN Bucks

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 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 18, 2004**

Forty-year-old Arizona Diamondbacks lefthander Randy Johnson became the oldest pitcher in major league history to throw a perfect game, leading his team to a 2-0 victory over the Atlanta Braves. A "perfect game" is when a pitcher faces a minimum 27 batters, recording 27 outs. Through the 2006 season, only 17 perfect games had been thrown, including 15 in the 'modern era' (post-1900).

Johnson, known for his overpowering fastball, intimidating size, and equally fearsome mullet, struck out 13 batters in the game. He led the National League in strikeouts for the fifth time that year; he had previously won four strikeout titles in the American League, even though managers routinely stacked their lineups with right-handed hitters to combat Johnson's utter dominance of left-handers. The 6-foot-10-inch "Big Unit" used his height and length to full advantage, striding towards the plate and throwing the ball sidearm, so that left-handers could not see the pitch until it was on top of them or past them.

In 1995, with the Seattle Mariners, he won his first of five Cy Young Awards, given each year to the best American League and National League pitchers. His next four Cy Youngs came consecutively from 1999 to 2002, while he pitched for the National League's Arizona Diamondbacks.

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

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### DIRECTOR PROFILE: MICHELLE KATSAROS

Crown Point resident, member of the Winfield Chamber of Commerce

Funeral Director with Geisen Funeral Homes for over 13 years

Monument Representative for Geisen Funeral Homes

Crown Point Tri-Kappa member, Co-Chair for Crown Point 4th of July Parade

Enjoys spending time with her husband Gus and daughter Ella

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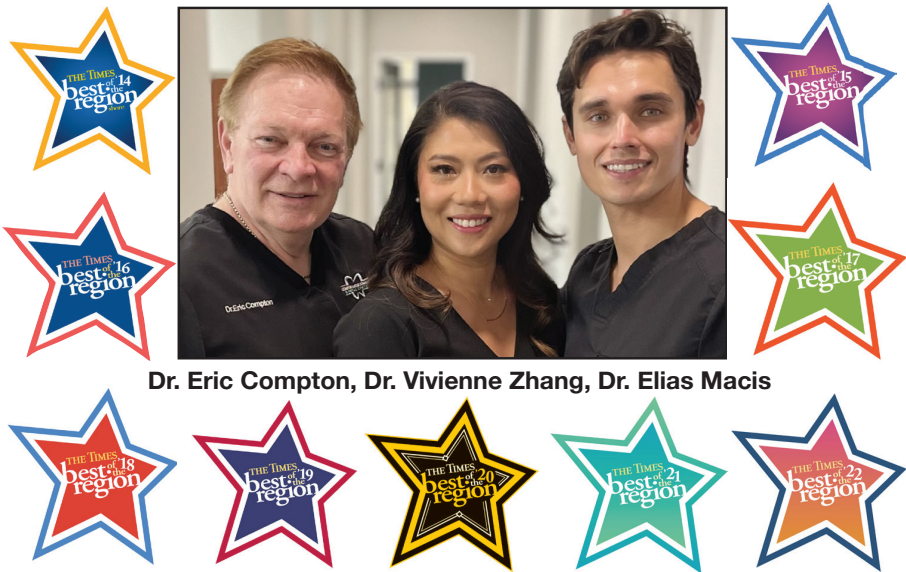
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## HOW ARE YOU SLEEPING?



If you or someone you know **SNORES** nightly and has one or more of the following symptoms, it's best to see a doctor.

- REPEATED SNORING INTERRUPTED BY PERIODS OF SILENCE
- FALLING ASLEEP WHEN YOU SHOULDN'T AT WORK, WHILE DRIVING, ETC.
- RESTLESS SLEEP
- MORNING HEADACHES
- IRRITABILITY
- DEPRESSION
- LOSS OF ENERGY, FATIGUE
- TROUBLE CONCENTRATING
- FORGETFULNESS
- SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

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Where's the bug who wants pie?

It looks hungry! Can you find it?

Kids: color stuff in!

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## Fresh! At the Farmers' Market!



You can't buy fresher fruits and vegetables than those at the farm or the farmers' market! I love buying my berries, peaches and apples there!

Ooooooo...pie!

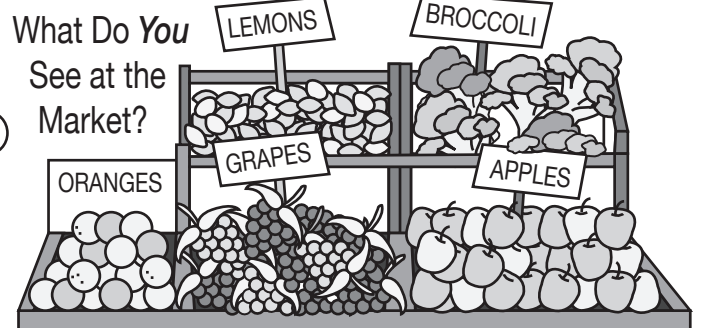
Have you ever been to a farmers' market? It is a place where farmers bring, set up and sell their fruits, vegetables, potted plants and baked goods.

