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# Winfield American

Vol. 16, Issue 775

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

April 21, 2017

## Boone Grove Elementary School students donate over 2,000 items to troops deployed overseas

Commander Charles of the Indianapolis Division of the USO recently came to Boone Grove Elementary School to pick up donations the 4th and 5th graders at the school collected for deployed troops as part of their Valentine's-Friendship Day celebration.

The children collected everything from razors and socks to snacks and playing cards. In all, over 2,000 items were donated.

Commander Charles is a veteran who served in the Marine Corps for many years before retiring and joining the USO. He spoke to several students and related that there are approximately 400 troops set to be deployed this month, and the items that were brought in by the Boone Grove Elementary families and students will be given to these troops, as well as sent overseas to others already deployed.

Charles explained to the students how much the troops appreciate any little donation they receive while de-



Pictured clockwise are Hayley Takacs, Secretary Annie Blanchard, Vice Principal Patrick Fuller, Barb Blashill, Ashlyn Ramos, Nicholas Ramos, Leah Lewin, Natalie Meinert, Kennedy Blashill, and Madison Martin.

ployed, and that they usually only receive items around Christmas, not throughout the year. He also honored Kennedy Blashill with a USO Challenge Coin for her work with organizing and inventorying the donations received.

Charles also gave the chil-

dren who helped to load up the vehicle USO sunglasses, and the organizers thanked the fourth and fifth grade teachers who were so patient and supportive in letting the project use a corner of each of their rooms to store the donations.

## Active-shooter drill a lesson for nursing and EMS students

For a third year, an active shooter simulation drill involving University of Saint Francis-Crown Point nursing students, Franciscan Health-Crown Point emergency medical technician and paramedic students, and numerous area fire departments and ambulance services took place recently at the university.

In the scenario, at least four students were 'killed' and 16 'injured' when the deranged gunman, portrayed by Rob Dowling, director of the emergency medical service for Franciscan Alliance, entered the building. He took out his first 'victim', who survived a chest wound, then proceeded down hallways and into classrooms where he 'shot' students before leaving the building and being apprehended by police.

Nursing students assessed 'injuries' and provided aid until emergency medical services personnel arrived to further assess and transport the



University of St. Francis-Crown Point nursing students and local emergency responders triage 'victims', also portrayed by nursing students, during a third-annual active shooter drill conducted at the university, in conjunction with students from the Franciscan Health Crown Point Emergency Medical Services Training Academy.

victims. An evaluation meeting was conducted following the drill.

"Today's simulation provided our nursing students the

opportunity to experience an authentic, real-world active shooter situation and work in collaboration with other

(See EMS Pg. 2)

## Family vacations still a popular priority for millions of Americans, according to motor club

Now is the time when millions of families across the country are starting to plan getaways for summer vacation and long holiday weekends throughout the year. According to a recent AAA survey, more than one-third of Americans (35%) are planning to take a vacation of 50 miles or more away from home involving two or more

immediate family members in 2017. The overall volume of travelers remains unchanged from last year, indicating that Americans continue to prioritize traveling as a family.

While most families (70%) are planning to take one or two vacations, there is a significant increase this year in the number of Americans

who say they are planning to take three or more vacations. The 28% of Americans who will take three or more family vacations this year is 13% higher than in 2016.

"Families continue to see the value of traveling as a way to bond and reconnect in today's busy world," said Bill Sutherland, AAA senior vice president of Travel and

Publishing. "The best way to wrap up a family vacation is to start planning the next one, as more and more Americans are starting to do."

The old school family road trip (79%) and visits to national parks (51%) and theme parks (40%) remain the most popular types of vacations for families planning to travel this year. Trips to internation-

al destinations (33%), going on guided or escorted tours (22%) and ocean cruises (20%) are also popular with family travelers.

Those planning to pack up their cars for a road trip in 2017 will be in good company. Compared to 2016, 10% more families are expected to take road trips this year, despite average gas prices that

are 47¢ higher than they were this time last year.

The number of American families planning to take a guided or escorted tour is expected to increase 7% over 2016.

"While many Americans enjoy the flexibility of a road trip, there are some families who prefer the structure and

(See Vacations Pg. 2)

## Students visit The Art Institute of Chicago to explore paintings and art appreciation

The 7th grade class at St. Mary Catholic Community School recently took a field trip to the Art Institute of Chicago. Art teachers Carrie Kirby and Morag Thompson organized the trip.

Picasso, VanGogh, Monet, O'Keefe, and Hopper are a few of the painters the group enjoyed viewing, as well as the current exhibit, 'Saints and Heroes: Art of Medieval and Renaissance Europe'.

