

Friday, February 6, 2026

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Warren Weekly

Your Hometown Newspaper

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

Thought for the Week: All things are difficult before they are easy. Dr. Thomas Fuller

TOWN & COUNCIL NOTES

Town Council Members: Michelle Schweikhardt, President; Ron Boxell, Vice President; Scott Canady; Megan Thompson.

A reminder that Regular Meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of the month at 5:00 pm, 131 N Wayne Street.

Utility Billing Notice:

As usual, bills are due on the 15th of each month. However, February due date will be February 17th as the 15th falls on a Sunday which would have meant February 16th would be the due date. However, that is President's Day and office will be closed. Therefore, your February due date is February 17th.

As there is a great amount of misinformation being published regarding Ordinance 2026-4, Policy Regarding Recording, here is the policy as approved by Town Council.

1. POLICY. The Council is committed to conducting all of its Meetings in a productive, efficient, orderly, and civil manner, while also safeguarding privileged attorney-client communications that may arise during such Meetings. In furtherance thereof, and in continuance of the effective operation of town government, the Council adopts the following policy to be followed at all Meetings, by all Attendees:

a) In accordance with Indiana law Council livestreams its Meetings and archives those

livestreams in a publicly available format, and while Attendees are also permitted to record Meetings, Attendees shall not, under any circumstance, physically approach members of the Council with a Recording Device, while the Council is conducting said Meetings.

b) Attendees shall keep their Recording Device directly on their person or place such Recording Device upon the guest podium (if available) but may not place a device on the table, on or attached to anything on the table, and/or in the immediate area of the table at which Council sits during Meetings.

c) Attendees may not leave their Recording Devices in the room if the Attendees are not present.

d) In the event an Attendee violates any of the aforementioned policies, or is otherwise disruptive or disorderly at a Meeting, the Attendee shall receive one (1) verbal warning from the presiding member of the Council. Subsequently, if the Attendee continues to violate any of the aforementioned policies, or continues to otherwise act disruptive or disorderly, the presiding member of the Council may direct: (1) the Attendee to leave the Meeting; and/or (2) a law enforcement officer to remove the Attendee from the Meeting.

e) The presiding member of the Council may also:

i. Call for the recess or adjournment of a Meeting to another time when an Attendee's behavior is so disruptive and disorderly so as to interfere with the productive, efficient, orderly, and civil conduct of a Meeting.

ii. Waive these policies with the approval of the remaining members of the Council, when necessary for the administration of the Council's business.

Meetings are live streamed and archived on YouTube – Town of Warren Council Meetings. Make sure you are viewing the correct Warren meeting as there are Warrens from other states using the same method.

Next scheduled Council Meeting February 9, 5:00 Town Hall, Utilities Closed February 16th Presidents Day.

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

encouraged for planning purposes, but 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.

AG APPLICATOR WORKSHOP

An agricultural applicator workshop is set for Monday February 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The location is Beacon Credit Union Heritage Hall at the Huntington Co. Fairgrounds, 631 E Taylor St, Huntington, IN.

Huntington Co. Farm Bureau is sponsoring a hot breakfast for workshop attendees from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

The workshop will include the following presentations: * "Fertilizer Storage & Containment Regulations" by Craig Taft, Fertilizer Control Specialist from

Office of Indiana State Chemist

* "Fertility Decision Making Under Slim Margins" by Megan Bourns, Purdue Extension Soil Fertility Specialist

* "2026 Mandatory Regulatory Topic" by Ed Farris, Purdue Extension – Huntington County Extension Director.

RSVP by Wednesday Feb. 11 @ 260-358-4826 or e-mail pape1@purdue.edu

This workshop is approved as an Indiana Private Applicator Recertification Program. Commercial Applicator credits (CCHs) and Certified Crop Advisor Credits (CEUs) have been requested. Attendees who wish to obtain credit are reminded to bring their Indiana Private Pesticide Applicator license number with them. There is no cost for private applicator credits thanks to the sponsorship of the Indiana Soybean Alliance & Indiana Corn Marketing Council.

Everyone is welcome to attend! Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.

WARREN WEEKLY • Owner/Publisher: Nicki L. Zoda
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Phone: (260)375-6290 **e-mail:** editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com
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 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.
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Kudos, Kicks & Karats

FRIENDSHIP IS A TWO-WAY STREET.

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Friendship is a two-way street. If a relationship is totally dependent on one person it won't last very long.

