



Martin Luther King, Jr.

b. January 15, 1929, d. April 4, 1968

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January 14, 2022

PNW contributes \$746 million in local income to regional economy

Purdue University Northwest (PNW) adds \$745.9 million in total income to Northwest Indiana, supporting 10,494 jobs across Lake, Porter, and La Porte counties, according to a recently completed economic impact study.

PNW's impact accounts for 2% of gross regional product, including the accomplishments of students and alumni, research conducted, start-ups launched, and visitors welcomed as a result of PNW's educational and engagement activities.

According to the study, the activities of PNW and its students support one out of every 36 jobs in Northwest Indiana.

Furthermore, expanding the research to PNW's primary service region including Cook and Will counties in Illinois and Berrien County in Michigan, the university adds \$1.4 billion in total income and supports 14,876 jobs.

"The results of this study further confirm PNW's role as a premier metropolitan university, transforming students' lives and our region at the most significant rate among all local public universities," said PNW Chancellor Thomas L. Keon. "Every dollar spent by students on a PNW education increases their lifetime earnings fourfold. From a taxpayer perspective, every

\$1 invested at PNW returns \$1.70 to the local economy, for a total value of \$89.7 million in future tax revenue and government savings."

The study also found:

- The average bachelor's degree graduate from PNW will see an increase in earnings of \$22,200 each year compared to someone with a high school diploma.
- The impact of PNW's alumni – including higher earnings, increased business profit and the ripple effects of alumni living and working in Northwest Indiana – added \$591.5 million in regional income, supporting 8,248 jobs.
- Start-up companies supported by PNW faculty,

innovative centers and research added \$11 million in income to the Northwest Indiana economy.

- Spending by PNW students generated \$7.9 million in added income for the regional economy, which supported 178 jobs.
- The off-campus expenditures of PNW's out-of-region visitors generated a net impact of \$124,200 in added income for the regional economy.

The study was commissioned by PNW and conducted by Emsi Burning Glass, a leading labor market analytics firm that provides insights on the changing workforce to higher education institutions around the world, as well as



to corporate and government clients. The study examined the economic impacts of PNW's spending across major industries in the region, and the costs associated with a PNW education from the perspective of students,

taxpayers and the region at large. The study was based on data from the 2019-20 academic year. Learn more about PNW's economic impact study at www.pnw.edu/impact.

43.1% of Indiana teens admit using a phone when driving

Teen drivers are one of the highest-risk groups on the road. Young drivers are more likely to make mistakes from inexperience, get distracted by devices or other passengers, or engage in risky behaviors like speeding, not wearing a seatbelt, or drinking and driving.

In recent decades, more states have implemented policy change in an effort to reduce risks for teen drivers and those who share the road with them. Most notably, states have adopted graduated licensing systems that progressively scale up young

drivers' privileges on the road as they get more experience behind the wheel. States have also introduced stronger laws on the use of seatbelts, mobile devices, and substances, which apply to all motorists but are particular risk factors for teens.

Recent years have shown a marked decline in teen vehicle fatalities as a result of these reforms. In 2005, a total of 4,874 teens were killed in a vehicle crash. By 2019, that figure had fallen by more than half, to 2,165. However, there remains a significant gap between male

and female fatalities: in 2019, the number of male fatalities (1,450) was over twice as high as the number of female fatalities (715) for teens aged 15 to 19.

One of the factors contributing to this difference is male drivers' tendency to engage in more risky behaviors behind the wheel compared to their female counterparts. For example, there is a statistically significant difference between the genders on seatbelt use, with 7.4% of males not wearing a seatbelt compared to 5.6% of females. Male teen drivers also have

a slight, statistically insignificant edge in cell phone use (39.6% for males and 38.4% for females), though it is most concerning that the rate of phone use while driving for both genders is so high.

Distracted driving — including using a phone while behind the wheel — is highly risky, responsible for more than 3,000 vehicle deaths annually and more than 1,000 injuries each day. Some research estimates that texting while driving is even more likely to lead to a crash than driving under the influence. This is a particular issue for

teens, who have high rates of phone use.

The distracted driving problem is worse in some states than others. Most of the states where teen drivers report the highest phone use are rural states in the Midwest or Mountain West, including five states where more than half of teen drivers admit to using their phones while driving. Teens in these states also tend to wear seatbelts at a lower rate than teen drivers elsewhere. The lower volume of cars on rural roads may be contributing to a false sense of safety, but vehicle

accidents in rural areas are often more likely to result in injury or death.

The data used in this analysis is from the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System. To determine the states with the most distracted teen drivers, researchers at CoPilot calculated the share of teens using their phone while driving, defined by the CDC as having texted or e-mailed while driving a car in the (See *Teens* Pg. 4)

The main contaminants we have to worry about being exposed to in our drinking water

Contributed by the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Today, most Americans get their water from their sinks or fridge filters, and it travels great distances to get there. On the way, it may pick up chemicals that are harmful to our health if not filtered out properly.

