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# Winfield American

Vol. 20, Issue 975

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February 26, 2021

## Porter County Master Gardener scholarships and grants applications being taken

The Porter County Master Gardeners Association invites college students, individuals, groups or charitable organizations in Porter County to apply for \$1,000 scholarships or up to \$300 in grants for materials for gardening/horticulture-related volunteer projects.

PCMG will award up to three, annual, non-renewable scholarships of \$1,000 each to a college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student who is majoring in the field of landscape design or horticulture. Students with other majors may be eligible if they state in the application how

they will use their degree to promote home gardening.

PCMG will also provide grants of up to \$300 for materials for gardening/horticulture-related volunteer projects in Porter County to eligible volunteer individuals or groups and non-profit organizations. This includes, but is not limited to, community organizations, youth groups, churches, teachers and individual volunteers. Projects are to benefit the community, feed those in need or promote gardening education.

For application and complete details go to [www.pcmgarden.info](http://www.pcmgarden.info).



This community garden donated around 1,250 lbs. of fresh fruits and vegetables last year.

Applications may be emailed to [pcmastergardener@gmail.com](mailto:pcmastergardener@gmail.com) or personally delivered to the Purdue Extension-Porter County



Volunteers work to create colorful and tranquil gardens at the VNA Hospice Center in Valparaiso.

Office, 155 Indiana Avenue, Suite 301, Valparaiso, IN, 46383 by 4:30 on the deadline of March 19, 2021. Any applications sent by mail must

be postmarked by March 12, 2021. Late applications will be considered in July.

For more information call 219-465-3555.



Natasha Woodard is the PCMG 2020 scholarship winner and a Purdue University biology major.

## Local civic leaders amplify contribution to provide meals in Northwest Indiana

Near the end of 2020, local Civic Leaders, Tom Sourlis & Sue Eleuterio issued a holiday challenge to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, offering to match all donations up to \$100,000 through December 31, 2020.

"Tom and Sue wanted to directly address the rising demand for food assistance in the Region, while also inspiring others to do the same, through the Half Million Meal Match", said Victor A. Garcia, CEO of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana.

"The Match opened up the opportunity to provide approximately 600,000 meals for our community", said Garcia.

Tom and Sue's Half Million Meal Match Challenge raised a cumulative total of \$280,000.

"We are so grateful to the staff and volunteers of the Food Bank for all they have done to help Northwest Indiana residents during this difficult time. We also want to thank every person who has donated to the Food

Bank. Every dollar or contribution of food has helped to make someone else's life a little better", said Tom Sourlis and Sue Eleuterio.

In 2020, due to a 60% increase in demand, sparked by the effects of COVID-19, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana broke an organizational record, distributing approximately 11 million pounds of food and serving more than 9 million meals. The Food Bank plans to continue COVID-19 response efforts as needed.



"The road ahead is uncertain. To sustain the increased capacity and adequately support families facing hunger, we are expanding our network, extending temporary staff assignments, and consolidating regional food

assistance efforts through a newly created Hunger Coalition. We want to be here for our neighbors for the long haul", said Garcia.

The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana has the been leading the fight against

hunger in the Region since 1982. The Food Bank distributes nearly 5 million meals annually to children, seniors, individuals, and families in Lake and Porter Counties through more than 115+ partner agencies, Mobile Market Distributions, Commodity Supplemental Food Program for seniors, the Backpack program, and other initiatives.

Visit [www.foodbanknwi.org](http://www.foodbanknwi.org) to learn more and join the fight against hunger in Northwest Indiana.

## Purdue Northwest hosting GLIAC basketball tournament next week

Purdue University Northwest will be the host institution for the 2021 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments next week.

PNW's outstanding facilities attracted the GLIAC to have the tournament played in Northwest Indiana. The men's championship will be played at the Hammond Campus inside the Fitness & Recreation Center and the women's championship at the Westville Campus at the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex. In addition, the state-of-the-art Hammond Sportsplex will be utilized for practices.

