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April 3, 2020

New statewide map available for Hoosiers seeking food assistance during COVID-19 pandemic

A new, interactive online tool will make it easier for families to find food resources near home; site will be updated to reflect current openings and closures. The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, in partnership with the state's food banks, the Indy Hunger Network and Feeding Indiana's Hungry, has developed a statewide, interactive map that will help Hoosiers seeking food assistance find what they need. The map is online at www.in.gov/fssa/dfir/5768.htm and will be prominently featured at www.fssa.in.gov. The map can be used on desktop/laptop computers and mobile devices.

"Many Hoosiers' situa-

tions have changed as a result of our state's important and necessary response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic," said Jennifer Sullivan, M.D., M.P.H., FSSA Secretary. "We know there is a significant need for families – many of whom have never needed assistance before. We hope this tool helps them locate resources to meet their food and nutrition needs during this crisis and in the future."

There are two types of organizations shown on the map: food pantries and meal sites. Food pantries are locations where Hoosiers can pick up groceries to prepare and use at their homes. Meal sites serve packed meals, (See Map Pg. 3)

INDOT announces Virtual Job Fair: More than 1,000 construction and related positions available

The Indiana Department of Transportation has announced a virtual job fair in which more than 1,000 construction and related positions will be available through the state agency. The virtual job fair is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. EDT on Thursday, April 16, and will last approximately one hour.

Presenters will include representatives from both INDOT and the State Personnel Department. The program will cover what INDOT does, benefits in working for INDOT, how to apply for INDOT jobs, and details about specific jobs available in four main areas: Summer Seasonal State workers, Highway Maintenance Techs, Equipment Mechanics, and Construction Engineers.

"We appreciate the oppor-

tunity to promote our significant number of job openings to a broad audience," said Joe McGuinness, INDOT Commissioner. "This virtual job fair will enable us to get the word out to many Hoosiers who may be temporarily unemployed or simply looking for new opportunities they might have otherwise not been aware of."

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development will host the virtual job fair. DWD and INDOT joined forces once before for a successful virtual job fair in 2018. More than 400 individuals registered for the virtual event, including job seekers from 14 states across the U.S.

"The concept of virtual job fairs has proven to be popular with job seekers," said DWD



gotowebinar.com/register/7684424500148015117. All registrants will receive a link to the recording of the virtual job fair whether they are able to participate live or not.

DWD serves the worker and the employer to ensure workplace success. DWD is committed to innovating and invigorating Indiana's economic future by providing WorkOne Career Centers, Unemployment Insurance, Labor Market Information, Regional Workforce Strategies and Professional Training. Through these services, DWD is able to develop a premier workforce that enables Indiana employers to flourish and entices businesses from outside our state to relocate to Indiana.

Commissioner Fred Payne. "It allows individuals to engage with employers without the obstacles of transportation, child care or other constraints in attending an in-person job fair. And in this time of the COVID-19 crisis, it brings people together in a safe, convenient manner consistent with the current state guidelines for gatherings."

To register for the INDOT Virtual Job Fair, go to www.attendee.com.

Emergency physicians' message to American public: Stay home, save lives

As emergency physicians risk their lives each day as they battle the worldwide pandemic COVID-19, they have a request of the American people: stay home and save lives.

"Emergency physicians are working tirelessly to protect as many people as possible. You too can do your part: stay home and save lives," said William Jaquis, MD, FACEP, president of ACEP. "This is the only way to slow the virus

and the best strategy to prevent our health system from becoming overwhelmed."

People of all ages can contract the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Some may have mild symptoms and could be contagious before they know they are sick—inadvertently spreading the virus and putting others at risk. The "silent transmission" of COVID-19 is one factor contributing to the spread. Younger adults are not immune from risk. The

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that nearly 40 percent of patients sick enough to be hospitalized were 20- to 54-years old.

"Even if you think you are healthy, spending time in groups or in public could spread the virus to people you are close with," said Dr. Jaquis. "Young people, older people and everyone in between needs to follow the recommended steps for so-

cial distancing."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends putting distance (about six feet) between yourself and others. Guidelines to shelter in place, or stay at home, vary based on location. Conditions where you live are likely changing rapidly. Make sure you are getting health information from reliable sources such as your doctor, public health department or local leaders.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it took 67 days from the first reported COVID-19 cases to reach 100,000 cases, 11 days for the second 100,000, and just four days for the third 100,000.

