

Friday, February 20, 2026

Volume 41 Number 2



www.warrenweeklyindiana.com

Warren Weekly

Your Hometown Newspaper

Get the Warren Weekly Delivered Straight To Your Email Or Kindle for less than 50¢ a week! Click on the "Subscribe" tab at top of page and select your type of subscription.

PO Box 695, Warren IN 46792 • 260/375-6290 • email: editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com

Thought for the Week: Learning to ignore things is one of the great paths to inner peace. Robert J. Sawyer



NEW ASSOCIATE

Bowers, Brewer, Garrett & Wiley, LLP is proud to announce that Erika L. James has joined our firm as an Associate Attorney.

Erika is a native of Markle, Indiana. She attended Huntington University and graduated summa cum laude in 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in both History and Political Science. She then attended Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis and graduated in May 2025. While attending McKinney, Erika served in the Criminal Defense Clinic where she represented clients alongside the Marion County Public Defender's Agency.

Erika worked as a legal intern for Bowers, Brewer, Garrett & Wiley, LLP throughout law school and joined the firm in 2025. She is a member of the Huntington County Bar Association and Indiana State Bar Association and is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

The Firm is also pleased to announce that Joseph K. Wiley is now Of Counsel with the law firm.

Current members of the law firm are Mark J. Wiley, Erika L. James and Joseph K. Wiley. You can contact Bowers Brewer Garrett & Wiley, LLP at

260-356-4800 to schedule an appointment.

4-H FLOWER SALES

Grant County 4-H members are currently selling flowers and vegetables. The flowers and vegetables available for 2026 are: red, white, and pink geraniums, moss rose, marigolds, dianthus, begonias, red, white, blue and purple wave petunias, Beefmaster and Roma tomatoes, white daisies, coneflower, wave petunia hanging basket, impatiens hanging basket, and begonia hanging basket.

If you are planning to buy flowers or vegetables for your home, why not purchase from a Grant County 4-H member?

Contact a local 4-H'er or club leader to order your plants before April 13, or call the Grant County Extension Office and we can put you in touch with a 4-H Club. The phone number for the office is 765-651-2413.

Please support the Grant County 4-H Program!

FAITH, FOOTBALL, FELLOWSHIP: A COMMUNITY MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Solid Rock Church Men's Fellowship will host a breakfast for men and boys in the community on Saturday, March 14. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m., followed by featured speaker Aaron Mingo, Head Football Coach at Taylor University, talking about the integration of faith and football. A free-will offering will be accepted. Reservations are requested by March 9. (Walk-ins are welcome.) Reservations may be made by calling the Solid Rock Church office at (260)

375-3873 or emailing office@solidrockwarren.org. The church is located at 485 Bennett Drive in Warren.

Coach Aaron Mingo just completed his fifth year as head coach of the Taylor University football program, following 12 years of coaching experience at other faith-based colleges. In November Coach Mingo was named Midwest League Coach of the Year by the Mid-States Football Association for the second-straight season. Completing the season with a 7-4 record, Taylor averaged 48.5 points per game, scoring at least 35 points in all 11 games.

SAVE THE DATE

Sigma Phi Gamma Beta Delta Chapter Spring Luncheon will be March 8, 2026 from 11am to 1pm at Knight Bergman Center in Warren.

Free Will Donation (proceeds benefit the community). Meal includes baked steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, dessert, and drinks.

DNR HIRING

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Law Enforcement is looking for highly motivated, outdoor-centered individuals to fill Indiana Conservation Officer (ICO) positions across the state.

Anyone interested should first read "Become a Conservation Officer" at in.gov/dnr/law-enforcement/careers/become-an-indiana-conservation-officer/ and complete the pre-screening test under the "Apply" link. Successful completion of the pre-screening test will

automatically enter you into the hiring process. You will then be notified of the next process phase as it becomes available.

To be qualified to pass the pre-screening test, you must be a United States citizen and be 21 years old by Oct. 30. You also must be able to pass the new Physical Agility Test, which is the new fitness standard for all Law Enforcement in the state starting Aug. 1. The website listed above also contains a video demonstrating the Physical Agility Test, course diagram and testing protocols.

Conservation officers comprise Indiana's oldest state law enforcement agency. ICOs are fully recognized Indiana police officers who enforce and uphold all DNR rules and regulations as well as all other Indiana state laws. ICOs spend most of their time on the job enforcing fishing and hunting regulations, conducting marine boat patrol on Indiana's waterways, and patrolling DNR properties to keep them safe and family friendly.

In addition to traditional law enforcement work, ICOs also engage in specialty areas, including scuba, K-9, search and rescue, swift water rescue, and many more.

STATEWIDE WATER PLAN

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host seven workshops across Indiana through February, April, and May to allow Hoosiers to provide input on the development of Indiana's statewide water inventory and management plan under Governor Mike Braun's Executive Order 25-63.

"Water is an essential resource for life and for the vitality of all Indiana communities, which is why it's crucial that Indiana's ample water supply is available for Hoosiers in all corners of our state," said Gov. Braun. "Through a transparent water inventory and development of a management process, we'll make sure Indiana is well-positioned for resource needs now and for future generations."

At the workshops, attendees will be asked for input on developing a regional water planning framework, enhancing Indiana's water monitoring networks, and creating an online water data and management platform. This planning effort builds upon the regional water studies led by the Indiana Finance Authority and by many local and regional partners, utilities, industry, municipalities, and other water users.

