

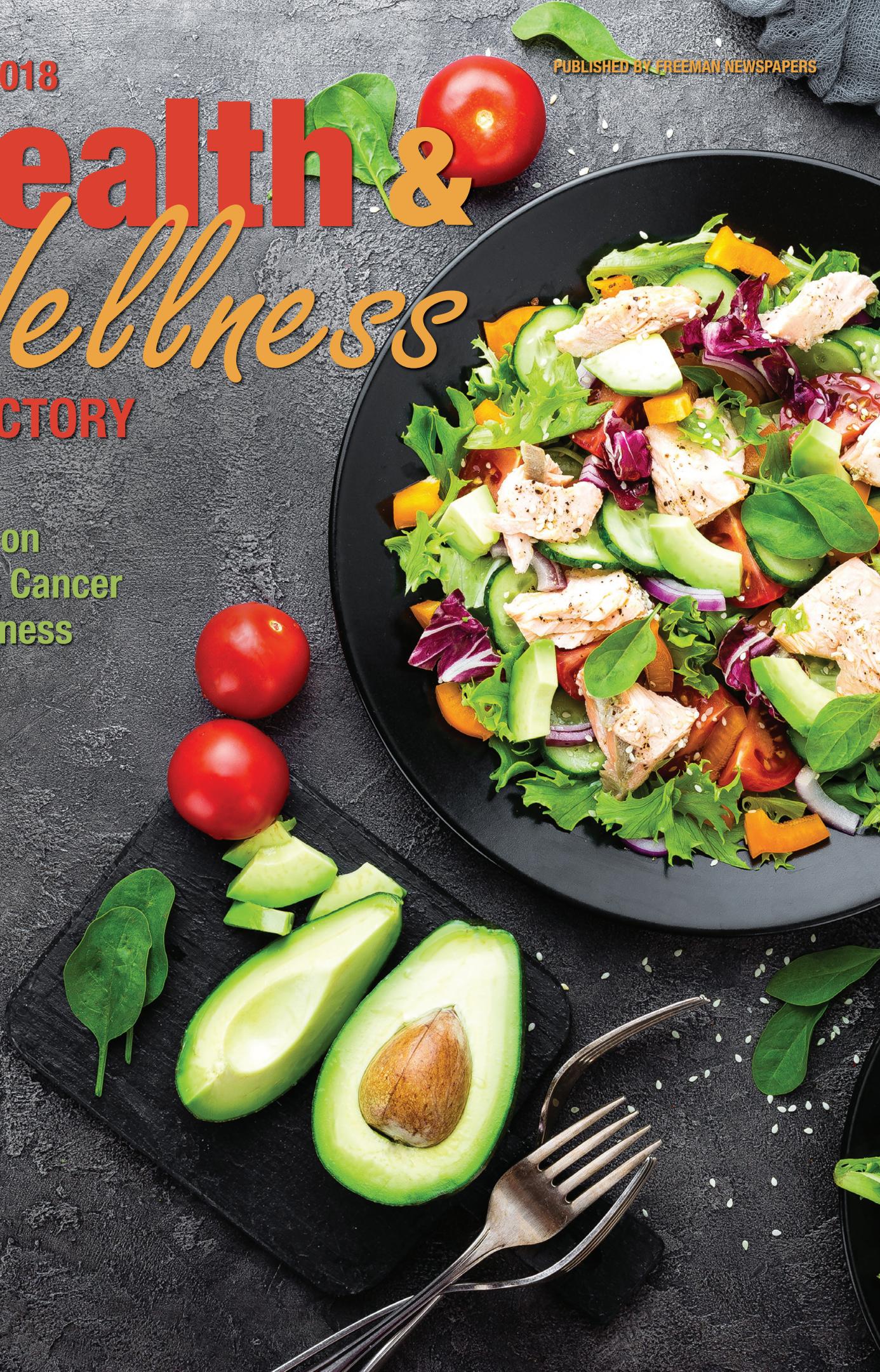
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DIRECTORY

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Holistic treatments to supplement traditional medicine after cancer diagnosis

By Catherine Jozwik
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — Holistic practices, including a healthy organic diet, yoga, meditation and essential oils, can help supplement traditional medicines and procedures used to treat cancer.