Most of these markets are held once a week, often at fairgrounds or in parking lots. Some people like to go to the market because they enjoy talking with other shoppers and asking farmers about their products. Others enjoy being outside where their children can play a little and help to choose and buy items.

There are many sights at the farmers' market. **Read the clues to fill in the crossword:**

1. green and yellow \_\_\_\_\_ piled high
2. home-baked \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ for weighing food
4. straw \_\_\_\_\_ for cooling heads
5. \_\_\_\_\_ giving shade
6. \_\_\_\_\_ talking and selling
7. freshly cut \_\_\_\_\_
8. samples of juicy \_\_\_\_\_ to try
9. dried \_\_\_\_\_ hanging
10. \_\_\_\_\_ laden with foods and potted plants
11. \_\_\_\_\_ listing prices
12. \_\_\_\_\_ to carry food and supplies to the market

What Do You See at the Market?



**FRESH PRODUCE**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. breads scales signs herbs

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. trucks tables

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

fruits vegetables farmers

flowers hats tarps

'Orangea' glad that there are so many vegetables, fruits, baked goods and fresh eggs and salsas to choose from?

**Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:**

seasons

winter

spring

summer

fall

### As Fresh As Fresh Can Be!

1. while some products are available all year round, in some areas, foods from the farms follow the \_\_\_\_\_
2. in the \_\_\_\_\_: lettuce, radishes, asparagus...
3. in the \_\_\_\_\_: corn, cucumbers, tomatoes...
4. in the \_\_\_\_\_: squash, broccoli, potatoes...
5. in the \_\_\_\_\_: turnips, kale, brussels sprouts...

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_\_\_

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31. \_\_\_\_\_

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33. \_\_\_\_\_

34. \_\_\_\_\_

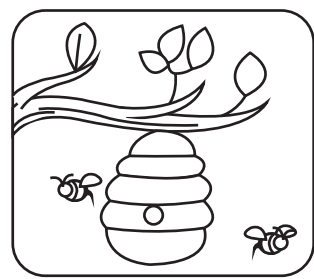
35. \_\_\_\_\_

36. \_\_\_\_\_

Honey is from a farmer's \_\_\_\_\_,  
 Maple syrup is from his \_\_\_\_\_,  
 Home-baked bread is from his \_\_\_\_\_,  
 Flowers from \_\_\_\_\_ tended with lovin'!

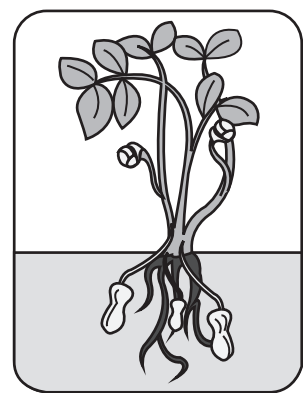
## All With Lovin'!

Follow the dots to see a favorite homemade item!



Fill in the poem with these words:

- gardens    oven    \_\_\_\_\_
- trees    bees    \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_



## Where Does It Grow?

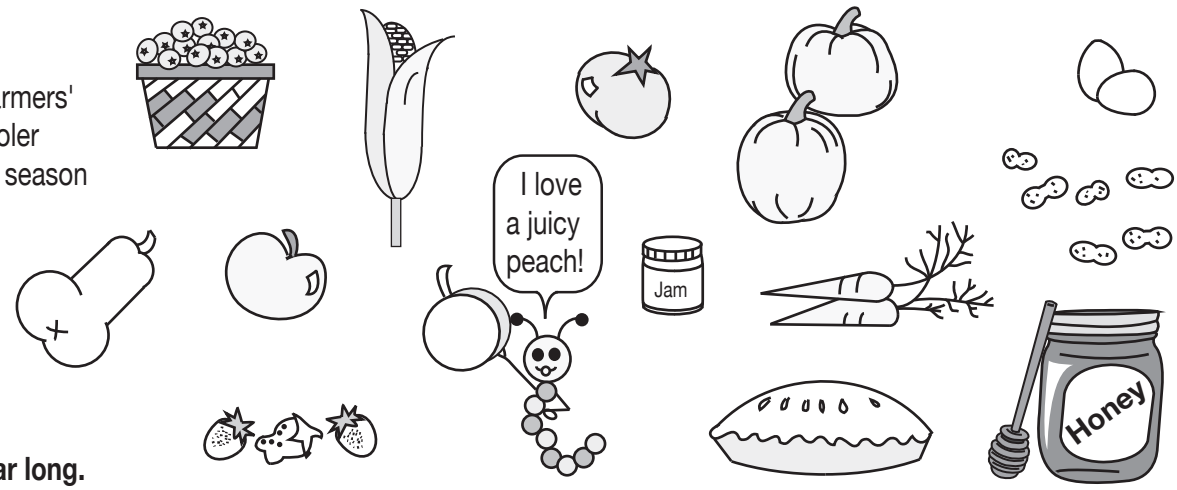
How do foods grow? Where do you find the foods below when you want to harvest them? **Match these foods to where you find them:**