Both sites will host four quarterfinal games on Thursday, March 4, two

semifinal games on Friday, March 5, and the finals will be played on Sunday, March 7.

"On behalf of the Pride of PNW, I am pleased to host this marquee event," director of athletics Rick Costello said. "It is awesome to bring March Madness to Northwest Indiana. I look forward to providing a safe environment and an outstanding championship experience for the student-athletes in Westville and Hammond. We look forward to crowning the GLIAC tournament champions that will participate in the Women's and Men's NCAA Division II basketball tournament."

PNW Chancellor Thomas L. Keon said the selection of Purdue Northwest as the GLIAC tournament host demonstrates the extensive,

positive impact of the university to the Northwest Indiana community.

"This is exciting news for PNW's students, faculty, staff, alumni and the entire Region because it shows national recognition of the investment we have made in our Athletics program and our facilities on both campuses," Keon said. "Bringing the GLIAC basketball tournaments to Northwest Indiana will have a significant economic impact and shine a spotlight on our area and the university."

A new format will allow all 12 GLIAC institutions for both the Men's and Women's Tournament to participate. The opening round will take place at campus sites, with the advancing teams traveling to Purdue Northwest for

the remainder of the tournaments. PNW will lend its staff to assist the conference with tournament operations.

With the safety of student-athletes and coaching staffs at the forefront of this decision, the GLIAC reached a determination to conduct the tournaments with only essential staff, and no fan attendance. The tournaments will follow the GLIAC Safety Requirements for Competition, which call for testing of student-athletes, masking, and sanitization of venues before and after competition.

The GLIAC is one of the most competitive conferences in NCAA Division II and Commissioner Kris Dunbar is grateful to PNW for hosting this year's postseason event.



Purdue University Northwest will host the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments March 4-7 at its athletics facilities in Hammond and Westville.

"This tournament is a big undertaking, and PNW has a great team of administrators committed to facilitating 14 games in a safe and fun environment," Dunbar said.

All games played at both

campus locations can be viewed live on pay-per-view streaming, and will also be made available on-demand, through PNW's partnership with JED TV.

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



‘Marsh Madness’ Sandhill Crane Festival will feature virtual programming this weekend

The Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife is partnering with Friends of Goose Pond to stage the 12th annual Marsh Madness Sandhill Crane Festival this weekend.

Marsh Madness is a community-based bird-watching festival held in Linton, in Greene County. The event celebrates the migration of sandhill cranes and waterfowl at Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA), which is located on the town’s outskirts.

For safety reasons, this year’s events will take place virtually. Programming will include bird-watching tips from the property manager and assistant property manager, a birds of prey presentation, information from the International Crane Foundation, and Facebook Live sessions from bird-watching experts in the field.

On-site visitors to Goose

Alzheimer’s support group is back

The group meets every second Thursday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Christ Presbyterian Church, located at 7416 East 109th Avenue in Winfield.

This event is sponsored by Alzheimer’s & Dementia

Pond FWA may also take a self-guided driving tour of the property or stop in the Goose Pond FWA Visitor Center to get more information about the FWA’s attractions.

Goose Pond FWA is located at 13540 West County Road 400 South, in Linton, Indiana.

For more information about the event, visit [www.friendsongoosepond.org/marsh-madness](http://www.friendsongoosepond.org/marsh-madness)

Services of Northern Indiana. Call 219-973-3862 for more information.

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IDEM grants available for community recycling projects

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management announced Monday the availability of grant funding for recycling and household hazardous waste collection and disposal from the agency’s Community Recycling Grant Program.

“IDEM is happy to offer grants to communities and organizations that are working to increase recycling efforts throughout Indiana,” said IDEM Commissioner Bruno Pigott. “These grants will fund projects that educate Hoosiers and promote recycling, which will go a long way in helping to protect our state’s environment.”