An analysis by the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council using 2016 data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that some 18 million Americans were living in areas with unsafe levels of lead in the water. In another report, USA Today found that 63 million Americans were exposed to

unsafe drinking water from 2007-2017. Water pollution issues were also found to disproportionately plague minority and low-income communities.

Flint, Michigan has been a leading example of U.U. communities facing water pollution. Discolored and highly polluted water was piped into Flint for 18 months during which time residents experienced skin rashes, itchy skin and hair loss. Although complaints were filed by Flint community members, they were dismissed by government officials.

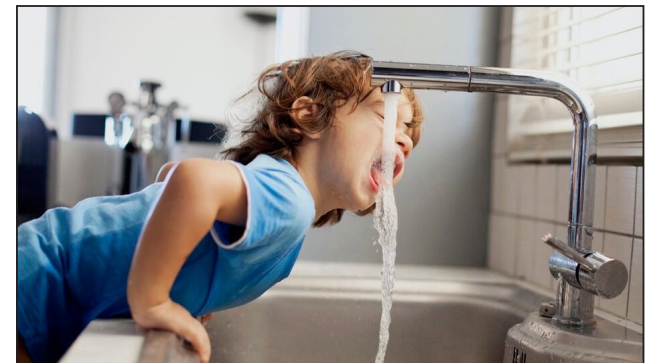
Many felt the government's response (or lack thereof) was rooted in prejudice as the majority of

Flint's population is black and two of five residents live below the poverty line. Michigan's own Civil Rights Commission called the poor response a "result of systemic racism."

One of the main poisons in Flint's water was lead, which entered the water via corroded plumbing. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), says that lead exposure is especially harmful to kids, causing brain and nervous system damage, developmental, learning and behavioral issues and hearing loss. In adults, lead can cause high blood pressure, miscarriage, infertility and brain and kidney damage.

Some other common contaminants in drinking water are perfluorooctanesulfonic (PFOS) and perfluorooctane (PFOA), strontium and perchlorate.

PFOS and PFOA are persistent man-made chemicals that can seep into groundwater sources and don't break down easily. They've been linked to chronic kidney disease and several forms of cancer. Strontium can weaken bones and stunt bone growth. Florida, Texas and Eastern Wisconsin each have higher than normal percentages of strontium in their water because many reservoirs come from carbonate rock aquifers in these states. Perchlorate disrupts



the thyroid's ability to produce hormones. It has also been labeled a "likely human carcinogen" by the EPA. It is estimated that 11 million Americans live in areas with perchlorate concentrations that are higher than what is considered safe in drinking water.

If you'd like to know

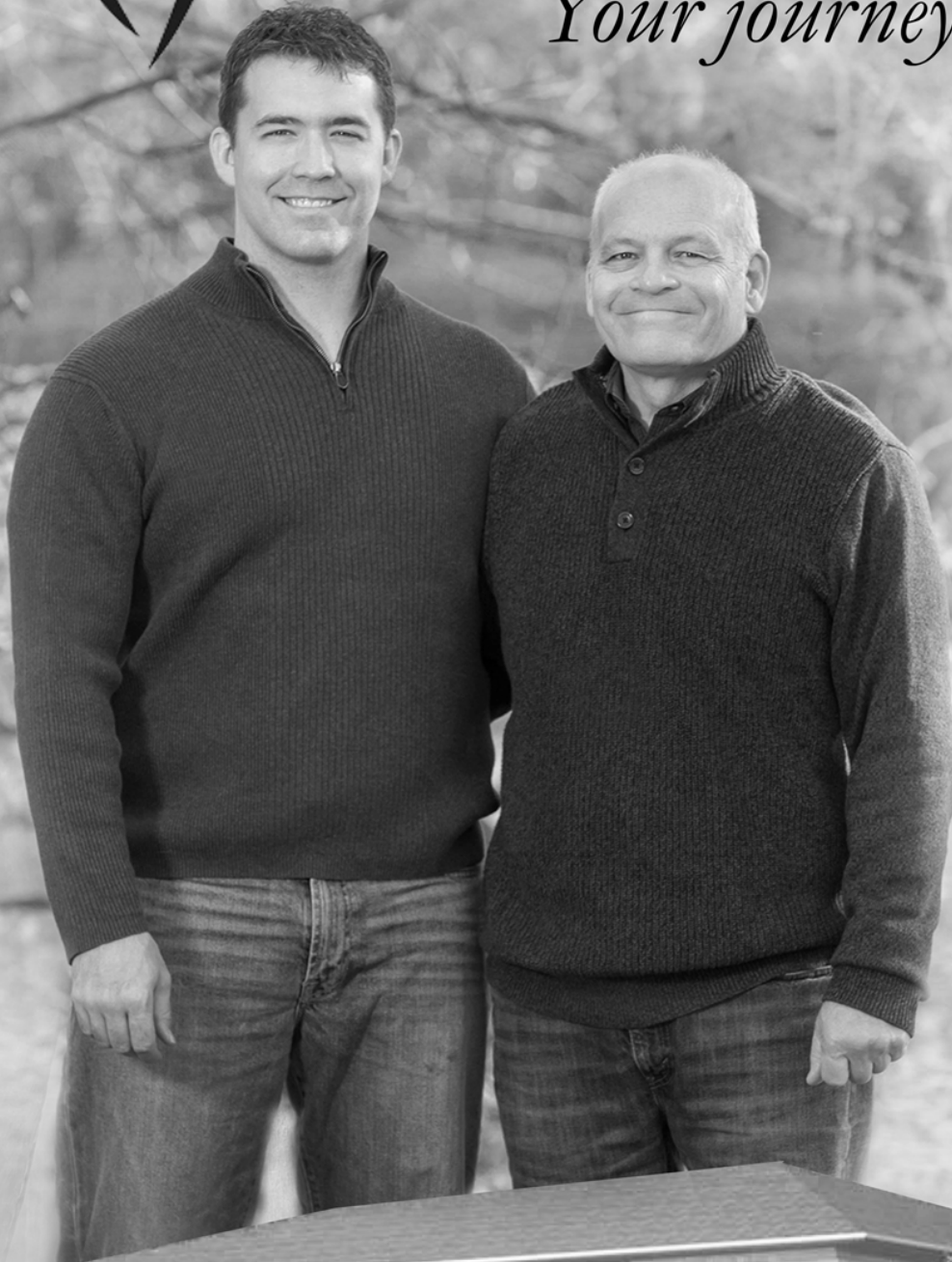
what's in your drinking water, look online for free local water testing reports, or find a lab that will test your home water supply for between \$20 and \$100. Advocating for clean water to local, state, and federal government agencies is also key to maintaining the community's right to clean water.