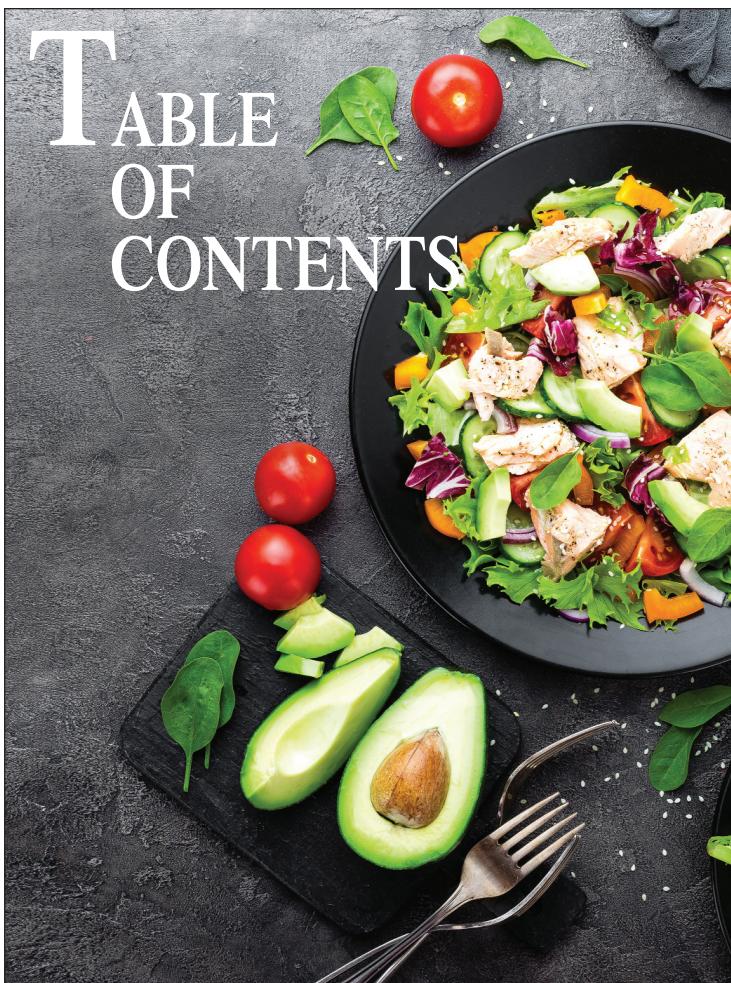
Debra Muth, a Waukesha naturopathic doctor and women's health nurse practi-

tioner, stressed that these practices are meant to supplement, rather than replace, cancer treatments such as chemotherapy.

"Holistic treatments can work very nicely along with cancer treatments," she said.

After a patient has been given a cancer diagnosis, "the first step we take is nutritional," she said.

Muth recommends avoid-



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Submitted photo

Essential oils are a natural way patients can supplement traditional cancer treatments.

ing foods containing white sugar, lots of salt, and chemical additives, as these can "feed" cancer. Stabilized blood sugar is also important when it comes to fighting the disease.

Eating fruits with a low glycemic index, such as berries and green apples, along with shiitake mushrooms, can be beneficial to one's health. Also, organic foods have more nutritional value, as fruits and veggies are grown in more nutritionally-enhanced soil, said the doctor.

Psychological well-being is also important. Studies have shown that people with a positive mindset have an easier time coping with the side effects of radiation and chemotherapy.

"The mind is also a very powerful tool for healing," she said.

