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# Winfield American

Vol. 23, Issue 1,131

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June 21, 2024

## CPCSC recognizes Teacher and Employee of the Year for 2024-25

The Crown Point Community Schools Corporation has announced its Teacher and Employee of the Year for the 2023-24 school year.

### Elementary Teacher of the Year - Theresa Zarndt

Theresa Zarndt is a third grade teacher at MacArthur Elementary with 30 years of service in education, 24 of which have been as a teacher. She has an Elementary Education degree from Calumet College of St. Joseph and an Early Childhood degree from Purdue Calumet.

Mrs. Zarndt has been a Spell Bowl coach, Girls on the Run coach, a MacArthur team leader and mentor teacher, and part of the MacArthur Inclusion team.

Principal Marian Buchko noted that Mrs. Zarndt



Elementary Teacher of the Year - Theresa Zarndt

“Consistently goes above and beyond as a teacher, demonstrating a remarkable dedication to meeting the individual needs of students. She is an exemplary communicator, and her contributions extend far beyond the classroom walls.”

Finalists for Elementary Teacher of the Year were:  
• Grace Kellett - Eisenhower



Secondary Teacher of the Year - Ryan Jurczak

Elementary  
• Jessica Markle - Lake Street Elementary  
• Tera Baechle - Solon Robinson Elementary  
• Carolyn Winland - Timothy Ball Elementary  
• Staci Santefort - Winfield Elementary  
• Abbey Rauch - Jerry Ross Elementary  
Secondary Teacher of the



Employee of the Year - Jennifer Eaton

### Year - Ryan Jurczak

Ryan Jurczak is an Exceptional Education teacher at Taft Middle School. He has worked in education for 8 years and graduated from Purdue University with a Masters degree in Special Education.

Mr. Jurczak led initiatives to create Unified Basketball, Best Buddies, Unified Track, Bulldog Bowling, student-



Administrator of the Year - Martin Freeman

led coffee carts, and peer mentor programs at both Taft and Col. Wheeler middle schools. He is a member of the district's inclusion team and a PLC teacher leader.

Taft Middle School principal Tracy Seibert said Mr. Jurczak has a true commitment to the field of exceptional education. “Ryan’s dedication to addressing



Spirit of a Bulldog Award - Pam Maloney

the individual needs of his students sets him apart as an outstanding educator. Whether it’s creating personalized learning plans, implementing differentiated instruction, or providing one-on-one support, Ryan goes above and beyond to ensure that every student achieves success, while also having fun. His leadership embodies (See Teacher Pg. 7)

## Lake County Franciscan Health hospital nurses, staff lauded with annual awards

Franciscan Health nurses and staff members working at hospitals in Lake County were honored with their hospitals’ annual awards in May during national Nurses Week.

Franciscan Health Crown Point Center of Hope Coordinator Michelle Resendez received the Nightingale Award and Patient Care Technician Brikalaya Craig received the

Lantern Award.

Both awards are peer-nominated and voted upon by the hospital’s coordinating council.

The Nightingale Award is the annual award presented to a member of the Franciscan Health Crown Point nursing staff who has outstanding dedication, teamwork and respect for patients and fellow co-workers as well as a

commitment to the mission and values of the Franciscan healthcare ministry. The Lantern Award is presented annually to a non-nursing staff employee who interacts directly with patients, has outstanding dedication, teamwork and respect for patients and co-workers as well as a commitment to the Franciscan healthcare ministry’s mission and values.

“Congratulations to Michelle and Brikalaya for their well-deserved awards,” said Franciscan Health Crown Point Chief Nursing Officer Katrina Hejnowski, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CEN, TNS. “Their dedication to our patients and families, as well as their fellow co-workers, is admirable and much appreciated.”

Franciscan Health Dyer

ICU nurse Karli Chocholek won in the staff/clinical nurse category; infection prevention nurse Marnie Wright won in the support/resource category; post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) nurse Eddy Piaseczny won in the ambulatory/outpatient category and pre-admission testing/same-day surgery/PACU nurse Lori Hatalla won in the nurse leader category.