- A. under the ground
- B. trees
- C. vines
- D. plants (about 3 feet high)/vines
- E. bushes
1. peanuts
2. pineapple
3. grapes
4. bananas
5. beets
- A. out of the ground on a plant with spiky leaves
- B. on woody vines
- C. flower above the ground, but grow below ground
- D. roots that grow in the ground
- E. grow on tall plants (not trees)

## As Seasons Change!

As the seasons change, so do your choices at the farmers' market. Summer turns into autumn! The days have cooler temperatures and get shorter. At this time, the growing season ends in some areas of the country. They are the days when farmers will harvest and get ready for winter.

1. Draw a line through the 5 items that are "Disappearing" from the market in late summer!
2. Circle the 5 items that are at the market in the fall or are "Appearing."
3. Mark an "X" on the 4 items that can be sold all year long.



## Franciscan Health Crown Point hosting doula workshop

Franciscan Health Crown Point is hosting a doula certification workshop over two weekends in June, with needs-based scholarship applications being accepted to cover the registration fees.

Doulas are trained professionals who provide continuous physical, emotional and informational support to

their clients before, during and shortly after childbirth. A doula may help communicate a woman's birth plan, create a comfortable environment during delivery or simply provide general support a family may seek during this pivotal time. A doula does not perform clinical tasks.

The Franciscan Health

Crown Point Family Birth Center offers doula services to families free of charge via a volunteer doula program.

The doula certification workshop will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Central on June 22-23 and June 29-30 at the Franciscan Health Main St. Outpatient Center's Marian Education

Center, 1201 S. Main St. in Crown Point. Participants must attend all four days to receive a certificate of completion.

The workshop includes the Introduction to Childbirth and Birth Doula Training courses and all other in-person instruction required toward certification as a birth doula

with DONA International. The cost for the workshop is \$500 and is payable within four days of registration. Registration includes directions on how to provide payment to Franciscan Health Crown Point.

The Franciscan Health Foundation has generously supplied funds for a limited number of needs-based scholarships to cover the

cost of the workshop. Those interested in applying may contact Franciscan Health Crown Point Doula Program Coordinator Louise Albrecht-Mallinger via email at birthdoulalouise@gmail.com or by phone at 219-746-9134.

Registration is available online and must be complete by June 12. An additional workshop will be offered in the fall.

## Should estate plans be equal or fair?

When you're creating your estate plan, your biggest priority may be taking care of your family — your spouse, grown children, grandchildren, and other loved ones. And as you think of where you want your assets to go, you also may be thinking about how to be fair — but is that the same as treating everyone equally?

In estate planning, "equal" doesn't always mean "fair." Let's consider some factors that can help explain the difference:

- **Need** – It's highly unlikely that the individuals you want to include in your estate plan — especially your adult children — have the same family and financial situations. For example, you could have one child who is extremely successful and has no children of their own, while another child earns much less income and supports three children. Clearly, your two adult children have vastly different financial needs — so, you need to consider whether you want to treat them equally or fairly. If you decide you want to treat them fairly, you may want to divide your assets in a way that provides more help to the child who needs it most.
- **Abilities** – You may well have some assets that you believe are more suitable for one child over another.

This can be especially true if you are planning on passing on a family business. If you know that one child is the most capable of running the business or has been primarily involved in the business, then you may want to give that child control as a next-generation owner. Yet, this may not seem fair to another child, who might also express interest in the business, so you may want to look for ways to provide this child with enough assets to help make the overall inheritance more equal.

- **Practicality** – In some instances, you might think you can meet both the "fair" and "equal" criteria. Suppose, for instance, that you have a cabin or other vacation home that you think two of your children could share. In theory, this joint ownership might sound good, but in practical terms, it could cause problems. Are both children equally willing and capable of paying taxes and upkeep on the cabin or vacation home? What if one child wants to sell their share? And then, there's the question of who gets to use the property at various times of the year. All these issues should be resolvable, but they can also cause great stress within the family.