"We have to do everything we can to stop the virus from spreading. For most people, that means hunkering down and doing your best to stay home as much as possible. We have a narrow window to take

meaningful action, and that time is now."

A resource from the American College of Emergency Physicians, Stop the Spread: A Patient Guide to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), provides tips on how to minimize the risk of contracting the virus and how to determine whether you should visit an emergency department.

Visit www.emergencyphysicians.org for more information.

Before shutdown, St. Mary School's chess team brought home trophies in regionals

St. Mary School's chess team sent 38 students to the SCI team regional tournament before the school shutdowns took place. The students competed as nine separate teams with 4-5 students on each team and performed extremely well.

With nearly 400 area chess students hailing from as far as Lafayette competing and only three trophies in each age group, the competition was intense. Despite these odds, St. Mary's 6th grade and under "A team" came in first place.

Also securing a trophy was

(See St. Mary's Pg. 8)



The St. Mary's chess teams pictured together included Gabriel Rosado, James Zembillas, John Mouser, Julian Wagner, Will Huffman, Nathan Jamrosz, Will Mouser, Connor Grcevich, Aidan Abad, James Mullally, Elijah Wagner, Sofija Novakovic, Gianna Zembillas, Grace Jamrosz, Anna Shimazaki, Mia Horton, Nate Barnett, Genevieve Abad, Rachel Mumaugh, Jaxon Froggia, James Wong, Joey Shae, Daniel Rosado, James Raggs, Ryder Ward, William Martino, Ayumi Artis, Stefan Novakovic, Lily Huffman, Brinna Bordui, Elijah Horton, Nathan Ford, Joseph Mullally, Matthew Martino, Tomoka Taira, Benjamin Hoy, and Jude Cunanan.

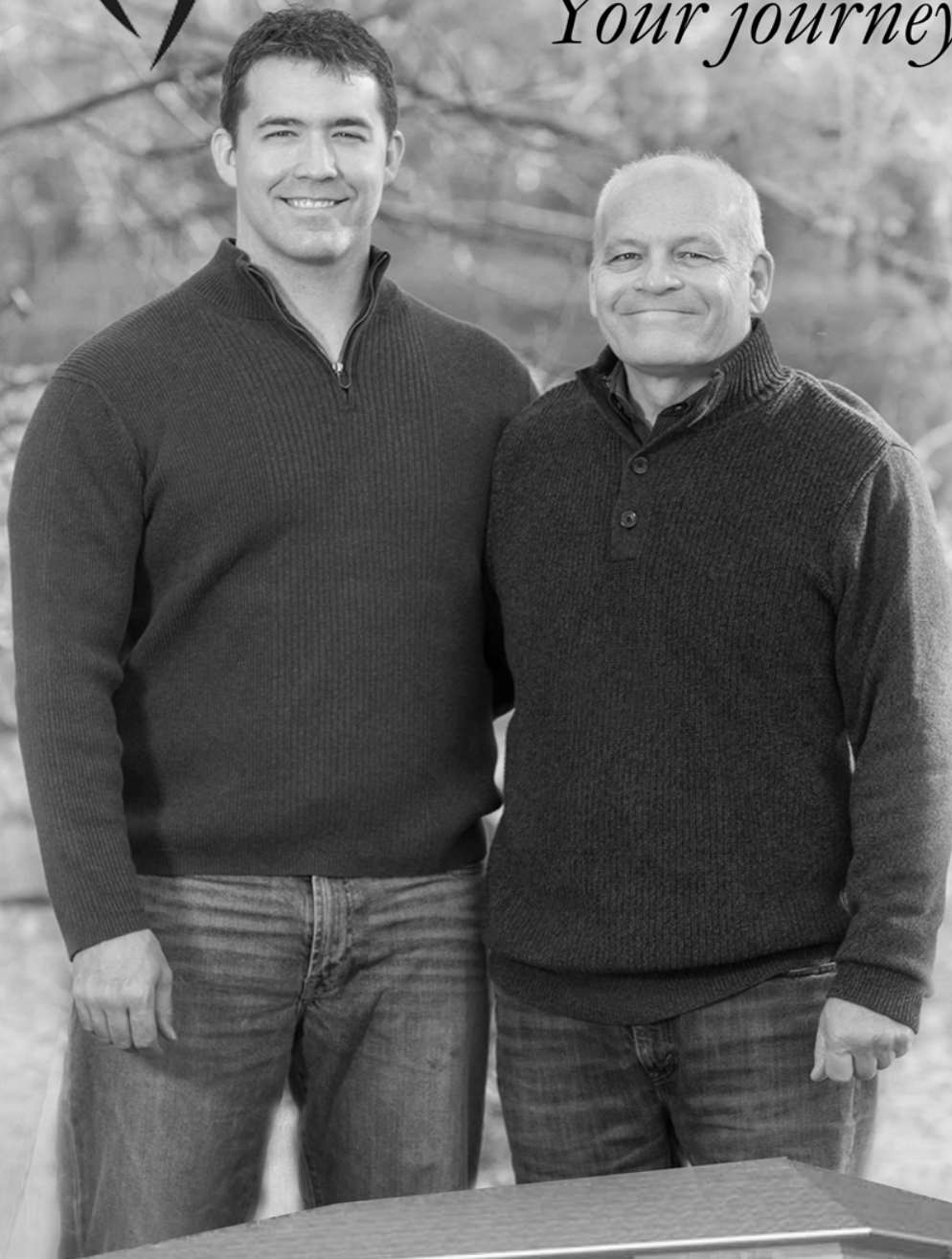
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See Coupons Pg. 7



