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# Winfield American

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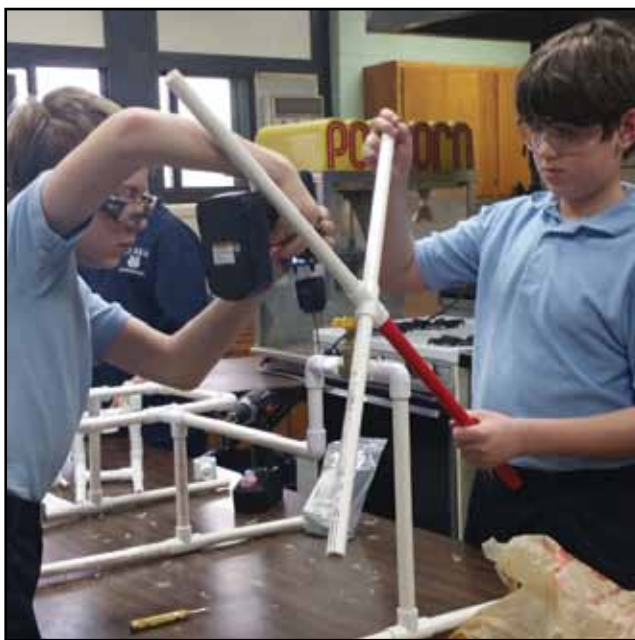
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March 24, 2017

## Robotics students developing underwater robots; learning how to keep seaports safe

Robotics club members at St. Mary Catholic Community School in Crown Point are developing underwater robots and learning how they help to keep our seaports safe at the MATE Regional ROV Competition to be held at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago.

For the second year in a row, a team from St. Mary's Underwater Robotics Club will compete in the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Regional Student ROV The competition will be held in April. Remotely operated vehicles, or ROVs, are tethered underwater robots used to complete tasks in underwater environments. The team will compete against more than 20 teams from the Chicagoland area using an ROV that they



St. Mary's students Danny Crnokrak and Hank Parker work on their remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

are designing and building this school year.

Each year, MATE's ROV

competition encourages students to learn and apply (See *Robotics* Pg. 2)



### Students of the Month recognized by Porter Lakes Elementary School

Porter Lakes Elementary School recently congratulated its March Students of the Month. Each classroom teacher selected a student who exhibits the qualities and characteristics that are a good example to others. Each student was invited to a donut-and-milk breakfast sponsored by our PTO and received a PLE Student of the Month wrist band. Pictured are, first row: Olivia Batson, Charlotte Rippe, Julianna Dragon, Olivia Capes, and Nicolas Mancilla; middle row: Peyton Church, Keegan Brennan, Lindsey Ruthkay, Abigail Keldenich, and Odin Giese; and back row: Sandy Carpenter, Abbey Hoffmann, and Sophia Lopez. (Not pictured are Aiden Joyce, Audrianna Hanley, Josiah Miller, and Jonathan Miller.)

## Residents encouraged to prepare for thunderstorms, tornadoes, flooding, and other natural disasters

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is encouraging Hoosiers to plan ahead for extreme weather.

"The arrival of spring in Indiana means an increased threat for severe weather," said John Erickson, director of public affairs at IDHS. "This year, Hoosiers across the state have already experienced some of the severe weather that accompanies

spring, and this week serves as a great reminder to prepare now before any future severe weather strikes."

Planning and preparation can help minimize weather-related deaths, injuries and property damage. IDHS is encouraging Hoosiers to build a preparedness kit, identify shelter and practice their plan, as was the focus of this week's preparedness

and awareness activities. Ten important items to include in your family's disaster kit include:

- 1) Food and water for three days (include one gallon of water per person, per day)
- 2) Battery operated all hazard radio (receives more than 60 types of emergency alerts)
- 3) Flashlight

- 4) Extra batteries for radio and flashlight, if needed
- 5) First aid kit
- 6) Extra clothing, sturdy shoes, rain gear, blankets and personal hygiene items
- 7) List of emergency phone numbers
- 8) Important documents (copies of photo ID, social security card, insurance and banking information)
- 9) Cash (small bills).

Power outages can limit ability to use ATMs and credit cards)

10) Special items (baby formula, insulin, life sustaining medication, pet supplies)

Some ways families can practice a tornado drill are:

- Take household members – quickly but calmly – to the location they would move to in severe weather, ideally a basement. If a basement is

not available, go to an interior room on the lowest level with no windows. Storm cellars also offer excellent protection.

- Practice moving under a sturdy table or desk, or covering up with pillows, blankets, coats or a mattress to protect the head and body from flying debris.

