POSTAL CUSTOMER

Winfield American

Vol. 20, Issue 969

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School offers 360-degree virtual tour for prospective students Covid-19 vaccinations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A.A .Milne

18 January 1882 – 31 January 1956

Mary Community School in Crown Point recently launched a new 360 Virtual Tour. The tour can be conveniently found on the front page of the school's website at www. stmarycp.org/school

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the school will not be offering its popular in-person Open House.

"We regret that we will not be welcoming visitors into our building for tours at this time, but safety is our biggest concern. I think those who visit our 360 tour will enjoy the experience," said the school's principal, Tom Ruiz.



An aerial view of St. Mary's campus, Visitors of the 360 Virtual Tour can explore the school by clicking on the arrows when visiting www.stmarvcp.org/school.

rolling their children at St. Mary's for the remainder of this school year or the 2021- 0676 for more details. St.

Those interested in en- 22 school year are encouraged to visit the website or call the office at 219-663Mary's currently has limited space at several grade levels including preschool and first

ready for those age 80 and over; appointment required

As the State of Indiana moves to Phase 1-B of its vaccine rollout, senior citizens age 80 and over can now make appointments to receive the COVID-19 vac-

Appointments can be scheduled through the state's website at www.ourshot. in.gov or by calling 2-1-1. Franciscan Health hospitals in Crown Point, Hammond, and Michigan City are among the sites in Northwest Indiana that people can choose from to receive the vaccine.

Franciscan Health Crown Point has added Saturday hours from 8 a.m. to noon at its vaccine clinic to focus exclusively on those in the 80-plus age group currently eligible for the vaccine. A scheduled appointment is required in advance, and those scheduling a vaccination should also complete the registration process when scheduling.

(See COVID Pg. 2)

Indiana Growi launches online market to connect Hoosier consumers and food producers

Indiana Grown recently launched the Shop Indiana Grown online marketplace. The free service will be offered to all qualifying Indiana Grown members providing them with an additional sales outlet during a time when online retail is critical to the success of many farms and businesses in our state and nationwide.

Indiana Grown is housed within the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and offers free resources to farms and businesses who grow, raise, produce or process an agriculture product in the state of Indiana. Members range from traditional row crop farmers to wineries to artisans to value-added food

Consumers will initially find nearly 40 vendors with more than 100 products to purchase on the platform with an increased selection available as new vendors and items are added daily in categories such as cheese, honey, coffee and skin care. With the popularity of the Indiana Grown Marketplace at the Indiana State Fair, the online store will allow the public to purchase local products yearround from anywhere.

"This project has taken months of hard work to ensure it will truly benefit our membership," said Indiana Grown Program Director Heather Tallman. "We often get asked how to purchase from our members, and we

are thrilled to see the consumer response to this exciting solution."

The new marketplace will help the Indiana Grown program accomplish its goals of helping Indiana farmers and producers have a greater market for their products and educating consumers on the importance of buying locally grown, raised, processed and packaged items.

"Having celebrated its fifth anniversary this summer, Indiana Grown is stepping up its ability to serve its members and consumers," said ISDA Director Bruce Kettler. "This new benefit of Indiana Grown membership is addressing the everchanging needs of Indiana's agriculture community.'



Indiana Grown is also partnering with the Indiana Small Business Development Center (Indiana SBDC), which provided support to fuel the e-commerce platform leveraging relief funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Indiana SBDC, which provides no cost, expert guidance and resources that farms and small businesses need to grow, has launched a number of programs and initiatives to help entrepreneurs and business owners access relief funding and adapt to the new economic climate.

Through this collaboration, Indiana SBDC and ISDA are helping farms and small businesses tap into larger consumer markets, and the Indiana SBDC will serve as a trusted resource for Indiana Grown members that may need customized assistance related to COVID-19 recovery, e-commerce, market research or export assistance.

"With more than 520,000 companies employing 1.2 million Hoosiers, small businesses play a critical role in fueling Indiana's economic engine," said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Jim Schellinger. "As more small businesses shift their operations online, the Shop Indiana Grown marketplace will provide an important tool for Indiana companies to reach new customers and elevate Hoosier-made goods in new markets. We're excited to partner with Indiana Grown to continue providing the support small businesses need to compete and lead in today's 21st century economy."

