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July 22, 2016

Village People to perform at this year's Pierogi Fest; the "wackiest festival on the planet"

Pierogi Fest, one of the Northwest Indiana's most well-known – and one of the wackiest festivals on the planet according to TripAdvisor.com, has announced that the Village People will perform at this year's festival which will be held in downtown Whiting next weekend on July 29, 30, and 31. Adding a concert such as this is a new dimension to the festival.

The Village People sold more than 100 million records and are known for their mega hits 'Macho Man', 'Go West' and 'YMCA', and will perform live on stage at Oil City Stadium at 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 30. All



tickets are \$20 and will be sold through Ticketmaster subsidiary www.universe.com, www.pierogifest.net, or by contacting the Whiting Robertsedale Chamber of Commerce at 219-659-0292. The band features a number of the original members.

Opening for the group

is the band 'Upper U.S. Showband', known for its zany satire and outstanding renditions of songs by Chicago and other 70's and 80's music.

Pierogi Fest, now in its 22 year, draws almost 300,000 visitors over a 2-1/2 day

(See *Village People* Pg. 3)

CPHS student Swallers attends Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders

Samantha Swallers, a freshman at Crown Point High School was a recent delegate to the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who are passionate about science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be scientists and technologists, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them

reach their goal.

Swallers was nominated by the first winner of the Google Science Fair Shree Bose, Academic Director of the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent Indiana based on her academic achievement, leadership potential and passion for science and technology.

During the three-day Congress, Swallers joined students from across the country and heard Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about leading scientific research; was given advice from deans of the world's



Samantha Swallers

top tech universities; was inspired by fellow teen science prodigies; and learned about cutting-edge advances and the future of science and technology.

(See *CPHS* Pg. 2)

Nearly 80% of drivers express significant anger, aggression, or road rage

Nearly 80% of drivers expressed significant anger, aggression, or road rage behind the wheel at least once in the past year, according to a new study released today by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. The most alarming findings suggest that approximately eight million U.S. drivers engaged in extreme examples of road rage, including purposefully ramming another vehicle or getting out of the car to confront another driver.

"Inconsiderate driving, bad traffic and the daily

stresses of life can transform minor frustrations into dangerous road rage," said Jurek Grabowski, director of research for the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "Far too many drivers are losing themselves in the heat of the moment and lashing out in ways that could turn deadly."

A significant number of U.S. drivers reported engaging in angry and aggressive behaviors over the past year, according to the study's estimates:

• Purposefully tailgating:

51% (104 million drivers)

• Yelling at another driver: 47% (95 million drivers)

• Honking to show annoyance or anger: 45% (91 million drivers)

• Making angry gestures: 33% (67 million drivers)

• Trying to block another vehicle from changing lanes: 24% (49 million drivers)

• Cutting off another vehicle on purpose: 12% (24 million drivers)

• Getting out of the vehicle to confront another driver: 4% (7.6 million drivers)

• Bumping or ramming

another vehicle on purpose: 3% (5.7 million drivers)

Nearly 2 in 3 drivers believe that aggressive driving is a bigger problem today than three years ago, while nine out of ten believe aggressive drivers are a serious threat to their personal safety. Aggressive driving and road rage varied considerably among drivers:

• Male and younger drivers ages 19-39 were significantly more likely to engage in aggressive behaviors. For example, male drivers were more than three times as

likely as female drivers to have gotten out of a vehicle to confront another driver or rammed another vehicle on purpose.

• Drivers living in the Northeast were significantly more likely to yell, honk or gesture angrily than people living in other parts of the country. For example, drivers in the Northeast were nearly 30 percent more likely to have made an angry gesture than drivers in other parts of the country.

• Drivers who reported other unsafe behaviors behind the

wheel, such as speeding and running red lights, also were more likely to show aggression. For example, drivers who reported speeding on a freeway in the past month were four times more likely to have cut off another vehicle on purpose.

"It's completely normal for drivers to experience anger behind the wheel, but we must not let our emotions lead to destructive choices," said Jake Nelson, AAA's director of Traffic Safety Advocacy and Research.