If you have to make all the effort a friendship will soon die. One person, does not make a friendship, marriage or any kind of relationship.

The telephone works both ways. Text messages and emails work both ways. Telephones are made to make calls but they also receive calls. If you have to make all the calls, make all the effort to connect with someone then you will become tired and give up.

This may be why so many people have so few friends. If you want a friend, be a friend. If you want to be connected to your marriage partner then every day it's mutual communication and companionship.

If you want help, then help others. If you want love, then love others. Whatever you invest in will typically come back to you.

We've all had experiences with the family member who never comes to see us or shows any interest in anything we are doing. We've all invested in loved ones and given until we are blue in the face. There always seems to be those that we have tried to reach out to, befriend and love but who ignore us or even bite us.

Many of us have at least one family member who always finds a way to be sour, hateful or critical and never misses a chance to complain about something. Why do we put up with these people? I don't have a good answer but I know many of us deal with these personalities.

Often, people are the meanest to close family and friends. A spouse may treat another spouse badly because they believe they can get by with acting so badly. Relatives often do the same thing. People get by with it for a little while but eventually loved ones and friends will begin to pull away. In time, mean people will find themselves very lonely. You can't treat others badly and get by with it forever. It will come back to you.

Don't waste your life constantly trying to love the people who shrug you off. Move on!

This is not rocket science or brain surgery. Return communication. Don't act like you are King Tut and are too important to make phone calls. Visit with others and respond to messages, texts, etc. Reach out to others and show yourself friendly.

Of course, there is a chance that you love being in isolation and prefer to just stare at the walls or television. You have the right to make that choice, as long as you don't mind living with that choice.



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|---|---|---|
| <p>BANQUO CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 8924S 900W 35
 Harold Smith, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
 Steve Nevius, Pastor
 Denise Heiniger, S.S. Supt.
 Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45a.m.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN
 8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779
 Matt Kennedy, Pastor
 Worship Service 9:00a.m.
 Sunday School 10:00a.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Pastor Diane Samuels
 Fellowship Time9:00a.m.
 Morning Worship9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>SALAMONIE CHURCH OF BRETHREN
 468-2412
 Mel Zumbrun, Pastor
 Worship9:30 a.m.
 Church School 10:45a.m.</p> | <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> |
|---|---|---|



Please Attend The Church of Your Choice

AREA NEWS

MORE PAGE 1

If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program or if you have special dietary needs, please contact Ed Farris prior to the meeting at 260-358-4826 or emfarris@purdue.edu by 2/11/2026.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Ed Farris prior to the meeting at 260-358-4826 or emfarris@purdue.edu by 2/11/2026.

ATTN: TEACHERS

Indiana educators can now apply for the 2026 Natural Resources Teacher Institute (NRTI), which will be June 15-19 at the Forestry Training Center at Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

Hosted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry and Purdue University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, this week-long immersive professional development program will provide up to 18 educators with the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology, research, and management in Indiana at no cost to them. Educational materials, meals, and housing are provided.

Participants must attend all days of the program and fully participate in all activities, which include exploring public and private forest sites, touring forest industry facilities, and engaging in hands-on educational activities that they can adapt for their classrooms.

All educators who attend will earn 30+ Professional Growth Points, as well as receive Project Learning Tree curriculum materials, a forestry tool kit, Indiana-specific field guides, and a stipend for developing and implementing a lesson plan.

Learn more at dnr.IN.gov/forestry/programs/education/nrti. To request an application, contact Lexi Eiler, forestry education specialist, at leiler@dnr.IN.gov or 463-253-8835.

SUMMER MEALS

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) encourages schools and qualified community organizations to participate in the 2026 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). In addition, IDOE is looking to expand access to free meals in eligible rural areas that have no congregate summer meal service sites and could benefit from the provision of non-congregate meal service as well as service to areas with a concentration of migrant farm workers.

The SFSP reimburses local eligible sponsors that serve healthy free meals and snacks to children 18 years

old and younger. Sponsorship is open to public and private nonprofit organizations, including local governments, summer camps, religious organizations, and recreation centers. Organizations are encouraged to partner with an existing sponsor, such as a school corporation, to serve students in areas where children may lack good nutrition during the summer months when school is not in session.

In 2025, close to 200 sponsors at more than 1,000 site locations served over 3.5 million meals to Indiana children during the summer months. In addition to providing free meal service in a local community, many sponsors also offered educational or physical activities at summer program sites.

