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# Warren Weekly

Your Hometown Newspaper

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Thought for the Week: If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can't, you're right. Mary Kay Ash



### NEW FIRE TRUCK

Warren Volunteer Fire Department has received an upgrade to their fire trucks!

They have recently purchased a brand new 2026 freightliner chassis, all polly body with 1,000 gallon tank. Truck is built by our friends at Midwest Fire! We can't thank you guys enough for putting in the work to build us such an amazing fire truck to allow us to safely serve and protect the citizens of Warren, Indiana and Salamonie Township!

We are going to have a in service/ push in ceremony but the date is still TBD

In picture from (left to right) Lieutenant Ben Eppard, Assistant Chief Lee Poulson, Chief, Doug Christe

### CAR SHOW

Don't forget to visit the 6th Annual Historic Warren Main Street Car Show this Saturday, May 16 from 11 to 4 at Heritage Pointe.

If you are participating, there is a \$15 registration from 11 to 2. There will also be a prize raffle drawing at 3:30p and Car Awards at 4:00p. Dash Plaques for the first 100 registered.

There will be Music by Karen Wehr and Friends Band from 12:30 to 3:30. Hyser Smokehouse BBQ Food Truck will be available from 11 to 4. Also Dan's Apple Dumplings and Door Prizes.

Awards will be given for Best of Show, Best Ford, Best Mustang, Best Chevy, Best GM (non-Chevy), Best Truck, Best

Mopar, Best Foreign, Best Corvette, Top Five 2000 & Up, Miss Warren Queen Choice, + Top Ten.

Gold Level Sponsors for this show are: Heritage Pointe of Warren, Citizens Telephone Corporation, Hy-Line North America, LLC, Crain Ford, Ever Fresh Fruit Co, and Glancy Funeral Homes.

Weather forecast is looking like it's going to be a great day for the show.

### SSF FUNDRAISER

Join the Salamonie Summer Festival for a Dan's Fish & Chicken Dinner on Friday, May 15th from 4 to 7pm. This is a drive thru event at the Knight Bergman Center.

Tickets are \$14 for Adults, \$8.00 for youth, Children 5 and

under eat free.

Help us raise funds for our Fireworks.

Follow us on Facebook: Salamonie Summer Festival Page

### VIRTUAL CONNECTION MAKES HEART HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP CONVENIENT FOR HUNTINGTON COUNTY WOMEN

Surviving a heart-related event, or being diagnosed with heart disease, is a wake-up call that it's time to take care of your health. And if you are a woman, then you may be part of a growing sisterhood seeking heart-healthy lifestyle support in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio.

That's why Parkview Heart Institute (PHI) created the Her Heart Support Network – to encourage women living with heart disease to live well and to inspire them with education and connection to other women through shared experiences.

Based at PHI in Fort Wayne, the monthly Her Heart support group serves women from across Parkview's service area. Now, however, Huntington County women don't need to drive that far to participate. Instead, they can meet closer to home, at Parkview Huntington Hospital, 2001 Stults Road, Huntington, and connect with the Fort Wayne group virtually via Zoom.

Her Heart Support Network meetings take place every second Thursday of the month, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in Wellness Conference Room 1. Attendees should use the main hospital entrance, turn right at the registration desk and pass the Holly D. Sale Rehab and Wellness Center to enter the conference room via the first door on the left in the hallway

connecting the hospital to the medical office building.

The free meetings offer useful information on heart health from Parkview experts, plus group activities and social support.

Megan Brehmer, exercise physiologist, PHH cardiac and pulmonary rehab, will facilitate the meetings, managing the Zoom connection, coordinating any hands-on activities, and relaying questions from the Huntington County group to speakers during their presentations to the group in Fort Wayne. Brehmer works in partnership with PHI's Her Heart Program Coordinator Jill Zahm, MSN, RN-C, AHN-BC, who plans and facilitates the Fort Wayne meetings.

Zahm is excited that this new, virtual support group option will enable more Huntington County residents to be actively involved in improving their quality of life. May is Women's Health Month, so she reminds local women that there's no time like the present to get started.