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Tri Kappa’s local chapter seeking local scholarship candidates; deadline February 1

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

Interested candidates must have a 3.6 minimum GPA and demonstrate potential within their chosen career field. Additional state scholarships are available in the areas of academics, fine arts and music.

A key scholarship is available to individuals with at least a five-year gap in their education and no other undergraduate degree.

The deadline for submitted completed application packets is February 1, 2022. For scholarship packet and more information, email scholarship@betarhotrikappa.org or call Tri Kappa Scholarship Committee Chair Christi Chavez at 219-588-8940.

Support group for Covid-19 ‘long haulers’ offered in Dyer

While most people infected with Covid-19 fully recover, a significant number continue to feel symptoms long after their initial recovery. Franciscan Health Dyer is offering a group to allow these ‘long haulers’ to share their stories and provide support to each other.

Begun January 4, the Covid-19 Long Hauler Support Group will meet from 3 to 4 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month at Franciscan Health Dyer, located at 24 Joliet Street, in the Reginald Boardroom.

Masks and social distancing are required, and no food or drinks are allowed. Space will be limited to eight participants. To reserve your spot, call Melinda from the Palliative Care Department at 219-922-7159.


According to Mayo Clinic, those who are older and have other serious medical conditions are most likely to experience lingering Covid-19 symptoms, but even young, healthy people can have symptoms for weeks to months after infection. Common signs and symptoms that linger include fatigue; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; cough; joint pain; chest pain; memory, concentration, or sleep problems; muscle pain or headache; fast or pounding heartbeat; loss of smell or taste; depression or anxiety; fever; dizziness when you stand; and worsened symptoms after physical or mental activities.

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BMV hosting virtual job fair to highlight openings available across the state

The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, in partnership with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is hosting a virtual job fair to promote multiple positions the agency has available throughout the state.

The virtual job fair is scheduled to run from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. CST on Wednesday, January 19.

Opportunities include Customer Service Representative (intermittent, part-time, full-time), Team Lead, Manager in Training, Assistant Branch Manager, and Branch Manager. BMV leaders will discuss job opportunities in detail, along with benefits and how to apply. BMV team members also will be on hand to share why they chose to work at the BMV and how they've advanced their careers.

"The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles offers rewarding careers for those wanting to make an impact on the lives of Hoosiers every day," said BMV Commissioner Peter Lacy. "We have numerous positions available with a variety of great benefits and are excited to partner with the DWD on this virtual job fair."

DWD Commissioner Fred Payne said, "The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles assists thousands of Hoosiers every day and enjoys great success in serving them thanks to its dedicated team members. We are pleased to partner with the BMV to announce these important opportunities to potential job-seekers."

Those interested in the job fair but unable to attend are encouraged to still register, as a recording will be sent via e-mail the following day.

To register, visit www.attendee.gotowebinar.com/

(Teens from Pg. 1)

past 30 days. In the event of a tie, the state with the higher share of teens who don't wear a seatbelt and/or the higher teen traffic fatality rate was ranked higher. The teen traffic fatality rate was calculated as the number of teen traffic fatalities divided by the teen population, averaged over the past five years.