(See *Drivers* Pg. 2)



Preparing for anthrax emergency

Franciscan Alliance's five Northern Indiana hospital campuses were among those statewide that recently participated in an anthrax emergency preparedness drill. Besides hospitals, emergency management agencies and health departments combined efforts to take care of the most patients as quickly as possible, said Lori Postma, who is shown coordinating the drill. In the exercise, the hospitals received and treated simulated anthrax patients, ranging from those who were treated and released to others in critical condition.

Trees act as nature's air conditioners while enhancing homeowners' property values

If you have ever escaped from blazing hot sun in a shady spot under a tree, you know how these natural air conditioners can make you feel more comfortable. A mature shade tree can block up to 90% of solar radiation, which could translate to a significant reduction in your home cooling cost. A Pennsylvania study found that air conditioning needs could be reduced by up to 75% by shading a house with trees.

Computer models devised by the U.S. Department of Energy predict that the proper placement of as few

as three shade trees will save an average household \$100 to \$250 in energy costs each year - and that study was done before energy costs soared.

On hot days, some large trees can pull hundreds of gallons of water through their leaves. This water evaporates, keeping the tree and its immediate surroundings cool. With the less-than-efficient use of fossil fuels for heating and cooling our buildings, it only makes good sense to take advantage of the following principles.

"Plant deciduous trees on the south and west sides

of a building," advises Tchukki Andersen, BCMA, staff arborist with the Tree Care Industry Association. "Those are the sides where the sun's rays are most intense. Since deciduous trees lose their leaves in winter, they offer shade during summer but permit the winter sun to provide warmth," adds Andersen. "Where there isn't room for trees, shrubs and vines can provide similar benefits."

Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns can be planted to the south of your home to provide maximum summertime roof shading.

Trees with branches lower to the ground are more appropriate to the west, where shade is needed from lower afternoon sun angles. Trees should not be planted on the southern sides of homes in cold climates because the branches of these trees will block some winter sun.

"Although a slow-growing tree may require many years of growth before it shades your roof, it will generally live longer than a fast-growing tree," notes Andersen. Also, because slow-growing trees often have deeper roots and stronger branches, they

(See *Trees* Pg. 2)

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(CPHS from Pg. 1)

“This is a crucial time in America when we need more nimble-minded and creative scientists and technologists who are even better prepared for a future that is changing exponentially,” said Richard Rossi, executive director, National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. “Focused, bright and determined students like Samantha Swallers are our future and she deserves all the mentoring and guidance

we can give her.” The Academy offers free services and programs to students who have the desire to learn more about their future in science or technology. Some of the services and programs the Academy offers include online social networks through which these future scientists and technologists can communicate; opportunities for students to be guided and mentored by tech and science leaders; and

communications for parents and students on college acceptance and finances, skills acquisition, internships, and career guidance. The Academy was founded on the belief that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education plays a critical role in enabling the United States to remain the economic and technological leader of the 21st century and that we must

identify prospective talent at the earliest possible age and help these students acquire the necessary experience and skills to take them to the doorstep of vital careers.

Based in Washington, DC and with an office in Boston, MA, the Academy was chartered as a nonpartisan, tax-paying institution to help address this crisis by working to

identify, encourage and mentor students who wish to devote their lives to advances in society as scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians.

(Drivers from Pg. 1)

“Don’t risk escalating a frustrating situation because you never know what the other driver might do. Maintain a cool head, and focus on reaching your destination safely.” To avoid road rage: • Don’t Offend: Never cause another driver to change their speed or direction. That means not forcing another driver to use their brakes, or turn the steering wheel in response to something you have done.

• Be Tolerant and Forgiving: The other driver may just be having a really bad day. Assume that it’s not personal. • Do Not Respond: Avoid eye contact, don’t make gestures, maintain space around your vehicle and contact 9-1-1 if needed. The research report is available on the AAA Foundation’s website and is part of the annual Traffic Safety Culture Index, which identifies attitudes and be-

haviors related to driver safety. The data was collected from a national survey of 2,705 licensed drivers ages 16 and older who reported driving in the past 30 days. The AAA Foundation issued its first Traffic Safety Culture Index in 2008.