(See Students Pg. 2)



St. Mary's 7th graders Elizabeth Pelicane, Kendall Miller, and Laramie Gough admire medieval armor worn by both rider and steed.



Students learn about technique and subject matter in 'A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte' by Seurat. This painting was made famous by the movie 'Ferris Bueller's Day Off', and is sometimes referred to by that name.

## NWI Symphony to present 'American Songbook' with Under the Streetlamp

Join the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and Music Director-Conductor Kirk Muspratt for 'American Songbook' on Thursday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. at The Star Plaza Theatre. The concert will feature the popular group Under the Streetlamp.

Bringing their unique blend of tight harmonies and slick dance moves to your favorite Doo-wop, Motown, and old time rock 'n roll hits, Under the Streetlamp is composed of recent leading cast members of the Tony

Award-winning sensation Jersey Boys. Singing hits like 'Rock Around the Clock', 'Blue Moon', 'Danke schön', 'Why Do Fools Fall in Love?', and 'Cupid', plus other popular pieces from The Beach Boys, Frankie Valli, The Four Seasons, Sam Cooke, The Drifters, Bobby Darin, and The Beatles.

"Under the Streetlamp and Northwest Indiana are a perfect match, as they taped their two PBS specials at the Star Plaza Theatre. Once I

(See NWI Pg. 2)

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



## Earth Day Celebration offers free day of fun with live animal shows, book swap, Reuse Fair and more

Porter County Recycling and Waste Reduction invites residents from Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties and beyond to connect with the environment through exhibits, entertainment, reuse and activities featured at the Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 22.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Porter County Expo Center, located at 215 East Division Road in Valparaiso. Admission and parking for the event are free. The first 300 families will receive free reusable bags.

Silly Safaris will treat spectators to two live animal

shows at 10 a.m. and noon, as well as an all-day exhibit featuring mammals, reptiles, birds and bugs. Dumpster Drummers will bring toe-tapping percussion and animation to the stage with two shows at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Anyone planning to visit the celebration is asked to

check out the Reuse Fair Wish List online at [www.PorterCountyRecycling.org](http://www.PorterCountyRecycling.org) to see if they have items they can donate to benefit 13 schools and non-profits. Working Bikes will be back as part of the Reuse Fair collecting old and unused bicycles. Working Bikes, a Chicago organization, refurbishes and gives bicycles to people in third world countries and to people in transition in Chicago.

Another new feature to the Earth Day Celebration this year is a Book Swap, sponsored by the Lake County Solid Waste Management District. Attendees are invited to give a book and get

a book; all ages and genres in good, reusable condition will be accepted.

For a complete listing of exhibitors and activities, visit the Porter County Recycling and Waste Reduction website, [www.PorterCountyRecycling.org](http://www.PorterCountyRecycling.org) or call 219-465-3819 for more information.

(Students from Pg. 1)

Docents added to the enhanced learning with particular insight into the worlds of the artists and the work viewed.

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.

(NWI from Pg. 1)

learned that they now had a Symphony show, I wanted us to be one of the first orchestras in the country to present it," said Maestro Muspratt. "It will be a big hootenanny of every kind of pop music."

(Vacations from Pg. 1)

convenience of a group tour," continued Sutherland. "Many tours are specially designed for multi-generational groups, plus there's no better way to learn about a destination than from a knowledgeable, local guide."

(EMS from Pg. 1)

members of the health care team," said USF Assistant Professor Kimberly Valich MSN, RN. "This drill helped students develop the skills required to appropriately respond to an emergency situation and further prepares our nursing students to serve as integral members of an emergency response team."

Tickets are \$29 to \$69 with student tickets at just \$10. Call the Symphony office at 219-836-0525 or visit the website and pick your own seats at [www.NISOchestra.org](http://www.NISOchestra.org). This concert is sponsored by the Women's Association of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, Neale Family Foundation, John Cicco's Menswear, and Monosol.

For additional advice before setting out on a family vacation, travelers can contact their local AAA office for the expert advice of a trusted travel advisor. Also, download the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad, and Android. The app can be used

to map a route, find the lowest gas prices, access exclusive member discounts, find nearly 59,000 AAA Approved and Diamond Rated hotels and restaurants, request roadside assistance and more. For more information visit [www.aaa.com](http://www.aaa.com).

through entry-level, bridging and graduate-level programs. Among these are six health-care-related majors, including nursing, healthcare administration and medical laboratory technician. The associate of liberal studies degree includes student-designed concentrations.

University of Saint Francis Crown Point is a regional campus of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, a private Catholic university in the Franciscan tradition. USF Crown Point makes academic excellence and a values-based education available to Crown Point-area students

## Food and supplies drive to benefit Winfield Food Pantry and Gabriel's Horn Shelter

The 5th grade Junior Girl Scouts of Jerry Ross Elementary School in Winfield are hosting a food and supplies drive. Food collection will occur from April 24 to 30 at Fagen Pharmacy, Winfield; Lakeshore EMS, Merrillville; and First

Christian Church of Dyer.