The analysis found that 43.1% of Indiana teens used their phones while driving, defined by the CDC as having texted or e-mailed while driving a car in the past 30 days.

Out of the 46 states with complete data available included in the analysis, Indiana has the 18th most distracted teen drivers. Here is a summary of the data for Indiana:

- Share of teens using their phone while driving: 43.1%
- Share of teens who don't wear a seatbelt: 5.9%
- Teen traffic fatality rate (per 100k): 14.9
- Average annual teen traffic fatalities: 69

For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:

- Share of teens using their phone while driving: 40.0%
 - Share of teens who don't wear a seatbelt: 6.2%
 - Teen traffic fatality rate (per 100k): 11.4
 - Average annual teen traffic fatalities: 2,446
- For more information, a detailed methodology, and complete results, you can find the original report on CoPilot's website at www.copilotsearch.com/posts/states-with-the-most-distracted-teen-drivers




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- 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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Indiana Department of Education releases 2021 high school graduation rate

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) released the 2021 state graduation rates, with data showing 86.69% of students in the Class of 2021 graduating.

“Across our state, our educators, families and community leaders are working to be difference-makers in our students’ lives, preparing them not only for graduation but for the rapidly-changing world that awaits,” said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. “Looking ahead into 2022 and beyond, we must continue to work together to ensure our students earn their high school diploma and have access to intentional post-secondary credentials in high school. This mission takes all of us as we strive to make an impact on our students’ lives, now and well into the future.”

A spreadsheet with statewide-, corporation- and school-level graduation data is available at www.in.gov/doe/it/data-center-and-reports

These graduation rates correspond with research that shows that the academic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are substantial. According to research from IDOE and the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, Inc., the academic impact ranges from moderate to significant across schools, academic subjects, and demographic groups. In response, IDOE launched several accelerated learning programs, which are still underway and will be joined by additional efforts planned for next year.

This year, nearly 40% of Hoosier students graduated with a Core 40 honors diploma (academic, technical, or both) or an International Baccalaureate diploma. Additionally, more than 78% graduated without requiring a waiver from passing the Graduation Qualifying Exam – an increase of nearly two percentage points from 2019.

Due to differences between federal and state accountability equations and standards, IDOE also released 2021 federal graduation rates. In 2021, Indiana’s federal graduation rate was 85.75%.

Signups underway for the Crown Point Community Foundation’s annual Volunteer Fair

Registration is now open for non-profit organizations to exhibit at the Crown Point Community Foundation’s annual Volunteer Fair. The Volunteer Fair is an opportunity to match charitable organizations with those who are interested in volunteering. It gathers non-profits from throughout the area in one convenient place, letting potential volunteers meet and talk to dozens of charities.

This one-day event will take place on Saturday, March 5 at Crown Point High School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is the Crown Point Community Foundation’s thirteenth year sponsoring the event, which also includes an on-site blood drive. Non-profit organizations can reserve a table top booth for only \$30 with an online payment made during the online registration process. This registration fee includes the price of advertising in the Volunteer Fair pull-out program booklet that will be distributed in The Times newspaper on Thursday, March 3, and at the event. This special section will include information about your organization, its mission and your volunteer opportunities.

To exhibit, register online at: www.cpcfgrants.communityforce.com and select 2022 Volunteer Fair Application. Registration is open now until January 31, 2022.

“Our Volunteer Fair is one of our largest and most anticipated events of the year,” said Mary Nielsen, president of the Crown Point Community Foundation. “It’s a great opportunity for area nonprofit organizations to meet potential volunteers face-to-face, share their mission as well as to build connections with other charities in our community.”

2022 Crown Point Babe Ruth Spring/Summer Registration is OPEN

Crown Point Babe Ruth now has sign-ups online at a **DISCOUNT** through the month of January at www.crownpointbaberuth.siplay.com/site

13-15 year old division will accept players from ALL of Northwest Indiana and 16-18 year old division will take players from Lake, Porter, Jasper, Newton, and LaPorte counties. Any player born in 2003 or after is eligible for the 16-18 programs.

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This week in history

January 16, 1970

The seven-time Golden Glove-winning center fielder Curt Flood of the St. Louis Cardinals filed suit in a New York federal court against Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, the presidents of the American and National Leagues, and all 24 teams in the Major League Baseball organization.

After the Cardinals traded Flood to the Philadelphia Phillies, Flood wrote a letter to Kuhn protesting the league’s player reserve clause, which prevented players from moving to another team unless they were traded. Flood argued that the reserve clause violated antitrust laws and violated the 13th Amendment, which barred slavery and involuntary servitude.

Flood was the most prominent player to challenge the reserve clause, and stood to lose the most. After a U.S. district court judge rejected Flood’s claim in August 1970, the case went to the U.S. Supreme Court. Despite the support of such players as Jackie Robinson, Flood suffered when no active players agreed to testify on his behalf, and the court ruled against him in a 5-3 decision.