(Trees from Pg. 1)

are less prone to fail during windstorms or heavy snowstorms. Slow-growing trees can also be more drought resistant than fast-growing trees. Trees, shrubs and ground-cover plants can also shade the ground and pavement around the home. This reduces heat radiation and cools the air before it reaches your home’s walls and windows. Use a large bush or row of shrubs to shade a patio or driveway. Plant a hedge to shade a sidewalk. Build a trellis for climbing vines to shade a patio area. Shrubs planted close to

the house will fill in rapidly and begin shading walls and windows within a few years. However, avoid allowing dense foliage to grow immediately next to a home where wetness or continual humidity can be a problem. Beyond energy savings and beauty, homeowners who take care of their trees find the value of their properties increase. A number of studies have shown that real estate agents and home buyers assign between 10 and 23 percent of the value of a residence to the trees on the property. Many arborists have train-

ing in ecosystem services, including energy efficient landscapes, which is a growing branch of tree appraisal. A professional arborist can assess your landscape, provide information regarding the value potential of your trees and work with you to determine the best trees and shrubs to plant for your existing landscape. An easy way to find a tree care service provider in your area is to do a ZIP Code search on www.treecaretips.org.

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Porter Township School Corporation announces student registration information

Elementary student registration will be held on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for returning elementary students at Boone Grove Elementary School (Grades 4-5) and for Porter Lakes Elementary School students (Grades K-3) who did not register in May.

Student registration for Boone Grove Elementary Students new to the district will be held on Friday, August 5, 2016, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Contact the BGE main office after August 1 if unable to attend on August 5 at 219-462-1032, ext. 4000.

All students new to the district are required to provide a certified birth certificate, immunization record and proof of residency.

Student registration for returning Boone Grove Middle School students (Grades

6-8) and returning Boone Grove High School students (Grades 9-12) will be held on Thursday, August 4, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Parents of middle school students new to the district should contact the main office at 219-464-4828, Ext. 3003 during the week of August 1 to 5 from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

Boone Grove High School will hold Freshman Orientation" and New Student Registration on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, from 5 to 8 p.m.

All students are required to register and pay book rental fees at their designated schools on the dates listed above.

Current students with an address change must also provide proof of residency (utility bill, tax forms, etc.).

Book rental fees for the 2016-17 school year are: Kindergarten, \$111; 1st Grade, \$128; 2nd Grade, \$97; 3rd Grade, \$109; 4th Grade, \$123; 5th Grade, \$123; 6th Grade, \$145.11, 7th Grade: \$133.81, and 8th Grade, \$124.84. Additional middle school fees are based upon class schedule: 7th and 8th Grade Art: \$6; Choir: \$10; and Band: \$10.

Book rental fees for Boone Grove High School students are based upon class schedule and are provided at registration.

The first day of school for students attending Porter Township School Corporation is Wednesday, August 17, and will begin with a 30-minute delayed start as scheduled for every Wednesday throughout the school year.

(Village People from Pg. 1)

period, is the largest food festival in the Midwest, featuring more than 100 food booths; 80 arts and crafts booths, 25 tchotchke (specialty) vendors, five performance stages and the craziest parade around. For videos and still photos, visit: www.pierogifest.net.

In addition to the acclaim by TripAdvisor, Pierogi Fest has been the subject of a

front page story in the Wall Street Journal (2015); named by Oprah Winfrey for five years straight as one of her favorite things to do in the summer; named as one of the 20 best food festivals in North America by Saveur Magazine; for 11 consecutive years the Times of Northwest Indiana's Best Festival; a Blue Ribbon Festival of Summer in 2013 by Yahoo.

com; featured on The Food Channel, Travel Channel, television stations throughout the United States, CNN, and stations in Germany, Slovakia, Poland, China, and Australia.

For more information, call the Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce at 219-659-0292.

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Live demo with artist on Saturday; Jeff Fink will create artwork from more than 2,000 lbs. of steel

Renewing the Region artist, Jeff Fink, will perform a live demo on Saturday, July 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond. Fink has been designing and creating artworks for decades using scrap metals and other refuse. Fink will design custom artworks from large steel pieces at the demonstration.

Fink is a featured artist in the annual Renewing the Region exhibit at the Indiana Welcome Center.