All canned and dry goods, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene supplies are accepted. Questions can be directed to Troop Leader Maria Arizzi at [trop30098@hotmail.com](mailto:trop30098@hotmail.com) or 219-299-8249.

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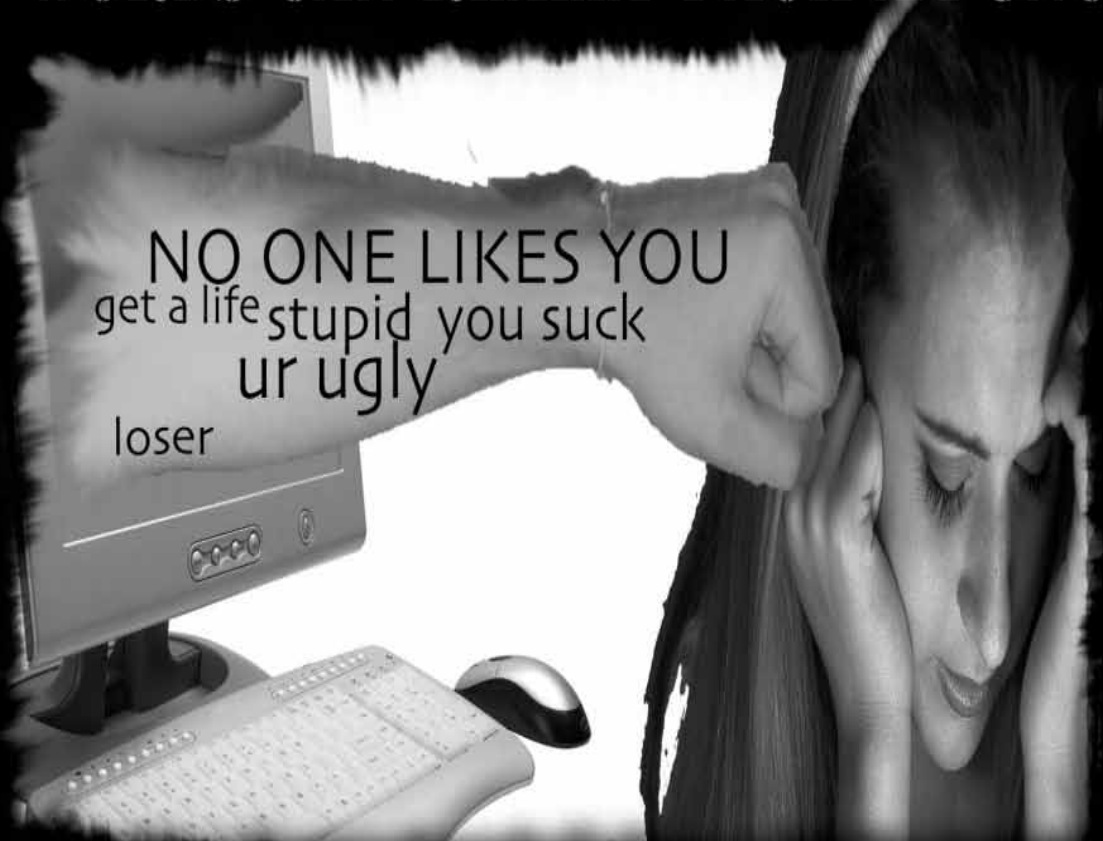
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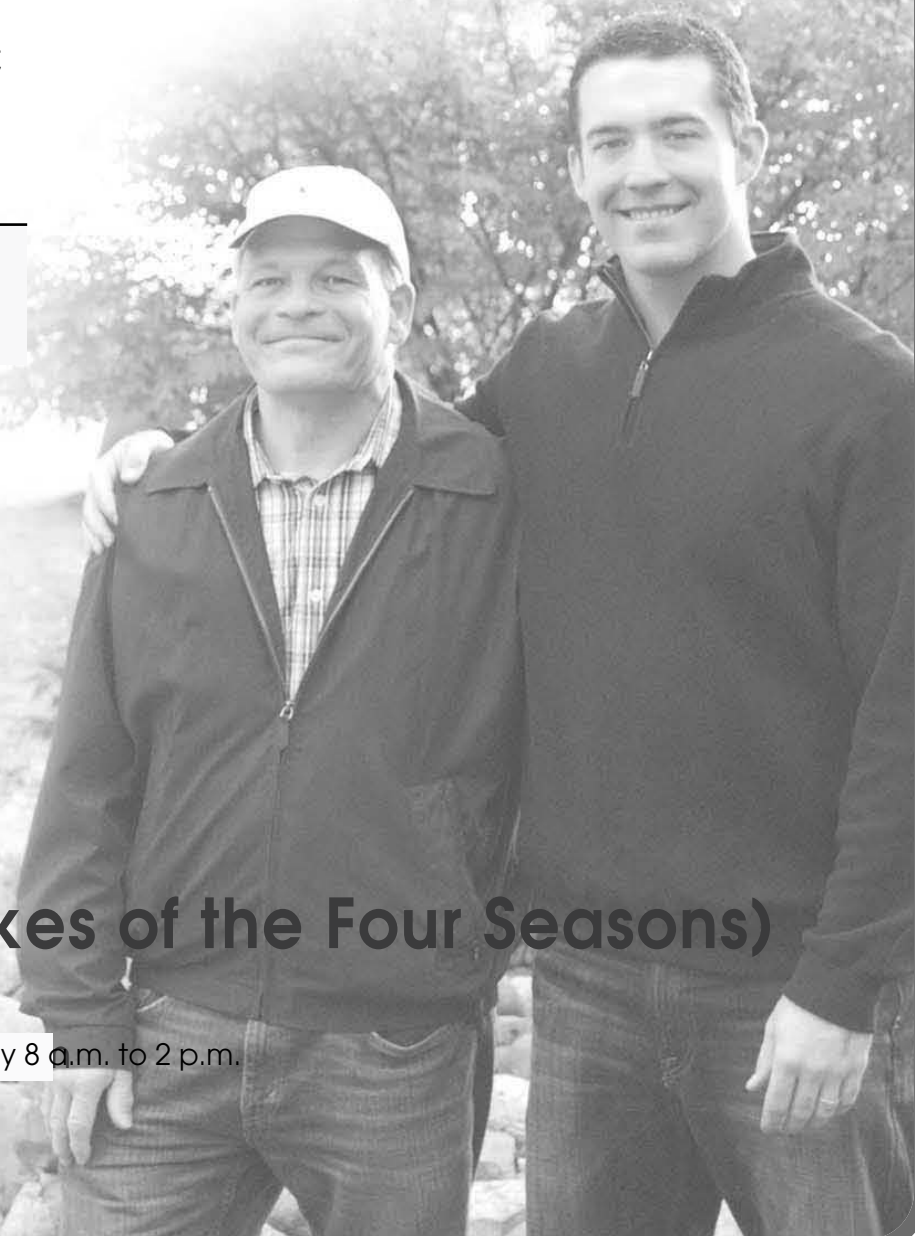
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# Indiana Youth Ballet’s ‘Peter Pan’: A series of storybook ballet performances in Lowell