"Women who join the group can expect to be encouraged, discover new strengths in themselves, connect with other people who understand the experience of living with heart disease, and learn about valuable health information and community resources," said Zahm.

Participation in the support group is free, and no registration is needed.

### MEETING TOPICS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2026

May 14: Women's Check Up Night – Let's celebrate National Women's Health Week! Join us to learn more about preventive screenings and vaccinations. Body composition, bone density and blood pressure screenings will be available.

June 11: My Chart: Your Best Friend That You Never Met – Get to know Parkview's patient

portal. MyChart can help you track your health, communicate with your providers, and so much more.

July 9: Her Heart Annual Family Gathering – Join in the summer fun and games and healthy snacks. Invite your family to get in on the fun, too!

Aug. 13: When and What to Expect When Calling 911 – Going to the emergency room is stressful. Lisa Strebeg, CCEMTP (critical care paramedic), will explain when to call 911, what to expect when you call and how calling 911 can improve your survival.

Sept. 10: Heart Rhythms and Drum Circle – Feel the beat! Mary King, MBA, BS, AS, virtual care manager, will explain heart rhythms as group members imitate their heartbeats in a drum circle.

Oct. 8: Ask the Pharmacist – Back by popular demand, Kris Howard, Pharm D, will answer your pharmacy questions. Jot down questions ahead of time and bring them with you.

Nov. 12: Ask the Cardiologist – Join Dr. Sabeena Ramrakhiani for a lively discussion on the hot topics in women's heart health and get answers to your questions. Make sure to write down your questions so you don't forget.

Dec. 10: Her Heart Holiday Party – Time to celebrate! Join the group for some festivities and crafts to enrich your holiday season.

The Her Heart Program at Parkview Heart Institute is made possible by generous donations to The Parkview Health Foundation.

### CURIOUS? FIND OUT MORE

Zahm can be reached with questions at jill.zahm@parkview.com or 260-266-6153. More information is available at https://www.parkview.com/medical-services/heart/womens-heart-health.

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

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**DEAR READERS**

First off, I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed, read or advertised with the Warren Weekly over the last 33 years. To all those who have told me how much you appreciated the paper - thank you so much, made my day every time I heard a comment like that.

Needless to say this was a hard decision, the Warren Weekly has kind of been like another one of my babies. But, the time has come to put the paper to rest. May 29 will be the last issue. I will, however, continue to post news items and obituaries, births and weddings on the Warren Weekly Facebook page as I get them.

Since going to an online publication the advertising and news has dwindled and as you've noticed, I've had to use a lot of filler articles and it seems the paper is just a list of obituaries any more.


For those of you who do Genealogy, I am researching a way to put the 26 years of newspapers that I have on the website out on the web somewhere that you can get to them for free. The prior years are all at <https://box2.nmtvault.com/Warren/jsp/RcWebBrowse.jsp;jsessionid=427C20E6EFBB65F10A6A23C81AB496F0>.

This link takes you to the archived papers from July of 1898 to the first two issues of 2000. Thanks to Mark Laymon for taking on that project and working to make it all available. Those files were taken from the microfiche files of the Warren Public Library. I will be contacting the Library to see if I can get the 2000-2026 issues on there as well.

Lots of great memories throughout the last 33 years. My kids couldn't figure out why everyone in town knew who they were. They didn't realize that everyone knew them as babies. Those poor kids got to be "newspaper delivery kids" from as young as a couple weeks old.


So, I'm on to a new venture. Several years ago I took up quilting. Then two years ago I invested in a longarm quilting machine. If you are into quilting and looking for someone local to quilt them for you - give me a call. There is a Facebook group dedicated to this venture - just search for Therapy Shack Quilting and you'll find the group. Lots of pictures of quilts I've quilted for others and quilts I've made myself. I've also started creating T-Shirt quilts for others. I've made a few for friends as gifts and last year the Red and White quilt made with Festival T-Shirts (that was raffled) was created by me.

We've got a few big events coming up this year as Jack is retiring and Quaid and his wife are having a baby - all in October! Looking forward to both.