- Walk through potential evacuation routes, both from



### Nurse lauded as heroine by patient

Sandy Ring, left, an imaging department nurse at Franciscan Health Crown Point, is congratulated by Barbara Anderson, hospital president and chief executive officer, for Ring's potentially life-saving efforts to help a DeMotte man after she observed a suspicious-sounding cough when the patient reported for a CT scan. A subsequent lung scan revealed a pulmonary embolism. A short time later, the patient went to the Emergency Department and also received treatment from the cardiovascular unit staff. He was released two days later.



### School's Environmental Club visits Indiana Dunes

The students of the St. Mary Catholic Community School Environmental Club were recently treated to an afternoon of fun and unseasonably warm weather at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park. "We had a great time," said Mitchell Kolodziej. The students played educational games teaching them about camouflage and teamwork with Dunes naturalists. They took a nature walk and learned about different plants, trees, and leaves. They even learned about invasive species such as vines. "It was interesting to see all the different plants and learn their names," said Paul Gilvydis. After the walk, students were treated to a campfire with s'mores and songs. "Our hope is that this generation gains a true appreciation of nature and becomes good stewards of the earth," said one of the club sponsors, Kim Hise. For more information, visit [stmarycp.org/school](http://stmarycp.org/school).





Roller Derby March Madness doubleheader this Saturday at Jean Shephard Community Center

Northwest Indiana's roller derby team, the South Shore Roller Girls, will host a doubleheader bout on Saturday, March 25. SSRG continues the season with a doubleheader at the Jean Shephard Community Center, located at 3031 J.F. Mahoney Dr, in Hammond.

The first bout begins at 6 p.m. when SSRG Derailers face off against Illiana Derby Dames. The next whistle begins the second bout at 7:30 p.m. when the SSRG Runaways battle the

Lafayette Brawlin' Dolls.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door at \$10 per adult or \$5 for children age 6-10. Children 5 and under are admitted free of charge.

Watching double the hits, double the blocks, and double the derby will surely double your appetite. The food and drink at the concession stands will keep you fueled to continue watching the tough ladies battle it out on the track. For fans 21 years

old and over, adult beverages will also be served.

SSRG strives to improve individual athleticism, character, and community. They are dedicated to providing community outreach through events, activities, sponsorships, and volunteerism. A portion of the proceeds from the March Madness bout will go to charity. To learn more about the South Shore Roller Girls, find us on Facebook or visit our website at [www.southshorerollergirls.com](http://www.southshorerollergirls.com).

Boone Grove Fire Department to host annual pancake and sausage breakfast

The Boone Grove Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting its annual 'All You Can Eat' pancake and

sausage breakfast on Sunday, April 2, from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m., at Station 1 which is located at 319 West, 550 South

in Boone Grove. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$4 for seniors and kids, and those under 5 are free.

Crown Point's St. Jude House helps 'Raise the Bar Indiana' in Northwest Indiana

Crown Point leads the way for bringing 'Raise the Bar Indiana' to NWI while St. Jude House partners with the Safe House Bar & Grill and Crown Brewing in an effort to create safer spaces in the community.

Raise the Bar Indiana is a bystander intervention training program for alcohol serving establishments. The goal is to equip participants with information and tools needed to recognize the signs of victimization and assault. It also provides tips on how to safely intervene on behalf of the victim.

The overall vision of Raise the Bar Indiana is to create safe environments for community members to meet and interact by addressing social

norms of drinking behavior, the physical environment of space where drinking occurs, and the expectation of action to take when situations appear to be unsafe.

"We want to be as proactive as we possibly can with our community and do what it takes to train our staff for the safety of our customers," stated Pete Dragojevic, owner of Safe House Bar and Grill located at 101 South Court Street in Crown Point. "We want our community to know that we are a safe environment and we will take steps to ensure that it continues to be."

St. Jude House trained their staff on March 19.

"Crown Brewing is proud to participate in Raise the

Bar Indiana. It is important to us that our patrons feel safe and secure while enjoying their visit with us," stated Barb Smrecansky, brand development manager of Crown Brewing, located at 211 South East Street in Crown Point. "Cheers to St. Jude House for bringing this movement to Northwest Indiana." St. Jude House will train their staff on March 25.

Approximately half of sexual assaults involve alcohol consumption by the perpetrator, victim, or both. Twelve-to-34-year-olds are at the highest risk for sexual assault. For 1 in 3 assaults, the perpetrator was intoxicated. Every 109 seconds a person is sexually assaulted in the United States.

science, technology, engineering, and math skills to complete tasks that simulate real-world problems from the ocean workplace. To learn entrepreneurial skills, student teams must form 'companies' that produce ROV products to complete a specific set of tasks.