His lost battle turned into an eventual win for the players. Major League Baseball agreed to federal arbitration of players’ salary demands in 1973, and in 1975 an arbitrator effectively threw out the reserve clause, paving the way for free agency in baseball and all professional sports.

www.history.com

DIRECTOR PROFILE: LARRY GEISEN



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Attended St. Mary’s School and graduated from Crown Point High School in 1984

Graduate of the Purdue University School of Management in 1988

Member of the Crown Point Rotary Club and Board Member of the Crown Point Community Foundation

Enjoys coaching baseball and basketball, playing golf and spending time with wife Kim, children Alle, Anthony and Nicholas



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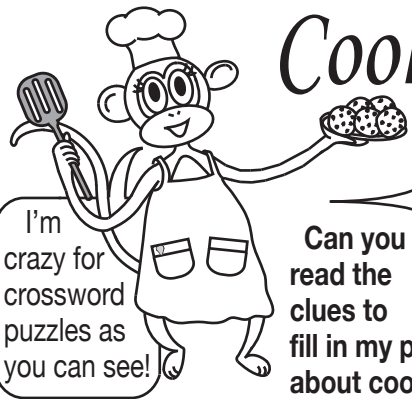
...own ingredients to make a great pizza!



Kids: color stuff in!



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Cooking and Baking Fun!

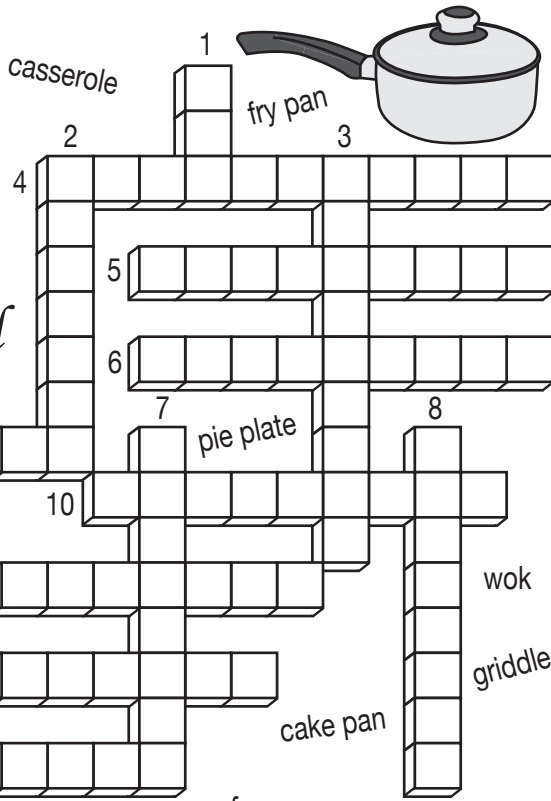
I enjoy cooking and baking. I like putting foods together to make new, hopefully delicious, combinations. One of my favorite hobbies is to take an old recipe that everyone loves, like cheese and macaroni, and "lighten" it to make it a healthier dish that's just as tasty.

Can you read the clues to fill in my puzzles about cooking?

I'm crazy for crossword puzzles as you can see!

- 1. bowl-shaped pan used to cook Chinese food
- 2. comes in many shapes and sizes, usually metal
- 3. very deep with handles and lids
- 4. flat piece of metal for laying out pieces of dough
- 5. bowl heated from below – keeps cheese and chocolate melted for dipping
- 6. mixed foods cooked in a large, deep, usually uncovered dish in the oven
- 7. round, doughnut-shaped baking pan
- 8. shallow, round, glass or metal dish used to bake one of America's favorite desserts
- 9. round, flat, with low sides; may be made of iron, may have a non-stick surface, handle
- 10. has several, tiny cups for batter; a cupcake pan or a _____
- 11. square or rectangular "frying pan," may be flat or have ridges, drains off extra grease
- 12. rectangular pan that is deep, used for breads and a favorite meat dinner
- 13. large, round, flat metal pan, sometimes deeper for "deep dish"

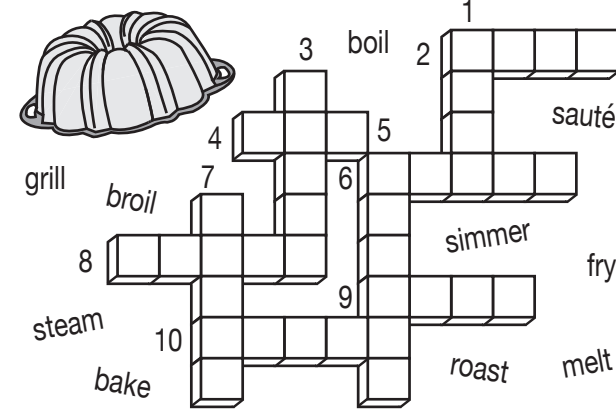
Pots and Pans



How We Cook It

- 1. cook in oven using dry heat
- 2. heat liquid until it starts to bubble and steam
- 3. cook over an open fire
- 4. cook in a pan or griddle, usually in very hot oil
- 5. cook food just below its boiling point
- 6. heat using water in the form of wisps of _____
- 7. cook meat in oven, uncovered in a shallow pan without adding liquid
- 8. cook at high temperature using direct heat from the top of the oven