Counties, municipalities, solid waste management districts, schools, and nonprofit organizations in Indiana are eligible to submit a Community Recycling Grant application requesting \$500 to \$100,000 in funding.

Applications will be accepted through March 1, 2021.

The Community Recycling Grant Program is funded through IDEM’s Solid Waste Management Fund. Eligible projects should focus on education and promotion of recycling, processing of recyclable materials, waste reduction, and HHW and organics management (including yard waste management and composting).

Grant funding is intended to create successful, cost-effective programs. Applicants must demonstrate a positive environmental impact within the project service area, an increase in waste diversion as a result of the project, and show the sustainability of the project.

Final funding determinations will be made at the end of March 2021.

To apply, please visit IDEM’s website at [www.idem.IN.gov/recycle/2543.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/recycle/2543.htm).

For additional information, contact 800-988-7901 or [recycle@idem.IN.gov](mailto:recycle@idem.IN.gov).

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Got stuff for the paper?

News and Event Submissions  
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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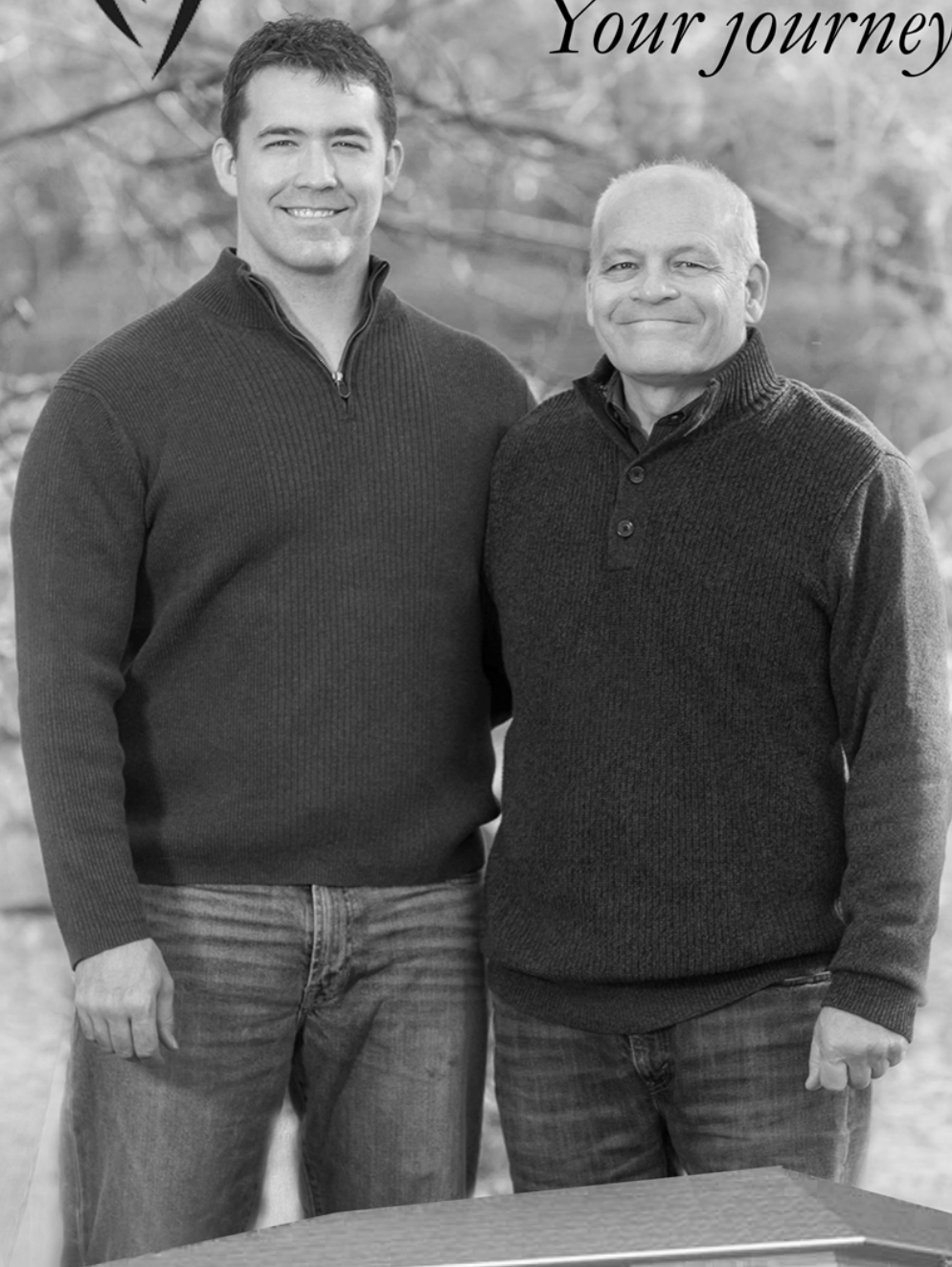
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## Indiana Chamber seeking nominees for 2021 Human Resources Professional of the Year