At Franciscan Health Munster, special response nurse Alyson Cooper won in the support/resource category; emergency department travel nurse Nichole Misiak won in the ambulatory/outpatient category; 3 North unit nurse Geb Bugia won in the staff/clinical nurse category and 3 North unit nurse Kathy Garcia won in the nurse leader category. (See Franciscan Pg. 4)

## St. Mary’s Crown Point math magicians achieve success

The St. Mary’s Math Bowl team is back! Beginning in February, twelve fifth and sixth grade students have practiced advanced math problems in preparation for their finals competition. The team includes Coach Wadas, Coach Williams, Ayumi Artis, Ana Bairaktaris, Victoria Brezden, Luke Howard, Nick Johansson, Sean Johansson, TJ Raggs, Cassidy Tran, Luca Trajkovski, Karyssa Urbanek, Olivia Valdes, and Joey Wysocki.

The competition was a series of four rounds; each round involved eight questions that students answered.



St. Mary’s students worked together and placed second in their division! SMS is proud of its Math Magicians.

St. Mary Catholic Community School in Crown Point offers grade levels Junior Pre-Kindergarten (for three-year-olds) through grade eight. All students are encouraged

to participate in extracurricular activities such as Academic Team, Chess Club, Science Olympiad, Scouts, Environmental Club, WSMW News Cast, athletics, art exhibits, and more. To learn more about enrollment at St. Mary’s School visit [www.school.stmarycp.org](http://www.school.stmarycp.org) or call 219-663-0676.

## St. Mary Crown Point finishing strong in academic competition

St. Mary Catholic Community School’s Academic Team recently competed in the Junior Academic Super Bowl Area Competition at Pierce Middle School. This year’s theme was The End of the Second Millennium: The 1980s and 1990s, and the students studied the presidencies, natural disasters, and scientific advancements of the time period.

First year competitor Dani Fleming said, “it was a great learning experience,” and eighth grader Kailana Urbanek said, “The experience was really fun, and I felt like I learned a lot about the 1980s and 1990s!” The (See St. Mary’s Pg. 2)



Science Team: Sara Cooley, Danielle Fleming, Kailana Urbanek, Sean Johansson, and Luca Trajkovski,



Back row: Grace McIntyre, Sean Johansson, Marisa Durko, Lorelei Bronson, Julian Wagner, Gabe Castillo, and Evan Spoolstra; Second row: Gabe Rosado, Luca Trajkovski, Lily Novina, Kailana Urbanek, Julia Andras, and Mrs. McLoughlin; Front: Danielle Fleming, Sara Cooley, Olivia Cruz, and Lucas Raloff.



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.

One-third of Indiana households unprepared for extreme weather events, reveals survey