Created in 1968, the SFSP is funded and operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the states. Participating organizations must adhere to all USDA regulations. The program is funded through a set reimbursement rate based on the number of meals served to eligible participants. Any student

age 18 or under is eligible to receive meals through SFSP by visiting a meal site.

The application deadline for new sponsors is Thursday, April 30. More information on program eligibility and sponsor requirements is available at www.in.gov/doe/nutrition/summer-food-service-program/.

CHAUTAUQUA

The Chautauqua Literary Circle was held on January 9, 2026 at the Warren First Christian Church Fellowship Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Thompson. Vice President Linda Howell, lead the ladies in repeating the Club Collect.

The roll call was taken, with members answering what plans they have for the future. Karen Hunnicutt read the minutes from the November 2025 meeting and they were approved. The December 2025 was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Carmen Anderson gave the treasure's report.

Karen Hunnicutt gave a report on the Knight Bergman Museum. There was no new business.

Bonnie Meyers gave some of the history on Eli Lilly, his company and the scholarship program. Eli Lilly was born in 1838 in

Maryland. His parents were Methodist who opposed alcohol and slavery. His family moved to Kentucky, but eventually settled in Greencastle, Indiana. Eli studied pharmacy at the Good Samaritan Drug store in Lafayette. He worked in the drug trade in both Lafayette and Greencastle before the Civil War.

Eli served in the Civil War and organized the Eighteenth Indiana Light Artillery battery, known as the John T. Wilders Lighting Brigade. He was captured and imprisoned by the Confederates but eventually released. By the end of the war in 1865, Lilly was a Colonel.

In 1866, Lilly's first wife died. He later remarried, settled in Indianapolis, Indiana and was a chemist. In 1876, he opened a business on Pearl Street and hung a sign on the building, "Eli Lilly Chemist". He started his business with fourteen hundred dollars and three employees. The small business made medicine syrups, sugarcoated pills, and fruit flavors in Indianapolis and delivered to surrounding towns. He envisioned a larger drug company.

Approximately 210,000 Hoosiers fought in Civil War with more than 24,000

CONTINUED PAGE 4



SHORT DATE AISLE IS RESTOCKED

- Walnut Creek Tortilla Chips **3 for \$5.00**
- Cheddar Dip and Salsa Con Queso **2 for \$6.00**
- Red Gold Salsa **2 for \$5.00**

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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 4	Noon	W - Chamber of Commerce Luncheon @ KBC
Feb 4	7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall
Feb 9	5:00p	W - Town Council Meeting @ Assembly Hall
Feb 10	6:30p	W - SSF Meeting @ KBC
Feb 14		VALENTINE'S Day
Feb 16		PRESIDENT'S Day
Feb 16	6:30p	W - KBC Board Meeting @ KBC
Feb 18	7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall
Mar 4	Noon	W - Chamber of Commerce Luncheon @ KBC

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!
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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

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casualties. Much of Lily's spare time was devoted to remembrance of soldiers who died in the war. In 1988, acting on a suggestion of Governor Oliver P. Morton and others, Lilly began construction on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. This would become Indianapolis' permanent symbol, located in the center of the Mile Square. The monument was completed in 1901, and dedicated the next year.

In the late 1880's, the Eli Lilly Company was flourishing, and the sales topped two hundred thousand dollars with about 100 Hoosiers working for the colonel. In 1890, his pharmaceutical company was headed by his son, JK Lilly.

They guided the company through a severe national depression in 1893. Enormous success in the drug industry followed. The Colonel lived to see only the first decades of success with what became a pharmaceutical empire. He died of cancer in 1898 at the age of sixty.

Eli Lilly's son, JK, was president of the company for 34 years. He lived in Indianapolis and died at the age of 86 in 1948.

JK's son, Eli, born in 1885, followed his father at the helm of the company. Known most of his life as "Mr. Eli", he is credited with applying the techniques of mass production to drug making.

In the last forty years of his life, Mr. Eli, gave away millions of dollars, both personally and through the Lilly Endowment which he helped create in 1937. The endowment is a major benefactor for dozens of Hoosiers' religious, historical, and civic organizations as well as schools and universities. The grandson, known as Mr. Eli, died in 1977. The company his grandfather founded continues to dominate Indianapolis near the southside and remains a major global force in the pharmaceutical industry.