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- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>BANQUO CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b><br/>             8924S 900W 35<br/>             Harold Smith, Pastor<br/>             Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.<br/>             Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST</b><br/>             Steve Nevius, Pastor<br/>             Denise Heiniger, S.S. Supt.<br/>             Sunday Worship ..... 9:30a.m.<br/>             Sunday School ..... 10:45a.m.</p> <p><b>CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b><br/>             Van Buren, Indiana 765-934-2199<br/>             Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.<br/>             Youth Group 4:30-7:30pm at SwitchUp<br/>             Handicap Accessible<br/>             Little Panther Preschool 765.934.2099</p> <p><b>HEALING WATERS MINISTRY —</b><br/> <b>5811 W 600 S, MT ETNA</b><br/>             Pastor Wayne Couch<br/>             260/515-2517<br/>             Sunday Prayer ..... 9:15 a.m.<br/>             Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.<br/>             Worship Service ..... 10:30 a.m.<br/>             Wednesday Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.<br/>             Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.<br/>             Daycare provided during Worship</p> <p><b>DILLMAN UNITED BRETHERN</b><br/>             8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779<br/>             Matt Kennedy, Pastor<br/>             Worship Service ..... 9:00a.m.<br/>             Sunday School ..... 10:00a.m.</p> <p><b>HANFIELD GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH</b><br/>             101 N 400 E - Marion 765/664-8726<br/>             Curtis Banker, Senior Pastor<br/>             Worship..... 10:30 a.m.<br/>             Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.</p> <p><b>THE NEW BEGINNING</b><br/>             SR 218, 2 1/8 mile west of Poneto<br/>             Steve Sutton, Pastor<br/>             765/728-2065 for more info<br/>             Sunday Worship..... 10:30a.m.<br/>             Thursday Prayer Meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>HERITAGE POINTE</b><br/>             Chaplains Ginny Sultz, John Moyer &amp; Cindy Osgood<br/>             Sunday Morning Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.<br/>             Mon-Fri Chapel Services ..... 9:15 a.m.<br/>             Sunday Catholic Mass ..... 1:00p.m.<br/>             Thurs. Catholic Mass ..... 10:30a.m.</p> <p><b>WARREN 1st BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>             727 N Wayne St, Warren<br/>             260-375-2811<br/>             office@warrenfirsbaptist.net<br/>             Pastor Mark Joyner<br/>             Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.<br/>             Sunday Worship .....10:00 a.m.</p> | <p><b>HILLCREST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b><br/>             375-2510<br/>             Pastor Gale Sonny Bloom, Jr.<br/>             Bus Service 375-2510<br/>             www.warrennaz.org<br/>             Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.<br/>             Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>SOLID ROCK CHURCH OF WARREN</b><br/>             485 Bennett Dr, Warren, IN<br/>             375-3873<br/>             John Boyanowski, Pastor<br/>             Sunday School ..... 9:00 a.m.<br/>             Worship Service ..... 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>LANCASTER WESLEYAN</b><br/>             3147 W 543 S, Huntington<br/>             765.251.2322<br/>             Ron Forsythe, Pastor<br/>             Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.<br/>             Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.<br/>             Wednesdays:<br/>             Bible Study &amp; Prayer ..... 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>             694-6622<br/>             Aaron Westfall, Pastor<br/>             Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.<br/>             Fellowship ..... 10:00a.m.