The meetings are planned for: Feb. 24, 1-4 p.m. - Clifty Inn at Clifty Falls State Park, 1650 Clifty Hollow Rd, Madison, IN 47250 RSVP for this event

Feb. 26, 1-4 p.m. - Washington Community Building, 405 Burkhart Dr, Washington, IN 47501 RSVP for this event

April 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. - Allen County Public Library - Main, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 RSVP for this event

April 16, 1-4 p.m. - Beck Agricultural Center, 4550 US-52, West Lafayette, IN 47906 RSVP for this event

May 12, 1-4 p.m. - Knox Community Building, 55 East Lake Street, Knox, IN 46534 RSVP for this event

CONTINUED PAGE 3

WARREN WEEKLY • Owner/Publisher: Nicki L. Zoda
Mailing Address: P O Box 695, Warren, IN 46792
Phone: (260)375-6290 **e-mail:** editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com
 WARREN WEEKLY is a free paper for the Warren, Indiana area. It is available online only by noon on Wednesday. The paper can be read at the Warren Public Library for those who don't have internet access.
 Email and Kindle subscriptions are \$24 per year. Mail name, address, and payment to WARREN WEEKLY at: PO Box 695, Warren, IN 46792 or you can subscribe online at www.warrenweeklyindiana.com on the WW Forms tab.
 Deadline for news and/or advertising is 10 a.m. Tuesday, for that week's edition. Call if you need something in but won't have it here on time.
 Leave news and/or advertising at Town Hall or mail to PO Box 695, Warren or email to editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com.
 WARREN WEEKLY will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The firm assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part in which an error may occur, provided that it is reported within five days of publication.
 The publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement.

Kudos, Kicks & Karats



Treva's
Recipe Box
 by Treva Flemming

I made these for John's birthday and must say they were pretty good so will share with you in honor of George Washington's birthday too.

CHERRY PIE BARS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3c. flour | 1 c. sugar |
| ½ tbsp cornstarch | 1 tsp baking powder |
| ½ tsp salt | 1 c. unsalted butter, cold |
| 1 large egg | 1-21 oz can cherry pie filling |
| Glaze: | |
| 1 c. powdered sugar | 1/2 tsp vanilla |
| ½ tsp almond extract | 2-3 tbsp milk |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9x13 baking pan with parchment paper and set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk the flour, sugar, cornstarch, baking powder and salt to combine. Add the butter and cut it in with a pastry blender until crumbly.

Add the egg and mix until just combined. The dough should be crumbly but hold together in your hand when pressed.

Press 2/3 of the dough evenly into the prepared pan and bake for 8 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and pour the cherry pie filling over the top. Sprinkle with remaining crust crumbs evenly over the top.

Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool in the pan. For the glaze combine all the ingredients and mix until desired consistency is met. You may need to add a little more milk or powdered sugar. Drizzle over bars. If you like nuts, sprinkle some sliced or slivered almonds on the top. Enjoy.

Note: watch the baking closely so you don't get the bottoms to over done.

Dolinger's
Propane
Service
 115 N Wayne St
 Warren IN
 260-375-4505

Spread the Word
 to all your non-internet friends. The Warren Weekly can be read at the Warren Public Library!



CITIZENS TELEPHONE CORPORATION
 375-2111
 "Your Local Fiber Internet Provider"

Drop off your news and advertising for the **Warren Weekly** at Town Hall Downtown Warren

BANQUO CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 8924S 900W 35
 Harold Smith, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
 Steve Nevius, Pastor
 Denise Heiniger, S.S. Supt.
 Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45a.m.

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 Van Buren, Indiana 765-934-2199
 Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Youth Group 4:30-7:30pm at SwitchUp
 Handicap Accessible
 Little Panther Preschool 765.934.2099

HEALING WATERS MINISTRY —
5811 W 600 S, MT ETNA
 Pastor Wayne Couch
 260/515-2517
 Sunday Prayer 9:15 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
 Daycare provided during Worship

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHERN
 8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779
 Matt Kennedy, Pastor
 Worship Service 9:00a.m.
 Sunday School 10:00a.m.

HANFIELD GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH
 101 N 400 E - Marion 765/664-8726
 Curtis Banker, Senior Pastor
 Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

THE NEW BEGINNING
 SR 218, 2 1/8 mile west of Poneto
 Steve Sutton, Pastor
 765/728-2065 for more info
 Sunday Worship..... 10:30a.m.
 Thursday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

HERITAGE POINTE
 Chaplains Ginny Soultz, John Moyer & Cindy Osgood
 Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Mon-Fri Chapel Services 9:15 a.m.
 Sunday Catholic Mass 1:00p.m.
 Thurs. Catholic Mass 10:30a.m.

WARREN 1st BAPTIST CHURCH
 727 N Wayne St, Warren
 260-375-2811
 office@warrenfirsbaptist.net
 Pastor Mark Joyner
 Sunday School9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship10:00 a.m.

HILLCREST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 375-2510
 Pastor Gale Sonny Bloom, Jr.
 Bus Service 375-2510
 www.warrennaz.org
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

SOLID ROCK CHURCH OF WARREN
 485 Bennett Dr, Warren, IN
 375-3873
 John Boyanowski, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

LANCASTER WESLEYAN
 3147 W 543 S, Huntington
 765.251.2322
 Ron Forsythe, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesdays:
 Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 p.m.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH
 694-6622
 Aaron Westfall, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
 Fellowship 10:00a.m.
 Worship 10:15a.m.
 Tues. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
 Wed. Choir 6:30p.m.
 Monthly Meetings
 1st Mon Ministry Team 7:00 p.m.
 3rd Sat Mens Prayer Breakfast 8:00 am
 4th Mon ABW 1:30 pm

LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Pastor Diane Samuels
 Fellowship Time9:00a.m.
 Morning Worship9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT
 375-4359
 Daniel Tucker, Pastor
 Lois Slusher, Supt.
 Brittney Miller, Youth & Family Dir.
 Coffee Fellowship..... 8:30 a.m.
 Worship 9:15 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 Bible Study - Wed. 6:30 p.m.

MT. ETNA COMMUNITY LIFE CHURCH
 260/468-2148 Sr 9 & 124
 Rev. Dr. Scotty Murphy
 Good Morning Church (Sunday School for all ages9:00 - 9:45
 Worship Service10:00 - 11:00
 Everyone is Welcome

SALAMONIE CHURCH OF BRETHERN
 468-2412
 Mel Zumbrun, Pastor
 Worship9:30 a.m.
 Church School 10:45a.m.

1st CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF WARREN
 375-2102
 www.firstccw.net
 Troy Drayer, Senior Pastor
 Takarra Myers, Youth Director
 office@firstccw.net
 Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
 Youth Sunday School during
 Worship Service
 Youth Group-Wed 6:00 p.m.
 Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

VB CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 765/934-3321 Parsonage
 Jeff Slater, Pastor
 Jim Knight, Superintendent
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Adult Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Children's Church 10:30a.m.
 Evening Praise Hour 6:00p.m.
 Hour of Power (Wed) 7:00p.m.