In recent years, natural disasters such as droughts, floods, and hurricanes have become increasingly frequent, gradually becoming the new norm. A survey of 3,000 respondents to gauge the level of preparedness among households for coping with catastrophic weather conditions. The survey was commissioned by ServiceMaster. For example, do Texans stockpile water in anticipation of droughts, Illinoisans maintain their sump pumps to withstand flooding, and Californians take precautionary measures like cleaning gutters, porches, and decks to mitigate the risks associated with wildfires?Alarmingly, the survey revealed that a significant 31% of households do not take any proactive measures ahead of natural disasters. This lack of preparation is particularly concerning in states like Washington, where only 44% of households reported taking preventive steps, despite the state’s vulnerability to several natural disasters due to its diverse geography and climate. Washington is prone to earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, making it essential for residents to be well-prepared. On the other hand, Idaho emerged as the state with the most prepared residents, with 80% of households taking steps to prepare for natural disasters. Idaho’s fire season typically extends from late spring through early fall when conditions are dry and hot. Additionally, flooding is a frequent hazard in the state, particularly during the spring when snowmelt from the mountains swells rivers and streams, and flash flooding can occur during heavy rainstorms. When it came to Indiana specifically - a state affected by flooding during the spring and summer months - the survey found that over one-third of households do not take proactive steps to prepare for extreme weather events. Heavy rainfall from thunderstorms, combined with snowmelt in the spring, can lead to flooding in Indiana. Rivers, streams, and low-lying areas are particularly susceptible to flooding, which can cause property damage, road closures, and disruptions to transportation. The survey also shed light on the psychological impact of extreme weather events, with over 1 in 3 (35%) respondents reporting that they suffer from anxiety due to these occurrences. Among households that do not take preventive measures, financial constraints were cited as the primary reason, followed by uncertainty about the necessary supplies or actions to take. Surprisingly, 13% of respondents said that no one had explained to them what they need to do and why. The survey also revealed a significant knowledge gap, with less than half (48%) of participants stating that they fully understand the risks of natural weather events in their area. Furthermore, only 1 in 5 respondents reported having a set plan among household members in case of a natural disaster. Finally, when asked about their household’s ability to sustain itself with current emergency supplies after an extreme weather event, 22% said they could only last for a few days, while 36% said they could survive for one week. Only 3% of respondents declared that they could sustain themselves for three weeks. “The results of our survey are a wake-up call for all Americans,” said Diana Rodriguez-Zaba, founder of ServiceMaster Restoration by Zaba. “It’s alarming to see that so many households are not taking any proactive measures to prepare for natural disasters, despite the increasing frequency and severity of these events. Diligent property maintenance can mean the difference between preservation and loss - in fact, preparedness should not be considered a choice, but a necessity.” ServiceMaster Restoration has included some basic tips on how best to prepare for extreme weather events: **Floods** • Elevate electrical systems, appliances, and install flood vents to reduce damage. • Keep important documents in a waterproof container and create digital copies. • Ensure proper landscaping to direct water away from your home. • Consider investing in sandbags and other flood-defense materials. • Create an evacuation plan that includes a go-bag with essentials and know local flood evacuation routes. **Tornadoes** • Identify a safe room or storm shelter in your home; if not available, a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor without windows is best. • Keep helmets and heavy shoes in your shelter area to protect against flying debris. • Conduct regular tornado drills with your family so everyone knows where to go and what to do. • Have an emergency kit ready in your shelter area. **Wildfires** • Create a defensible space around your home by clearing away brush and dead vegetation. • Use fire-resistant materials for roofing and siding if possible. • Prepare a ‘wildfire action plan’ with evacuation routes and a communication plan. • Have an emergency kit with N95 respirator masks to protect against smoke inhalation. • Keep a hose connected and ready to douse small fires if safe to do so.

Have fun, but make water safety a priority this summer

In the midst of swimming season, Indiana Conservation Officers remind Hoosiers to make safety a priority when recreating around bodies of water. “Even when fun is your main focus, always recognize the danger water poses, even to strong swimmers or experienced boaters,” said Capt. Jet Quillen of DNR Law Enforcement. If you are going to be recreating around water, follow these basic safety tips: • Discuss the dangers of water with your family and loved ones before going out. • Wear a lifejacket. • Tell someone where you are going and when you will return. • Go with a buddy. • Do not venture around flooded or fast-moving waterways. • Avoid alcohol. In addition to basic water safety, Indiana Conservation Officers also stress the importance of boating safety and remind boaters to know the rules of the water. Reducing a boat’s speed in unfamiliar areas and being aware of unusual water conditions respective to the size and type of boat are not only safety tips, but also important environmental considerations. Regardless of your boat type, doing an initial assessment of water levels and current speed are essential. Designate a sober boat operator. Alcohol causes impaired balance, blurred vision, poor coordination, impaired judgement, and slower reaction time. These impairments can be magnified by wave action, sun exposure, and wind. It is illegal to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft in Indiana while intoxicated due to alcohol or drugs. Indiana law defines intoxication as having a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or greater. A lifejacket should be United States Coast Guard approved, in good working condition, and size appropriate for the wearer. New lifejackets are designed to be lighter, less obtrusive, and more comfortable. Inflatable lifejackets allow mobility and flexibility for activities like boating, fishing, or paddling, and are much cooler in warmer weather. To learn more about boating education and safety, see: [www.dnr.IN.gov/lawenfor/8678.htm](http://www.dnr.IN.gov/lawenfor/8678.htm)

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(St. Mary’s from Pg. 1)

English, math, science, social studies, and interdisciplinary teams took first place in their class at the regional level. The science team placed #4 in the entire state of Indiana. All of the students studied and prepared well for the competition, and it was great to see their hard work pay off. The team was coached by Theresa McLoughlin.