The Indiana Youth Ballet’s production of Peter Pan has been delighting audiences, both children and adults alike, for over 15 years. Over the years, Artistic Director Elizabeth Bathurst has expanded and refined IYB’s production to include over 100 youthful dancers from over 25 area dance studios.

With a focus on encouraging the region’s youth to both participate in and view the wonderful art form of ballet, IYB is a performance company committed to presenting the art of ballet throughout Northwest Indiana and Illinois for the enjoyment of all.



Public performance dates are Saturday, April 29, 2 p.m. and Saturday, April 29, 6 p.m. then Sunday, April 30, at 2 p.m. all at the Lowell High School Auditorium located at 2051 South Commercial Avenue in Lowell.

Online tickets are available at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com). Tickets will be available at the box office one hour prior to show times for a cost of \$18 per adult and \$15 per child. For more information visit [www.indianayouthballet.com](http://www.indianayouthballet.com).

# Overcoming substance abuse: Recovering addict to tell his story at Purdue Northwest April 26

As a Valparaiso high school student, Herbert Stepherson began a 14-year battle with substance abuse that escalated to heroin and cocaine addiction, homelessness, eating from dumpsters and being strung out in some of the roughest Chicago neighborhoods during the dead of winter.

Now celebrating life as a man in recovery, Stepherson, 31, is an interventions coordinator, loving and active father, and author of the book, ‘Junkbox Diaries—a day in the life of a heroin addict’.

He will share his story at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, at Purdue University

Northwest’s Hammond Campus in Alumni Hall on the third floor of the Student Union & Library.

Stepherson’s presentation will include details of his first encounter with substance

# Local church hosting ‘Trash to Treasure’ sale, blood drive

All are invited to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church’s annual Trash to Treasure Sale, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 29. Proceeds from this popular event will benefit the church’s Christian Education program.

A blood drive will be held in conjunction with the sale,

abuse while consuming alcohol at age 15, which progressed to use of prescription pain medication and ultimately cocaine, and heroin.