VB CHURCH OF THE VINE
 765-934-1431
 Pastor Brad Hensley
 vanburenchurchofthevine@gmail.com
 Worship Service 9:30 am
 Sunday School 10:45am
 Not Home Alone - Wed 3:00 pm
 Prayer Group (Thur)..... 6:30pm
 Men Serving God Group ... 4th Sat. 9am
 Little Ones Book Club 1st Tue 10:00 am
 Just Older Youth 3rd Tue 12:00 pm

WARREN CHURCH OF CHRIST
 375-3022
 Mickey Strong, Senior Minister
 Andrew Fisher, Youth Minister
 Liz Richardson, Childrens MinistryAsst.
 Tara Bower - Secretary
 www.warrenchurchofchrist.org
 Fellowship9:15 a.m.
 Worship & Communion9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School11 to 11:50 a.m.
 Youth:
 K-6th grade, Mon 6:15-7pm
 Jr/Sr Hi, Sunday 6-8pm

FARRVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
 11044 E 200 N, Marion, IN
 765-618-0027
 Pastor Al Soultz
 Sunday Worship..... 10:30 am
 Sunday School Classes9:30 am
 Wed. Bible Study7:00 pm



Email your News & Advertising to
editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com

Please Attend The Church of Your Choice

AREA NEWS

MORE PAGE 1

TBD - May - Virtual. This session is in the scheduling process. Follow this link to sign up to be notified when the information is available.

In addition to the workshops, feedback on the statewide water inventory and management plan can be provided at DOWWaterResources@dnr.IN.gov.

Key stakeholders who should attend are local officials, economic development groups, basin commissions and drainage boards, soil and water conservation districts, academic and research institutions, federal and state agencies, water and wastewater utilities, power generators, industrial and commercial users, agriculture users, homeowners, fish and wildlife interests, and recreational water users.

FREE FAFSA FILING HELP

Financial aid professionals from across Indiana will be at 34 sites helping collegebound students and their families with the most important form for financial aid during College Goal Sunday. The event is set for 2 PM (local time), February 22 nd , 2026.

This free program assists Indiana students with filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is required for students to be considered for federal and state grants, many scholarships, and even federal student loans at most colleges, universities, and vocational/technical schools nationwide. Filing must occur by the State of Indiana priority deadline of April 15th to guarantee state aid for those that qualify. Many families perceive the form to be too complicated and time consuming to complete and often leads to students missing out on financial aid

they would receive. This is one of many reasons College Goal Sunday is so important. In less than one afternoon during the event, students and their families get free help from the expert volunteers and file the form.

Now in its 37th year, College Goal Sunday has helped more than 98,000 Indiana students and families complete the FAFSA properly and on time. College Goal Sunday is a charitable program of the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA).

Second College Goal Sunday event this school year

“We are pleased to announce that our second College Goal Sunday of the year happens later this month. The last two years, with delays in the launch of the form, we weren’t able to hold both events as we usually do. The families that haven’t finished the form are anxious to get it done, and meet important deadlines, so we’re thrilled to get back to our full schedule” said Bill Wozniak, co-chair of College Goal Sunday. “We hope all Hoosiers take advantage of College Goal Sunday, file the FAFSA, and get one step closer to fulfilling their educational goals.”

“Students who don’t complete their financial aid paperwork properly and on time are often disappointed when they find out how much financial aid they lost,” said

Wozniak. “This is why the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association continues to provide College Goal Sunday. If our assistance gives students a better chance at education beyond high school and less debt, we’re fulfilling our mission.”

What students should bring Students should attend College Goal Sunday with their parent(s) or guardian(s), and parent(s) should bring completed 2024 IRS 1040 tax returns, W-2 Forms and other 2024 income and benefits information. Students who worked should also bring their completed 2024 IRS 1040 tax return, W-2 Form or other 2024 income and benefits information. Students and parent(s) are encouraged to set up their U.S. Department of Education StudentAid.gov account at studentaid.gov before coming to the event.

Volunteers will be available to assist with the online form and answer all families’ individual questions during College Goal Sunday. All sites offer FAFSA online capabilities and many have Spanish interpreters available. A complete list of sites is available at CollegeGoalSunday.org.

Attendees may win a scholarship from College Goal Sunday

Students may also win one of five \$1,000 scholarships. Students who attend College Goal Sunday and submit a completed evaluation form will automatically be entered in a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship. The winners will be notified and scholarships will be sent directly to the higher education institution selected by the winning students.

21st Century Scholars benefit 21st Century Scholars are income-eligible students who sign a contract in the seventh or eighth grade promising they will graduate from high school, meet grade point requirements, fulfill a pledge of good citizenship, and apply for college financial aid. Upon high school completion, Scholars who have fulfilled the commitment and demonstrate financial need receive state funds to help cover their college tuition and fees for up to eight semesters at eligible Indiana public colleges or an equal dollar amount at eligible Indiana private colleges. To fulfill their pledge scholars must submit a completed FAFSA form on time.

Program is a national model College Goal Sunday originated right here in Indiana and is now a national model. Following Indiana’s example, College Goal Sunday events organized by more than 34 states have opened doors to higher education for hundreds of thousands of students all over the country.

For more information about College Goal Sunday visit CollegeGoalSunday.org.

SOIL SAMPLING PROGRAM

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), in partnership with organizations statewide and the Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP), is reopening its no-cost initiative to expand the use of soil sampling as a nutrient management practice. Indiana’s Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program is once again accepting applications.

“Hoosier farmers make decisions every day that shape the future of their land and their communities,” said Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith, Indiana’s Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “This no-cost soil sampling program gives producers valuable information they can use to boost productivity, reduce unnecessary expenses, and strengthen the long-term health of their fields. I strongly encourage eligible farmers to apply so they can take advantage of an opportunity that delivers real value to their operation and supports Indiana’s broader conservation goals.”