Nicci Van Der Merwe, certified energy and sound practitioner and owner of Accendo Mind Body and Soul in Waukesha, feels that essential oils, such as frankincense, peppermint and ginger can help ease side effects of

chemotherapy and radiation, like fatigue and nausea. Although certain oils don't work for everyone, there are many others that offer benefits.

"If something doesn't work for you, there is definitely something else to try," said Van Der Merwe.

Meditation and breathing exercises can help cancer patients cope with fear and anxiety. Tips on how to employ guided meditations — the act of focusing on an image or sound — can be found on YouTube, in books, online, or through smartphone apps.

Also, engaging in repetitive activities (cleaning the house for example), and hobbies (knitting, sewing, coloring) can help cancer patients take their mind off worry.

Van Der Merwe said certain herb supplements, such as fish oil, which can act as a blood thinner, can be harmful to patients, and they should seek advice of a medical professional before use.

"Work with a knowledgeable practitioner," she said.

Experts offer tips for sinus care through the seasons

By Dave Fidlin
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — Depending upon the person, a particular season can be especially brutal to the sinuses — especially when allergies enter the equation.

While spring and summer are known for bringing people outdoors, the realities of all things green coming into bloom can wreak havoc for persons sensitive or allergic to pollens and grasses.

Conversely, persons sensitive to dust and similar triggers can encounter challenges as activities migrate indoors in the fall and winter.

Jessica Southwood, an otolaryngologist with Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin, said taking note of when and where sinus challenges occur is an important first step toward a conclusion.

"Be aware of the triggers," Southwood said. "Is there a season that's worse? Know the symptoms. Sometimes they're obvious, and some-

times they're subtle."

According to experts with the Mayo Clinic, persons suffering from allergies can take a number of steps to reduce exposure to specific triggers. For persons especially sensitive to pollens and grasses, staying indoors on dry, windy days could be a good rule of thumb.

"The best time to go outside is after a good rain, which helps clear pollen from the air," according to Mayo Clinic's website. "Delegate lawn mowing, weed pulling and other gardening chores that stir up allergies."

Another important tip, according to Mayo Clinic's experts, is to remove clothing worn outdoors and take showers immediately upon entering a home to rinse pollen from skin and hair.

Additionally, Mayo Clinic's experts say, "Don't hang laundry outside (because) pollen can stick to sheets and towels. Wear a pollen mask if you do outside chores."

For most persons, South-

wood said over-the-counter remedies are effective solutions.

"They are safe and very effective if used appropriately," she said.

Today's marketplace offers a range of over-the-counter medications, such as oral antihistamines, which can bring relief to persons battling chronic sneezing, itching, runny noses and watery eyes.

Other forms of over-the-counter treatments include decongestants, which provide temporary relief from nasal stuffiness, and nasal sprays, which have been proven to ease allergy symptoms without serious, disruptive side effects.

More recently, some over-the-counter medications offer a hybrid approach, such as a combination of antihistamine and decongestant, in an effort to tackle multiple issues at once.

Southwood said she frequently recommends sinus sufferers consider such meth-

ods as sprays and rinses, which she said have proven effective in removing blockages — including mucus and allergens — from a person's nose.

"It does take some getting used to," Southwood said. "But it is very helpful."

As with medications, many of the sprays and rinses are available to consumers over-the-counter.

Mayo Clinic's experts recommend solutions in the form of a squeeze bottle or neti pot.

"Use water that's distilled, sterile, previously boiled and cooled or filtered using a filter with an absolute pore size of 1 micron or smaller to make up the saline irrigation solution," Mayo Clinic's website states.

It adds, "Be sure to rinse the irrigation device after each use with similarly distilled, sterile, previously boiled and cooled, or filtered water and leave open to air dry."

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Benefits of emotional support networks for cancer patients

Important to take care of mental health, too

By Catherine Jozwik
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — Receiving a cancer diagnosis is often a stressful, frightening experience. However, experts feel that having a strong emotional support network consisting of family, friends and peers can help boost psychological well-being in those with the disease.