For more information about PNW, visit [www.pnw.edu](http://www.pnw.edu).

from 9 a.m. to noon. Please call the church office at 219-988-3650 to schedule an appointment to donate. Walk-ins are also welcome (photo ID required). Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is located at 99 S. County Line Road, just east of the Lakes of the Four Seasons entrance.



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‘Day of Giving’ provides a 24-hour opportunity to support Purdue University Northwest on April 26

Purdue University Northwest invites alumni, faculty, staff, parents, friends and students to take part in the April 26 Purdue Day of Giving, a 24-hour opportunity to give to PNW to support student scholarships, academic programs, athletics and more.

The fourth annual Day of Giving is designed to provide a once a year, convenient, non-stop, daylong opportunity to make a monetary gift of any amount to support the PNW campuses. Last year, the PNW community came together to raise \$695,621 in

one day. That amount was part of a total \$18.3 million raised by the Purdue University campuses from 12,872 gifts in just 24 hours. Day of Giving donations can be made online beginning at midnight April 26 at [www.pnw.edu/dayofgiving](http://www.pnw.edu/dayofgiving).

Visitors to the site will also find information about how their donations will benefit PNW, how to give to their favorite college or cause, and various giving challenges and matching funds that help their gifts raise even more for PNW.

The fun will kick off on April 18 with a Giveback Day from noon to 8 p.m., hosted by Byway Brewing Company, located at 2825 Carlson Drive in Hammond, with 15% of all food sales donated to the PNW Day of Giving. Guests must bring a

downloadable coupon available at [www.pnw.edu/dayof-giving](http://www.pnw.edu/dayof-giving) for their food sales to count.

For more information contact Danielle Haydell at 219-989-4155 or [dhaydell@pnw.edu](mailto:dhaydell@pnw.edu).

Friends of the CP Library to host Spring book sale April 27-28

The Friends will host their spring book sale on Thursday, April 27 from 1-7 p.m. and Friday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thousands of used books and other items are offered including: children’s books, large print, fiction and non-fiction, compact discs, video cassettes and DVDs, talking books and more. Fill a bag of books and other items for only \$5. Now is the time to join the Friends. Purchase a \$5 bag of books on Thursday and get a one-year mem-

bership free. This special offer is only available on Thursday night, as the Friends don’t want to repack any books. On Friday the Friends will offer a \$1 a bag sale for any remaining items beginning at noon. The book sale will be held in the Tri Kappa Meeting Room at the Crown Point Community Library, located at 122 North Main Street in Crown Point. For more information contact Laura at 306-4599 or visit [www.crownpointlibrary.org](http://www.crownpointlibrary.org)

Crown Point Junior Bulldog football sign-ups set for April

The Crown Point Junior Bulldog Football League will be holding sign-ups and players do not have to live in Crown Point to play football in this league. Sign-up dates are April 22 and 23 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Crown Point Jr Bulldog Football fields located at 1401 East North Street in Crown Point. The league caters to players ages 6 years

old to seventh grade. The league is comprised of players from 23 different communities. There are no weight restrictions and kids play in their own age group. First-time sign-ups must bring copy of birth certificate. The first practices begin July 24. For details, call Scott at 219-577-4093 or go to [www.cjrbulldogs.com](http://www.cjrbulldogs.com).

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## Obituary ~ Janet Soulsby McCarthy Gruszkiewicz

Janet Soulsby McCarthy Gruszkiewicz, age 70, of Crown Point, passed away unexpectedly April 4, 2017. Born on February 2, 1947, Janet was a graduate of Central High School, Class of 1964 and the Harrisburg School of Nursing. Prior to her retirement she was employed by Amoco, Thrall Car and was an Industrial Nurse in the Scranton area. Janet was also a member of the Four Seasons United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her

husband, Anthony "Tony" Gruszkiewicz, in 2008; parents- Robert and Jean (nee Dimock) Soulsby. Janet is survived by her daughters- Lisa (Kevin) Ruddy of Kings Mills, OH, Eileen Smarr of Benton Harbor, MI; four grandchildren; step-children-Anthony (Kathy) Gruszkiewicz, Jr. of Factoryville, PA, Susan (Bernard) Dougherty of Taylor, PA, Rachelle (Richard) Pollina of Blakely, PA, Mark Gruszkiewicz of Blakely, PA and Christopher

(Christina) Gruszkiewicz of Savannah, GA; four step-grandchildren; brothers- Robert (Marlene) Soulsby of Scranton, PA, David (Jean) Soulsby of Blakely, PA; several nieces and nephews. Per Janet's request, no formal services will be held. Interment at Dunmore Cemetery, Dunmore, PA. at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choosing in Janet's name. Burns Funeral Home, Hobart, entrusted with arrangements. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com).