Nominations are being sought for the 2021 Ogletree Deakins Human Resources Professional of the Year. The award will be presented during the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's 57th Annual Human Resources Conference & Expo in Indianapolis on June 7 to 9, which will be a hybrid event with virtual or in-person attendance.

The award is open to all full-time human resources professionals in Indiana. Nominations can be by self-nomination, peer, subordinate, supervisor or other, but must be accompanied by a sponsorship letter from the nominee's organization and

must be received by March 15, 2021.

This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to their organization over the past year through implementation of best practices, organization design and effectiveness, and alignment and accomplishment of the strategic direction

of their company.

Winners benefit from increased recognition in the HR community, visibility in the professional world at large and respect among their peers. In addition, the honor serves as an extra professional credential.

Submit nominations online at [www.indianachamber.com/hrpro](http://www.indianachamber.com/hrpro).

com/hrpro.

Laura Bickle, vice president of human resources for business units and Lilly USA at Eli Lilly and Company,

was named the 2020 Ogletree Deakins Human Resources Professional of the Year. The awards presentation will also honor those HR professionals

who have earned the Indiana Chamber Human Resources Compliance Certificate.



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## This week in history

**March 1, 1781**

The Articles of Confederation were ratified. The Articles were signed by Congress and sent to the individual states in 1777 after 16 months of debate. Bickering over land claims delayed the final ratification for four more years. Maryland finally approved on March 1, 1781, affirming the Articles as the outline of the official government of the United States.

The nation was guided by the Articles until the implementation of the current U.S. Constitution in 1789. The predominance of the states under the Articles is explicit by the claims of Article II, which reads, "Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled."

Less than five years after the ratification of the Articles of Confederation, enough leading Americans decided that the system was inadequate to the task of governance and they peacefully overthrew their second government in just over 20 years.

The difference between a collection of sovereign states forming a confederation and a federal government created by a sovereign people lay at the heart of debate as the new American people decided what form their government would take.

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

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: ANTHONY GEISEN



6th Generation from the Geisen family to serve funeral families

Recent graduate from Worsham School of Mortuary Science

2017 Purdue University graduate

Enjoys coaching football in the Crown Point community



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# 'At Home By Choice Home Care' opens office in Winfield

Dennis and Lori van Waardenburg, owners of the new home care agency At Home By Choice in Winfield, know that everyone does better when they are at home. From surgical recovery, respite care, diabetes care, dementia, and senior care in general, when someone can be in their own home surrounded by familiar things, memories, and being in the comfort of your own home – people will always do better because they're happier.

After the passing of Dennis's dad several years ago, Dennis and Lori spoke

with his mom about moving in with them so that they could help her with her struggles as a new widow. His mom simply and strongly answered "No. I want to stay in my own home."

The van Waardenburgs wanted to find a way to help, and from Dennis's mom's comment about wanting to stay in her own home they knew what they wanted to do for her and many others.