The Lilly endowment community scholarship program began in the 1997-98 school year established by the Lilly Endowment Inc. The Lilly Endowment scholarship program awards a total 147 scholarships annually. Since the program began in 1998, it has awarded scholarships to more than 5,300 Indiana students.

President, Sandy Thompson, closed the meeting with the quote, "Live today like Jesus is coming tomorrow". The next scheduled meeting is February 6, 2026.

Hostesses were Nancy Bonham and Karen Hunnicutt. Members enjoying the afternoon were; Carmen Anderson, Sharon Gebhart, Jean Pond Grasmick, Robyn Groves, Julie Herron, Linda Howell, Bonnie Meyers, Mary Sell, Deb Smitley, Pam Stouffs, Sandy Thompson, Kitty Throop, Millie Whiting, and

Carolyn Sparks, and Lee Ann Garrett.

THE BRANSON SHOWS TRIP DAY 1, PART 1

by Larry Ryan

The bus departed Warren at 8:20 am on November 3, 2022 for a journey to Branson, Missouri. Occupancy was 34 passengers after two more stops while heading south on I-69. A road sign stated that Branson was only 590 miles in the distance. Actually that information was obtained from Google. It was foggy but we were treated to a beautiful, orange-colored sunrise. Sunshine quickly chased away much of the hazy sky.

Most of the bean and corn fields had been harvested. That appearance changed as the Indianapolis area was approached. To amuse myself I wrote names of trucks that were passed by our driver: "Swift, Challenger, and Wild Turkey" were a sample. Well, Thanksgiving was in the very near future. These terms could be associated with the process of catching these scampering fowls.

After picking up additional travelers, we passed Indianapolis International Airport at 10:50 am. Our mood was enhanced by passing a semi with the word, "Spirit" painted on it. Thoughts like that would surely help on a long travel day. The bus passed

another truck with the words, "No Farmers, No Food" inscribed on the cab. I had read somewhere that farmers comprise only 1% of the US population. Be kind to farmers! Your next meal depends on them.

After traveling through a hilly section of Indiana south of Greencastle, our group entered Illinois at 12:20, made a time change, and stopped in Casey, IL for lunch. We walked a block to the center of town and were informed about a restaurant to investigate. The Reflection was a converted bank building, but had authentic, red brick walls. My wife and I ordered a BLT to share.

After lunches, our group wandered around the town to view unbelievable, large objects. I mean, really large items! There were huge deer antlers, a rocking chair, car key, teeter-totter, yard stick, wind chimes, bird cage, natural-wood Dutch shoes in a candy store, white mail box (which I climbed up and into it), gold cactus, a brown pitch fork, and a giant golf tee. The only object that was smaller than normal was a red and black caboose. It looked out-of-place! I bought some chocolate

candy that lasted until we returned home somehow.

Before leaving Casey at 1:50 pm, our bus driver drove around town so we could observe as many of these unusual objects as possible. Afterwards, we were back on the interstate highway again and continuing westbound. The sky was nearly cloudless, except for the jet-created white streaks that crisscrossed in the bright blue background.

Our motor coach passed the Vandalia and Mulberry Grove exits while noticing that US Highway # 40 paralleled our route for several miles. Sometimes it actually joined the I-70, concrete surface. Continuing with atypical sightings I spotted two cows guarding a farm pond and twin water towers that had the appearance of eyeballs resting on the top of pretzel-thin trunks! I can't make up something that obscure.



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





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GENEALOGY REPORT

HEATH

Aletta Heath, 77, of Warren, passed away peacefully at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026.

She was born on Wednesday, July 7, 1948, in Winamac.

Aletta married her beloved husband, Michael Heath, on Saturday, Dec. 13, 1969, in East Lansing, Mich., at Chapel of Apostles. Their marriage was one rooted in faith, service and shared ministry.

She attended Kewanna Union Township School, Fulton County, graduating in 1966.

Aletta's lifelong love of learning led her to (East Lansing) Michigan State University, where she studied mathematics and earned her bachelor's degree.

During her college years, she participated in a study-abroad program in 1976, living in Israel for four months, an experience that deeply enriched her faith and worldview.

Aletta later earned her Master of Divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill., in 1980.

She devoted her life to serving others through education, ministry and compassion.

Aletta taught mathematics in Cassopolis, Mich., and later worked as an adjunct professor at several Ivy Tech locations across Indiana.