The year, the contest focuses on how ROVs are used to ensure the health and safety of our seaports, from monitoring cargo containers to cleaning up contaminants on the seafloor. Teams will participate in ROV product demonstrations that require them to pilot their vehicle to complete tasks such as constructing an underwater 'hyperloop' system, sampling sediments for contaminants, investigating containers that fell from a cargo ship to the seafloor, and repairing a fountain used in a water and light show. In

addition, teams must prepare technical documentation for their vehicle, make a product, make a product presentation to a panel of judges and create a marketing display.

St. Mary Catholic Community School in Crown Point was opened in 1872. The school offers grade levels Junior Pre-Kindergarten (for three year olds) through eight. All students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities such as Chess Club, Underwater Robotics, athletics, academic teams, Spanish Club, Science Olympiad, scouts, Environmental Club, and more.

To learn more about St. Mary's School or schedule a tour, visit [www.stmarycp.org/school](http://www.stmarycp.org/school). The school is currently accepting applications for new students for 2017-18 school year.

Rain barrels available in time for spring showers

Rain barrels can add several long-term benefits to homeowners, such as saving money and avoiding runoff that can be detrimental to local water sources. Anyone can order a rain barrel for pickup at the Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration on April 22.

Information on purchasing the 50 or 55 gallon barrels is linked from the Porter County Recycling & Waste Reduction's website, [www.portercountyrecycling.org](http://www.portercountyrecycling.org).

Mail-in orders must be received by April 14; online orders must be placed by April 17.

The purchased barrels must be picked up between 9 a.m. and noon at the Porter County Expo Center, 215 East Division Road in Valparaiso, on the day of the Earth Day event.

The barrels are upcycled. After serving their primary purpose of transporting olives and pickles overseas, the containers were diverted

from the waste stream, where they would have ultimately ended up in a landfill, and modified to collect rain water. By purchasing upcycled items, demand for new molded plastic containers is reduced.

According to the EPA, use of a rain barrel can save homeowners 1,300 gallons of water throughout the summer.

Porter County Recycling & Waste Reduction has partnered with the Porter County

Parks and Recreation Department and the county's Storm Water Quality Management - MS4 to serve as an ongoing connection for reasonably priced, upcycled rain barrels that anyone can purchase.

For more information, call 219-465-3694.

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Community events and news items should be submitted through our website at [www.winfieldamerican.com](http://www.winfieldamerican.com). News and event items are published free-of-charge as editorial space and time permits. **Submission does not guarantee placement.** For guaranteed placement of your community event promotion please visit our website at [www.winfieldamerican.com](http://www.winfieldamerican.com) or call our office at 219-662-8888 to place a paid advertisement.

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(Residents from Pg. 1)

the home and the neighborhood.

- Conduct a family drill in which children pretend to call 911 and calmly talk with an emergency dispatcher (a family member or friend can be on the other end of the line, requesting appropriate information).

Finding suitable shelter is another important aspect to preparing for severe weather, such as a storm or tornado. If living in a mobile home or similar structure, it is important to locate a safe shelter in advance. For those living in homes or apartment buildings, residents should take shelter in the lowest level of the building, away from windows and doors.

Flooding is also an issue Hoosiers may encounter during the Spring months. Driving on flooded roadways can often place Hoosiers and emergency response personnel in unnecessary danger. Never drive through flooded roadways, even if the water appears shallow. The road may have washed out under the surface of the water.

Floods can be very expensive. The National Flood Insurance Program is run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and purchasing flood insurance is a way that homeowners can protect their homes. FEMA's FloodSmart website at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) has created a tool to quickly estimate the cost of damages from various amounts of floodwater in a

home, and includes resources to help homeowners prepare their homes for a flood.

To find out more about

preparing for severe weather and floods, visit [www.getprepared.in.gov](http://www.getprepared.in.gov).