There's no simple formula

for solving the fair-versus-equal dilemma. But keep this in mind: Communicating your wishes to your loved ones while you are drawing up your estate plan can help reduce confusion — and hopefully lead to fewer hard feelings — when you are no longer around. By their nature, fairness and equality issues related to estate plans can trigger a range of emotions, and addressing these feelings beforehand can help provide a great service for your loved ones.

You might also find that some objectivity can be valuable. That's why, when creating your estate plan, you may benefit by working with a team of professionals, including your legal, financial and tax advisors.

When developing your estate plan, you might well strive for equality and fairness but above all, you want to get things right. And careful planning, open communication and appropriate guidance can help go a long way toward this goal.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Pat Hedge at 10618 Randolph St., Winfield, IN 46307; 219-663-5999. Edward Jones, Member SIP*

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### Obituary ~ Lauren "Yoyo" Marie (nee Keiser) Dixon

Lauren "Yoyo" Marie (nee Keiser) Dixon passed away on May 7, 2024, at the age of 43. Lauren was the firstborn child of Karla and Jeff Keiser. Her birth at St. Anthony Hospital filled their heart with joy on March 7, 1981. Lauren graduated from Crown Point High School in 1999 where she was an exuberant member of the color guard. She continued her studies at IUN in Gary for the next 2 years. On May 22, 2010, Lauren

married Jonathan Dixon. Her childhood dream of the perfect wedding came true for her at Aberdeen Chapel in Valparaiso. The sun truly shone on her that day. Lauren and Jonathan were the proud pet parents of Isobel, Freya, Odin, Bellatrix, Biscuit, and Gravy. Sadly, they lost 2 beloved pets, Bocephus and Spartacus. Lauren loved her pets, and they were treated better than most people. Lauren was an avid gamer

and Jonathan built her a state-of-the-art studio for her to game in style. She was an aspiring streamer which opened the door for her to embark on her final job as a technical support professional. Lauren is survived by her loving husband- Jonathan; parents- Karla and Jeff Keiser. She was big sister to Kelly Keiser and Sandon "Sandy" Keiser; sister-in-law to Sandy's wife Brittany Keiser, and Auntie Yoyo to Kelly's son- Evan,

and Sandy and Brittany's son- Urijah. Also survived by mother-in-law- Deborah Dixon; brothers -in-law- Eric Dixon, Benjamin (Karen) Dixon and their daughter- Riley Dixon. Lauren was preceded in death by her maternal grandmother- Leona Vilianoff and her paternal grandparents -Donald, and Girlie Keiser. Visitation too place on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway,



Crown Point IN. The Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, May 10, 2024 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 509 W Division Rd, Valparaiso, IN 46385. Interment Calumet Park Cemetery. www.burnsfuneral.com. Contributions may be made to your local animal rescue or humane society.

### Purdue University Northwest to offer Master of Social Work degree

Purdue University Northwest (PNW) will begin recruiting students for its new Master of Social Work (MSW) program that is expected to enroll its first cohort in fall 2025.

PNW's MSW program will prepare advanced generalist social workers who are well-qualified to meet social services needs in our metropolitan region.

"Engaging individuals as partners in the helping process is key to social work," said Anne Gregory, dean of the College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences at PNW. "If you are someone interested in building and strengthening relationships in ways that promote, maintain and enhance the well-being of

individuals, families, organizations and our communities, then the PNW MSW program is for you."

The MSW curriculum will center on anti-oppressive social work practice that advocates for social, racial, economic and environmental justice for all vulnerable populations. After completion of PNW's MSW degree, graduates will be eligible for social work licensure (LSW).

MSW graduates earn qualifications to begin careers in sectors such as mental health, government, hospitals, schools, deaddiction centers and advocacy agencies.

"Our stellar social work faculty are very excited to offer the MSW program

at PNW," said Shreya Bhandari, professor of Social Work and director of PNW's MSW program. "We are currently working on gaining initial accreditation with the Council on Social Work Education, the body that accredits social work programs across the nation."

"The new MSW program will greatly expand PNW's ability to respond to the educational, professional, social service, mental health and advocacy needs of Northwest Indiana and beyond," said Mike Johnson, chair of the department of Behavioral Sciences at PNW.

MSW students at PNW will be able to leverage synergistic connections between

other related graduate programs at the university, including PNW's Counseling, Couple and Family Therapy, and Psychology programs. PNW has offered a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work program since 2016 that is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

To learn more about PNW's MSW program, visit www.pnw.edu/msw. Applications will be accepted through January 15, 2025. More information about graduate studies at PNW is also available at www.pnw.edu/graduate-studies.

Purdue University Northwest is a premier metropolitan university dedicated to empowering transformation-

al change in our students and in our community. Located in Northwest Indiana, near Chicago, PNW values aca-

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

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