She also served her community through her work with Cass County Council on Aging.

For more than 20 years, Aletta faithfully served as a pastor in the United Methodist Church throughout Indiana.

She was a member of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church and took great pride in being recognized as one of the church's first female pastors.

Aletta and Michael also shared the joy of being among the first clergy couples, ministering side-by-side in service to others.

She had a remarkable gift for counseling and a natural ability to comfort and support families during times of need.

Aletta's compassionate spirit, gentle presence and heartfelt care left a lasting impact on countless lives.

In addition to her ministry, she was a gifted and creative artisan.

Aletta found joy in crafting beautiful handmade pieces, including crocheted bedspreads and hats, needlepoint works and latch-hook creations, each one made with care and love and shared generously with others.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Heath, of Warren; her sister-in-law, Carol Walters, of Texas; brother-in-law, William (Pam) Walters, of Plymouth; her sister, Janice Walters, of Arkansas.

Aletta was preceded in death by her father, Vachael Walters, her mother, Ruth Walters, and her brother, George Walters.

A memorial service celebrating Aletta's life will be at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made to Solid Rock Church, 485 Bennett Dr., P.O. Box 322, Warren, IN 46792 or to Huntington Food Pantry, Evangelical United Methodist Church, 1000 Flaxmill Rd., Huntington, IN 46750.

RALSTON

Lamar E. Ralston, 63, of Huntington, Indiana, passed away unexpectedly early Tuesday morning, January 27, 2026, at his home.



Lamar was born on Monday, August 13, 1962, in Huntington County, Indiana. He married the love of his life, Brenda (Schenkel) Ralston, on Saturday, June 11, 1988, and together they shared many years of love, laughter, and fun.

Lamar had a natural skill for farming that he was truly born with and proudly worked in farming throughout his life. He found great satisfaction in watching his crops grow and caring for the land he loved. He also spent many years driving truck with his CDL license, including hauling feed and driving a dump truck, with over 20 years behind the wheel.

Those who knew Lamar knew he had majored in the fun department, always had a smile on his face and was a good time. He had an easygoing personality and a way of making people feel at home. He made sure those around him knew they were loved, especially his immediate family, and his friends were always happy to see him. Lamar enjoyed watching westerns, was an avid IndyCar fan and a loyal Indianapolis Colts fan. He loved animals and wildlife, spending time on his property watching the deer, and enjoying the simple peace of country life. He also liked to relax with a cold beer at the end of the day.

Lamar is survived by his wife, Brenda Ralston; his son, Garrett (Abby) Ralston; and his grandson, Levi Ralston. He is also

survived by his sister, Ladiana Wiley; Ladean (Kandy) Ralston, Laverne (Karla) Ralston, Laretta (Mike) Crago, Laroy (Patti) Ralston, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Randy Furnish, Earl (Linda) Williams, Dan (Susi) Williams, Leonard Williams, Steve (April) Schenkel, and Barbi Cammarano; his father-in-law, Monte (Mary) Schenkel; as well as several nieces & nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Thurman Ralston, Jr.; mother, Larelda (Gahs) Ralston; son, Jeremy Cole Ralston, brother-in-law, Roger Riley, nephew, Aaron Wiley; and sister, Debra Furnish.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember Lamar's life at Glancy – H. Brown & Son Funeral Home, 203 North Matilda Street, Warren, Indiana, on Sunday, February 1, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, and again on Monday, February 2, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

A service to celebrate Lamar's life will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, February 2, 2026, at the funeral home, with Gerald Ralston officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Etna Cemetery in Huntington, Indiana.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Huntington County Humane Society, 390 Thurman Poe Way, Huntington, Indiana 46750.

FINNEY

Pamela "Pam" A. (Mundt) Finney, 73, of LaFontaine, was welcomed into her heavenly home at 5:16 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at Heritage Pointe, Warren.

She was born on August 6, 1952, to the late Howard L. and Barbara J. (Waggoner) Mundt in Fort Wayne.

Pam was a 1970 graduate of Marion High School.

After graduating, she attended Purdue University, West Lafayette, for two years.

Pam worked at Hoosier Meat Market, First Federal Savings and Hank's Grocery Store before becoming a postal clerk.

She eventually became Postmaster of LaFontaine Post Office and remained there until her retirement in 2012 after almost 30 years.

Pam married the love of her life, John Finney, on October 14, 1972, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Marion.