ISDA promotes the importance of nutrient management and the principles of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship framework, which emphasizes using the Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time and Right Place to meet crop production goals. Soil sampling and testing are central to that approach and

CONTINUED PAGE 4



**Weekly Specials
Feb 19 - 25**

SAVE UP TO 75% ON SHORT DATE

- **30 lb Purina Cat Food**
\$23.99
- **Old El Paso Breakfast Taco Kit**
\$1.69 ea.
- **Double Chocolate Brownie Mix**
\$1.59 ea.

Outside Stand - CLOSED **Inside Store Open Mon - Sat**

Sunday	Closed	Thursday	11am-7pm
Monday	4pm-7pm	Friday	11am-6pm
Tue-Wed	11am-6pm	Saturday	9am-5pm

We accept EBT and SNAP
609 E. 1st St. Warren
www.jeffsfarmmarket.com

Community Calendar

Items listed here are open to the public. If there is an admission charge or items are for sale or a donation is necessary, there is a one-time \$5 fee to be listed. Events can be listed for as long as 6 months. (If an event is canceled, please notify WW.) Only event, place, time, and sponsor, for events in Warren, and the surrounding area will be listed.

Feb 18	7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall
Mar 4	Noon	W - Chamber of Commerce Luncheon @ KBC
Mar 4	7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall
Mar 9	5:00p	W - Town Council Meeting @ Assembly Hall
Mar 10	6:30p	W - SSF Meeting @ KBC
Mar 16	6:30p	W - KBC Board Meeting @ KBC
Mar 17		ST PATRICK’S DAY
Mar 18	7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall
Mar 20		FIRST DAY OF SPRING!!!!!!

Bread of Life Food Pantry - Wednesdays - 2 - 4:00pm at KBC;
Bargain Basement - Friday & Saturday - 9 - 4 at KBC
These Events Can Also Be Found at www.warrenweeklyindiana.com

Thank You!

Warren Law Enforcement

You Are Appreciated!

AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 3
 serve as the first step in developing an effective nutrient management plan. By assessing a field's fertility, farmers can make informed fertilizer decisions, monitor nutrient levels over time, improve profitability, and reduce the risk of nutrient loss. This program supports those efforts and advances Indiana's State Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

"Soil sampling is one of the most effective tools we have for improving both farm profitability and environmental outcomes," said Don Lamb, Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. "This no-cost program gives producers reliable data they can act on, while also supporting Indiana's broader nutrient-reduction goals. We're encouraging eligible farmers to register because the information gained from these samples strengthens individual operations and contributes to a healthier Mississippi River Basin."

This program includes row crop fields, pastures, hay and specialty crops located within Indiana's portion of the Mississippi River Basin. Eligible landowners will be prioritized by acreage enrolled (i.e., 100 acres or less), fields that have never been soil sampled and fields that haven't been sampled regularly (i.e., within the last 4 years). Further prioritization may be implemented based on ISDA's workload capacity. This program excludes hobby gardens and private lawns. Interested landowners can sign-up online at ISDA's website or by reaching out to soilsampling@isda.in.gov.

Sign-ups begin Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, and ISDA is

accepting registrations until Wednesday, April 8, 2026 or until funds are exhausted.

This program was made possible thanks to ISDA, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance (IANA), Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) members, farmers, and crop advisors.

EXPUNGEMENT EXPLAINED

A free presentation by local attorney, Heidi Fowler, explaining Indiana's Expungement Law and local resources for legal assistance will be given on Tuesday, March 24 from 6 – 7 p.m. The event will be held at Ivy Tech Community College - North Campus, 3701 Dean Drive, Tech Center Building, Room TC-1225. Look for the building with a greenhouse facing St. Joe Road.

Indiana's law allows a one-time opportunity for some low-level convictions, misdemeanors, and arrest records to be expunged (sealed) from criminal records. The Second Chance Initiative, a partnership of the Volunteer Center, the Volunteer Lawyer Program and Indiana Legal Services, offers individuals that meet qualification requirements the opportunity to have their Indiana conviction records expunged.

Volunteer Center Executive Director Ani Etter states, "A criminal record is one of the largest obstacles to better housing, employment, and education. The Second Chance Initiative provides an option for low to moderate income individuals to have a chance at a better future."

For more information, visit www.volunteerfortwayne.org.

CHAUTAUQUA

The Chautauqua Literary Circle was held on February 6, 2026 at the Warren First Christian Church Fellowship Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Thompson. The Club Collect was repeated by the members.

The roll call was taken, with members answering the question, what gives you the most pleasure. The minutes from the January 2026 meeting were read and approved.

Carmen Anderson gave the treasure's report.

There was no old business.

The program was given by Linda Howell, entitled "I Love to Read". She reported on the book by Gretchen Reuben, entitled the "Happiness Project". The author stated she tested her hypothesis to see what made her happy. You need to make decisions by what makes you feel good and happy. Only you can choose what you do. What is fun for you, may not be for someone else. Some of the sources for feeling good are: friends, being nice, having fun, enjoying music, strengthening old relationships, reading, music, or whatever makes you happy. You choose to be happy, and your happiness influences others. Enjoy things that make you happy such as your clothes, your shoes, (whether you wear them or not), or whatever brings you happy memories. Sometimes just seeing them and remembering the happenings of why you enjoy them.

People don't notice your mistakes as much as you think. It is okay to ask for help. Most

decisions don't require extensive research. It is important to be nice to everyone. By doing a little bit each day you can get tasks accomplished. Happiness is now, wherever you are. Happiness can be great food, visiting with friends, resting, exercising, coffee and sweets, or a ride in the golf cart. A quote from Abraham Lincoln, "You are about as happy as you make up your mind to be".

You can choose what you do; you can't choose what you like to do. You can't change anyone else but yourself. Enjoy yourself and be happy.

Sandy Thompson's thought for the day: "Anxiety weighs you down but a kind word lifts you up". The next meeting is March 6th at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mary Sell and Kitty Throop. Enjoying the afternoon were: Carmen Anderson, Jean Grasmick, Robyn Groves, Linda Howell, Karen Hunnicutt, Suellen Jones, Bonnie Meyers, Deb Smitley, Sandy Thompson, Millie Whiting, Carolyn Sparks, Lee Ann Garrett, and guest Connie Baird.