The exhibit features art from recycled and repurposed objects and will be on display through August 20 in the W.F. Wellman Exhibit Hall.

Renewing the Region is the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority's longest-running exhibit, and was first featured at the Indiana Welcome Center in 2001 as "Trash to Treasure." In 2011, the exhibit transitioned to highlight fashionable items made from recycled materials in "Trashion." The exhibit

returned in 2014 with pieces of art and furniture. Visitors will see a diverse display of art as well as restored, refurbished and renewed pieces. The exhibit encourages visitors to look at things in a new way while inspiring artistic conservation.

The Indiana Welcome Center is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information contact the Indiana Welcome Center at 219-989-7979.



Artist Jeff Fink will perform a live demo this coming Saturday, July 23.

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 relax-

ation 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 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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Crown Point's Auld participates in Order of the Engineer ceremony at Trine University

Forty-nine seniors in Trine University's Allen School of Engineering & Technology were inducted into the Order of the Engineer during a recent ceremony.

Among the students participating in the recent ring ceremony in Best Hall was Bradley Auld of Crown Point, majoring in Chemical Engineering.

The ring ceremony is the public induction of candidates into the Order of the Engineer, a fellowship of engineers who are trained in science and technology and

dedicated to the practice, teaching, or administration of their profession.

During the ceremony, engineering students are invited to accept the Obligation of the Engineer and a stainless steel ring is placed on the smallest finger of the working hand. The obligation is a formal statement of an engineer's responsibilities to the public and to the profession. Both the order and the obligation serve to stimulate public recognition by engineers of two basic principles: that the primary purpose of

the engineering profession is the protection of the public health, safety and welfare; and that all members of the engineering profession share a common bond.

"All of you are going to be very, very successful. Some of you are going to own your own business; some of you are going to be entrepreneurs," Tim Tyler, Ph.D., associate dean of the Allen School of Engineering and Technology, said in remarks to the inductees. "All of you have an excellent future ahead of you."

Imodium as a 'legal high' for self-treating opioid addiction is as deadly as it sounds

The over-the-counter anti-diarrhea medication Imodium, or its key ingredient loperamide, is increasingly being abused by people attempting to self-treat their opioid addiction, with sometime fatal results. Two case studies outlining the phenomenon were recently published online Friday in *Annals of Emergency Medicine* ("Loperamide Abuse Associated with Cardiac Dysrhythmia and Death").

"Loperamide's accessibility, low cost, over-the-counter legal status and lack of social stigma all contribute to its potential for abuse," said lead study author William Eggleston, PharmD, of the Upstate New York Poison Center, in Syracuse, New York. "People looking for either self-treatment of withdrawal symptoms or euphoria are overdosing

on loperamide with sometimes deadly consequences. Loperamide is safe in therapeutic doses but extremely dangerous in high doses."

The paper outlines two case studies of patients with histories of substance abuse who attempted to self-treat opioid addictions with massive doses of loperamide. Both patients overdosed and emergency medical services were called. The patients were treated with cardiopulmonary resuscitation, naloxone and standard Advanced Cardiac Life Support. Both patients died.

Oral loperamide abuse postings to web-based forums increased 10-fold between 2010 and 2011. A majority of user-generated content pertaining to loperamide discussed using the medication to self-treat opioid withdrawal (70%). Users also cited abusing the medication for its euphoric properties (25%). The

Upstate New York Poison Center experienced a seven-fold increase in calls related to loperamide abuse or misuse from 2011 through 2015, which is consistent with national poison data, that reported a 71% increase in calls related to intentional loperamide exposure from 2011 through 2014.

"Our nation's growing population of opioid-addicted patients is seeking alternative drug sources with prescription opioid medication abuse being limited by new legislation and regulations," said Dr. Eggleston. "Health care providers must be aware of increasing loperamide abuse and its under recognized cardiac toxicity. This is another reminder that all drugs, including those sold without a prescription, can be dangerous when not used as directed."

Purdue Master Gardener 'Help Line' now open

The Lake County, Purdue Master Gardener Help Line is in operation again for the gardening season, through September 30, by calling 219-755-3240.