She enjoyed going to concerts, reading, listening to music (her favorites were Elvis, Barry Manilow and Kenny Rogers), traveling, cross stitching and most of all spending time with her family and friends.

Pam's cross-stitch pieces will now be cherished keepsakes for her family to enjoy.

Her warm smile, sense of humor and spunk will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Pam always put others before herself and was a wonderful example of a loving and devoted daughter, wife, mom, grandma and sister.

She previously attended St. John's Lutheran Church, Marion, as well as LaFontaine United Methodist Church, where she served as a Sunday School teacher and youth counselor.

Pam is survived by her husband of 53 years, John Finney, of LaFontaine; children, Angie Benner, of LaFontaine, and Brian (Jennifer) Finney, of LaFontaine; granddaughters, Emily Benner, of Indianapolis,

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GENEALOGY REPORT

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Ariel Benner, of Fort Wayne, Lexi (fiancé Riley Jernigan) Finney, of Jonesboro, and Courtney (fiancé Casey Boardman) Finney, of LaFontaine; siblings, Cindy (Tom) Hughes and Mike (Karen) Mundt; sister-in-law, Deena Finney; nieces and nephews, Jeannie (Oliver) Haste, Joy (Greg) Beghtel, Adam (Hannah) Follin and Ian (Jen) Mundt; as well as several great-nieces and great-nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents and brother-in-law, Robert Finney.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at McDonald Funeral Homes, LaFontaine Chapel, 104 S. Main St., LaFontaine, with Pastor Brian Williams officiating.

Burial will follow at LaFontaine I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

Visitation for family and friends will be two hours prior to the service on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials can be directed to Riley Children's Hospital or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

PLATT

Helen M. Platt, 100, of Poneto, passed away on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 31, 2026, at Heritage Pointe, Warren.

She was born in Poneto on September 5, 1925, to George "Ralph" and Hazel (Cloud) White.

Helen married Paul E. Platt on June 18, 1949, in Poneto. He preceded her in death on October 13, 1991.

A 1944 graduate of Chester Center High School, she went on to work for the Poneto Post Office for six years, the Estey Piano Factory for five years and

Heyerly's Meat Market, Bluffton, for over five years.

Helen was a member of Liberty Center United Methodist Church, which later became Liberty Center Community Church, and played piano for the church for over 60 years.

She enjoyed crocheting.

Helen enjoyed the Good Sams Camping Club with her husband, but most of all she enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by two children, Bill (Jenny) Platt, of Poneto, and Carol (Gary) Mounsey, of Bluffton; five grandchildren, Brian (Stephanie) Mounsey, of Uniondale, Jim (Amy) Platt, of Bluffton, Betsy (Ricky) Smith, of Bluffton, Eric (Jill) Mounsey, of Bluffton, and Trent (Kristen) Mounsey, of Bluffton; along with 12 great-grandchildren, Austin Mounsey, Coltin Mounsey, Ashtin Mounsey, Madelyn Platt, Lev Mounsey, William Platt, Jace Mounsey, Everett Smith, Evelyn Smith, Gavin Mounsey, Savannah Mounsey and Nevaeh Mounsey.

Aside from her husband, Helen was preceded in death by her parents.

Visitation will be on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, from 2 until 7 p.m. at Goodwin - Harnish Funeral Home, 3220 E. State Road 124, Bluffton.

Services will be on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home with one hour of visitation prior to the service.

Pastor Steve Bard will officiate.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery, Bluffton, immediately following the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Liberty Center Community Church.

IMAGINE NO SOCIAL SECURITY

Russell Gloor
In 1971, the iconic song writer John Lennon penned the lyrics to his famous song "Imagine," asking us to picture a world in total peace and harmony. Although it was a call to imagine what life would be like in a utopian world, it was also, perhaps, overly optimistic given the realities of that time – realities which are largely similar today, over 5 decades later.

Nevertheless, it is always good to imagine life as it might be. And that goes both ways – we can and should always picture life in a better world, but we might also take pause, at times, to picture how life might be worse. How often have we lamented that "things could be much worse?" when confronting adversity in our daily lives? So, today I'd like to suggest that you picture what life would be like without Social Security.