A RETIREMENT

NIGHTMARE – SOCIAL SECURITY'S ANNUAL EARNINGS TEST

A RETIREMENT SCENARIO

By Russel Gloor
 Picture this: You've worked all your life in your chosen profession and are getting tired of the rat race. You're 62 years old and comforted to know that you are now eligible to collect Social Security. You will get a retirement pension from your career, and you have some money in your "nest egg" to tide you over in case of emergencies. So, you retire from work and apply for your Social Security benefits, confident that between your monthly pension and your Social Security check, you will have enough to make it financially in retirement. Sounds like a good plan, right? Well, maybe not so good.

After retiring and receiving your pension and Social Security payments, you are dismayed to find that you are struggling to make ends meet. Turns out your monthly Social Security payment is less than you expected (because it was reduced for claiming early), and you're hesitant to start depleting your retirement nest egg so soon after retiring. So, you seek, and find, full time employment to supplement your income

CONTINUED PAGE 6

Warren Weekly archives can be found at www.warrenweeklyindiana.com

God has blessed us with
 Celebrating Over 70 Years of serving this Community



BOLINGER'S
Warren
Service
AND
Supply



PRO PARTNER
Serving your plumbing, heating and air conditioning needs since 1948



Located at the stop light in Warren
 CP81006007
260-375-3010 or toll free 1-877-375-3010
www.warrens-service.com

Lisa M. Garrott
 Attorney at Law
 Estate Planning &
 Business Law





**HARTBURG
 ROTH
 GARROTT
 HALVERSTADT LLP**

260-356-4100
 visit us at: www.hrglaw.com

It pays to Shop at the



Warren Pharmacy
 260/375-2135

PREVAGEN®

Supports Healthy
 Brain Function

Get 10% Off
 With This Coupon

EXP. 3/31/25



WARREN AUTOMOTIVE
 128 N Wayne St ~ Warren
 375-3401

GENEALOGY REPORT

STOFFEL

Kenneth M. Stoffel, age 89, of Huntington, IN, passed away on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 7:30 p.m., at The Heritage Pointe of Huntington.

Ken was born on February 21, 1936, in Huntington, Indiana to the late Albert O. and Esther E. (Scher) Stoffel. He married Rosemary Gertrude (Douglas) Stoffel on May 30, 1964, at Sacred Heart Church in Remington, IN. They were married 61 years and Rosemary survives him.

Ken graduated as valedictorian of his 1953 class at Huntington Catholic High School. After graduation he worked for the Erie Lackawanna Railroad from 1954-1959 as a station employee loading and sealing freight cars as well as sorting and loading wagon loads of mail on passenger trains that were stopping in Huntington between 5pm and 2am. While working, he attended Manchester College where he received a Bachelor of Science degree Magna Cum Laude in 1958. Ken then attended Indiana University on two fellowships and completed his master's degree in 1961 at Bloomington. He later attended Ball State University on fellowships.

Ken began his teaching career in 1958 at Andrews High School and continued there for 8 ½ years. As a result of consolidation he was reassigned to Huntington North and Huntington South until the new Huntington North building was completed in the fall of 1969. He then taught at Huntington North until his retirement in 2001, after 43 years of teaching. While teaching, he served as the Social Studies Department Chairman for 28 years.

Ken was a friend to everyone he met. He served for 16 years on the Bippus Volunteer Fire Department as a Board officer, and he was also known as a farmer and a great steward of land in Warren Township for many years. In 1994, he received the Who's Who Among America's Teachers Award and in 2014 received the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award for using no till and other conservation processes. Ken was a lifelong member of SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Huntington.

Ken enjoyed the outdoors. He loved camping, fishing, farming, gardening, hunting mushrooms and trapping animals. He trapped a badger, a rare albino groundhog and racoons just to name a few, as well as participating in county-wide hunting competitions in his younger years.

Along with his wife, Rosemary, he is survived by one daughter, Karen Hunsberger, Granger, IN; one son, Brian Stoffel, Huntington, IN; a brother, Wallace Stoffel, Huntington, IN; and two grandsons, Jack Hlade, Lucas Stoffel; and two step-grandchildren, Grace Null and Gabe Null.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Louis Stoffel, John Stoffel; and four sisters, Mary Jane Stoffel, Madonna Hochstetler, Angeline Shinebarger and Gloria Gordon.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 2pm to 5pm, with a Recitation of the Rosary beginning at 1:30pm, at McElhane Funeral Home, 715 N. Jefferson Street, Huntington, IN 46750.

Additional calling hours will be held on Monday, February 16, 2026, from

10am to 11am, followed by the 11am Mass of Christian Burial all at SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 860 Cherry St., Huntington, IN 46750, with Fr. Tony Steinacker presiding.

Burial will be in Mt Calvary Cemetery, Huntington, IN.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in care of McElhane Funeral Home, 715 N. Jefferson Street, Huntington, IN 46750.

MCDERMOTT

 Larry James McDermott, 81, of Sweetser, died on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, from a sudden illness.

He was born on April 11, 1944, at St. John's Hospital, Anderson, the son of the late James R. McDermott and Athleen F. (Gross) McDermott Campbell.

Larry was a graduate of Fairmount High School and continued his education at Ball State University, Muncie, and Indiana University Kokomo.

He proudly served his country in the Indiana Army National Guard.

Larry was employed as director of sales at Ramada Plaza Hotel, Warsaw, from which he later retired.

He was a faithful member of Sweetser United Methodist Church and most recently attended Farrville Community Church with his family.

Larry also was a member of Fairmount American Legion Post #313 and Fairmount Masonic Lodge #635.

He enjoyed a wide variety of interests and hobbies, including fishing, playing cards, cooking, watching movies, collecting films, attending church and spending time with friends and family.

Larry especially enjoyed family dinners and social get-togethers.

He was an avid sports fan, following Indiana Hoosiers basketball, Notre Dame Fighting Irish football and the Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears and Chicago Bulls along with college football and basketball for both men's and women's teams and women's softball.