(See **Indiana** Pg. 2)

The Be Well Crisis Helpline recently passed an important milepost as it enters its sixth month of operation. The free service was launched to support the mental health needs of Hoosiers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The service has answered more than 6,000 calls for help as it continues to provide 24/7 access to experienced and compassionate counselors, specially trained to help with the personal challenges that have come along with this pandemic.

"While we recognize that each of these calls is a cry for help from a Hoosier experiencing feelings of distress and anxiety, likely aggravated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also comforted to know that, through the Be Well Crisis Helpline, they are connecting with someone who can listen, assess their needs, and help," said Jennifer Sullivan, M.D., M.P.H., secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

To date the Be Well Crisis Helpline has answered 6,049 calls, with an average talk time of 18 minutes and 10 seconds, but with an average wait time of only 16 seconds. To reach a counselor, anyone in Indiana can simply call 2-1-1, enter their ZIP code, and follow the prompts to reach the Be Well Crisis Helpline.

According to data collected by the counselors, 46% of the callers have a pre-existing trauma or substance use or mental health problem. Following their conversations, the counselors referred 29% percent of the callers to mental health treatment, 24% for additional communitybased resources such as food, clothing, housing or utility assistance, and another 16% for additional crisis counseling. In just over 1% of the cases, following telephone counseling, Be Well Crisis Helpline counselors have determined the situation is critical and have called 9-1-1 to get the callers the immediate help they need.

"This data tells us that the Be Well Crisis Helpline is playing a critical role in the health care continuum for Hoosiers who feel like they are in distress as a result of this pandemic," said Jay Chaudhary, director of FSSA's Division of Mental Health and Addiction. "Hundreds of our fellow Hoosiers have begun to receive treatment for the mental health issues they face, and likely faced prior to COVID-19. We strongly encourage anyone who feels like they could use the help to call us at 2-1-1."

The top distress reactions counselors are encountering on the calls include isolation or withdrawal (34%), issues with sleep (34%), anxiety or fearfulness (32%), and difficulty concentrating (27%).

"We are also getting referrals from first responders who know they can rely on the Be Well Crisis Helpline as a new resource in their toolkit to deal with persons under mental stress," added Chaudhary. "This helpline has come at the right time for Hoosiers who

are under real mental distress and need someplace to turn for help."

The Be Well Crisis Helpline is funded by a Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. More information on the Be Well Crisis Helpline can be found at www.BeWellIndiana.org. Indiana 211 is a free service that connects Hoosiers with assistance and answers from thousands of statewide health and human service resources quickly, easily and confidentially. Indiana 211 became part of FSSA earlier this year.

Martin Luther King Jr. holiday hours for the BMV

Vehicle (BMV) Motor branches will be closed Saturday, January 16 through Monday, January 18 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.

All branches will resume regularly scheduled business

All Indiana Bureau of hours on Tuesday, January 19.

> For a complete list of branch locations and hours, to complete an online transaction, or to find a 24-hour BMV Connect kiosk near you visit www.IN.gov/BMV.

Kindergarten Round-Up for **Porter Lakes Elementary School**

The Kindergarten Roundup for Porter Lakes Elementary School will take place from April 12 to 16, by appointment.

Children who reach 5 years of age before August 1, 2021 should enroll in kindergarten. Spaces are limited, call the school to reserve an appointment at 219-306-8076, ext.

Masks must be worn by parent and child. Parents should bring the child's certified birth certificate, child's immunization record, and proof of residency to their Round-up appointment and be prepared to complete enrollment documents.



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(Indiana from Pg. 1)

The Shop Indiana Grown online marketplace is another way Indiana Grown can promote all forms of agriculture in the state and allow its members to share the stories behind their farms and businesses.

Visit www.shopindianagrown.org to begin supporting local farmers and producers in your community. Find more information about Indiana Grown at www. IndianaGrown.org.

(Covid from Pg. 1)

Along with this age group, Franciscan Health continues to provide the vaccine to frontline healthcare workers and to first responders who are eligible. The current vaccines being offered, from Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna, require two doses. Once patients receive their first vaccination, they can make an appointment for their second dose in three weeks for Pfizer BioNTech

and four weeks for Moderna. Due to limited supply, patients are not able to choose which vaccine they will re-

As additional vaccine becomes available, Indiana will expand eligibility to those age 70 and above, followed by age 60 and above. The state will assess morbidity and exposure risks to determine the next group eligible for the vaccine.

Got stuff for the paper?