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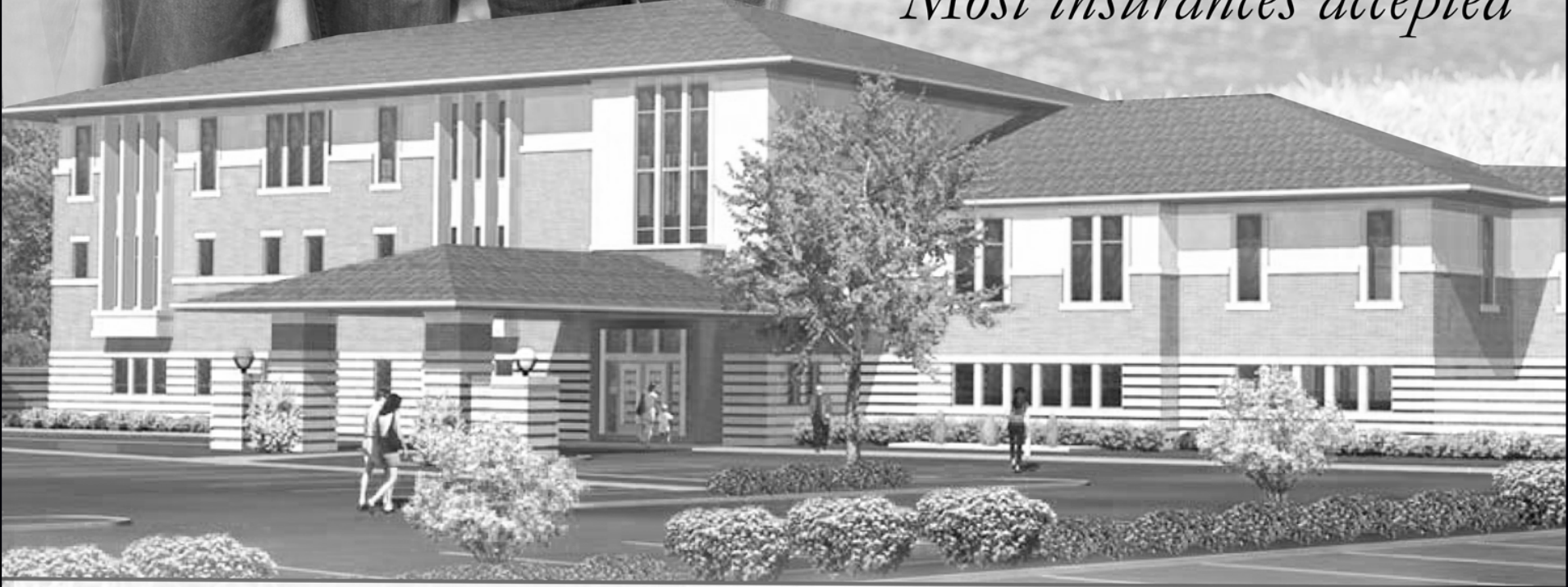
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**Across the street from Lakes of the Four Seasons**



(Franciscan from Pg. 1)  
er category.

The Franciscan Health Dyer and Franciscan Health Munster award winners are nominated and voted upon by their peers.

“These amazing nurses exemplify the care we give at Franciscan and demonstrate our mission every day

in the compassion and skill they show to our patients,” said Franciscan Health Dyer and Munster Chief Nursing Officer Alisa Murchek, DNP, RN, NEA-BC. “We are truly grateful for their dedication and congratulate them on their awards.”

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# This week in history

## June 23, 1973

President Richard Nixon’s advisor, H.R. Haldeman, told the president to put pressure on the head of the FBI to “stay the hell out of this [Watergate burglary investigation] business.” In essence, Haldeman was telling Nixon to obstruct justice, which is one of the articles Congress threatened to impeach Nixon for in 1974.

In audiotapes of that day’s conversation in the Oval Office, Haldeman told Nixon that the press and FBI investigators have come close to linking the men who burglarized the Democratic National Committee headquarters in 1972, housed in the Watergate building, to the White House. They specifically mention funds diverted to the burglars, many of whom were Cuban, by members of Nixon’s re-election committee.