Surviving Larry are his daughter, Marlene Michelle Embry (husband Joe); his son, Lance Michael McDermott (wife Rachel); grandchildren, Whitney Jo Embry Murray (husband, Ben), Courtney Michelle Montano (husband, Victor), Chloe Marie Embry Popoca (husband, Erick), Joel Charles Embry, Tyler James McDermott, Madison McDermott, Evan McDermott, Nathan McDermott and Eliza McDermott; great-grandchildren, Grayson Montano, Ruby Montano, Daisy Montano, Tighe Murray, Koa Murray and Beckham Murray.

He also is remembered by his close friends, Jeff Zmuda (wife, Laura), Patty Ratliff, Bill Nolder and Tim Slaughter.

In addition to his parents, Larry was preceded in death by his stepmother, Ruby McDermott.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Fairmount Chapel Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 415 S. Main St., Fairmount.

Visitation will be on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, from 4 to 7 p.m. with a Masonic memorial service at 7 p.m.

Additional visitation will be on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, from 10 to 11 a.m. followed by a Life Celebration Service at 11 a.m. officiated by the Rev. Alexander P. Sultz and Dr. Joseph Seaborn.

Burial will take place at Park Cemetery, Fairmount.

Memorial contributions may be made to Farrville Community Church, 11044 E. 200 N., Marion, IN 46952.

BUCHANAN

Terry C. Buchanan, 67, of Liberty Center, passed away Thursday evening, Feb. 12, 2026, at his residence.

Terry was born in Liberty Center on July 6, 1958, to Earnest "Earnie" and Mary "Etheleen" (Grover) Buchanan. Both parents preceded him in death.

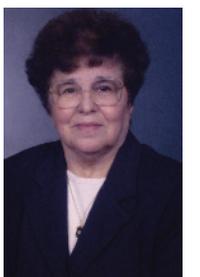
Survivors include a daughter, Amanda Huffman of Seattle, Washington; three sisters, Sheree (Allen) Lawhorn of Liberty Center, Tracy (Darrell) Reynolds of Ossian, and Christina "Chrissy" (Kyle) Huffman of Rockford; three nephews; and a niece.

In addition to his parents, Terry was preceded in death by an infant sister, Janie Buchanan.

A memorial service will be held at a later date, with private family burial at Woodlawn Cemetery in Warren.

SCHULLER

Josephine Schuller, age 96, of Montpelier, IN, passed away at 7:55 AM on Friday, February 13, 2026 at her home.



She was born on Saturday, November 9, 1929 to the late Epifanio and Catalina Velasquez. Josie was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. She worked at RCA in Marion in her earlier years and was a homemaker. She enjoyed knitting and was the caregiver of the family. She was very giving and

CONTINUED PAGE 6

GENEALOGY REPORT

AREA NEWS CONT.

MORE PAGE 5

loved spending time with her family, especially her grandkids.

She will be forever missed by her Daughter - Billie Jean Schuller, Montpelier, IN, Son - Timothy (Michelle) Schuller, Marion, IN, Grandchildren - Todd (Holly) Farr, Kimberly (Ted) Ingram, Dillon (Laura) Farr, Kate (Stephen) Dorman, Tim Schumacher, and Brittani Schumacher, 5 Great Grandchildren, Brother - Danny "Cecil" Velasquez, Wells Co., Sister-Lonnie Hartley, Marion, IN, and Sister-in-law- Cova Velasquez, Marion, IN.

She was preceded in death by her Parents, Epifanio and Catalina Velasquez, Husband - William Schuller, and Brother- Albert Velasquez.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W. Windsor St. Montpelier, IN. on Thursday, February 19, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

A Celebration of Life Service to celebrate her life will follow at 1:00 PM with Father Kevin Hurley officiating. Interment will follow in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Montpelier.

Preferred memorials: Blackford County Animal Shelter c/o Blackford Community Foundation PO Box 327 Hartford City, IN. 47348

MCCLELLAN

Jay H. McClellan, 69, of Alexandria, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, surrounded by the familiar comforts he cherished, after facing a long and difficult medical journey with strength and determination.

He was born on January 3, 1957, in Marion to the late Howard McClellan and the late Barbara (Kibbey) Kilgore.

Jay grew up in the Matthews-Upland area.

He graduated from Eastbrook High School - Class of 1975.

Jay later attended Indiana University Kokomo before beginning a career in the banking industry.

He most recently worked at Accutech Systems, Muncie.

Jay attended Abundant Life Church, Kokomo, with his family.

He was a man of deep devotion - to his faith, family, friends and beloved pets who were always near his side.

Jay treasured tradition and held tightly to the things that mattered most.

Nothing brought him more joy than spending time with the ones he loved, especially his grandchildren. He treasured every moment with them and took pride in watching them grow.

Jay had a curiosity about the world around him.

He enjoyed storm chasing and often found peace behind the wheel, taking long drives and exploring the open road.

Jay is survived by his daughter, Lindsay (Micah) Vandiver; son, Lance J. (Mandy Kelley) McClellan; grandchildren, Alex Birnell, Paisley Vandiver, Kaelyn Vandiver, Briley Vandiver and Lorenzo McClellan; sisters, Beth (Bradley) McGriff and Jill (Richard) Grimes; stepmother, Carolyn McClellan; longtime friend, Bill Smith; along with his nieces, nephew, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, father, stepfather, Howard Kilgore, brother, Todd McClellan, and stepbrother, Tracy Williams.

Visitation for Jay will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026,

at Jones-Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, 259 N. Main St., Upland.

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, at the funeral home with Pastor Joe Ruberg officiating.

Burial will follow at Matthews Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are to Grant County Humane Society, 505 S. Miller Ave., Marion, IN 46953.

MORE PAGE 4

during your "retirement." And that works well for a couple of years – until you receive a notice from the Social Security Administration telling you they have paid you more than you are entitled to. Not only that, but you must also repay those overpaid amounts – likely tens of thousands of dollars – immediately or they will withhold your monthly SS benefits until they recover what is owed. Needless to say, your financial world in "retirement" just came tumbling down. So, what caused this to happen? Introducing a Social Security rule known as the Annual Earnings Test (AET). The AET limits how much a beneficiary can earn from working while collecting early Social Security benefits, and it is all too often the source of financial hardship for seniors who rely on Social Security to fund their "golden years."