News and Event Submissions

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

Classified Ad Placements Place and pay for your classified ads online at www.winfieldamerican.com.

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Make 2021 tobacco-free with Aspire classes and support groups

Sign up for Franciscan Health's Aspire tobacco cessation program, a multifaceted approach to quitting smoking.

Aspire is designed to help people break free from addiction and move toward a healthier life. The program is a combination of four weeks of classes held virtually, followed by four weeks of support group. The cost is a onetime fee of \$50.

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of premature death and disease in the U.S. It substantially increases the risk of developing cancer, coronary heart disease and stroke. Approximately one in five Indiana residents are smokers, putting Indiana in the top 10 of most prevalent smoking states.

Most people try to quit seven to 10 times before they are successful, but each attempt is a learning experience, not a failure. By using a non-judgmental, personalized approach, Aspire will help you:

- Find renewed confidence in your ability to quit.
- Develop a quit plan.
- · Manage withdrawal symp-
- Learn to cope with your triggers to smoke.

• Learn new skills to remain tobacco free.

Classes will be held virtually for four consecutive Wednesdays, beginning on the following dates:

- January 13, 5-6 p.m.
- April 7, 12-1 p.m.
- June 14, 12-1 p.m.
- Oct. 13, 5-6 p.m.

One-on-one appointments are also available. To enroll in the Aspire program, email Laura.Arent@franciscanalliance.org or call 219-662-3733. Learn more, download a free guide and take a quiz by going online at www.FranciscanHealth.org/

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Porter County to receive federal funds for local emergency food and shelter programs

awarded \$81,326 by the Federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program to support local food pantries and homeless shelter services.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of Churches of Christ in the

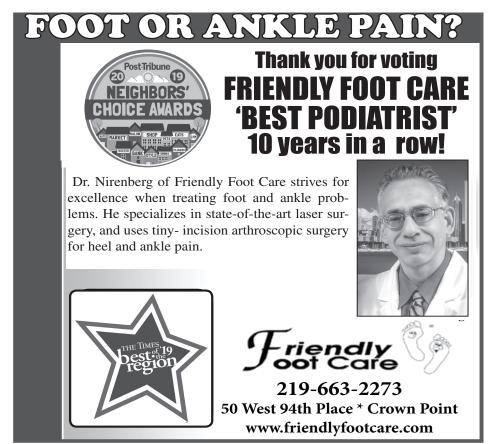
Porter County has been USA, The Salvation Army, United Jewish Communities, and United Way of America.

> A Local County Board will determine how the awarded funds will be distributed. The Local Board is encouraging all nonprofits that serve Porter County and meet the following requirements to apply. Under the terms of the grant, local agencies must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondis

crimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/ or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board.

Qualifying applicants can request an application by Monday, January 25. Applications are due Friday, January 29, 2021 at noon. For an application, contact United Way of Porter County at info@unitedwaypc.org.