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Businesses, organizations pitch in with donations of protective equipment to hospitals

Local businesses and organizations are joining the fight to stop the spread of COVID-19 by donating needed supplies to Franciscan Health facilities. Among those donating was local air compressor manufacturer Sullair, which provided 1,280 N95 masks to Franciscan Health Michigan City earlier this week. Additional donations of per-

sonal protective equipment to the hospital have come from Napa Auto Parts, the A.K. Smith Career Center, Blue Chip Casino, the Michiana Humane Society, and the LaPorte County Health Department.

To make a donation to Franciscan Health Crown Point, contact Mayra Cabrera at 219-757-6289.

Indiana Donor Network has COVID-19 testing partnership with State Department of Health

Indiana Donor Network has taken a major step forward in organ donation and transplantation in the wake of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Indiana State Department of Health will partner with the donor network to provide timely COVID-19 testing on all potential organ donors. Because of this testing, organ donation can continue to save lives during this pandemic.

“Indiana Donor Network (Map from Pg. 1) are able to take home and eat. Earlier this week, FSSA encouraged food pantries to stay open to keep serving Hoosiers and issued a call for volunteers under age 60 who

remains steadfast in our mission to save and enhance lives through organ, tissue and eye donation and transplantation. To that end, we will continue to work diligently and collaborate with all professional partners to ensure our lifesaving efforts continue despite the new challenges” noted the network.

For more information visit www.IndianaDonorNetwork.org.

are able to serve. FSSA is actively working with food pantries, food banks and community kitchens across the state to track which are open and is updating the map accordingly.

Kindergarten registration still taking place at Porter Lakes

Porter Lakes Elementary is still taking names for students for the 2020-21 kindergarten class. Children must be five years old by August 1, 2020 to enroll. E-mail the school at carol.magurany@ptsc.k12.in.us or leave a message at 219-306-8076.

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Kids: color stuff in!



There are many jobs to be done after a long winter. People in the city, town and country all do spring cleaning and chores based on their needs. **Read the clues to fill in the crossword with chores. How many of these jobs have you seen people doing? How many did you help to do?** (Hint: use a pencil to fill in the clues below first. This is tricky!)

- _____ messy closets
- _____ your warmer weather clothes that have been in storage
- _____ seeds so you can watch things grow
- _____ flowers to give the house some color
- _____ sidewalks that have gathered sand and dirt
- _____ fences that have been damaged during the winter
- _____ out your house with a fresh crisp breeze
- _____ storm windows with screens
- _____ driveways so that we can move cars about easily
- _____ the overgrown grass on the lawn
- _____ weeds from the garden
- _____ the furniture in your room for a new look
- _____ the dust out of rugs
- _____ soot from the chimney
- _____ the overgrown bushes
- wash and _____ the car
- _____ clean the dirty carpet
- _____ laundry to dry on a clothesline

It's Time for... Spring Cleaning




Wow! Look what I'm finding under your bed!

It's that time of year when we can open the windows and freshen everything!

A good spring cleaning after winter is almost a pleasure to complete. Then, once our homes are in order, we are ready for sunny, warm summer.

Yikes!

brush, hang, organize, steam, sweep, air, polish, unpack, repair, water, replace, rearrange, pull, trim, mow, beat, pave, sow



Have you ever heard of "slang"? It is a way of talking that is a little different from the standard English in books. For example, if I say, "Boy, we really cleaned up at the garage sale," I am telling you that we made a lot of money, not that I put away all the things we had for sale.