- 9. turn something into liquid over heat
- 10. cook in a pan with a little bit of oil or butter

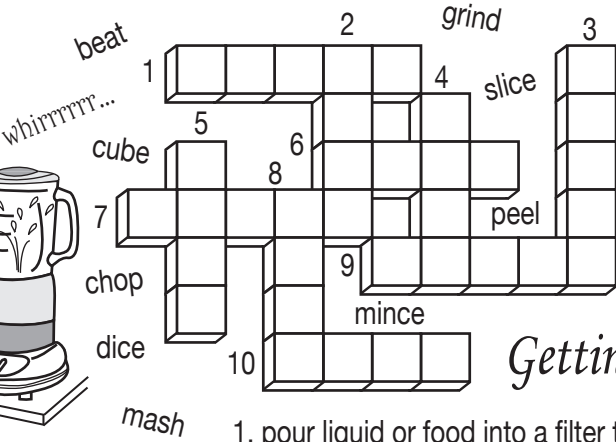


Running the Kitchen Smoothly

I'm helping Chatter in the kitchen today. I am her "sous chef," which means I am the second in command! I make sure everything is ready and the kitchen is running smoothly, and I help to cook the food.

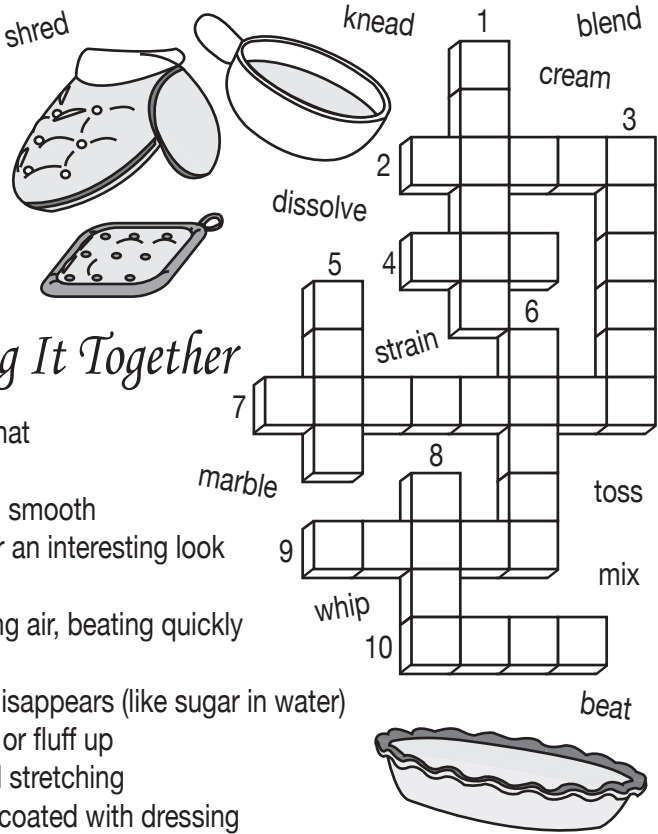
Getting food ready and keeping the kitchen running smoothly:

- 1. cut into thin strips with a knife
- 2. cut food into small square pieces
- 3. crush food in blender or other machine
- 4. press to remove lumps
- 5. cut food into squares smaller than 1/2 inch, using a knife
- 6. stir ingredients together with a whisk or spoon
- 7. chop into tiny pieces
- 8. cut ingredients into pieces using a knife or food processor
- 9. cut into long, thin pieces (may use round holes on grater)
- 10. pull off or cut off the skin or rind of fruit or vegetable



Getting It Together

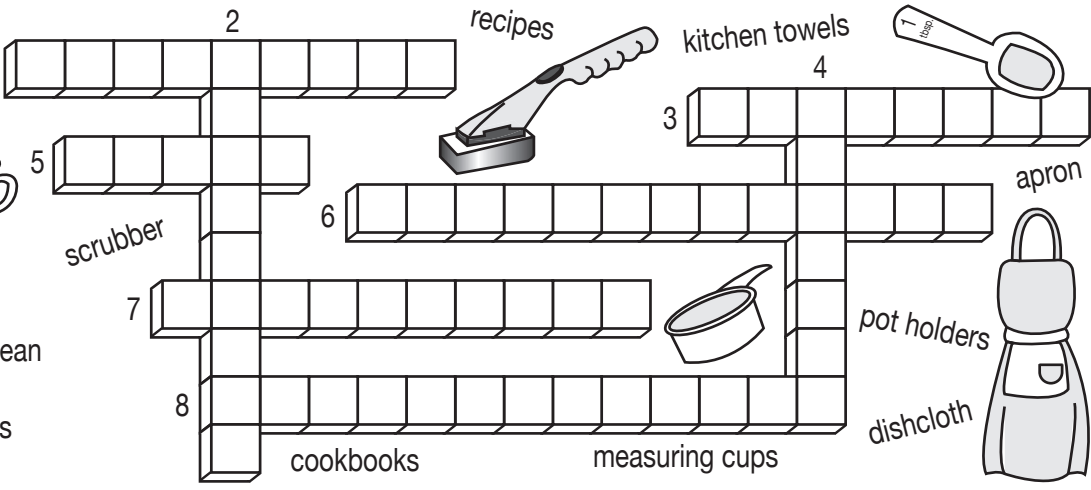
- 1. pour liquid or food into a filter that catches any solid bits
- 2. blend milk, butter, or sugar until smooth
- 3. swirl different types of batter for an interesting look
- 4. put ingredients together
- 5. make ingredients fluffy by adding air, beating quickly
- 6. mix smoothly together
- 7. blend food into a liquid until it disappears (like sugar in water)
- 8. stir very fast so ingredients mix or fluff up
- 9. work on dough by pressing and stretching
- 10. mix a salad until everything is coated with dressing