<br/>             Worship ..... 10:15a.m.<br/>             Tues. Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.<br/>             Wed. Choir ..... 6:30p.m.<br/>             Monthly Meetings<br/>             1<sup>st</sup> Mon Ministry Team ..... 7:00 p.m.<br/>             3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Mens Prayer Breakfast 8:00 am<br/>             4<sup>th</sup> Mon ABW ..... 1:30 pm</p> <p><b>LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH</b><br/>             Pastor Diane Samuels<br/>             Fellowship Time .....9:00a.m.<br/>             Morning Worship .....9:30 a.m.<br/>             Sunday School ..... 10:45 a.m.</p> <p><b>THE CHURCH AT MCNATT</b><br/>             375-4359<br/>             Rev. Millissa Beeman, Pastor<br/>             Lois Slusher, Supt.<br/>             Brittney Miller, Youth &amp; Family Dir.<br/>             Coffee Fellowship..... 8:30 a.m.<br/>             Worship ..... 9:15 a.m.<br/>             Sunday School ..... 10:30 a.m.<br/>             Bible Study - Wed. .... 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>MT. ETNA COMMUNITY LIFE CHURCH</b><br/>             260/468-2148 Sr 9 &amp; 124<br/>             Rev. Dr. Scotty Murphy<br/>             Good Morning Church (Sunday School for all ages .....9:00 - 9:45<br/>             Worship Service .....10:00 - 11:00<br/>             Everyone is Welcome</p> <p><b>SALAMONIE CHURCH OF BRETHERN</b><br/>             468-2412<br/>             Mel Zumbrun, Pastor<br/>             Worship .....9:30 a.m.<br/>             Church School ..... 10:45a.m.</p> | <p><b>1st CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF WARREN</b><br/>             375-2102<br/>             www.firstccw.net<br/>             Troy Drayer, Senior Pastor<br/>             Takarra Myers, Youth Director<br/>             office@firstccw.net<br/>             Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.<br/>             Wednesday Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.<br/>             Youth Sunday School during<br/>             Worship Service<br/>             Youth Group-Wed ..... 6:00 p.m.<br/>             Communion 1st Sunday of the Month</p> <p><b>VB CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b><br/>             765/934-3321 Parsonage<br/>             Jeff Slater, Pastor<br/>             Jim Knight, Superintendent<br/>             Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.<br/>             Adult Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.<br/>             Children's Church ..... 10:30a.m.<br/>             Evening Praise Hour ..... 6:00p.m.<br/>             Hour of Power (Wed) ..... 7:00p.m.</p> <p><b>VB CHURCH OF THE VINE</b><br/>             765-934-1431<br/>             Pastor Brad Hensley<br/>             vanburenchurchofthevine@gmail.com<br/>             Worship Service ..... 9:30 am<br/>             Sunday School ..... 10:45am<br/>             Not Home Alone - Wed ..... 3:00 pm<br/>             Prayer Group (Thur)..... 6:30pm<br/>             Men Serving God Group ... 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. 9am<br/>             Little Ones Book Club 1st Tue 10:00 am<br/>             Just Older Youth 3rd Tue ..... 12:00 pm</p> <p><b>WARREN CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br/>             375-3022<br/>             Mickey Strong, Senior Minister<br/>             Andrew Fisher, Youth Minister<br/>             Liz Richardson, Childrens MinistryAsst.<br/>             Tara Bower - Secretary<br/>             www.warrenchurchofchrist.org<br/>             Fellowship .....9:15 a.m.<br/>             Worship &amp; Communion .....9:30 a.m.<br/>             Sunday School .....11 to 11:50 a.m.<br/>             Youth:<br/>             K-6th grade, Mon ..... 6:15-7pm<br/>             Jr/Sr Hi, Sunday ..... 6-8pm</p> <p><b>FARRVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b><br/>             11044 E 200 N, Marion, IN<br/>             765-618-0027<br/>             Pastor Al Sultz<br/>             Sunday Worship..... 10:30 am<br/>             Sunday School Classes .....9:30 am<br/>             Wed. Bible Study .....7:00 pm</p> |
|--|--|--|