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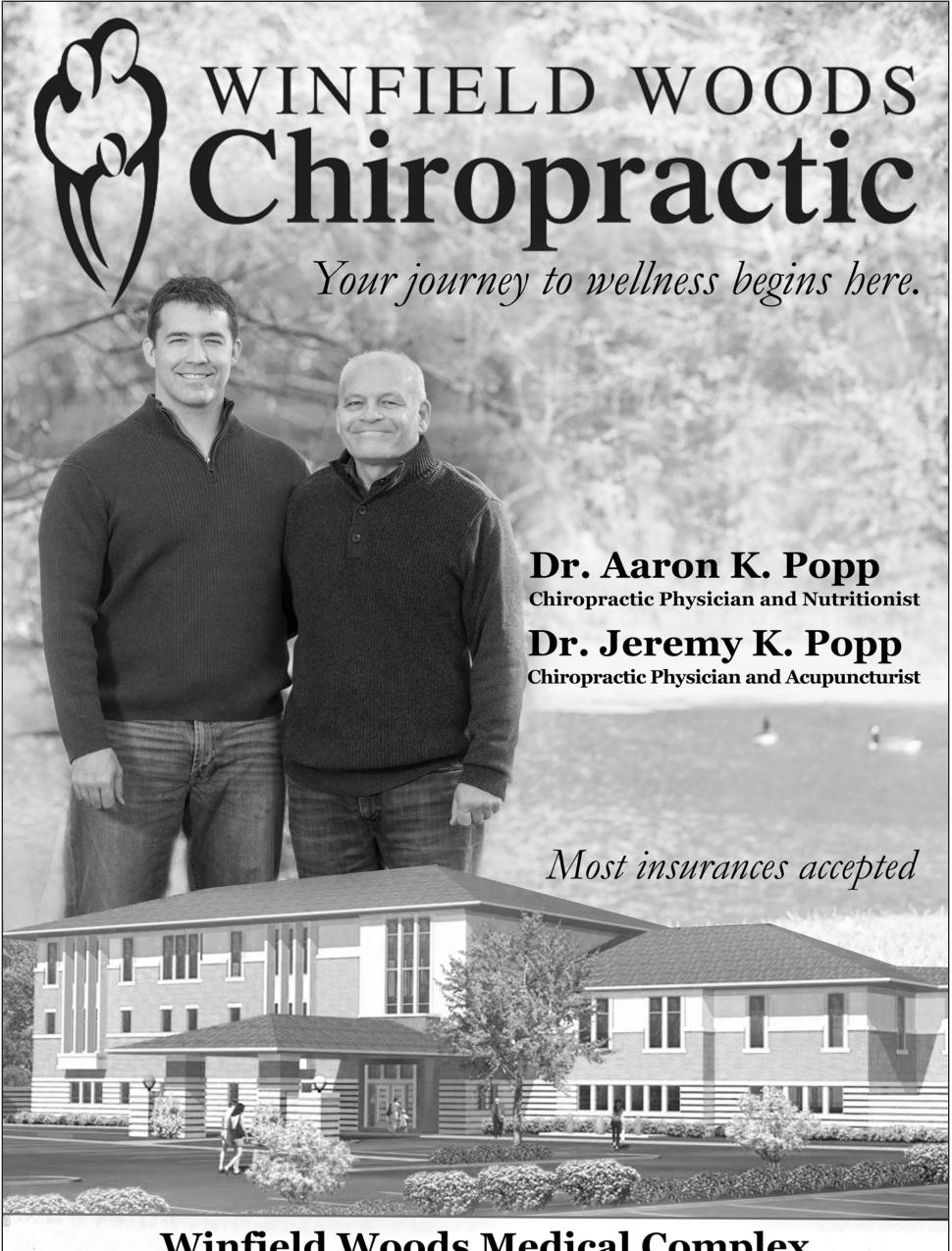
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Virtual amateur astronauts prepare for mission to Mars at Challenger Learning Center

Captain Meg DeMakas's Log Star date 98598.49 January 2021 Challenge #4: Let's Get to Know Our Big Blue Marble

Welcome, amateur astronauts!

In the first three challenges, you revealed who you are,

Master Gardeners scholarship opportunity for Lake County residents

The Lake County Master Gardeners have announced that they are continuing their scholarship programfor the 2021-22 academic year.

Although the LCMGA has been awarding scholarships for the past sixteen years, this will only be the third year that scholarship applications will be available through the Crown Point Community Foundation website, and the third year incoming freshmen attending a four-year institution are also eligible to apply.

1) Will you ride your bike or walk whenever possible? 2) Will you use a lunch box. not paper bags to reduce litter?

your familiar landmarks, and

your plan to get healthy. This

challenge is to make promise

to protect the big blue marble

called Earth.

Scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate college and university students, who are residents of Lake County. In addition to the majors of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, majors of Forestry, Botany (Horticulture Equivalent), Plant Pathology, Agricultural Education, and Entomology are eligible as well.

Other majors that benefit consumer gardening may be considered. The 2021 application will be available through February 19, 2021 through

3) Will you find ways to reuse things, like plastic containers?

4) Will you fix things when they break rather than always buy more?

5) Will you put plastic, glass, and paper in recycling bins? 6) Will you plant trees and

the Crown Point Community Foundation website at www. thecpcf.org/scholarships.html

The scholarships are funded by donations made to the Lake County Master Gardener Association in support of the annual Plant Sale, Garden Walk, Lake County Fair, and donations from donors, such as the NW Indiana Beekeepers Association. The Lake County Master Gardeners Association works in cooperation with Purdue Extension-Lake County.

flowers to keep the air clean? 7) Will you turn off lights to cut down on light pollution? 8) Will you turn off water while you brush your teeth?

This promise is followed on the International Space Station. Please share your promise with me by attaching it to an email and send it to famfolkfound@gmail.com.

The, prepare to join us

March 25 and May 1 on a simulated trip to Mars at the Challenger Learning Center.