The Master Gardeners are located at the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service Office, 880 E. 99th Ct., Suite A, Crown Point.

Their hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed on holidays.

Master Gardeners yearly assist over 800 homeowners. Master Gardener volunteers help people with their gardening problems, which range from plant and insect problems and identification, tree care, lawn care, etc. This is

recognized as a vital service to County residents.

Master Gardeners have received 13 weeks of training in various aspects of horticulture. They volunteer their time on the help line and in various other community services. If they cannot answer your question, they will research the problem and find an answer.

Campground hosts needed at Indiana State Parks

Indiana's state parks are looking for volunteers to serve as campground hosts in exchange for free camping during their service. Hosts work a minimum of 20 hours per week. The volunteer period varies at sites, based on the number of applicants and on the amount and type of work required.

Properties are looking for dedicated campers who enjoy working outdoors, with

people and with DNR staff. Properties needing volunteers for hosts are Brown County, Clifty Falls, Ouabache, Pokagon, and Potato Creek state parks, and Monroe and Hardy lakes.

Campground hosts are also needed at State Forest campgrounds. A complete list of site availability and detailed information about hosting duties is at www.stateparks.in.gov/2404.htm

or contact the property where you would like to serve as a host.

Completion of a volunteer application is required to apply. Download a volunteer application form at www.stateparks.in.gov/2443.htm.

Indiana Dunes State Park offers beach yoga again this summer

Indiana Dunes State Park has partnered with the Valparaiso Family YMCA and Duneland Family YMCA to offer beach yoga classes every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday this summer.

Certified instructors will incorporate both challenging and relaxing postures. Each class lasts about one hour and is suitable for most levels, including beginners.

Beach yoga runs through September 4. Tuesday, Friday and Sunday classes are at 9 a.m. The Thursday class is a sunset session at 7 p.m.

Classes are near the beach pavilion. Visitors should arrive at least 10 minutes early and bring a beach towel or yoga mat. Each class costs \$10 per person. Classes will be canceled in the case of inclement weather.

Participants can register in advance by calling the Duneland Family YMCA at 219-926-4204. Participants also can show up for day-of registration at the main beach pavilion for any session.

"Indiana Dunes State Park is a natural backdrop already for spiritual and physical

healing and meditation," said Brad Bumgardner, park interpretive naturalist. "It feels natural to combine the skills of the YMCA yoga staff with our beautiful beach and Lake Michigan view."

For more information, call the nature center at 219-926-1390 or the Duneland Family YMCA at 219-926-4204. Indiana Dunes State Park is located at 1600 North 25 East in Chesterton.

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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.

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Indiana voters to receive postcard with election information in the mail

Hoosier voters should be receiving postcards in the mail from the Secretary of State's office. The card reminds Hoosiers that Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2016 and to visit www.indianavoters.com for election information. The office is mailing these post cards as part of a statewide voter list refresh.

The goal is to identify outdated and inaccurate voter registration information to improve the accuracy and integrity of Indiana's voter reg-

istration list.

"In 2014, we were able to identify 731,585 records that needed updating or were no longer valid," said Secretary Lawson. "Updating these records, helps us create a more accurate picture of voter turnout for the state, while protecting the integrity of our elections. Hoosiers deserve to know we have accurate voter lists."

Postcards that are returned to the office as undeliverable will be used to identify outdated voter information.

The office will send a second first-class forwardable mailing asking those voters to take action by updating their registration information, if necessary.

Hoosiers should use the postcard as a reminder to verify, update or start a voter registration online at www.indianavoters.com.

Voters may also visit their local county clerk's office or any branch of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to register to vote or update their voter registration.

Grant application packets available from Crown Point Community Foundation; deadline September 1

Grant application packets are currently available from the Crown Point Community Foundation, Inc.

The packet contains an application form and guidelines for proposal evaluation. The application deadline date is September 1, 2016.

Grants from the Crown Point Community Foundation, Inc. Endowment Fund will be made to organizations and community projects which impact residents

of Crown Point and South Lake County.

Fields of interest which will be considered for funding include education, health and human services, civic affairs, preservation, conservation, arts and culture.