We are helpers in the kitchen. Read the clues to find out how we help. Then, fill in the puzzle!

Kitchen Helpers

- 1. small rag used for washing plates, pots, and pans
- 2. books filled with recipes
- 3. rough, sponge-like tool for removing food from pots and pans
- 4. sets of instructions for making or preparing something
- 5. special piece of clothing that covers the front to keep clothes clean
- 6. cups with markings on the side
- 7. thick cloths that protect hands and table from hot pots and pans
- 8. larger cloths for drying off your washed plates, pots, and pans



Firewood cutting permits available at nearby Tippecanoe River State Park through March 18

The public is invited to cut up and remove certain downed trees at Tippecanoe River State Park for firewood. Trees eligible for firewood have fallen as a result of natural causes or have been dropped by property staff. They are along roadsides or in public areas such as campsites and picnic areas.

Permit sales and cutting both begin January 24 and end March 18.

The cost of one pickup-truck load is \$10. All proceeds will be used for resource management and restoration efforts, including replacement of trees in campgrounds and other public areas.

A firewood permit must be obtained for each load at the Tippecanoe River State Park office between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Permits are not available on observed state holidays.

Wood may be cut and removed between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily. For more information, call 765-597-2635.

Firewood cut at Tippecanoe River State Park is for personal use only and cannot be sold. Tippecanoe River State Park (www.on.IN.gov/tippecanoeriver) is at 4200 North U.S. 35 in Winamac, about an hour from Winfield-LOFS.

Turkey Run State Park hosts ‘Eagles in Flight’ weekend January 28 to 30

See live bald eagles and other birds of prey and learn about their behavior during Turkey Run’s annual Eagles in Flight Weekend January 28 to 30.

Events include live birds of prey demonstrations, songbird banding, eagle nest driving tours, and an owl prowl. There will also be an online auction supported by the Friends of Turkey Run and Shades State Parks at www.32auctions.com/EIF22 that will end at 6:15 p.m. CT January 29.

Auction bidders do not need to attend the Eagles in Flight Weekend. All proceeds go to supporting the parks.

Register for the event at www.eagles_in_flight_2022.eventbrite.com. Reservations at Turkey Run Inn can be made by calling 877-LODGES1 or by going to www.IndianalInns.com and using discount code 0128EF.

Standard park entrance fees of \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-state vehicle apply.

Crown Point Community Foundation now accepting scholarship applications

The Crown Point Community Foundation is accepting online scholarship applications for high school, college, and adult learners (non-traditional students, 21 & over) who are looking to continue their education in Fall 2022.

The 2022 scholarship applications must be submitted online. The link to the applications can be found on the CPCF website, www.thecpcf.org/scholarships.

html or on the Crown Point Community Foundation’s Facebook page.

The deadline for applying is Friday, February 18, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. (CST).

Questions about the application process should be made to the Foundation office at 219-662-7252. The application for the non-traditional Adult Learners Scholarships is separate from the 2022 General Scholarship Application for

traditional high school and college applicants.

The CPCF encourages all qualifying students to apply for scholarships administered by the Foundation. A complete listing of all scholarships can be found on their website at www.thecpcf.org/scholarships.html

The Crown Point Community Foundation connects people who care to causes that matter. Since 1990, we have served the citizens of Crown Point and South Lake County through a range of charitable and civic activities, while helping individual donors achieve their philanthropic goals. As a public charitable organization, the CPCF is dedicated to building permanently endowed funds. The Crown Point Community Foundation will help to positively shape the future of the community and act as a facilitator of community good.



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Indiana favorite Turkey Run State Park to host Nature's Mating Game event February 12

Learn how other species reproduce during Turkey Run State Park's Nature's Mating Game event on February 12, located about two hours south of Winfield-LOFS.

Enjoy dinner, desserts, a cash bar, and a glimpse at the adult side of the natural world. Tickets are available for purchase at www.natures_mating_game.eventbrite.com.