Nixon told Haldeman to tell the FBI that the funds in question were intended for the CIA and concocted a story about covert plans regarding communist Cuba. “Don’t lie to them,” said Nixon, “to the extent to say there’s no involvement [on the part of the president] but just say this is sort of a comedy of errors, bizarre, without getting into it.”

The tapes of the hour-and-a-half conversation between Nixon and Haldeman eventually brought the down the Nixon Administration and led to his resignation. They were considered the “smoking gun” which proved Nixon’s role in obstructing justice.

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

Place your classified ads at  
[www.winfieldamerican.com](http://www.winfieldamerican.com)

# 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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“We greatly appreciate Sally, what she’s done helped us tremendously in dealing with our great loss” - The Dema-ala Family

# DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

## SALLY SZUMSKI

Sally has been a funeral director since 2007. In her spare time, Sally is a proficient seamstress, and she enjoys sewing gifts for her grandkids, especially. She also enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband, children and grandkids.










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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

(These Are All Symptoms Of A Treatable Sleep Disorder Known As Sleep Apnea.)

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We can't wait to meet...



# Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

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...the other campers in our groups.

Kids: color stuff in!

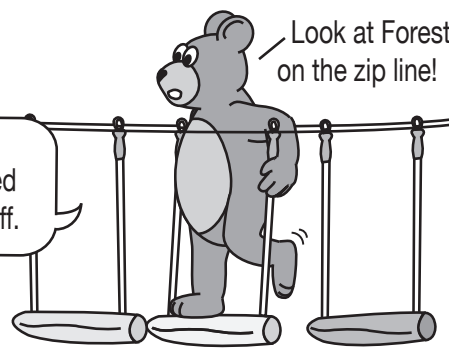


Camp has so many new activities to try!

Are **you** going to any summer camp? If so, what kind of camp?

## Off to Summer Camp!

Chitter and Chatter are going to go to day camp. Forest and I are going to overnight camp for two weeks. Chitter and Chatter only need to bring their lunches each day, but Forest and I must pack more stuff.



Look at Forest on the zip line!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with the names of different kinds of camps:

1. stunts, cheers, competitions
2. kitchen safety, recipes, pans
3. defense exercises, sparring practice
4. canoeing, hiking, fishing
5. lessons, practice, recitals
6. study, singing, praying
7. programming, gaming, web site building
8. brainstorming, stories, editing
9. flight simulation, mock launches
10. swimming, basketball, soccer
11. ballet, hip hop, jazz
12. costumes, acting, shows
13. horses, riding, shows
14. experiments, rockets, robots
15. drawing, comics, animations

Science  
Music  
Writing

Cheerleading  
Martial Arts  
Equestrian

Space  
Sports  
Nature

Computer  
Cartoon  
Theater

Bible  
Cooking  
Dance

I love to read comics by flashlight!

Do you see the glow from that tent?

How many fireflies are on this page?

Fill in the blanks below to help Forest and Glade make their list of things to bring to camp:

1. \_\_ oo \_\_ hbrush
2. sh \_\_ \_\_ ts
3. fla \_\_ \_\_ ight
4. hair \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

8. \_\_ tamp \_\_
9. j \_\_ ck \_\_ t
10. h \_\_ \_\_

5. t \_\_ \_\_ ls
6. so \_\_ \_\_ s
7. pill \_\_ \_\_

w s s c r  
u b o e r  
e r h l a k  
t s o h s

What?  
I can do the dog paddle, but this is fun.



I'm trying something new!

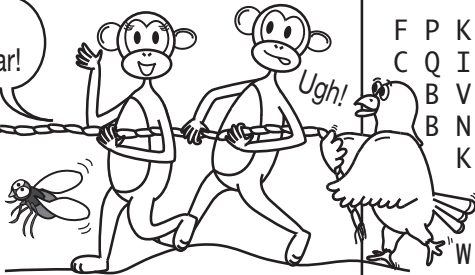
What are you doing, Echo?



Hey guys! Pull harder! Forest is as strong as a bear!

Eeeeeek! Look out for me. !!!