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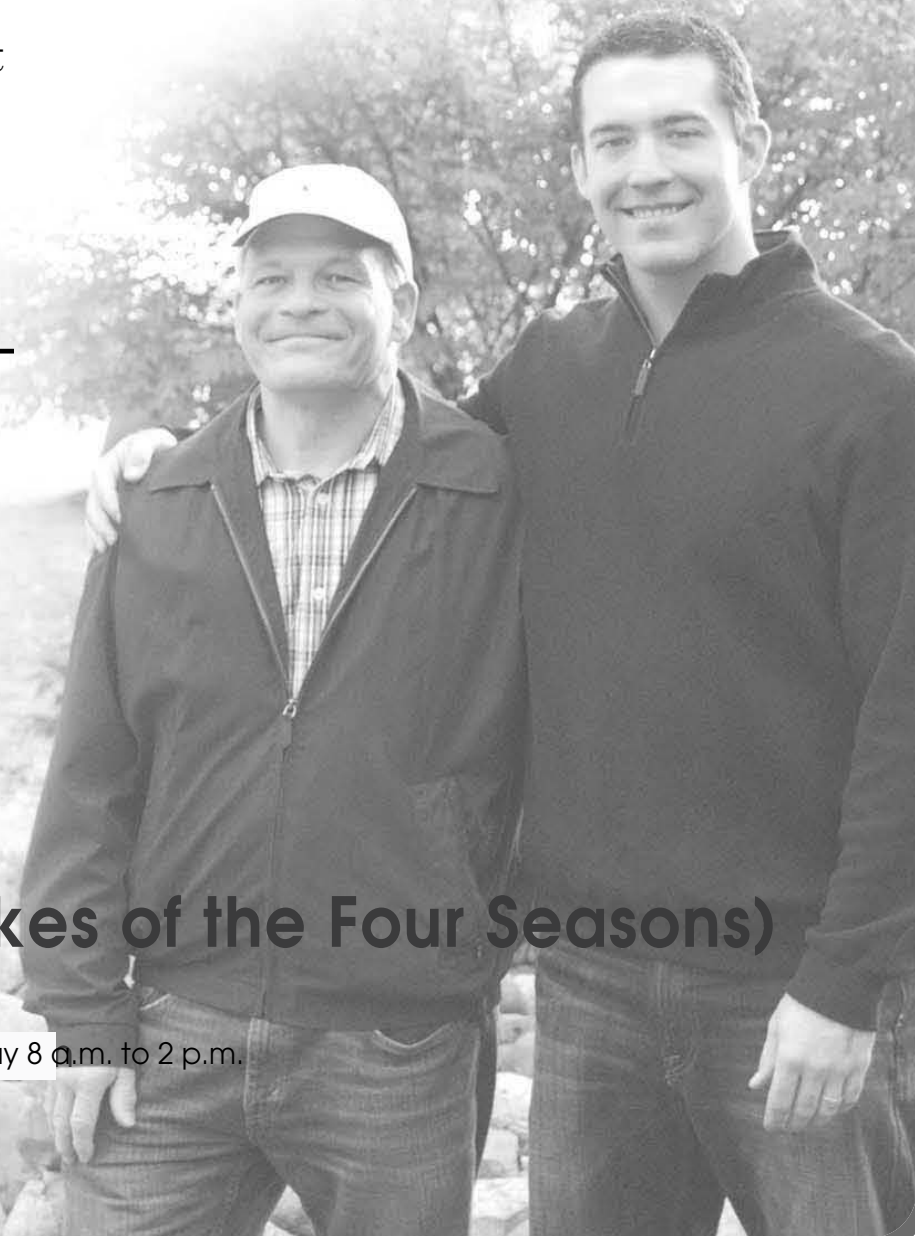
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### 2017 Indiana Festival Guide now available in all 92 counties

The Indiana State Festivals Association announced that the 2017 Indiana Festival Guide is now available at over 850 locations in all 92 counties. The 2017 Indiana Festival Guide features over 650 festivals across the state celebrating everything from heritage and historic figures to locally grown persimmons and apples.

“No matter how big or small, our members’ events perfectly showcase Hoosier hospitality and generate revenue for Indiana communities,” said Indiana State Festivals Association President Larry Bemis. “We are thankful for our continued membership growth and sponsorship from partners such as the Indiana Office of

Tourism Development and Hoosier Energy. Their support allows us to create the only comprehensive events publication in Indiana.”

The cover of the 2017 Indiana Festival Guide features 17 festivals in Anderson-Madison County. The 96-page, glovebox-sized booklet provides details on festivals every month of the year, as well as destination travel information. Hoosier Energy has sponsored the Indiana Festival Guide since 1972, making 2017 its 45th year of partnership.

Festival-goers can find pick up locations and order a mailed copy, or view and download the 2017 Indiana Festival Guide by visiting [www.indianafestivals.org](http://www.indianafestivals.org).

### Annual Easter egg hunt and party at local church

Kids ages 8 and younger are invited to hop on over for an Easter Egg Hunt and Party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 8, at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church located at 99 South County Line Road, across from the entrance to Lakes of the Four Seasons.

This free event includes an egg hunt, egg coloring, story time, cookie decoration, and a visit from the Easter Bunny.



RSVP by calling 219-988-3650 or e-mailing [crossofchrist@netnitco.net](mailto:crossofchrist@netnitco.net).