*Please Attend The Church of Your Choice*

## AREA NEWS

### CHAUTAUQUA

The Chautauqua Literary Circle meeting was held on May 1, 2026 at the Warren First Christian Church Fellowship Hall. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Linda Howell. The members repeated the Club Collect.

The minutes from the April 2026 meeting were read and approved. The roll call was taken with members answering, how do you spend your free time.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Carmen Anderson.

A sign-up sheet was passed to the ladies for the 2026-2027 year for the programs and the hostesses for the meetings. Voting was held for 2026-27 officers. Accepting offices are: President: Bonnie Meyers, Vice President: Eva Witkamp, Secretary: Suellen Jones, Treasurer: Carmen Anderson, Card Chairman: Karen Hunnicutt

Betty Yoder introduced Troy and Mindy Drayer. Mindy shared her faith and vision for her family and the family at Josiah White's Residential Facility. The ladies enjoyed her singing, "We Bow Down". Mindy gave some of the history of Josiah White's since its inception. The land used to belong to the Indians. It started originally to teach the Indians the white man's way. As White's Institute progressed, it helped troubled or orphaned youth. It was first supported by the Friend's Church, which was of the Quaker Religion. White's started in 1850 with 800 acres, and the kids started coming in 1852.

In 1974, Troy's parents started being foster parents. His parents moved into White's to be house parents. Mindy has been employed at White's since her high school years. Residential students are troubled youth that stay on campus, who are placed there by the court system from the state of Indiana. There are treatment programs along with

education for the youth which includes family services therapy.

Mindy is employed in the Clinical Services for the Residential program. She conducts interviews of new intakes, which includes scheduling for their school education and their therapy needs. The facility serves the age group about 12 years old, 7th grade, to 18 years old. The youth, 16 years old and older, have jobs on campus. They do get paid and given instruction on management of their funds. Most of the youth when they leave, have money in a bank account to take with them. Mindy concluded her informative program with the song, "I've Got Joy".

Linda read a poem from author Helen Stiner Rice, entitled: "Everyone Needs Someone". The next meeting will be June 5 at 1:00 pm. A dessert will be served by the 2025-26 officers.

Hostesses were Bonnie Meyers, Eva Witkamp, and Jean Grasmick. Enjoying the afternoon were: Carmen Anderson, Nancy Bonham, Jean Pond Grasmick, Robyn Groves, Julie Herron, Linda Howell, Karen Hunnicutt, Suellen Jones, Bonnie Meyers, Peggy Schweikhardt, Mary Sell, Deb Smitley, Kitty Throop, Eva Witkamp, Betty Yoder, Carolyn Sparks, and guests Troy and Mindy Drayer.

### THE BRANSON SHOWS TRIP DAY 4, PART 2

by Larry Ryan

After leaving Top of the Rock area, the bus rejoined US #65 north towards Branson. However, that route was quickly abandoned for a westward turn onto Highway #165. The bus stopped briefly at a scenic overlook of the Taneycomo Lake and the Table Rock Dam. This meandering lake, which also formed the waterfront of the old, Historic Downtown area of Branson, was more river-like in its narrow and lengthy shape.

As the motor coach continued forward, we entered the Table Rock State Park district. The bus passed the White River Dive Company, the Show Boat Dinner Theatre, a fish hatchery, and the aforementioned dam. The driver avoided the Flyaway Zipline and the Runaway Mountain Coaster by turning left onto Highway #265. This road paralleled part of Table Rock Lake as it angled northward. Two American Water Towers were strategically placed in this elevated terrain.

When the bus reached the intersection of Highway #76, a left turn was executed. Within a slow-traveling mile, and across from the Ledgestone Golf Course, the entrance to Silver Dollar City was located by 1:30 pm. Each passenger was issued a theme park pass and instructed to be ready to depart at 7pm.

After having our tickets scanned at the park gate and picking up an essential map of the multiple entertainment venues within the area, we sat down with another tour couple and decided on a plan for the afternoon. With the help of the map, our foursome found the tall Christmas tree at town square. The Caroling Steam Train was nonoperational, so we walked and followed the white snowflakes painted on the walkway.

After reaching the Frisco Barn, we left the snowflakes, turned left, and hiked around three more turns until locating the Riverfront Playhouse. At 3:45 the doors opened for a 3 pm show by a group named, "Spoken 4." Their two CDs, that I purchased, pictured 4 male singers, but this performance featured only three of them plus a female artist. So, the marquee really had a factual number! They sang many familiar Christmas songs for thirty minutes. One of the highlights was "The Grinch" song presented by the deep, bass vocalist.

Our next planned venue required that we rejoin the snowflake pathway. This led us to the Red Gold Heritage Hall for a 4:15, "Coming Home For Christmas" stage show. This colorful and entertaining production included several well-known songs and various costume changes. At 5 pm, we parted ways with the theater and the other couple and set our sights on a small restaurant. We bypassed the Walking Taco booth and chose the Tater Patch eatery which provided us with a shared tenderloin sandwich. Suddenly, 6.5 million,

seasonal lights magically brightened the area.

By pursuing the snowflakes again, we located the huge Christmas tree near the entrance and found rocky seats just before the 6 pm parade commenced. The short event included some well-decorated and illuminated participants. The parade route was crowded with people of all ages!