The program after dinner will cover why Indiana's wildlife might select a partner, how

they mate, and what advantages come with unique anatomy. The event will conclude with a humorous demonstration of one of Indiana's most complex mating strategies.

A couples package at the Turkey Run Inn includes dinner, program, an overnight room, and breakfast on Sunday morning for \$259.99 and must be booked through Kristina Hale, sales director, at 765-569-6020 or by emailing khale@dnr.IN.gov.

Consider making it a full day at Turkey Run on February 12 or 13 by attending the park's free guided ice hikes. Register at www.turkeyrunicehike.eventbrite.com.

Standard park entrance fees of \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-state vehicle applies. Turkey Run State Park (www.on.IN.gov/turkey-runs) is at 8121 East Park Road in Marshall, Indiana.

Partners for Clean Air accepting scholarship applications for qualified high school seniors

The Partners for Clean Air announced they are accepting scholarship applications through March 7 for the Partners for Clean Air Scholarship. This scholarship allows PCA to give back to the Northwest Indiana community by helping qualified students succeed in post-secondary education goals aligned with clean air and public health.

"Partners for Clean Air is thankful for and proud of the work of our members in supporting the next generation of air quality leaders through our scholarship program," said PCA Steering Committee member Scott Nelson, director of business development for Telamon Energy Solutions. "We encourage all eligible high school seniors to apply and to think about how their future career aspirations can help further our clean air goals."

pursue a two- or four-year college degree or two-year trade school certification or degree. Indiana institutions are preferred, but not required. Any applicant will be considered provided they demonstrate how their planned field of study supports the goals of Partners for Clean Air. Preference may be given to students pursuing a course of study in the environmental sciences.

All applications will be vetted through an extensive, blind evaluation process by members of the PCA Scholarship Committee and approved by the full Steering Committee, both of which are comprised of representatives of member organizations.

Partners for Clean Air launched the scholarship program in 2020 and has since awarded a total of \$12,500 in

scholarships to five deserving Northwest Indiana high school seniors.

"I am so thankful for your support of my college journey," said Lucia Otten of Valparaiso, a 2021 scholarship recipient. "Thank you, PCA scholarship (committee), for helping me afford the adventures of college and focus my energies on my studies."

The 2022 scholarship winners will be announced at the Partners for Clean Air Awards Ceremony on Earth Day - Friday, April 22 - in the Clipper Room at the Hammond Marina, with the financial distribution occurring in August before the start of classes. A full list of scholarship rules and the application are available online at www.idem.IN.gov/partnerships/partners-for-clean-air

Submissions for the 2022 Hoosier Women Artists exhibition now being accepted

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, along with Treasurer Kelly Mitchell and the Indiana Arts Commission, recently announced details for the 2022 Hoosier Women Artists exhibition.

"Receiving the artwork and meeting the women behind the pieces is something I look forward to every year, and we are pleased to bring back the Hoosier Women Artists program," Crouch said. "Artists come from different walks of life and have found such beautiful ways to express their abilities. I encourage all those who are interested to submit their work."

Established in 2008, the Hoosier Women Artists exhibition celebrates the importance of the arts in Hoosier communities and highlights the work of talented female artists throughout Indiana.

Crouch said a wide variety of visual arts including drawing, painting and photography are welcome to enter. The artwork is selected by a panel that includes Crouch, Mitchell and peer artists coordinated by the Indiana Art Commission.

"One of the highlights of my year is working with gifted female Hoosier artists to display their incredible talent throughout the Statehouse," Mitchell said. "We are excited to continue the program after taking a hiatus due to Covid-19. I'm hopeful we receive more submissions this year than ever before."

Mitchell said designees of the Hoosier Women Artists exhibition will have their artwork displayed in her office and the lieutenant governor's office at the statehouse for one year to be enjoyed by the thousands of school groups, visitors and staff who explore the building annually.

Additionally, pieces of art will also be selected by First Lady Janet Holcomb, Secretary of State Holli Sullivan, Auditor Tera Klutz, Chief Justice Loretta Rush and Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner to display in their respective offices.

Submissions may be made on the Indiana Art Commission's Online Application System through January 31, 2022. Applicants will need to create a user-

name and password and select Hoosier Women Artists as the program name at www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=indianaarts

Requirements include framed wall art only; maximum dimensions (including frame): 42" x 60"; maximum weight: 60 lbs.; must be installation ready, including frame and hanging wires; and submit one entry per artist to be considered.

A reception will be held March 3, 2022 at the Indiana Statehouse to honor and showcase the selected artists.

Public citizens advisory committee members needed

The Recycling & Waste Reduction District of Porter County is currently accepting applications for 2022 Citizens Advisory Committee Member Board appointments. Applications will be accepted until January

20 and can be located via the District's website at www.portercountyrecycling.org/get-involved

Contact the Recycling & Waste Reduction District office at 219-465-3694 with any questions.

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