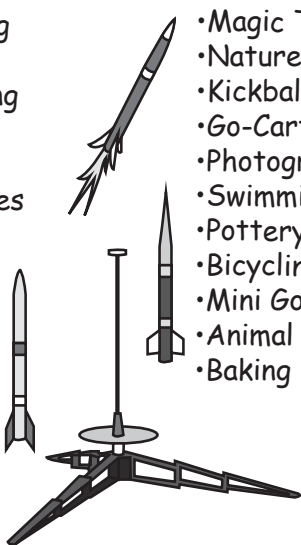
No kidding!



Hi Mom and Dad,  
I love camp! I have made lots of friends. We are so busy all the time swimming, making crafts and learning new activities. I even made you a puzzle. **Can you find and circle all of these activities that I have tried this year?**  
I can't wait to see you!  
Love, Forest

- Capture the Flag
- Playing Cards
- Horseback Riding
- Scrapbooking
- Model Rockets
- Catching Fireflies
- Spooky Stories
- Roasting Marshmallows
- First Aid Class

Hey! When did you find time to write home?



- Magic Tricks
- Nature Walk
- Kickball
- Go-Carts
- Photography
- Swimming
- Pottery
- Bicycling
- Mini Golf
- Animal Care
- Baking

F P K H F M O D E L R O C K E T S A L Y S L K  
C Q I I V B S K C I R T C I G A M Z B X C P R  
C B V N C Q P W O E I R U T Y G H F J Z R E O  
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K Q T Y B X S O U T I B L R T U D I P T S  
C B P A A Q U Y N V B A K X O I S B A T  
F H J O Y L B N M V A Y K S I R F O B I  
W F Y J K V X L A W H I I A I G F A O G N  
T W E D V H C Q O F X K A H N P E N A Q K T G  
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E U U C T B T A Q W O A P E C A W I P R N O A  
F B T A A O C E Q O B L Q S A R G L B A G O R  
L P A P C X H E A H U I H L R A Q O S C Q U S  
A B N T P O I D W G V C S A D N T T O L A Q H  
G B S U H I N A O W O K L N S Z R Z X A V N M  
P A S R O I G Q W P O Y T S A A M A Z M Z P A  
N V X E T N F I R S T A I D C L A S S I W Q L  
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B I Z L P E L A T B I C Y C L I N G N M V A I  
V N T A H L I C T A Q W S E P M B C N M Z X T  
C I G G Y S E I O P S E I R O T S Y K O O P S  
B M Z A O P S T P Q A Z X S W P L M N J I X A

## Ready For Fun at Camp!

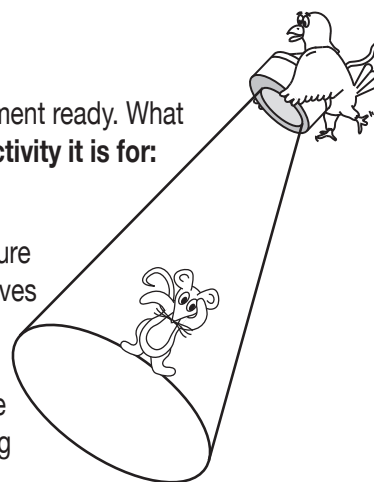
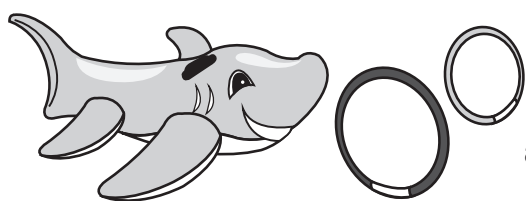
When you show up for your next class, the camp counselor has the equipment ready. What activity are you going to do? **Draw a line from each equipment list to the activity it is for:**

- 1.) plastic lacing, popsicle sticks, buttons and glue, macaroni
- 2.) tennis racket, baseball bat, soccer ball, basketball hoop
- 3.) script, stage, spotlight, curtain
- 4.) bows, arrows, wrist guards, targets
- 5.) keyboard, monitor, mouse, software