Before the blast off, let's flex our intellectual skills as required for astronauts by NASA at www.nasa.org.

Look for Challenge #5: Newton's Laws here and in space. The purpose of Family Folklore Foundation, Inc., which can be found online at

www.famfolkfound,org and www.facebook.com/familyfolklorefoundation, is to provide learning experiences to people of all ages.

This Third and Fourth Rock to the Sun Project is funded by the National Endowment the Arts, Indiana Arts Commission, and South Shore Arts as well as other donors.

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> ~ Karen Beers Crown Point, Indiana

Call for info 219-306-7812 david.taylor@century21.com

This day in history

January 15, 1967

The Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs at the Los Angeles Coliseum in the firstever world championship game of American football.

In the mid-1960s, the intense competition for players and fans between the National Football League and the upstart American Football League led to talks of a possible merger. It was decided that the winners of each league's championship would meet each year in a single game to determine the "world champion of football."

In that historic first game, played before a nonsellout crowd of 61,946 people, Green Bay scored three touchdowns in the second half to defeat Kansas City 35-10. Led by MVP quarterback Bart Starr, the Packers benefited from Max McGee's stellar receiving and a key interception by safety Willie Wood. For their win, each member of the Packers collected \$15,000: the largest single game share in the history of team sports.

Postseason college games were known as "bowl" games, and AFL founder Lamar Hunt suggested that the new pro championship be called the "Super Bowl." The term was officially introduced in 1969, along with roman numerals to designate the individual games. In 1970, the NFL and AFL merged into one league with two conferences, each with 13 teams. Since then, the Super Bowl has been for the NFL championship and the coveted Vince Lombardi Trophy.

www.history.com

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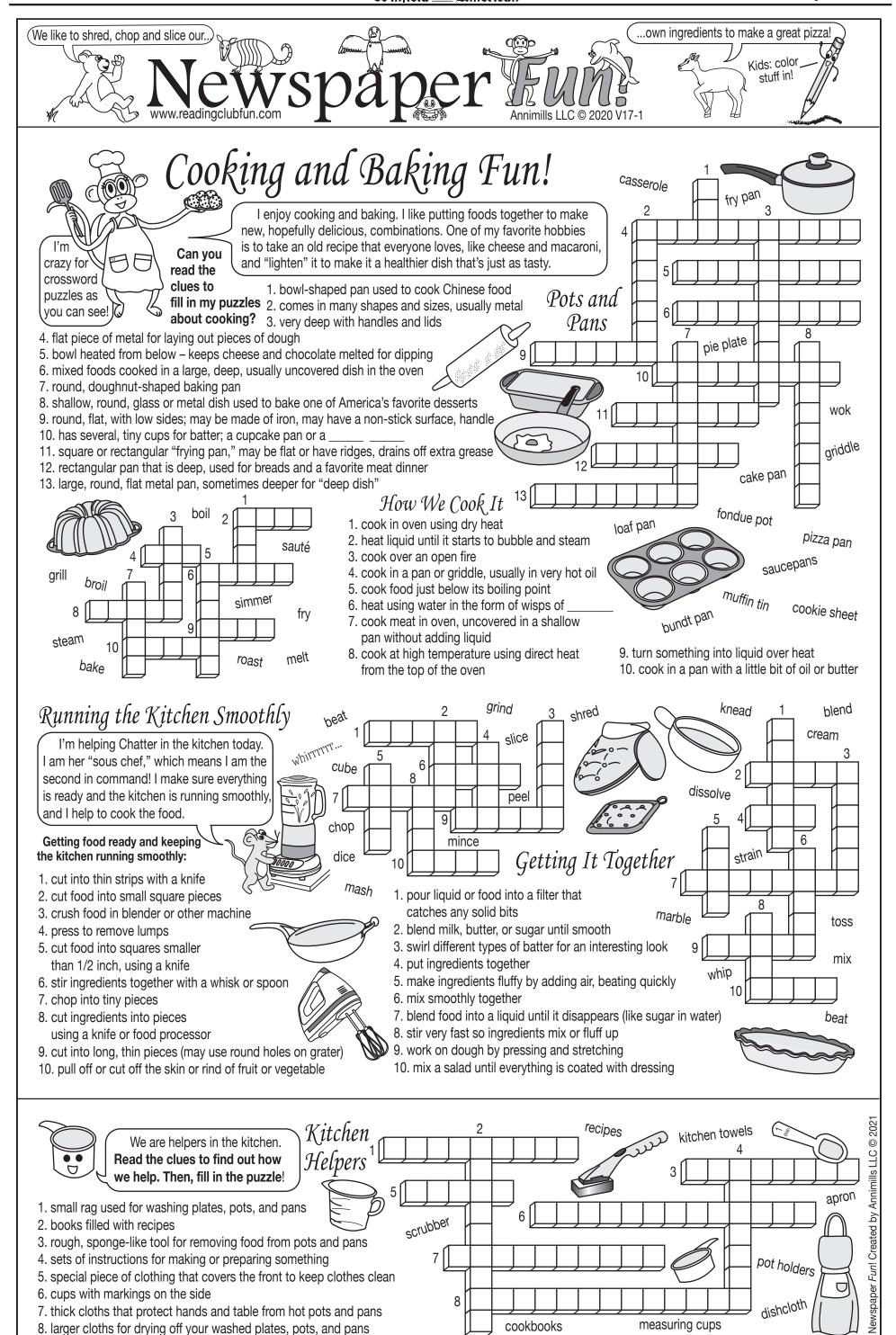
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IDE announces new climate change education framework in partnership with Purdue