"The company name says it all – 'At Home By Choice Home Care'," the van Waardenburgs noted.

At Home By Choice Home Care is a private duty, non-

medical company that serves Lake and Porter counties in Indiana that offers, but is not limited to, live-in care, personal hygiene, dementia care, companionship, personal care, respite care, medication reminders, and mobility assistance, along with that sense of security for people to remain independent and retain their quality of life.

Said Lori, "it is our mission to provide clients with exceptional home care services and achieve the optimum wellness they deserve. Our mission and vision will be achieved through the ap-

plication of their core values, which include: Comfort, Affection, Respect, Integrity, Nurture; and Generosity (CARING)."

Dennis also said, "We are accepting donations of canned and boxed food at our office at 10971 Four Seasons

Place, Suite 123 in Winfield. It is our goal as a company to give a percentage of our profit to the less fortunate regarding food at this time."

"We do hope to expand on this, such as clothing, as profit allows," he continued. "We want to contribute this with

our church, Life Well Church in Winfield, to the Winfield Food Pantry."

Visit the company's website at [www.athomebychoice.net](http://www.athomebychoice.net) or reach out to them at 219-386-5781.

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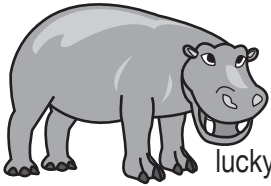


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...folktales from around the world.

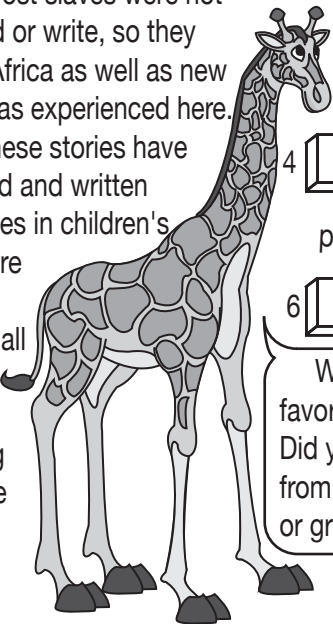


Kids: color stuff in!



In America, we are lucky to have folktales from around the world. As people come here to live, they bring stories they have heard and shared before. These stories tell about life and nature. African Americans have a wealth of folklore from Africa to share with their families and others. Some also share stories from their history as slaves and free people in America. Most slaves were not taught to read or write, so they **told** tales of Africa as well as new stories of life as experienced here.

Many of these stories have been collected and written down. The tales in children's story books are beautifully illustrated for all to enjoy. Ask a librarian for help in finding some of these folktales... you'll be glad you did!

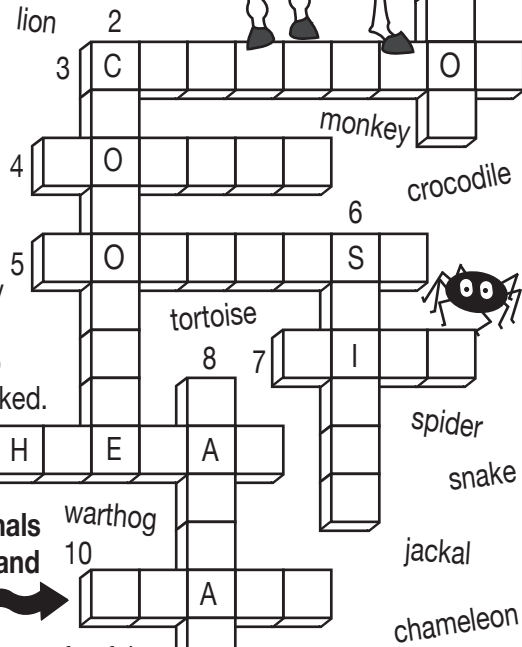
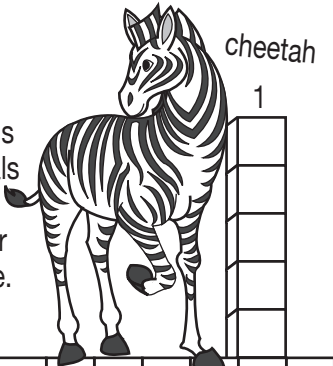