Can you match these slang expressions to their meanings?

- clean sweep
- clean out
- clean hands
- come clean
- keep one's nose clean

- to stay out of trouble
- to win everything
- innocent, has done nothing wrong
- to take everything, empty
- confess, tell the whole story

Can You Clean Up These Messes?

How many of these DUST KITTIES did I find under your bed? Look around the whole page. Put your answer in the biggest bubble.



What things might you use to clean up? Can you find these items in the scrub brush and circle them?

vacuum cleaner

paper towels

trash barrel

hedge clippers

brush

pail

soap

wax

ladder

broom

water

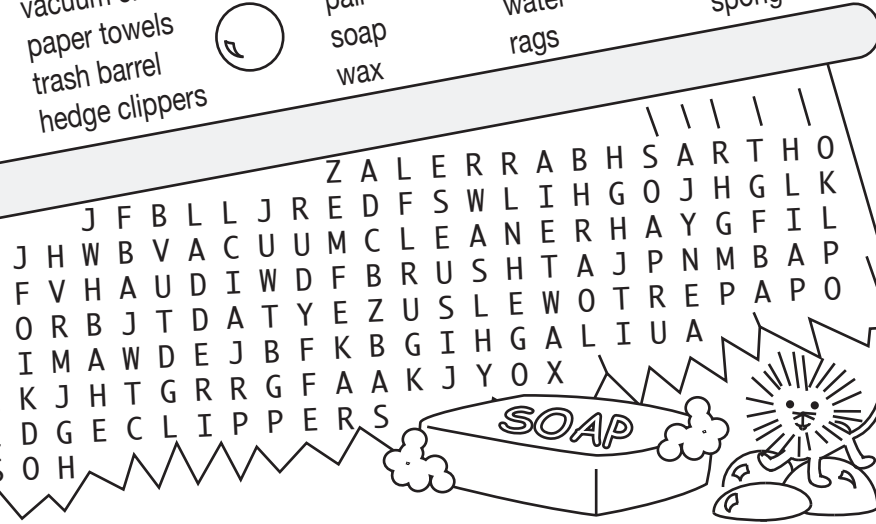
rag

rake

mop

hose

sponges



SOAP

Busting Dust!

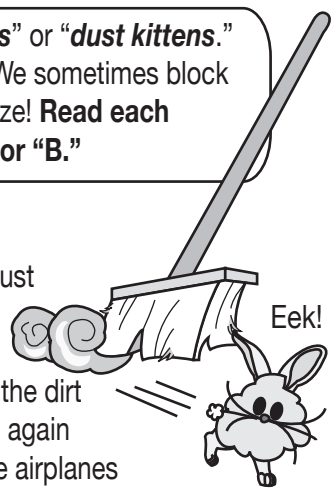


Little, fluffy, grey balls of dust found under the couch or behind the door are called "**dust bunnies**" or "**dust kittens**." We are usually made up of skin cells, hair and tiny pieces of dirt. To people, we can be a nuisance. We sometimes block air filters, get into computers or just gather together under your furniture. We can make people sneeze! **Read each numbered word or phrase below. Next, choose the correct definition by circling the letter "A" or "B."**

- dust
 - dust bunnies
 - an item is "collecting dust"
 - the flies "bit the dust"
 - the lead runner left the others "in the dust"
 - I'm going to "dust off" my hobby box
 - when she works she "makes the dust fly"
- tiny pieces of dirt, skin, hair
 - bunnies that clean your house
 - isn't being used anymore
 - died
 - was far ahead of the others
 - put the box into the closet
 - she works with lots of energy

or

- tiny flower seeds
 - little clumps of fluffy, grey dust
 - putting dust into a bag
 - ate dust for their lunch
 - knocked other runners into the dirt
 - take it out of storage to use again
 - the dust balls jump into little airplanes



Eek!

DWD closes central office, all WorkOne centers until further notice

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced that it will close to the public its office at the Indiana Government Center downtown as well as all WorkOne centers statewide at the end of the day until further notice.

Unemployment insurance applications remain available online for all Hoosiers.

“We made the difficult decision to close the offices in light of state and federal guidelines restricting public interactions,” DWD Commissioner Fred Payne said. “Our online system helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and provides efficient processing of claims for unemployment insurance benefits.”

Individuals must apply for unemployment benefits online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone. Online filing information can be found at www.unemployment.in.gov.