In partnership with the Purdue Climate Change Research Center (PCCRC) Purdue University College of Science, the Department Indiana Education (IDOE) today announced the state's new Climate Change Education Framework. The Indiana Climate Change Education Framework offers easily accessible and scientifically curated instructional resources to educators interested in infusing their curriculum with information about climate change.

cess to high-quality and evidence-based climate change facts and resources is critical to creating more academic opportunities for our students to become informed citizens, grounded in science," said Indiana State Superintendent Dr. Jennifer McCormick. "I am grateful for our partnership with Purdue and for the involvement of educators from across our state. Their dedication, support, and work will have an impact on generations of students to come."

Indiana Climate Change Education Frame-"Providing educators ac- work originated out of a need expressed by Indiana educators to include more focused climate change teaching within their current classroom instruction. Collaborating in the fall of 2020, IDOE and Purdue partners began curating resources that assist educators with teaching climate change while intersecting with existing Indiana Academic Standards for science. To guide this process, the team pulled from the published work of Purdue professors Dan Shepardson and Andrew Hirsch that outlines five critical climate change topics that provide

a strong scientific foundation for continued learning. During a two-day virtual workshop, IDOE and Purdue staff worked with Indiana educators to identify relevant state academic standards and associated learning resources aligned with the five climate change concepts to create an efficient and accessible framework from which educators all across the state could pull.

"People have heard a lot of misinformation about climate change over the years, so it's important for teachers

to be able to find trusted, scientifically accurate materials," said PCCRC Director Jeff Dukes. "We were excited to partner with IDOE to help teachers find helpful resources based on solid science."

Coinciding with Indiana's Climate Change Education Framework, IDOE and Purdue partners created #INClimateEd. Individuals interested in continuing the climate change conversation socially are encouraged to use #INClimateEd, and tag @EducateIN, @ PurdueCCRC,

PurdueSOS on Twitter.

For more information and access to Indiana's Climate Change Education Framework, please visit: www.doe.in.gov/science/climateframework.

To view PCCRC's Five Critical Climate Change Topics and additional resources to support climate change education, visit www. ag.purdue.edu/climate/education/for-k-12-teachers/

INDOT to host virtual career fair next week on Wednesday, January 20

The Indiana Department of Transportation is hosting a virtual career fair on Wednesday, January 20 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Anyone interested in learning more about employment at INDOT is invited to attend, and registration is not required.

The career fair will feature an overview of the agency, benefits of working for INDOT, and positions currently available. Featured jobs will include highway maintenance technicians, equipment mechanics, construction engineers and project inspectors, and seasonal positions.

The event will be held via Microsoft Teams, an online video conferencing application for both desktop and mobile devices. While a Teams account is not needed to join the event, those who plan to participate may download the Microsoft Teams application in advance here.

The app is required if joining from a mobile device,

but attendees can choose to join on the web instead using Edge, Chrome, or Firefox if using a desktop.

The live event can be accessed online at this link on January 20. Those planning to attend should save this article, as they will need to click that link to join the event.

Learn more about employment opportunities and see a full listing of job opportunities at INDOT at www. in.gov/indot/3163.htm





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