First Some Statistics

First, some statistics: Social Security provides benefits to about 70 million Americans, senior citizens as well as those not yet old enough to be so designated. That's about 20% of the entire U.S. population. The benefits offered are financial, providing usually crucial money to those fortunate enough to be eligible. That includes those who have earned benefits by working and are old enough to claim, and others – such as minor or disabled adult children – who have not personally earned a benefit but are dependent on a parent who has. Benefits are also available for dependent spouses, ex-spouses and, sometimes, dependent parents. And let's not forget that even

AREA NEWS CONTINUED

working Americans who become disabled often find financial relief at a younger age with the Social Security disability insurance program. Fact is, Social Security provides a "major" source of income for a majority of senior Americans and, in most cases, those collecting say it is critical to their ability to make their financial ends meet. In a nutshell, a large majority of Social Security recipients say Social Security is critically important to their financial well-being. But what if Social Security were to go away?

What If Social Security Went Away?

Well, that's not something we like to think about because it would negatively impact so many millions of people. Senior citizens would suffer harshly because the poverty rate would jump from around 10% to nearly 40%. That means another 22 million people would be added to the total 36 million who already live below the U.S. poverty line. And statistically, the ones most affected would be older women, people of color, and children (about 4 million of whom receive Social Security benefits). Another 9 million or so Americans who collect Social Security Disability Insurance benefits would also be seriously affected.

What would American life be like without Social Security? As a student of U.S. history, I can imagine what it was like in the 1930s – the decade of the so-called "Great Depression." The years immediately preceding the advent of FDR's Social Security program were a time of abject poverty in the United States. Many Americans had very little

money and scant resources, with men wandering from town to town to find work to provide food for their kitchen table. Many wore tattered clothing, often the only clothes they had, and minor children had to work (if they could) to help the family survive. That was the environment which gave birth to the U.S. Social Security program. And the program, funded by taxes on workers and their employers, worked well. Starting when monthly SS benefits began flowing in 1940, Social Security has continued to sustain America's seniors and their dependents for about 90 years. In other words, Social Security is an extremely effective anti-poverty program which would devastate millions if the program went away. But what are the chances that Social Security will actually go away?

Will Social Security Ever Go Away?

You might have heard that Social Security is now having some financial difficulties – and that is true. But is it in danger of every going away completely? The answer to that is a resounding "No." Despite its current financial dilemma, Social Security will never go away completely. As long as Americans are working and contributing to the program, it will always be here to provide some benefits. But the more important question is, will Social Security be able to pay for all of its benefit obligations in the future? And the answer to that is "No, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program." You see, right now Social Security revenue (mainly income from working Americans) is less than

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needed to pay all benefit obligations. Social Security revenue in 2024 was about \$1.418 trillion, but SS expenses were about \$1.485 trillion – a deficit of about \$67 billion. And that shortfall has been taken from Social Security's Trust Fund reserves in order for full benefits to be paid to everyone.

The Social Security Trust Funds have supplemented the money needed to pay full benefits since 2021, which means the reserves in the Trust Funds have gone from about \$2.9 trillion in 2020 to about \$2.7 trillion today – a trend that will result in the reserves being completely depleted in about the year 2033 (this according to the Trustees of the Social Security program). If the Trust Fund reserves are fully depleted, Social Security can only pay out in benefits what it receives in revenue, which would mean about a 23% cut in benefits for every Social Security recipient.

Since so many Americans rely on Social Security as a major contributor to their financial well-being, the result of a 23% cut to everyone's Social Security income would be devastating. It likely wouldn't make things as bad as they were in the 1930s preceding Social Security's birth, but it would nevertheless present a very serious problem which would thrust many more Americans into poverty. And that is the crux of the Social Security dilemma – cutting everyone's SS benefit to only 77% of what is now received would mean a return to high levels of American poverty.

But it doesn't need to happen.

Fixing Social Security

Congress has been aware of this looming Social Security issue for several decades but has chosen to "kick the can down the road." Now, there is little time remaining to fix the problem. We are only a short 7 years away from when the SS Trust Funds will no longer have money to supplement Social Security benefit payments. Therefore,

Congress must act soon to restore this crucial program to financial solvency. And the longer it waits, the more difficult the problem will be to solve. Indeed, Congress, instead, recently exacerbated Social Security's financial dilemma by passing legislation which provided additional benefits to a segment of beneficiaries (see H.R. 82 – The Social Security Fairness Act). Regardless of the merits of that recent legislation, it added about \$200 billion to Social Security's expenses over the coming decade, at a time when Congress should be seeking ways to reduce Social Security's costs.