Sheila Gissibl, a psychologist for Hope for a Better Tomorrow in Waukesha, recommends those diagnosed with cancer attend a support group.

"Being able to have someone sitting next to you who has been in your shoes is immensely beneficial," she said.

Some support groups are open to all ages; others are limited to children, teenagers, or those of a certain religious affiliation. Many focus on a specific type of cancer, such as leukemia.

One-on-one counselling can also be beneficial to patients, as it can help them develop coping skills and implement relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing and meditation, into their daily lives.

Although many cancer patients have time constraints with doctor's appointments and suffer physical difficulties, Gissibl feels that psychological well-being should be a priority as well.

"Even though it (a cancer diagnosis) can feel overwhelming, it's equally important to make time for your emotional health," she said.

According to www.medicorx.com, stress and anxiety, which often result from a cancer diagnosis, release hormones in the body that can increase blood sugar levels and raise blood pressure.

Gissibl added that new research from the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center illuminates that psy-



Photo courtesy of ProHealth Care

From left: John Kaufman, Hartland; Adriana Kanwischer, Dousman; Patti Cummings, Waukesha; Janis Leech, Waukesha; and Yvonne Gardner, South Milwaukee; were among the individuals who attended a recent support meeting with ProHealth Care oncology services counselors Geraldine Schwalenberg and Aaron Jonasen (both standing) at the UW Cancer Center at ProHealth Care in the City of Pewaukee.

chological treatments such as cognitive behavioral therapy and support from family and friends can help cancer patients heal faster.

Family and friends of those diagnosed with cancer can help by simply listening to what they have to say, said the Hope for a Better Tomorrow psychologist. She noted that people have a tendency to want to take the patient's pain away, which is not possible. But simply acknowledging how they feel — and being present with them — can help.

Also, it's good to "check in" periodically to see how the patient is feeling, both physically and emotionally, both

during and after cancer treatments and even remission, since the process can be traumatic and lead to "residual changes," said Gissibl.

Several organizations, among them Aurora Health Care, Columbia St. Mary's Hospital, ProHealth Care and Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin, provide counselling services (also known as psycho-oncology), sometimes free, to cancer patients and their families. Those interested should contact the oncology department of the health care facility of their choice.

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There is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to eating in moderation

By Dave Fidlin
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — Moderation: It's a word commonly used in conversations about food choices. But what exactly does it mean? And how should a person apply this concept in any given day, week and month?

Dietitians throughout the Waukesha area agree there is no across-the-board, hard-and-fast rule.

“It's not a one size, fits all,” said Tatiana Castellino, a registered dietitian with Pro-Health Waukesha Memorial Hospital. “It doesn't have a single definition. It's going to look different for different people.”

But experts say there are concepts that everyone can use when deciding how much to eat of a certain type of food — whether it falls in the healthy or junk food category.

On Monday, for instance, it could be beneficial to plan

meals for the week ahead as a safeguard against over-indulging. If a birthday party is in the calendar over the weekend, eating lighter, healthier meals early in the week could bring balance to the equation.

“It really is all about the day and how you break it up,” said Jen Jobke, a clinical dietitian with Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin's Community Memorial Hospital in Menomonee Falls. “Sweet treats are OK once in a while, but it's all about variety.”

Much like dieting in general, the mind-body connection has been cited by local experts as a way to address eating certain foods in moderation.

“Planning definitely helps with weight loss,” said Alyssa Riesen, who also works as a clinical dietitian at Community Memorial Hospital. “Structure your meals so you are getting a good variety of nutrients.”



Much like dieting in general, portion control also is a key cornerstone when it comes to moderation.