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Valpo Parks offers wedding dance instruction beginning April 3

Crown Point vendors fair to benefit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation April 1

Valpo Parks is offering Dance lessons April 3 to May 8, just in time for the wedding season. Classes are offered on Monday evenings from 6:15 7:30 p.m. at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Valparaiso. Participants will learn a variety of dance steps perfect for weddings or social gatherings. Dances include: Night club two step, Rumba, and traditional slow

Register for ‘Becoming an Outdoors-Woman’

Women can choose their own adventure at an outdoor sports workshop with courses ranging from shotgun shooting to photography. The workshop is for women who have never tried these activities, but have hoped for an opportunity to learn; who have tried them but are beginners hoping to improve; or who know how to do some of the activities, but would like to try new ones. Women who enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded individuals and who seek time away to reconnect with nature are also prime candidates for BOW.



On Saturday, April 1, a vendors show is being planned from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at St. Matthias Church Hall located at 101 West Burrell Drive in Crown Point. Admission is free.

Top vendors will sell antiques, collectibles, coins, candles, crafts galore, garage sale items, and more. The kitchen will also be open, offering donuts and coffee for purchase during the a.m. hours, then pizza, hot dogs, chips, soft drinks, water, and coffee throughout the rest of the day. All monies raised through kitchen sales on that date, vendor space and table rent-

als, general donations, and the silent auctioning of a couple of larger, nice items are designated for donation to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

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Obituary ~  
Dale Dean McNary

Dale Dean McNary, age 82 of Lake of the Four Seasons, IN passed away March 14, 2017. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Nonnie (nee Sempf); children - Lori (George) Kucik of Crown Point, Michael (Dama) McNary of Tucson, AZ, and Bridget (Ray) Nadolski of Portage; grandchildren - Angie (Eric) Vasquez of St. John, George (Maggie) Kucik III of Fishers, IN, Kyle Kucik of Lowell, Wesley (Kathleen) McNary of San Diego, Carrie McNary of Los Angeles, Sarah Nadolski of Chicago, and Megan Nadolski of Portage; sister Janice Kirk of Frisco TX, sister-in-law Sue (Ron) Fraser, brother-in-law William Sempf both of Hobart; many nieces and other extended family; beloved Scotty dog, Mala. Preceded in death by his brother Allen, nephew, William "Billy" Sempf, parents, Dean and Grace McNary, and grandmother America Vowell. Dale worked as a Motor Inspector at US Steel for 42 years;

worked in asset protection at Target in Merrillville for 9 years; and enjoyed working the main gate at the Lake County Fair and many fishing trips to Mexico with his son. He was a long-time member of the Church of the Four Seasons. Dale rarely knew of a sporting event that he was not up for watching, and especially loved Indiana University sports. However, he loved and cherished his family far more. He was greatly loved here on Earth, and is now loved in Heaven – he will be greatly missed. A Celebration of Dale’s life was held on Saturday March 18, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at Church of the Four Seasons, 9100 E. 109th Ave, Winfield IN, Rev. Dan Richwine officiating. Friends are invited to visit with Dale’s family at the church from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service. Arrangements entrusted to Burns Funeral Home, Crown Point, IN. Private burial will take place at Calumet Park Cemetery, Merrillville, IN.

American Ninja Warrior  
themed camp now  
registering at Camp LRCA

Camp LRCA is announcing an all new camp experience this summer, American Ninja Warrior Camp, inspired by the popular NBC show, American Ninja Warrior. Season 8 contestant, and currently training for Season 9, John Walsh, will Dean this week designed to show kids how to overcome the obstacles they will face in life. Walsh has 14 years as a Youth Minister, and shares his own life experiences to encourage and equip youth to stay the course in their Christian walk of faith. This new week of camp is open to youth entering 5th grade this fall up to 12th grade, and will be held July 16 to 21. Camp LRCA operates a Christian summer camp, day-care ministry, and retreat cen-

ter. Located on 140 acres in Winfield since 1977, LRCA has events year-round, including their youth Winter Retreats. Their summer camp lineup has been announced and registration is now open. In addition to the American Ninja Warrior week, all their standard camp weeks are available for kids entering kindergarten up through 12th grade. They are also offering a Ladies Retreat, a Men’s Night Out, and a Young at Heart Seniors Banquet this Spring. To register for any of these events, go to their website at [www.CampLRCA.com](http://www.CampLRCA.com). Camp weeks are discounted when registered before March 31. A \$25 deposit is required at the time of registration.