For its part, the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) recognized this looming Social Security issue years ago and developed a potential Social Security reform proposal. AMAC has promoted (and continues to promote) its Social Security Guarantee to Congress and, in fact, also to the new Commissioner of Social Security. AMAC's proposal provides common sense adjustments to the Social Security program – program adjustments which retain the poverty-reduction aspects of Social Security while still providing the full benefits all have earned from a lifetime of working. You can see a summary of AMAC's Social Security Guarantee proposal <https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee/>.

In any event, now is the time to mobilize by contacting your Congressional Representatives to demand that Congress take action to reform the Social Security program and restore it to financial solvency. The year 2033, when everyone's Social Security benefit will be cut by almost 25%, is just around the corner. Just imagine the consequences of that!

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

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4 SMART TIPS TO SAVE MONEY AND STAY WELL THIS SEASON

(StatePoint) The beginning of the year is a natural time for a reset, especially when it comes to budgets and better-for-you habits. With cold and flu season still in full swing, it's also a time when many people start thinking about how to stay healthy without spending more than they planned.

With a few tips and tricks, staying healthy doesn't have to be expensive. Here's what you can do:

Shop ahead. Most people don't think about cold and flu products until they actually need them. Stocking up ahead of time can help ensure quick access to relief while making it easier to take advantage of savings. Using coupons, price-saving apps and shopping for store promotions can help bring down the cost of everyday health essentials.

Choose generic and save. Store brand over-the-counter (OTC) products offer a more affordable option for common needs, including pain relief and cough and cold care.

Perrigo, a leading provider of store brand OTC products, makes trusted alternatives to name brands across key self-care categories, including ibuprofen, acetaminophen, cough suppressants, decongestants and multi-symptom relief. These store brand OTC products contain the same active ingredients and meet the same FDA standards as national name brands, but at a lower cost.

As health care costs continue to rise, consumers can opt for

these store brand OTC products to save money without compromising on quality.

Stay active. Staying active doesn't have to mean joining a luxury gym membership or having a complicated routine. Research published in the National Library of Medicine suggests that moderate amounts of exercise can help reduce stress and support immune function. Walking, running, free online workout classes or bodyweight exercises at home are all accessible ways to stay active throughout the season.

Adopt healthy habits. Small, everyday habits can also make a difference during cold and flu season. Washing your hands, staying hydrated and getting plenty of sleep are simple steps that support overall wellness and help reduce the risk of getting sick.

As consumers settle into their routines, combining smart shopping choices with healthy habits can help them feel prepared and more in control throughout cold and flu season.

To stock up on affordable store brand self-care and OTC products, stop by your local retailer.

SAT PREP TIPS FOR COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS

(StatePoint) While every college admissions department evaluates applicants a bit differently, standardized test scores are a big piece of the equation at most schools. This means you'll want to be as prepared as possible for your upcoming SAT. Here's how to get ready for this crucial exam:

Get equipped: A user-friendly calculator can save you precious time when every second counts, so gear up with a calculator like the fx-9750GIII from Casio. Its Natural Textbook Display and intuitive icon menu make it easy to use. The perfect companion for both the classroom and test day, it features graph plotting, probability distribution, vector arithmetic and spreadsheets,

and has programming capabilities. It is also approved for the SAT, PSAT, ACT and AP tests, and includes an exam mode setting to lock specific functionality for testing purposes.

Practice: Familiarizing yourself with the types of test questions you'll encounter on the SAT is essential. When it comes to the Math section of the exam, you can lean on free online resources, like the sample exams found on casioeducation.com, to get prepared. The added bonus is that working through these sample questions will help you get comfortable with the calculator you'll be using on test day. SAT prep courses are also a great option. Once out of reach for many families, today, a number of educational organizations offer them for free, leveling the playing field for all students. Be sure to leverage this resource to maximize your test readiness.

Read, a lot: From novels to biographies to the newspaper, read everything you can get your hands on. It's one of the best ways to build your vocabulary and hone your reading comprehension. Building these skills can improve your chances of acing the Reading and Writing section of the SAT. Though there are many SAT vocabulary word lists out there, encountering these words in real contexts can be a more effective way to absorb definitions and usages than trying to memorize them.

The SAT can cause a lot of stress and anxiety, but it doesn't have to. With the right tools and preparation strategies, you can walk into the SAT with confidence and achieve your best score possible.