“Start paying attention to your hunger cues,” said Liz Riesen, a clinical dietitian

at Ascension's Elmbrook Medical Office facility. “When you finish your meal, how do you feel? You shouldn't feel hungry, and you shouldn't feel

continued on page 9

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Parents can model healthy eating

String cheese, nuts, fresh produce should be made available

By Catherine Jozwik
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — Children may be drawn to brightly-colored fruit snacks and sugary cereals, but there are several ways parents can steer kids toward healthy snacks.

Mary Jo Hamman, supervisor for the Waukesha County Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, recommends parents read labels of snack foods before purchase.

Foods with many additives, trans fats, and lots of salt and white sugar — cookies, certain fruit juices, hot dogs, snack cakes, potato chips, and even some granola bars — can cause obesity, diabetes, and other health problems.

These foods should be swapped for fresh produce and snacks like berries in yogurt and whole-grain cereals.

"The more processed a food is, the worse it is," said Hamman. "A good philosophy

is, the more natural the food is, the healthier it's going to be."

Ashleigh Spitz, a registered dietitian with the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, said that because lots of classrooms are now peanut- and tree nut-free due to many children having food allergies, kids who are not allergic to nuts may find them a welcome snack. Also, greasy potato chips can be replaced with vegetable chips. Varieties include beet, carrot, and sugar snap peas, which can be found at area grocery stores such as Sendik's and Trader Joe's.

"Kids like salty, crunchy things," said Spitz. Sweet and salty treats — although unhealthy — should never be banned completely, however.

"That just makes food (treats of these sorts) more desirable to kids. My policy is that no food should ever be off-limits," said Spitz. Hamman and Spitz agree that parents can make it easier



Katherine Michalets/Freeman Staff

for school-age children and teenagers to choose wholesome snacks by eating healthy themselves and making string cheese, nuts and fresh fruits and vegetables readily available at home.

Parents should select snacks rather than allowing toddlers to choose themselves.

"Parents are really in control, as far as what (foods) come into the house," said Spitz.

Another way to help kids develop healthy snacking habits is to have them pick out produce of their choice while parents shop for groceries. Children can also help parents prepare snacks.

"Kids tend to eat what their parents eat. If parents are modeling healthy eating habits, kids will follow," said Hamman.

For more information on nutrition for children, parents can visit the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) website, <https://www.choosemyplate.gov>, the Waukesha County WIC website, <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/wic>, and the Center for Science in the Public Interest website, <https://cspinet.org>.

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Moderation *from page 7*

full. You should feel satisfied."

Moderation commonly applies to junk food — or processed foods with little to no nutrients. Many of the local experts interviewed for this article agreed such items can be part of a healthy diet, so long as they are incorporated sparingly.

"Eating one cookie doesn't make you unhealthy, and eating one salad doesn't make you healthy," Alyssa Riesen said. "It's those repeat patterns that matter."

At the same time, Alyssa Riesen also cautions against cutting out entire food groups, which is a concept that permeates a number of fad diets.

"It's not healthy to cut out whole food groups at any one time," she said.

Castellino agrees, saying,

"Moderation and balance go hand-in-hand. Avoid the extremes of having too little or too much of something. That's how nutrition works — it's about the big picture and having balance."

Local dietitians offered up several practical suggestions to gauge how the concept of moderation could apply to a specific person's eating regimen.

Alyssa Riesen said the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' website, www.eatright.org, offers a bounty of expert articles on the moderation.

In an age of technology, Liz Riesen said she also encourages people to seek out apps and websites that can bring further clarity to the concept.

"There are a lot of great tools out there," she said.

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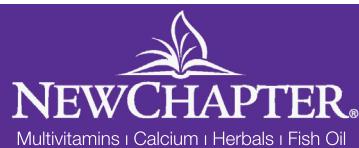
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The various benefits of farm-to-table

Few things are more satisfying than biting into a fresh tomato right from the garden or seasoning a meal with herbs picked from a windowsill greenhouse. Restaurants recognize the value of such experiences, and more and more are relying on locally sourced products in their kitchens.