If individuals still have questions, they can contact DWD via email or telephone. Due to extremely high call volume, waits will be longer than usual. DWD is requesting that individuals only reach out with questions on the day corresponding with the first letter of their last name to assist with wait times. The schedule is Monday A-E; Tuesday F-I; Wednesday J-M; Thursday N-T; and Friday U-Z

If you missed your day, call on Friday. Contact methods are:

- E-mail at AskUIContactCenter@dwd.IN.gov
- Phone at 1-800-891-6499

For all questions related to unemployment insurance, please visit www.unemployment.in.gov, which includes an updated FAQ, tutorial and other helpful information.

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Drop-off location available for medical personal protective equipment; homemade masks accepted

inHealth Ambulance and United Way of Porter County have teamed up to provide a central drop-off location for any personal protective equipment donations. Donations can include things such as face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and eye protection wear. Donations of homemade masks are also accepted. United Way and inHealth Ambulance will

distribute donations to medical workers in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties.

"This crisis is impacting us personally, professionally and medically," said Kim Olesker, president & CEO at United Way of Porter County. "Together we can find creative solutions to keep our frontlines safe - medical, first responders and food distribution locations.

Our community is better together. We need everyone to do their part."

"It's wonderful to see how our community pulls together to help one another," Ron Donahue, CEO of inHealth Ambulance. "These supplies will make a significant impact to our Region's healthcare team."

The drop-off location is at inHealth Ambulance, located

at 153 West U.S. Hwy 6 in Valparaiso, from Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Look for signage that says DROP OFF HERE: Masks, gloves, face shields, and gowns for healthcare workers.

For more information, visit www.unitedwaypc.org/coronavirus-resources or www.facebook.com/indhealth.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources continues statewide fish stocking efforts

Indiana DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife recently began spring fish stockings at locations across the state.

Biologists from state fisheries will coordinate statewide with city and county parks to gain access for stocking purposes.

DNR is striving to ensure the safety of the public and staff. As stocking trucks are on the road and stocking fish, please remember to practice social distancing.

Some egg collection efforts have been canceled for this year. Each year, DNR staff collect walleye and muskellunge (muskie) eggs from wild sources to sustain populations across the state. Though nearly all of Indiana's walleye waters are sustained through stocking, missing one year of stocking should not significantly

impact walleye fishing. Saugeye and muskie fishing also look positive. Muskies are a long-lived species, and their lifespans temper the ef-

fect of missed stockings.

For more information on fish stocking efforts, visit www.wildlife.IN.gov/5457.htm.

For the most up-to-date information regarding DNR and COVID-19, visit www.on.IN.gov/dnrcovid19.



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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 call the shop at 219-663-1847 or Bill's cell at 708-305-3666 for an appointment. (950)

Fire Force Volunteers Requested

Lakes of the Four Seasons Volunteer Fire Force, which serves LOFS, Winfield, Winfield Township, and the WPTFP district, is always in need of more dedicated volunteers to join our ranks. Want to help your community by giving back through service? Please call 219-662-7576 and speak with Chief Gikas, or he may be e-mailed at chief@lofsfire.com. (950)



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New, real-time COVID-19 diagnostic tests in development by IU and IU Health research collaboration

Indiana University researchers from the School of Informatics and Computing at IUPUI and the School of Medicine, in collaboration with Indiana University Health, are developing new diagnostic tests that combine speed and sensitivity for rapid detection of the viral strain.

These tests can eventually be employed for faster diagnosis of health care workers and others who are on the front lines and exposed to COVID-19 patients.

Benchtop and palm-held sequencing-based approaches being developed by IU principal investigator Sarah Janga and colleagues provide solutions for real-time detection of viral infections in clinical samples and further means to control the outbreaks.

“The issue with current accepted approaches for COVID-19 tests is that, while effective at detection, they are slow, with results taking up to a day or longer. We are testing our benchtop sequencing approach, which can potentially be done in two to three hours or even less,” Janga said.

An additional advantage of this novel approach is that testing may be performed at point-of-care in the clinic, rather than transferring samples to the lab, further reducing time and the risk of more infections.

Like coronavirus, several viral strains are pathogenic in nature, difficult to detect and easy to transmit, leading to the emergence of pandemics. In the case of an outbreak, it is important to have a method to detect the virus as quickly and accurately as possible in order to prevent its transmission and efficiently treat infected patients.