## African and American Folktales

Many parents and grandparents tell folktales to the children in their family. Storytellers spin them for listeners of all ages. **A folktale may have:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ solved
- \_\_\_\_\_ of things that are hard to understand
- \_\_\_\_\_ for an unkind person
- \_\_\_\_\_ learned
- a \_\_\_\_\_ for a good person
- \_\_\_\_\_ who can overcome anything
- \_\_\_\_\_ spells
- \_\_\_\_\_ animals

Folktales often use animals to make a point. The animals are used to show what people are like or how they behave.



What is your favorite folktale? Did you hear it from your parents or grandparents?

A cat may be sneaky.  
A dog may be too trusting and get tricked.

Which animals may be used to stand for these traits?

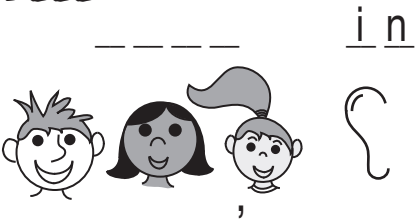
- stubborn, fearful
- misleading, gets others to do what he wants
- timid, loyal
- playful, clever
- wise, brave
- tricky, greedy, lazy
- proud, cruel
- sneaky, clever
- honorable, swift
- patient, plotting

### Which Folktale?

- This folktale explains why an insect does what it does! **Study the pictures and letters to help you fill in the title.**

W +   
\_\_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_\_ u i o \_\_\_\_\_

**Bzzzz**



**A West African Tale:** by Verna Aardema

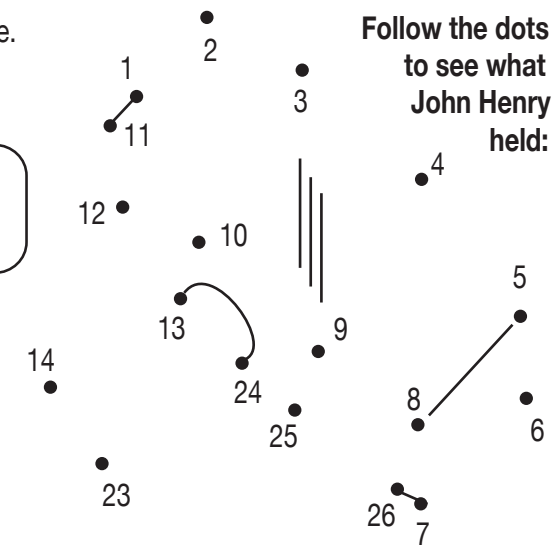
- In the tale, **Beautiful Blackbird**: by Ashley Bryan, a bird paints a touch of his beautiful

\_\_\_\_\_ color onto other birds' feathers.

- This magical folktale has a chicken house full of these. To find out what, fill in each blank with the letter of the alphabet that comes before the one given.

U I F U B M L J O H F H H T

by Robert San Souci



Unscramble the word.

- In the legend of John Henry, it is said that he was born with and died with, this in his hand:

M M H A E R

**John Henry: An American Legend** by Ezra Jack Keats

### Find a Favorite Folktale!

Check out these cool folktales:

- Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale* by John Steptoe.
- A Story A Story* by Gail E. Haley.
- Anansi the Spider Man* by Philip M. Sherlock.
- Jump! The Adventures of Brer Rabbit* by Joel Chandler Harris.
- The Tales of Uncle Remus* told by Julius Lester.
- The People Could Fly* told by Virginia Hamilton.
- Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales* by Nelson Mandela.

This animal is often seen in folktales.