Purdue Northwest could receive \$35.1 million for new  
Bioscience Innovation Building on Hammond campus

The Indiana House of Representatives’ biennial budget plan includes funding for the new Bioscience Innovation Building on the Purdue University Northwest campus, according to State Rep. Hal Slager (R-Schererville). “The Bioscience Innovation Building is a culmination of all the hard work put in over the past five years by both Purdue and the state,” Slager said. “This new

facility will be a huge step forward in preparing nursing and life sciences students for highly skilled careers in the competitive fields they are studying for.” Two years ago, the Indiana General Assembly allocated \$2.4 million to the university for the architecture and engineering portions of the project. Under proposed House Bill 1001, the next biennial state budget would authorize the university to issue up to

\$35.1 million in bonds to help pay for the new facility, which is expected to cost \$40.5 million. “Purdue Northwest would like to thank the Indiana General Assembly, and Rep. Hal Slager in particular, for his leadership on this important project for northwest Indiana,” said Chancellor Tom Keon of Purdue Northwest University. “The new Biosciences Innovation Building, which will replace

a 1950s era building that has outlived its usefulness, will ensure that Purdue Northwest will continue to be a leader in bioscience, nursing studies, and STEM education for this region long into the future.” The College of Nursing at Purdue Northwest is one of only 50 nursing programs in the country to be recognized as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing.

St. Jude House named official  
charity for Crown Beer Fest

Crown Brewing announced that St. Jude House is the official charity for this year’s Crown Beer Fest. They are joining forces in helping create awareness on domestic violence. “Annually we choose a charity to support with a portion of the proceeds from this event. In years past we have donated to The American Heart Association and ARC,” stated Barb Smrecansky, brand development manager of Crown Brewing. “We have chosen St. Jude House because we feel the importance of providing support to those in abusive situations who feel there is no help. St. Jude House is an amazing asset to Crown Point and the surrounding communities.”

VIP tickets are available for \$75 which includes unlimited sampling, a collector’s glass, food voucher, access to VIP bathrooms, and a VIP ‘swag bag’. General admission tickets are available for \$35 which includes participant access to the fest from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., unlimited sampling and a collector’s tasting glass. Designated Driver tickets are available for \$20 and include unlimited soda and a collector’s tasting glass. For more information, call 219-663-4545 or visit [www.crownbeerfest.com](http://www.crownbeerfest.com). Tickets can be purchased online or at Crown Brewing located at 211 South East Street in Crown Point.

Crown Brewing is also partnering with St. Jude House in a new initiative: Raise the Bar Indiana, a bystander intervention training for alcohol serving establishments. They are one of the first establishments to jump on board in an effort to create safer spaces in the community. This is the eighth annual beer fest; craft beer enthusiasts can choose from 200 different beers from the 50 breweries in attendance. There will also be a variety of craft food vendors and live entertainment. The event will be held on June 10, from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

St. Jude House, located in Crown Point, IN, pursues a vision where all engage in healthy relationships characterized by the mutual sharing of resources and responsibility. St. Jude House is a catalyst in Northwest Indiana for the prevention, education and awareness of domestic violence and sexual abuse, providing quality, compassionate and effective services to those impacted by abuse.



General Classifieds

Classified ads must be submitted by Sunday at 3 p.m. to run in that Friday’s Winfield American. Submit your ad online at [www.winfieldamerican.com](http://www.winfieldamerican.com).  
**Help Wanted – Winfield Ace**  
Winfield Ace Hardware is looking for part-time seasonal help for our greenhouse. Looking for a person who has experience taking care of plants. We are also looking for part time seasonal sales associate help. Please stop into the store at 11702 Randolph Street to fill out an application or fax your resume to 219-663-7679. (777)  
**Fire Force Volunteers Needed**  
Lakes of The Volunteer Fire Force is in need of more dedicated volunteers to join our ranks. Have you ever thought of being a part of something bigger than yourself? Want to help your community by giving back through service? Please call 219-662-7576 and speak with Chief Campbell.  
**Help Wanted - Auto Repair and Body Technician**  
Compensation: depending upon experience. Employment type: full-time. Local auto repair shop looking to add one seasoned and experienced technician to our team. This individual should be familiar with the repair of all brands of vehicle and be able to accurately diagnose problems and experienced in working with diagnostic tools. A minimum of 5 years experience preferred as well as being ASE certified. We are also looking for an auto body technician with the ability to repair and restore all makes and models of vehicles. We offer the following: Competitive pay, Paid holidays, No week-ends, Insurance, Vacation pay (upon agreement). If interested please contact us if you have any questions. You may stop into the office to pick up an application, email/fax or mail resume to us. Crown Point Auto Repair, 1510 N Main Street, Crown Point, IN 46307, phone: (219) 663-1847; fax number: (219) 663-3205.  
**Help Wanted - Auto Body/Paint Technician**  
Crown Point. Full-time position available, no nights or week-ends. Looking for self-motivated person who loves to work hard and be rewarded for his skills. Have a love for classic cars and the ability to restore them. Also experience in late-model collision repair and refinishing. Pay based on ability, up to \$30 a book hour. Insurance, vacation, sick, and personal pay available. Must have own tools and valid driver’s license. E-mail resume, call, or come in to fill out an application. Crown Point Auto Repair, 1510 N Main Street, Crown Point, IN 46307, phone: (219) 663-1847; fax number: (219) 663-3205.