How the "AET" works

Each year, several Social Security thresholds change to keep pace with inflation. Annual change to the average national wage also affects Social Security's rules. An increase to the Average National Wage Index (ANWI) will result in a corresponding increase to Social Security's threshold for its Annual Earnings Test (AET). The AET restricts how much a beneficiary can earn from working while collecting SS benefits before reaching their

full retirement age (FRA). For 2026, that limit is \$24,480, and if your work earnings exceed that amount, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the annual limit.¹ To assess that penalty, SSA will issue an Overpayment Notice detailing how much is owed and how it can be repaid. And since Social Security relies on the IRS to find out how much your earnings were each year, the Overpayment Notice from SSA usually doesn't arrive in your mail until well over a year after you file your income tax return with the IRS. All of which means that, in the scenario described above, you will be looking at a surprise bill from SSA for many thousands of dollars, which you have little choice but to repay. In other words, your earnings from working put you over the AET limit, so you must repay Social Security a substantial amount of the SS benefits you were paid. A nightmare, for sure!

Can the Overpayment be appealed?

The most likely reaction to receiving an Overpayment Notice is "how can I avoid repaying this amount?" And the answer is, you likely can't – especially if you simply neglected to tell the Social Security Administration (SSA) that you have returned to work. That you didn't understand the ramifications of working while collecting early benefits will likely be met by Social Security with an attitude of "ignorance of the rules is no excuse." Nevertheless, you can always submit an appeal for a Social Security decision, by taking the following actions:

* File a Request for Reconsideration (Form SSA-561)

SSA-561 should be used if you do not believe you have been overpaid, or if you believe the amount of overpayment is incorrect. This essentially results in someone at the SSA reviewing your case again to ensure it accurately defines the issue. That review is done by an independent agent at the SSA, who will

analyze all information used to arrive at SSA's original decision and verify its accuracy. That review can take from 1 to 5 months, depending on the complexity and SSA staffing, but it will result in either a confirmation of the original decision, or a more positive outcome in your favor.

* Appeal to an Independent Administrative Law Judge (Form HA-501)

If your Request for Reconsideration does not turn out in your favor and you wish to appeal further, you can request a hearing before an independent Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). This option can be either participatory (with you in attendance) or nonparticipating (the ALJ will separately and independently review the facts of your case). In either case, the ALJ will render a determination and advise you of their decision, usually within 1-3 months after their review. If that hearing does not turn out in your favor, other levels of appeal still exist, including a review by Social Security's Appeals Council. And, as a last resort, you can also file a civil suit with the U.S. District Court to hear your case. Many who fail to obtain a satisfactory outcome for a Request for Reconsideration and who wish to appeal further choose to engage an attorney to represent their interests. Note that all appeals must be filed within 60 days of SSA's notification to you of the issue.

Other Options

If, after filing the Request for Reconsideration, you agree that overpayment has, in fact, occurred, you have two options besides repayment as requested in the original Overpayment Notice:

* If you agree that you have been overpaid, but you believe you should not have to pay it back because you did not cause the overpayment and you cannot afford to repay it, you should file Form SSA-632, Request for Waiver of Overpayment Recovery

CONTINUED PAGE 8

CLASSIFIEDS AND MORE

**** NOTICE ****
 Personals type ads will not be accepted for the Warren Weekly

BARGAIN BASEMENT
 132 Nancy St - Warren
 Fri - Sat 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Come check us out. T

AMISH CREW
 will do all types construction - Additions, garages, homes, log homes, roofing, siding, pole barns, flooring, drywall, painting, windows, concrete
 574-251-8186 T

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE

Support the businesses who bring you Your Hometown News



HERITAGE POINTE OF WARREN
 Rehabilitation • Independent Living • Assisted Living
 Health Care • Memory Care • Outpatient Therapy
 801 N Huntington Ave Warren, IN 46792 (260) 375-2201
 www.HeritagePointeOfWarren.org



WARREN MARKET
 Stop In For Gas, Pizza & Deli
 230 N WAYNE WARREN
 260-375-4766

Bread of Life Food Pantry
 Hours
 Wednesday 2 - 4 p.m.
 Drive thru only at Knight Bergman Center

Send your News & Advertising Today to the



at editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com
 Or Mail to PO Box 695, Warren

Announce your Engagement Wedding Anniversary Birth in the Warren Weekly for **FREE**
 Forms available at www.warrenweeklyindiana.com
 Email: editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com
 Mail: PO Box 695 Warren

This size ad is always specially priced at ... **\$18**
 Tell everybody in Warren, Van Buren and Liberty Center about your product or service. Give us the facts -- we'll layout the ad! Call for prices on other size ads.
editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com
 PO Box 695 • 260-375-6290



Let a Classified Ad Work 4 You!

Be Unforgettable!
 Keep Your Business' Name in front of people by advertising in the Warren Weekly!
 Call or email today to get your ad in for next week!
 260.375.6290 or editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com
 Unlimited Potential as we are now on the web at www.warrenweeklyindiana.com

WARREN WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, ST, Zip _____
 Email _____
 Kindle Email _____

Email or Kindle
 New or Renewal
 1 Year Digital \$24
 Send Form & Payment to: WARREN WEEKLY, PO Box 695, Warren IN 46792 Or email info to editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com. Or Subscribe on the website at www.warrenweeklyindiana.com

SEND IN YOUR AD TODAY CLASSIFIED ADS \$5 FOR 50 WORDS

Please PRINT your ad and Phone Number carefully (if phone number is to be included in ad, please write it that way).
 Your Ad: _____

Classified advertising will run at a cost of \$5 for 50 words per weekly insertion. Send in your ad – include your name and phone number (for our records) and number of times you wish ad to run. Mail to: Warren Weekly, PO Box 695, Warren IN 46792, or drop off at Town Hall, Downtown Warren by 10 a.m. On Tuesday for the Friday edition. You may include your ad on a separate piece of paper if you wish, as long as the information below is included. You may also submit Classified advertising through the website at www.warrenweeklyindiana.com. Click on the Forms tab.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ # Weeks to run: _____

Total Payment Enclosed: _____ **ALL CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING MUST BE PAID FOR AT TIME OF SUBMISSION.**

AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 6

* If you agree that you have been overpaid and are willing to pay it back, but cannot afford to pay it back at the rate SS requests in the Overpayment Notice letter, you should file Form SSA-634, Request for Change in Overpayment Recovery Rate.