The National Restaurant Association found that 41 percent of consumers surveyed admit that locally sourced ingredients influence their decisions when choosing where to dine.

This is not only a trend in local restaurants but home cooked meals as well.

The following are some of the key benefits of farm-to-table.

• Peak freshness and ripeness: Local produce ripens on the plant and can be harvested at the last possible minute before it turns up on a plate. This helps to ensure tastier foods because they are grown and harvested during their optimal growing season. Food

that has to travel further is often picked well before it is ready, requiring ripening on the way to stores or other vendors. This doesn't produce optimum flavor.

• Accessibility to seasonal choices: Farm-to-table eating provides a wide variety of in-season foods. This is a good time to try something new, as flavor is usually at its best.

• Supports neighboring farms: Supporting farm-to-table not only benefits local restaurants, but it also directly supports neighboring farms, fisheries and other suppliers.

• Learn about the community: A person might live in an area and never know that a local vineyard is in the vicinity or that a producer of straight-from-the-hive honey is nearby. Exploring farm-to-table resources can open people's eyes to local businesses doing great work in and around their communities.

• Better for the environment: Food that needn't travel far before reaching diners' plates saves roughly 500 gal-



lons of diesel fuel to haul produce a distance of 1,500 miles. This conserves fossil fuels and prevents harmful emissions from entering the atmosphere.

• Reduces factory farming: According to O.info, the informational resource powered by Overstock.com, farm-to-table and local farming can reduce reliance on large, profit-driven corporations that may focus on maximum

production over animal health and welfare. Local farms may be more inclined to treat their animals well and institute sustainable practices.

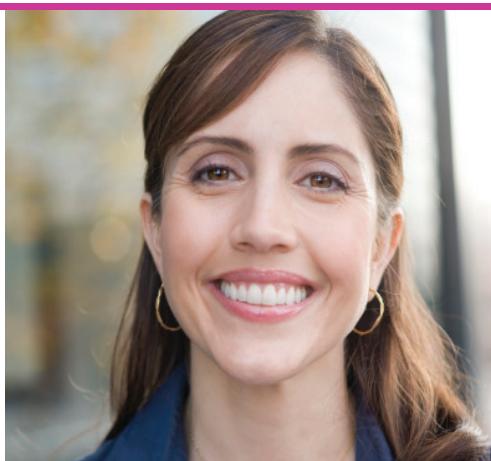
The farm-to-table movement is not new, but it has gained momentum as consumers become increasingly concerned with natural food choices, true food flavors and environmental impacts on our planet.



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Explaining and reducing opioid use

For many years, law enforcement agencies have tried to educate and inform the general public about a growing opioid epidemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose killed nearly 64,000 Americans in 2016, and roughly two-thirds of those deaths involved a prescription or illicit opioid.

The opioid epidemic is not exclusive to the United States. In early 2018, Canada's Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses released a statement acknowledging that the country's opioid epidemic had significantly worsened since 2016. In fact, the Public Health Agency of Canada noted that deaths from opioid-related overdoses between January and September of 2017 had increased by 45 percent from the same period just a year earlier.

What are opioids? The term "opioid" refers to a wide range of drugs, including illegal drugs such as heroin.

Whether an opioid is an illegal street drug or one prescribed by a doctor, the National Institute on Drug Abuse notes that all of these drugs are chemically related. Each opioid interacts with opioid receptors on nerve cells in the body and brain. Prescription opioids are often prescribed to relieve pain.

Why are opioids so often misused? According to the NIDA, opioids are effective at reducing pain. But while they are prescribed to treat pain, opioids also produce a feeling of euphoria. Opioid users, whether they're using heroin or a prescription opioid such as Vicodin, can easily become dependent on opioids because of that euphoric feeling they get when taking them. When this happens, users are likely to misuse opioids, taking them in larger quantities than prescribed or looking to illegal opioids such as heroin in search of that euphoric feeling.