- A.) Theater
- B.) Computer
- C.) Crafts
- D.) Sports
- E.) Archery

- 1.) kickboards, diving toys, whistle
- 2.) bowls, spoons, ingredients, pans
- 3.) rocks, fossils, volcano models
- 4.) canoes, kayaks, safety vests
- 5.) fingerprinting, magnifying glass

- A.) Water Adventure
- B.) Detectives
- C.) Swim
- D.) Earth Science
- E.) Cooking





# 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. 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).

## All you need is love – and a seat at American English's concert benefiting Cancer Resource Centre

Come together for an American English concert benefiting Cancer Resource Centre in Munster. The well-known Beatles tribute band will perform at 7 p.m. Friday, June 21 at Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road in Munster. American English features Eric Michaels as Paul

McCartney, Jim Irizarry as John Lennon, James Paul Lynch as George Harrison, and Tony Giangreco as Ringo Starr. Tickets are \$40 and available at [TheatreAtTheCenter.com](http://TheatreAtTheCenter.com) or 219-836-3255. All proceeds go to Cancer Resource Centre, a program of Community Cancer Research

Foundation, which is dedicated to improving the quality of cancer care in Northwest Indiana and surrounding communities. All Cancer Resource Centre services are offered free of charge to those affected by cancer, as well as their loved ones. For more information, visit [www.mycrcf.com](http://www.mycrcf.com).

## Career scholarship account application now open for Indiana high school students

The State of Indiana is now accepting applications for students to participate in the Career Scholarship Account (CSA) program during the upcoming school year. The first-in-the-nation CSA program provides \$5,000 annually for tenth through twelfth grade students enrolled in eligible work-based learning programs, including internships, apprenticeships, applied learning experiences and credential attainment experiences.

"In K-12 education, we have an incredible opportunity to help every student find their purpose, know their value and understand the possibilities for their life's path," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "In order to maximize the four years of high school, we must work together to ensure more students have access to quality experiences that set them up for success, including high-quality work-based learning and educational attainment opportunities. Indiana's CSA program is one way to remove barriers, such as transportation, and ensure more students have the opportunity to experience careers and earn a credential of value while still in high school."

Indiana's CSA program

provides all students the opportunity to explore their interests, gain hands-on experience and build skills that will ensure a seamless transition from high school to higher education and quality careers. CSA funds can be used to cover eligible expenses in the following categories:

- Enrollment fees for courses, sequences, apprenticeships or programs of study;
- Career coaching and navigation services;
- Postsecondary education and training;
- Transportation and equipment; and
- Certification and credentialing examinations.

"Career exploration through work-based learning programs is incredibly valuable to a student's journey to determine their ideal pathway after high school," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "As students receive more flexibility to participate in these hands-on experiences, Indiana's CSA Program will remove potential barriers and increase opportunities for students to discover possibilities for education and training beyond high school."

Through a coordinated cross-agency effort, the Indiana Department of Education approves eli-

gible programs, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education approves eligible providers and the Treasurer of State approves eligible students and provider expense reimbursements.

"We are really excited to see how Career Scholarship Accounts will continue to provide great alternative career paths for our students," said Daniel Elliott, Indiana Treasurer of State. "With apprenticeship programs gaining momentum, this is another example of how Indiana is leading the way in offering more options for school choice, ensuring that everyone can find the path that's right for them."

Students at any Indiana high school are encouraged to apply. Applications for the 2024-2025 school year will be accepted through Tuesday, October 1. Visit the student resources page for additional information on the CSA program, eligibility requirements and to access the student application.

Additional details on how funds may be used can be found at [www.in.gov/tos](http://www.in.gov/tos)

(Teacher from Pg. 1)

ies trust, fosters a sense of belonging, and cultivates a positive school culture where every student feels loved, valued and supported."

Finalists for Secondary Teacher of the Year were:

- Mary Lux - CPHS
- Amy Mehrle - Col. Wheeler

**Employee of the Year - Jennifer Eaton**

Jennifer Eaton is an Applied Skills paraprofessional at Crown Point High School. Mrs. Eaton helped successfully navigate caring for our exceptional education students at CPHS this year through some significant changes.