## Library hosting dog allergy seminar

Dogs that have been itching or paw-licking and chewing may be suffering from an allergy. Springtime, with its abundance of pollen and other environmental allergens, can bring misery to dogs with seasonal allergies. For dogs with food allergies or sensitivities, the suffering can extend year 'round, leaving pets in chronic distress and pet owners with chronic frustration.

The Crown Point Community Library, Woof

## Indiana 'Big Tree Register' now available

The updated Indiana Big Tree Register is now available online for Hoosier big tree lovers. The register, which is published every five years, lists the largest tree—or "champion"—of every native tree species in Indiana. It is at [www.dnr.IN.gov/forestry/8169.htm](http://www.dnr.IN.gov/forestry/8169.htm).

The current listing of Indiana's biggest trees was open for nominations in 2015. DNR Division of Forestry staff confirmed nominations in 2016.

Indiana's Big Tree Register follows a points system used by the National Big Tree Register that takes into account tree height, trunk circumference, and canopy spread to determine the overall largest tree. There are several species without champions because they have not received a nomination. Many of the champions are found in open areas such as cemeteries, or agricultural fields. With

Life, a Crown Point pet boutique, and Always Real Food, a local fresh homemade dog food company are sponsoring an Itchy Dog session for area pet owners on Tuesday, April 25, at 6 p.m. at the library.

"Allergies are the number one reason dogs go to the vet," said Leslie Cook, owner of Woof Life and presenter of the session. "In many cases, we can help reduce or eliminate allergies without the harmful side effects of steroids, which only mask the

more space and less competition for water and sunlight,

symptoms."

This session on allergies is part of an ongoing Pet Health series hosted by the library.

"Our pets are part of the family," added Cook. "We want to do everything we can to help them lead long, healthy lives."

The library is located at 122 North Main Street in Crown Point. No registration is required. For more information, please contact the Crown Point Library at 219-663-0270.

trees in these areas can grow to their largest potential.

## Friends of the Crown Point Library to host Spring tea luncheon

The Friends of the Crown Point Community Library Spring Tea Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 13, at 11 a.m. The event will take place at the Crown Point Community Library meeting rooms and will include a presentation by Dan Robertson of The Tea House and World Tea Tours in Naperville, Illinois; a sit-down tea party lunch catered by Sips Coffee House & Artisan Café; and raffle drawings for gift baskets.

Tickets to the event are \$25

## Open House at Conway Observatory on April 29

On Saturday, April 29, the Calumet Astronomical Society will host an open house at the Thomas Conway Observatory, located at 191st and Chase Street in Lowell.

The open house is scheduled from 8:30 until 10:30 p.m.

April 29 is National Astronomy Day and members of the Society will have their telescopes set up on the observing patio to provide visitors with an up-close-and-personal view of the many celestial objects found in our

per person and include lunch, lecture and a tea tasting. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at the Crown Point Library. The cost of the ticket will increase after April 24.

This luncheon is just one of the ways the Friends of the Crown Point Library raise funds to support the Crown Point Library and to provide intimate interactions between community members and quality authors and programs. For more information visit [www.crownpointlibrary.org](http://www.crownpointlibrary.org).

night sky. This event is open to the public, family-friendly, and free. It is suggested that you check the status of this event on the CAS website, [www.casonline.org](http://www.casonline.org) before heading to the observatory.

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## General Classifieds

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### 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)

### Help Wanted – Teachers

Hiring Lead Teachers for our 1's, 2's and 3's rooms. Please send resume to [kidzone-lc@att.net](mailto:kidzone-lc@att.net) or call 219-661-0665. (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 – Automotive Technician

In an effort to increase our level of service to our customers, Crown Point Auto Repair is adding TECHNICIANS to our team. If you know of, or have friends or family that you feel would be a good addition to the Crown Point Auto Repair team, have them stop in at 1510 N. Main Street, Crown Point, IN, and talk to Bill or Tim. They can also call the shop at 219-663-1847 or Bill's cell at 708-305-3666 for an appointment. (777)

### Music Director Wanted

Christ Presbyterian Church is looking for a Music Director. Interested persons should contact the church at [www.ChristWinfield.org](http://www.ChristWinfield.org). (775)

### Boat Lift For Sale

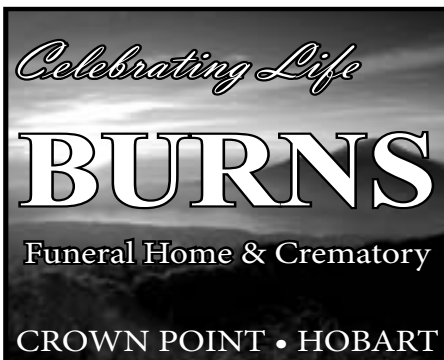
Aluminum boat lift on Lake Holiday in LOFS for sale. 23' x 9-1/2'. Canopy with cover. \$1,100. Call 219-789-4588. (777)

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# ‘Chair’ish the Children’ reception to raise awareness of child abuse

The annual ‘Chair’ish the Children’ reception will be hosted at the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond on April 26. From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. visitors can view the decorated child-sized chairs and bid during the silent auction. All monies raised benefit the Prevent Child Abuse Lake County (PCALC). The chairs will be on display until April 26 in the W.F. Wellman Exhibit Hall at the Indiana Welcome Center during normal business hours.