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PNW students, including Crown Point resident, claim top honors in national scriptwriting competition

Purdue University Northwest communication student Jessica Cannell had never written a television script, or any script, for that matter, before enrolling in the university's Communication 436 Scriptwriting course last fall.

But come April 23, she will make an acceptance speech before an anticipated Las Vegas audience of some 1,000 attendees at the 2017 Broadcast Education Association's collegiate Script Writing Competition Awards Program. The annual competition is held collaboratively with the National Association of Broadcasters Convention.

Cannell, 28, a Griffith native, served as the lead writer of a script that initially won first place in the BEA's Television Spec Series Category. Then, in competition with four other categorical first place scripts, judges awarded the PNW script Best of the Festival as the top overall script in the competition.

Within the Television Spec Series Category, for which scripts of current television programs are written and submitted, Cannell and PNW classmates Adrian Benton of Crown Point, Julio Casares of East Chicago, Lauren Edmond of Hammond, and Bianca Martinez of Schererville teamed to write an episode for the AMC network program, 'Humans'.

The Best of the Festival recognition is the highlight of another award-rich year of scriptwriting by Purdue Northwest students, instructed by Associate Professor of Communication Mary Beth

O'Connor.

Besides the efforts of Cannell and her scriptmates, other PNW students also excelled in TV scriptwriting. Janel Contreras of Merrillville, Elizabeth Carey of Lowell, Vanessa Matthews of Highland and James Mullaney of Hammond also earned a first place. RoLonda Crawford of Gary, Jacob MacDonald of Ripon, Wisc., Hardy Willis of Valparaiso, Raquel Witherow of Schererville, and Joe Zuniga III of Griffith placed second. Andrew Morris of South Holland, IL, also earned third in the Short Subject Film Category. All the students are communication or English majors.

Since 2002, PNW students and those from the former Purdue University Calumet have taken home eight first places, seven second places, seven thirds and four honorable mentions in the national competition, all under O'Connor's tutelage and typically against student competitors from larger universities offering a formal scriptwriting curriculum.

"Our students have talent; they're hardworking and competitive," said, O'Connor, who worked hard herself to learn and effectively teach attributes of effective scriptwriting after joining the faculty of the former Purdue Calumet in 1989. "When I was told I was to teach scriptwriting, I called everyone I could think of, literary agents, screen writers and other professionals, to pick their brains."

Cannell values the insight and mentoring O'Connor has

provided her.

"Because scriptwriting is a process, you want help and feedback; you want someone to provide you creative criticism," Cannell said, "and Mary Beth is always right there to do it."

Cannell's newly-recognized talent also is a testimony to her own hard work, determination and passion. A former English, Spanish and computer technology major and student journalist, she also holds a full-time job as an office manager of a maintenance and construction firm and recently served as a part-time chef.

Still, she said she managed to spend 40 to 60 hours a week last fall striving to perfect the award-winning script. Her effort proved to be a labor of love and validated the career path she now desires to pursue after she graduates next year: that of becoming a television writer.

"It was a very hard process, but I loved it," she said. "I believe all my previous experiences helped me, because effective scriptwriting, I have learned, is knowing and understanding people, then conveying that understanding as succinctly as possible to create interest in a story."

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ues and build on leadership skills.

The exchange students arrive from their home country shortly before school begins and return at the end of the school year. Each World Heritage student is fully insured, brings his or her own personal spending money, and expects to bear his or her share of household responsibilities, as well as being included in normal family activities and lifestyles.

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about their own culture and language.

To become a host family or find out more about World Heritage, please contact Tiffany Wilson, at 816-807-2765 or via e-mail at tiffany@world-heritage.org or visit [www.whhosts.com](http://www.whhosts.com).

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An estimated 11 million gallons of oil spilled into the water. Attempts to contain the massive spill were unsuccessful, and wind and currents spread the oil more than 100 miles from its source, eventually polluting more than 700 miles of coastline.