James Twardy, a CPHS teacher, recognized her accomplishments. "Jenny's commitment and care for her students and co-workers is on full display for all who enter the classroom, as she routinely puts others' needs first. Jenny is always willing to go

above and beyond to meet the needs of her students. Her patience and positive disposition help her establish positive relationships with her students, creating a safe and comforting learning environment. Jenny shows initiative and is quick to step up to meet any challenge, taking on new roles and providing veteran leadership. Her dedication and experience make her a valuable asset to the CPHS Exceptional Education team."

Finalists for Employee of the Year were:

- Bob Berkes - Maintenance, Carpenter
- Scott Kessler - Driver Coach

**Administrator of the Year - Martin Freeman**

Marty Freeman is CPCSC's Director of Transportation and has a 30-year career in education. Marty arrived in our district

in 2022 and led the transportation department through what could be described as a reboot. Under his guidance and leadership, we've recruited and retained more bus drivers, established a sense of community amongst our transportation employees, and become more efficient with our transportation services. Marty leads his team in covering more than one million miles per year.

**Spirit of a Bulldog Award - Pam Maloney**

Pam Maloney is our Director of Food Services and is retiring after 23 years of service. Her dedication to providing nutritious meals to our students, managing our cafeterias, and navigating changes in food service requirements is unmatched. We estimate that over the course of her tenure, Pam has led her team in serving nearly 14 million meals to students.

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Nominations sought for 20th anniversary of South Shore Legends induction

Nominations are now open for a new South Shore Legend to be added to the Wall of Legends at the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond. Nominees should have accomplishments that resonate in and beyond northwest Indiana that demonstrate innovation, creativity, courage and/or exploration.

“Recognizing people from Northwest Indiana for their contributions to the region and to greater society is an important part of creating region pride and providing

inspiration to future generations,” said Kelly Anoe, Legacy Foundation President & CEO. “We are excited to be a partner in bringing this program back.”

Legends are individuals, living or dead, who have had a substantial impact with lasting implications and have lived or worked in Lake, Porter, La Porte, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski or Starke counties.

“With the support from Legacy Foundation and BP Whiting Refinery, the Indiana Welcome Center

completely redesigned the Wall of Legends to an interactive kiosk for the 20th anniversary,” stated Phil Taillon, CEO & President at the South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority. “The rich history of these legends is an inspiration to all of us who live and work in the area.”

South Shore Legends are typically historical contributors, not modern-day innovators. Past Legends include Orville Redenbacher, Charles Bowman & Garnet Findling for revolutionizing

the popcorn industry, Frank Borman – Apollo 8 Commander, “A Christmas Story” author Jean Parker Shepherd, and many others.

Nominations will be accepted through July 31, 2024. Multiple individuals engaged in the same activity can be included in one nomination. Direct questions to Stephanie@southshorecva.com. For more information, to view past Legends or to make a nomination visit [www.alongthesouthshore.com/legends](http://www.alongthesouthshore.com/legends)



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.”

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](http://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](http://www.pnw.edu/graduate-studies).

Purdue University Northwest 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).

Valparaiso University to host 42nd season of Lutheran Summer Music

Valparaiso University will host over 250 students, faculty, fellows and staff — representing 30 states and two countries — as they come together for a summer of music and worship with the 2024 Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) season. This season will feature over 30 free, public concerts, recitals and worship events, running from July 1 to July 28, 2024.

The 2024 season of LSM will culminate during Festival Week, July 22 through 28, featuring band,

choir, and orchestra performances as well as numerous recitals and worship services.

This summer includes an exciting lineup of guest artists, including the award-winning Verona Quartet, who will serve as faculty and Artists in Residence. Also joining this summer is Christopher Aspaas Ph.D., who will direct the Alumni Choir; Catherine Rodland Ph.D., who will guest teach LSM’s burgeoning organ studio; alumni composer Lawton Hall (LSM 2005-

2006) who will write and premiere a work for brass ensemble; and Dr. Jennaya Robison, Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir, who will join to work with the LSM Festival Choir.

Events will take place at the Duesenberg Recital Hall and the Chapel of the Resurrection. A complete list of LSM concerts and events can be found at [www.lsmacademy.org/2024/#2024calendar](http://www.lsmacademy.org/2024/#2024calendar).

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