The decorated chair exhibit is presented by PCALC. This year’s exhibit includes categories for middle school students, high school students, and adult organizations that work with children. During the reception, a panel of local artists and teachers will judge the chairs and award the top

three schools in both the middle and high school categories with a cash prize to assist with their art department. The adult category is not eligible for a cash prize.

“Prevent Child Abuse Lake County is honored to work with our county’s student artists and their dedicated teachers to remind us all about the importance of cherishing children. We are committed to raising awareness with this event about what everyone can do to protect the children in their community and the power of prevention,” said Wendy Hensley, president of PCALC.

The one-of-a-kind chairs will be auctioned during the reception and proceeds will be used to assist with future child abuse prevention programming. Thousands of dollars have been raised since

the event auction began in 2011. Light refreshments will be served and a suggested donation of \$5 will be accepted at the door; the event is open to the public.

PCALC is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect through education, increased awareness, and advocacy. PCALC is affiliated with Prevent Child Abuse Indiana and provides education to schools and organizations on Shaken Infant Syndrome, along with distributing hospital packets to new mothers in local hospitals.

For more information about the event, or about PCALC, visit [www.pcalc.org](http://www.pcalc.org) or e-mail the organization at [pcalc@hotmail.com](mailto:pcalc@hotmail.com). The Indiana Welcome Center is located at 7770 Corinne Drive in Hammond.

# Crown Beer Fest returns to the Region; tickets available now

The 8th Annual Crown Beer Fest will return to the Region on June 10 at the Lake County Fairgrounds. Craft beer enthusiasts can enjoy more than 200 beers from 50+ breweries at this year’s event.

VIP tickets are available for \$75 where participants have early access from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. VIP tickets include unlimited sampling, a collectors tasting glass, a food voucher, access to VIP bathrooms and a VIP ‘swag bag’. Designated Driver tickets are available for \$20 and include unlimited sodas and a collectors tasting glass.

General Admission tickets are available for \$35, which gives participants access to the festival from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., unlimited sampling and a collectors tasting glass. All participants can enjoy live entertainment from Fresh Hops.

More than 50 breweries will participate in this year’s event including the Region’s own Wildrose Brewing, Ironwood

Brewing Inc., Crown Brewing, Three Floyds Brewing, and Burn’em Brewing, as well as breweries from Indiana, Illinois and Michigan.

“We are excited to host the 8th Annual Crown Beer Fest, the largest craft beer festival in Northwest Indiana. With over 50 breweries in attendance, this event is a craft beer lover’s dream,” said Barb Smrecansky

of Crown Brewing.

The Crown Beer Fest will take place at the Lake County Fairgrounds, located at 889 South Court Street in Crown Point. To learn more call 219-663-4545 or visit [www.crownbeerfest.com](http://www.crownbeerfest.com). Tickets can be purchased online at [www.crownbeerfest.com](http://www.crownbeerfest.com) or at Crown Brewing in Crown Point.

# Indiana Dunes State Park offers ‘glamping’ weekend and vintage camper rally April 29-30

Indiana Dunes State Park will offer a special themed weekend to explore the natural and cultural resources in the dunes from a ‘glamping’ perspective, April 29-30.

Glamorous camping is a way to experience the outdoors without forgoing creature comforts. Whether in a tent, yurt, camper, or tree house, it’s camping on a grand scale. Weekend programs will focus on relaxing in the outdoors, beach glass jewelry making, a camping

recipe tasting and exchange, example glamping sites, and more.

Vintage campers also will be on display, with an open house scheduled for Saturday, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Camping is available for both vintage campers and those with more modern camping units. Campers can visit [www.camp.in.gov](http://www.camp.in.gov) or call 866-622-6746 to make a reservation.

The weekend begins Friday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m. with a sunset hayride

from the campground to the beach. The ride begins at the Campground Gate. A \$2 per person donation is suggested for the ride.

The Duneland YMCA will also offer free Beach Yoga sessions on Saturday and Sunday in front of the beach pavilion. Bring a towel or mat and meet at 2 p.m. The sessions will be cancelled in inclement weather.