"The Crown Point Community Foundation is interested in funding projects that will improve the quality of life for citizens in the Crown Point area," according to Patricia Huber, presi-

dent of the Foundation.

Organizations eligible for funding may request a Grant Application Packet from the Crown Point Community Foundation, Inc. by calling 219-662-7252.

Applications can also be found at www.thecpcf.org under obtain/grants tab, or those interested may stop by the office at 115 South Court Street in Crown Point.

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This day in history

JULY 22, 1942

The systematic deportation of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto began, as thousands were rounded up daily and transported to a newly constructed concentration-extermination camp at Treblinka, in Poland.

On July 17, Heinrich Himmler, head of the Nazi SS, arrived at Auschwitz in time to watch the arrival of more than 2,000 Dutch Jews and the gassing of almost 500 of them, mostly the elderly, sick, and very young. The next day, Himmler promoted the camp commandant, Rudolph Hoess, to SS major and ordered that the Warsaw ghetto be depopulated and the inhabitants transported to what was to become a second extermination camp at the railway village of Treblinka.

Within the first seven weeks of Himmler's order, more than 250,000 Jews were taken to Treblinka by rail and gassed to death, marking the largest single act of destruction of any population group, Jewish or non-Jewish, civilian or military, in the war.

Upon arrival at "T. II," as this second camp at Treblinka was called, prisoners were separated by sex, stripped, and marched into what were described as "bathhouses," but were in fact gas chambers. The Nazis removed gold teeth from victims before hauling the bodies to mass graves.

By the end of the war, between 700,000 and 900,000 would die at either Treblinka I or II. Hoess was tried and sentenced to death by the Nuremberg Tribunal. He was hanged in 1947.

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Indiana's state parks welcome Pokemon Go players, but urge players to enjoy the natural world as well

Indiana's state parks are happy to welcome a new group of visitors who are as interested in spotting a fictional Pikachu or Venomoth as they are in seeing a raccoon or scarlet tanager.

These visitors are players of the widely popular Pokemon Go mobile game. The game has resulted in increased traffic to state parks, which are a natural fit for the location-based augmented reality game.

Most the game's action takes place outdoors while walking. Players use a smartphone camera to identify "PokeStops" and "gyms" and collect fictional animals.

As of this week, Indiana's 24 state parks and eight reservoir properties were home to more than 200 locations for the game. State forests also have locations. The number of locations will continue to

grow.

"We are happy to have our parks be a part of this game," said Ginger Murphy, Indiana State Parks deputy director for stewardship. "But we want people to be safe, stay on trails and look up from their phones. You will find that the real-world natural features and historical elements at our state parks are even more fascinating than a video game."

Walking around a park or forest while staring at a smartphone screen can be dangerous. Potential hazards at Indiana state parks include road traffic, cliffs and other rough terrain, wild animals, poison ivy and more. Pay attention to your surroundings. On hiking trails, be on the lookout for rocks, roots and other hazards.

Pokemon players must also follow property rules.

This includes observing park hours, which are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. at most Indiana state parks. Players should not enter after regular hours of operation. Players should also stay on designated trails. Walking off-trail can damage sensitive natural areas and animal habitats. Players should leave no trace behind.

Finally, take a break from the digital world to experience the natural world. Indiana's parks and forests are home to breathtaking landscapes, unique historical features, towering trees, delicate wildflowers and interesting animals, all of which are as worthy of attention as the latest video game craze.

Aside from Pokemon, other activities at state parks include mountain biking, horseback riding, swimming, birdwatching, paddling, fishing, camping, and more.

Calumet Astronomical Society to host open house at Thomas Conway Observatory

On Saturday, July 23, 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 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. and the title of the event is 'The Rings of Saturn'.

Members of the Society

will have their telescopes set up on the observing patio to provide visitors with an 'up close and personal' look at the many celestial objects found in our night sky. Visitors will also have an opportunity to explore the rings of Saturn, using the observatory's 16 inch telescope.

This event is open to the

public, family friendly, and free. Remember, observing with telescopes is contingent upon clear weather. Cloudy or inclement weather conditions may cause this event to be cancelled without advance notice. It is suggested that you check the weather conditions before heading to the observatory.



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