Crown Point Community Libraries closed until further notice

With consideration of decisions by state and local officials, school systems, and public health departments, the Crown Point Community Library Board of Trustees and Director have made the decision to close both locations and services to the public as of this past Monday, March 16 at 2 p.m. until further notice.

This includes the cancellation of all Library programming occurring inside and outside our buildings.

We are closing to protect the health of our staff, our community, and our patrons, for which we care deeply. Closing sooner will offer greater benefit to the social distancing effort to limit the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus in Lake County.

During this time, we will utilize our website and social media channels on Facebook, Twitter to share information with patrons, including updates on our closure and tips for making the most of online Library resources.

Bookmark this link for updates: www.crownpointlibrary.org

NWI has nine communities in the Top 20

To identify the safest cities in Indiana, SafeWise, an online resource for safety and security, reviewed the most recent FBI crime report statistics and census population data.

The full report can be found at www.safewise.com

NWI Top Twenty ‘safest’ list with their overall ranking in the state, are: St. John #1; Dyer #3; Crown Point #4; Chesterton #7; Munster #9; Valparaiso #14; Griffith #15; Highland #16; and Hobart #20.

Crown Point schools rated 10th in state


Research organization BackgroundChecks.org released a ranking of the top school districts in the US on a per-state basis. By analyzing key metrics and data from over 10,000 schools, Background Checks aims to recognize those that have excelled in creating top-notch learning environments.

Indiana’s leading school districts are Carmel Clay Schools and Hamilton Southeastern Schools. The Crown Point Community School Corporation was rated tenth.


To see the rankings of all the districts, visit www.backgroundchecks.org/top-school-districts-in-indiana.html.

FOOT OR ANKLE PAIN?

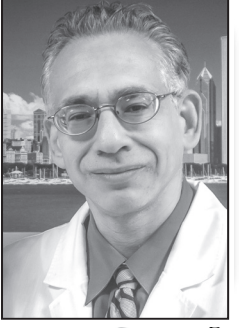
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NiSource Charitable Foundation donates \$1 million to Red Cross chapters

The NiSource Charitable Foundation, the charitable foundation supported by Nipsco's parent company NiSource Inc. announced that it has committed \$400,000 to the American Red Cross in Indiana as part of its overall \$1 million donation to help provide coronavirus (COVID-19) relief support across the company's seven-state service territory.

"The health, safety and well-being of those who live and work within the communities we serve is paramount," said Nipsco President Violet Sistovaris. "During this increased time of need, it requires strong collaboration, and we know the Red Cross can efficiently get these dollars to those who are providing critical care and response."

Because a reliable source

of energy is a life-essential service, Nipsco is closely following health and safety protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and federal, state and local governments. Nipsco has also taken a number of actions to help customers through the COVID-19 pandemic, including suspending shutoffs for non-payment until further notice and offering their most flexible payment plans to customers impacted by or facing hardship due to COVID-19. Customers should contact Nipsco directly for payment plan details.

For full details of the company's COVID-19 response, visit www.NiSource.com or www.nipsco.com/coronavirus.



James Wong, James Raggs, Joseph Mullally, and Lucas Raloff received some hardware for the St. Mary's trophy case.



St. Mary's first place team consisted of Rachel Mumaugh, John Mouser, Elijah Wagner, and Will Huffman.

(St. Mary's from Pg. 1)

the 3rd grade and under "A team" who earned the second place trophy. The 6th grade "B team" earned 5th place and the 3rd grade "B team" ended the day in 7th place.



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This day in history

April 3, 1860

The first Pony Express mail, traveling by horse and rider relay teams, simultaneously left St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. Ten days later, the westbound rider and mail packet completed the approximately 1,800-mile journey and arrived in Sacramento, beating the eastbound packet's arrival in St. Joseph by two days and setting a new standard for speedy mail delivery.

Although ultimately short-lived and unprofitable, the Pony Express captivated America's imagination and helped win federal aid for a more economical overland postal system. It also contributed to the economy of the towns on its route and served the mail-service needs of the American West in the days before the telegraph or an efficient transcontinental railroad.

The Pony Express Company was set up along 150 relay stations on a pioneer trail across the present-day states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. Riders, who were paid approximately \$25 per week and carried loads estimated at up to 20 pounds of mail, were changed every 75 to 100 miles, with horses switched out every 10 to 15 miles. The initial cost of delivery was \$5 for every half-ounce of mail.

The company's riders set their fastest time with Lincoln's inaugural address, which was delivered in just eight days. With the advent of the first transcontinental telegraph, the Pony Express ceased operations.

www.history.com