For more information, call 219-926-1390. Indiana Dunes State Park is located at 1600 North 25 East in Chesterton.

# Youth, family activities at Indiana Dunes Birding Festival at state park on May 6

The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, May 4 to 7, isn’t just for serious birders.

Participants can expect a wide range of activities for young bird enthusiasts and families looking to explore birds in their backyards. For young birders and their families, the highlight is the Youth and Family Birding Day at Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center on Saturday, May 6.

The day is sponsored by the Indiana Young Birders

Club (IYBC). IYBC will offer beginning bird walks, bird ID quizzes with prizes and bird banding demonstrations. The Isaak Walton League will host a free bluebird box building workshop throughout the day. The Indiana Dunes Learning Center staff will have hands-on activities also. The International Crane Foundation will also be present with their mascot, ‘Hope’, a seven-foot tall Muppet crane created by the

Jim Henson Company.

Registration has already begun and runs through April. However, the Youth and Family Birding Day is free, regardless of registration to the rest of the festival activities, which include live bird of prey shows, morning birding tours, evening social events, and more. Register at [www.indunesbirdingfestival.com](http://www.indunesbirdingfestival.com). For more information, call the state park nature center at 219-926-1390.

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## '1,000 Books Before Kindergarten' points toward success one book at a time

Families are invited to join the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Crown Point Community Library. The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is a nationwide chal-

lenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the 1,000-book goal in three years and provide their chil-

dren essential early literacy skills.

Research shows that the most reliable predictor of school success is being read to during early childhood. Reading to children from an

early age can help close the vocabulary gap and prepare children to enter kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed. Most importantly, sharing books with children promotes a lifelong love of

books and reading.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is available to all families with children between the ages of birth and five years. Registration is now under-

way.

For more information, call the Children's library desk at 219-306-8068 or visit [www.crownpointlibrary.org](http://www.crownpointlibrary.org). This program is free of charge.

## 'Safe Kids Day' program set for Saturday morning

Franciscan Health Crown Point and the Southlake YMCA will offer a free Safe Kids Day event from 9 a.m. until noon on April 22 at the YMCA, located at 1450 South Court Street.

The program, also being done in conjunction with Safe Kids Day Northwest Indiana and the Crown Point Community Foundation, will include numerous activities and demonstrations, including: a fire safety simulator offered by the Lowell Fire Department; sports safety

awareness, presented by the Franciscan Health Crown Point Sports Medicine Institute; a water safety discussion by the YMCA; exercise safety and information on bicycle safety and helmet fitting, safe sleep and pet safety. Child identification cards also will be available.

A demonstration by the Crown Point police canine unit will take place at 11 a.m. Registration is required. Call 800-931-3322 or register online at [www.FranciscanHealth.org/SafeKidsDayNWI](http://www.FranciscanHealth.org/SafeKidsDayNWI).

## Alzheimer's, dementia support group meets once per month in Winfield

The public is invited to attend an Alzheimer's and Dementia Support and Fellowship meeting at Christ Presbyterian Church in Winfield. This program is sponsored by the Alzheimer's and Dementia Services of Northern Indiana and is facilitated by Kathleen Luken, director of Welcome Home.

The group is being designed as a support group for caregivers to gather information in order to help make life easier; but also to provide an evening of food, fellowship, and relaxation from the normal routine of life.

The group is free to attend and is open to anyone with a need to understand the dementia process, may need tips to care for someone with the disease, or maybe just need to connect with families going through similar situations.

The group meets on the second Thursday of every month at the Christ Presbyterian Church, located at 7416 East 109th Avenue in Winfield.

The meeting time is 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Luken at 219-728-1106.

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## This day in history

**APRIL 21, 1980**

Rosie Ruiz, age 26, finished first in the women's division of the Boston Marathon with a time of 2:31:56. She was rewarded with a medal, a laurel wreath and a silver bowl. However, eight days later Ruiz was stripped of her victory after race officials learned she jumped into the race about a mile before the finish line.

Ruiz, an administrative assistant from New York City, qualified for the 84th Boston Marathon by submitting her time for running the 1979 New York City Marathon. It's believed that Ruiz intended to jump into the middle of the pack of runners but miscalculated when she joined the marathon one mile from the end, not realizing she was ahead of the other 448 female competitors.

Ruiz was unknown in the running world and her victory raised suspicions because it was a 25-minute improvement over her New York City Marathon time. Additionally, her winning time was then the third-fastest marathon time in history for a woman. After studying race photographs - Ruiz didn't appear in any of them until the very end - and conducting interviews, Boston Marathon officials stripped Ruiz of her title. Ruiz's New York time was later invalidated when officials discovered she had taken the subway during part of the race.

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

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