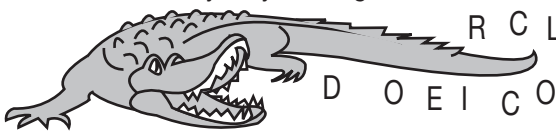
#1

B B R A T I

Sometimes he is hiding. He is small, but fast and clever!



#2 These animals – but not alligators – live in Africa. In stories they may be magical or dishonest.



Draw another animal often found in folktales. What is he like?

This animal is:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



## Veterans can now deduct more for military retirement funds

Military retirees and surviving spouses may experience a larger tax deduction from their military retirement funds this individual income tax season due to a 2019 Indiana tax law, advises the Indiana Department of Revenue.

Gov. Eric Holcomb signed House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1010 in the summer of 2019 to allow eligible taxpayers to deduct up to \$6,250 plus an additional 50% of their military retirement income

or survivor's benefits for the 2020 tax year. This is an increase of 25% since 2019 and the deductible amount will continue to increase by 25% each year until 2022 when 100% of the amount received will be eligible for the deduction.

To claim the Military Retirement Income or Survivor's Benefits Deduction, use Schedule 2 (or Schedule C if filing Form IT-40PNR) from the Indiana individual income tax return.

Information on calculating the amount to deduct is available in tax instruction booklets, which are available online.

More information on this deduction, tax information for current military service members, the latest tax forms and instructions for the 2020 tax year are available on DOR's website at [www.dor.in.gov](http://www.dor.in.gov).

Customers with questions about individual income tax season are encouraged to

visit that same website or email Customer Service at [IndividualTaxAssistance@dor.in.gov](mailto:IndividualTaxAssistance@dor.in.gov).

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## Hoosiers have saved an average of \$282 per month since the start of the pandemic

There is no doubt about the unprecedented disruption caused by the pandemic, or the great financial struggle many Americans across the nation are experiencing. However, what might seem counterintuitive given the current state of the economy, the Consumer Credit report found that credit card debt in the US has plummeted since the start of the pandemic. Are Americans proactively attempting to pandemic-proof their finances during this period of economic uncertainty?

Financial support and lender, CreditNinja, conducted a survey of 3,000 adults (18+) to find out how their saving habits have changed during the pandemic due to economic uncertainty. This found that the average Hoosier (in full-time employment) has saved \$282 each month since the start of the pandemic (March 1, 2020) - this compares to a national average of \$329. Considering there have been fewer opportunities to leave the home due to social distancing, it is likely people are saving on costs such as gas, commuting and eating out.

Broken down across the US, it was found the average Alaskan saved the most since the start of the pandemic at \$655. Comparatively, Louisianans saved the least at \$150 each.

With people having to adjust to a different sense of normal during these unprecedented times, many have adapted their everyday habits in order to reduce the risk of contracting the virus. The survey found that over 1 in 5 (23%) say they are avoiding using cash these days due to the coronavirus risk.

The research also found that, with many economists unable to agree how long the recession will last, 86% of

respondents say they intend on continuing to save a portion of their available income through 2021 as a precaution. This could mean saving on small costs, such as cooking rather than ordering takeout, having your morning coffee at home instead of buying, walking to the grocery store

to save on fuel, or simply having a night in instead of a night out.

Due to many workers having lost their source of income during the pandemic and having to put a pause on monthly repayments, it is understandable why 22% of Hoosiers surveyed say they

are concerned their credit score will be affected during the pandemic. Having a poor credit score can lead to numerous future financial challenges, such as not being able to qualify for credit cards or bank loans.

Opening accounts with utility companies, such as

water, internet and cable can also be trickier with a lower credit score and may require the payment of a deposit or letter of guarantee, in case you fall behind on payments.

Given the current state of the economy, CreditNinja's research revealed that 4 in 5 adults admit they are more

likely now to put available money away for a rainy day fund instead of spending it immediately. Lastly, the survey found that 86% of respondents with savings say they would be even more nervous about their personal finances if they had no rainy-day fund to fall back on.



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