It was later revealed that Joseph Hazelwood, the captain of the Valdez, was drinking at the time of the accident and allowed an uncertified officer to steer the massive vessel. In March 1990, Hazelwood was convicted of misdemeanor negligence, fined \$50,000, and ordered to perform 1,000 hours of community service. In July 1992, an Alaska court overturned Hazelwood's conviction, citing a federal statute that grants freedom from prosecution to those who report an oil spill.

Exxon itself was condemned by the National Transportation Safety Board and in early 1991 agreed under pressure from environmental groups to pay a penalty of \$100 million and provide \$1 billion over a 10-year period for the cost of the cleanup. However, later in the year, both Alaska and Exxon rejected the agreement, and in October, 1991, the oil giant settled the matter by paying \$25 million, less than 4 percent of the cleanup aid promised by Exxon earlier that year.

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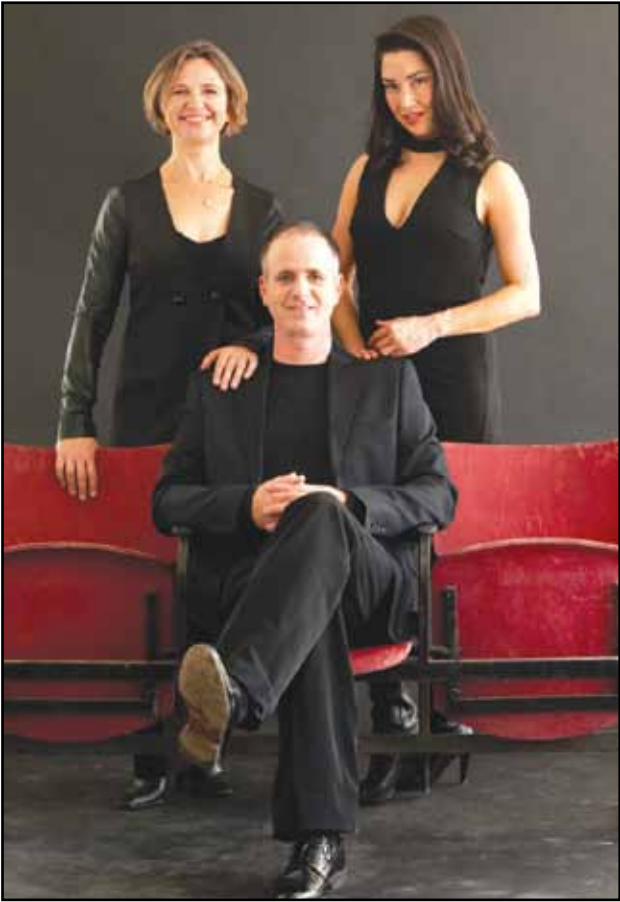
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# Israel's Atar Trio's ppcoming concert is free at Valparaiso University

The Atar Trio, from Israel, will be performing again this year at Valparaiso University in the Duesenberg Recital Hall on the evening of Monday, April 3. The concert will start at 7:30 p.m. and is free. Temple Israel of Valparaiso and the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana are sponsoring the concert.

For anyone who hasn't experienced Atar Trio, visit their website at [www.atar-trio.com](http://www.atar-trio.com), which notes that the "Atar Trio is a leading Israeli chamber ensemble known for its original and adventurous musical projects. For their US 2017 spring tour, they will perform new interpretations of Jewish, Israeli, and world music along with exciting arrangements of traditional chamber music by composers Bernstein, Bloch, and others. The program will take audience members around the globe; from the sounds of Jerusalem in Dikla Baniel's piece (Israel), to Yitzhak Yedid's Suite for Arabic violin (from the Arab



world), to the fragile mystery in Bloch's nocturnes and the monumental Piano Trio by Dimitri Shostakovich."

There is no charge for this experience, but tickets are still needed through [www.etix.com](http://www.etix.com).

## Deadline nears for volleyball league registrations

Crown Point Parks and Recreation Department has announced their dates of their adult spring co-ed and women's volleyball league.

The Wednesday session will be co-ed and women's teams mixed, starting on April 5, to May 31. Friday session co-ed division and women's division starting

April 7, to June 16.

The adult spring co-ed and women's volleyball league will consist of eight matches of league play plus a single tournament competition from 6 to 10 p.m. Co-ed and women's teams will play mixed matches on Wednesday nights. Co-ed division and a women's division will

play in their separate divisions on Friday evenings.

The registration deadline is March 29, and fees are \$325 team entry fee for Crown Point resident teams, and \$400 team entry fee for non-resident teams.

For further information contact John Stroia at 219-661-2272.

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