What are some types of opioids? The CDC notes that



there are three common types of opioids: prescription opioids, fentanyl and heroin.

• Prescription opioids are prescribed by a doctor to treat moderate to severe pain. Some common types of prescription opioids are Vicodin (hydrocodone), OxyContin (oxycodone), morphine, and methadone.

• Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that the CDC notes is considerably more powerful than other opioids. Fentanyl

is typically only prescribed to help patients dealing with severe pain, such as that caused by advanced cancers. However, illegally manufactured and distributed fentanyl is at the heart of the opioid epidemic. In fact, the CDC reports that death rates from overdoses involving synthetic opioids such as fentanyl doubled in 10 states from 2015 to 2016.

continued on next page

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Opioids from page 11

• Unlike fentanyl and prescription opioids, heroin is illegal. Despite that, heroin usage has risen sharply in recent years across nearly all demographics in the United States.

Opioids pose a significant health problem throughout much of North America. More information is available at www.drugabuse.gov.

In spite of all the warnings about illegal drug usage of

prescription drugs, they are still getting in the hands of those who should not be using them. Everyone can help reduce this trend by locking up prescription drugs, getting off these types of medications as soon as possible and disposing of any remaining opioids through local legally organized collection centers. Contact your local police or hospital to find disposal locations in your community.

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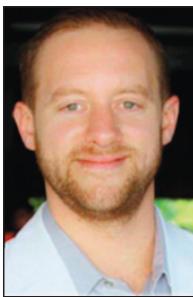
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The connection between eating and energy

The connection between energy and eating is significant. A healthy diet and approach to eating can vastly improve energy levels, while a poorly planned diet that lacks nutrition can contribute to feelings of fatigue and increase a person's risk for various ailments.

The Harvard Medical School notes that different kinds of foods are converted to energy at different rates. That's why some foods, such as candy, provide quick boosts of energy while foods such as whole grains tend to supply the body with energy reserves that it can draw on throughout the day.

It's not just what people eat but how they eat that can affect their energy levels. In addition to choosing the right foods, men and women can try the following strategies as they look to eat to boost their energy levels.

Avoiding the traditional three-meals-per-day approach may help improve energy levels, especially for people

who tend to eat sizable meals once, twice or even three times every day. According to the Cleveland Clinic, the metabolisms of people who do not eat regularly will slow down, as the body absorbs and stores more of the food it eats.

Those stores include cholesterol and fat, which can be unhealthy and contribute to weight gain. One huge misconception of those dieting is to reduce the number of meals. That is an incorrect approach. By eating much smaller healthier meals more frequently, one's metabolism speeds up and more calories are burned. The body recognizes more food is soon on the way and, as a result, it does not need to store as much cholesterol and fat as it does if meals are eaten less frequently.

The Harvard Medical School notes that, while the reasons are unclear, research has indicated that the circadian rhythms of people who eat big lunches indicate a more significant drop in afternoon



energy levels compared to those who eat smaller midday meals. Men and women who eat big lunches and find their energy levels waning later in the workday should try to eat smaller midday meals to boost energy.

The foods people eat are not the only components of their diet that can affect their energy levels. Caffeinated beverages can provide a temporary boost of energy as well. However, men and women

who drink coffee or other caffeinated beverages to boost their energy levels should avoid doing so in large amounts after 2 p.m. Caffeine can cause insomnia and insufficient sleep later in the evening dramatically affect energy levels.

Eating smaller, more frequent meals may compel some people to snack. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics notes that snacks are important as long as they're the right snacks. Avoid snacks that are just empty calories and replace them with foods that contain protein and fiber-rich natural carbohydrates. Such snacks as apples and fresh berries or protein sources like nuts can provide lasting energy. It's also important that men and women not snack to fill themselves up, but rather to quell any hunger pangs and get an energy boost between meals.

These simple changes in diet and habits can lead to more energy each and every day.



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