Avoiding Social Security's Overpayment Notice

In the sports world we say, "the best offense is a good defense" – an adage that is certainly true when it comes to Social Security and the issue of working while collecting early benefits. When you submit your application for Social Security benefits, you will be asked if you have any plans for working. If you do, you will be asked about those plans, and Social Security will adjust your monthly payment schedule to avoid overpaying your benefits. Thus, by telling SSA in advance you shouldn't get an Overpayment Notice (unless your actual earnings are substantially more than you originally told them).

Social Security requests that if you are not now working but return to work after you claim, or if your previously estimated annual earnings are more than you originally stated, you should contact Social Security to inform them of your new expected earnings amount. In this way, Social Security can adjust your payment schedule in advance to avoid overpaying your benefits. In the end, Social Security does not want to overpay your benefits because they know that it usually results in hardship for the beneficiary – either a substantial and unexpected cash layout, or cessation of benefits for a period of time, neither of which are pleasant.

So How Can I Prevent This? To avoid that dreaded Overpayment Notice and suffering a complete disruption of your retirement plans, we suggest the following:

* If you are collecting early SS benefits, stay informed of the annual earnings limit (which changes each year). If

you will not exceed the annual earnings limit, no action is required.

* If you have already claimed your SS benefits and are working full time, and expect to exceed the annual earnings limit, be sure to inform the Social Security Administration of your anticipated annual work earnings as soon as possible. Social Security will work with you to avoid overpaying your benefits.

* If you have not yet applied for Social Security and you are still working full time, consider waiting until you either reach your SS full retirement age, or stop working full time, to apply for Social Security. Your SS benefit will continue to grow until the month you claim (up to age 70).

* Remember that the annual earnings limit goes away after you reach your SS full retirement age. Thereafter, you can earn as much as you like from working and your SS benefits will not suffer any negative consequences.

The last thing you want to happen is to receive an Overpayment Notice from Social Security that you owe them many thousands of dollars, which you must repay.

The Nature of the Issue Overpayments of Social Security benefits occur for several reasons, and the SSA is trying hard to reduce the number of uncollected overpayments. Currently, the SSA has about \$23 billion in total outstanding incorrect benefit payments, nearly 25% of which have been caused by overpayments because of the Annual Earnings Test. Overpayments are, essentially, part of Social Security's Accounts Receivable ledger, but an entry which the agency finds especially difficult to collect. The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has suggested, as part of its Social Security Guarantee proposal to Congress, to eliminate the Annual Earnings Test (AET). We believe this would result in reduced workload within the Social Security Administration, would lead to more Americans working while

collecting early benefits and, thus, provide more revenue from payroll taxes for the Social Security program – a program which needs reform very soon. You can review a summary of AMAC's Social Security Guarantee here.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website

(amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

QUIT VAPING TO IMPROVE YOUR DENTAL AND OVERALL HEALTH

(StatePoint) Did you know tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable illness and death in the United States? While some forms of tobacco may be marketed as less harmful than others, the truth is that there's no safe tobacco product. Each one threatens your dental and overall health, including e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes (or vape pens) are used by around 8% of people in the United States and have been the most commonly used tobacco product among American youth for the last decade. Results of the 2024 National Youth Tobacco Survey show that almost 6% of middle and high school students use e-cigarettes and more than 1 in 4 youth e-cigarette users reported vaping daily. These are concerning statistics because e-cigarettes contain harmful substances like nicotine and cancer-causing chemicals that put the user's health at risk. Youth who vape

may also be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.

"There's no 'better for you' cigarette out there in the marketplace. Whether you choose to vape or smoke, you still risk becoming addicted to nicotine, which can negatively impact your oral and overall health greatly over time," said American Dental Association (ADA) dentist, Mirissa Price, D.M.D.

Here's what to know about vaping, and why you shouldn't use e-cigarettes.

Vaping is breathing in the aerosol (or vapor mist) created by an e-cigarette. The aerosol is formed when the e-cigarette's battery heats up the liquid (or e-juice) inside its special cartridge. The liquid in this cartridge often contains nicotine, along with flavorings and other chemicals that can be harmful when inhaled.

Nicotine is the highly addictive substance found in tobacco. It's known to affect brain development related to memory, attention, and emotional regulation in children, teens and young adults, and can cause illness – and in severe cases, coma or death – if swallowed. Average nicotine strength in e-cigarettes has increased with vaping's popularity, and research shows that it's now double the amount of nicotine inhaled from a pack of cigarettes. Even cartridges claiming to be nicotine-free have been shown to contain some nicotine.

Other harmful substances that have been found in vape cartridges include chemicals known to cause cancer; heavy metals such as nickel, tin and lead; and small particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs. "The flavorings in e-juice are designed to attract youth and young adults, and they may also contain sugar, which contributes to tooth decay," said Dr. Price. "Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease, and increases the risk for infections, heart disease, and a weakened immune system."

Vape pen batteries can heat the liquid to 400 degrees F in

seconds. Cases of people being hurt by e-cigarettes exploding or causing fires inside their mouths have been covered in the news. Using a high heat setting can turn the aerosol more yellow, which could result in tooth discoloration, and make the aerosol stickier so that it remains on your teeth for a long time.

A study published in The Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA) found a correlation between people who vape and people with untreated cavities, but more research is needed to know if the cavities are caused by vaping.

If you already vape, quitting today will improve your health. Visit MouthHealthy.org/vaping for more information, along with helpful resources.

"Ask your dentist for suggestions and support too," said Dr. Price. "Your dentist, who cares about your health, is there to offer guidance and motivation to help you stop using e-cigarettes."



Send a friend the Hometown News or better yet ... Send them a Subscription