Of course there was only one way out of the park. Most visitors were leaving at the same time, which made exiting extremely slow. However, our bus driver had to wait his turn to approach the pick-up area, so no one got left behind. It was 6:55 pm. before leaving the theme park. We passed the 'Believe it or Not' building and the Branson Helicopter Pad on the way to the hotel. It was 7:20 pm. upon arrival and we were ready for another night's rest on the 'bumpy,' memory foam bed mattress!

The bus heads for home tomorrow.

### THE RIDDLE: WHY ARE MY SOCIAL SECURITY SPOUSE BENEFITS LESS THAN HALF?

by AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor  
Association of Mature American Citizens  
Probably the most common fallacy about SS spouse benefits is the belief that a spouse always gets 50% (half) of their marital partner's monthly Social Security payment. And that is simply not the case.

We try to address questions about Social Security spouse

**CONTINUED PAGE 4**



**Weekly Specials**  
**May 14 - 20**

**NEW SHIPMENT OF GARDEN AND FLOWER PLANTS IN THE GREENHOUSE!**



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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.

- |         |       |  |
|---------|-------|--|
| May 18  | 6:30p | W - KBC Board Meetingn @ KBC             |
| May 20  | 7:00p | V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall     |
| June 3  | Noon  | W - Chamber of Commerce Luncheon @ KBC   |
| June 3  | 7:00p | V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall     |
| June 8  | 5:00p | W - Town Council Meeting @ Assembly Hall |
| June 9  | 6:30p | W - SSF Meeting @ KBC                    |
| June 14 |       | FLAG DAY                                 |
| June 15 | 6:30p | W - KBC Board Meeting @ KBC              |
| June 17 | 7:00p | V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall     |

*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](http://www.warrenweeklyindiana.com)*

## AREA NEWS CONTINUED

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benefits diligently with individual answers to the specific questions we receive, and also through our weekly "Ask Rusty" articles published in national media. We've addressed these questions, too, in our weekly "Ask Rusty" podcasts, in the periodic public webinars and seminars we do, and in regular separate articles posted on two of our AMAC Foundation websites – [www.SocialSecurityReport.org](http://www.SocialSecurityReport.org) and [www.AmacFoundation.org](http://www.AmacFoundation.org). In other words, we are quite proactive in our efforts to clarify the mystery of Social Security benefits for spouses.

Nevertheless, the questions keep on coming. So, at risk of being repetitive, I'll say it again – spouses do not always get half of their marital partner's Social Security benefit. And that results in the mystery of why.

The Mystery: Understanding the Basics

To understand this mystery, we must first know that Social Security spouse benefits are always determined by comparing each partner's "Primary Insurance Amount" (PIA). This is the retirement amount that each spouse is eligible for based on their individual lifetime work history and is the amount they will receive if they claim benefits to start at their own full retirement age (FRA)[2].

PIAs (FRA amounts) for both partners are compared and, if one spouse's PIA is less than half (50%) of their partner's PIA, then the difference between those two figures becomes a supplemental amount (e.g., a "spousal boost") which can be added to the personal SS retirement amount of the spouse with the smaller PIA. But if the spouse

benefit is claimed before FRA, the amount of the "spousal boost" is actuarially reduced (by a fraction of 1% per month early) and, when added to the spouse's actual SS retirement amount, will result in a payment which is less than half of their partner's monthly payment. With few exceptions, any Social Security benefit taken before the recipient's FRA will be reduced.

Even if the spouse claimed a reduced retirement benefit before FRA, or if their partner claimed SS retirement before or after FRA, the calculation still uses their individual PIAs (FRA amounts) to determine the amount of the spousal boost.

If the spouse is not eligible for their own SS retirement benefit the spouse benefit will be based only on their partner's FRA entitlement. To illustrate, a spouse whose FRA is 67 and who claims spouse benefits at age 62, will only get about 32.5% of their partner's PIA, rather than 50%. And if the spouse's marital partner waited beyond FRA to claim SS retirement benefits, the percentage of the partner's monthly amount received by the spouse would be less than 50% of the partner's SS amount (because the partner's SS payment would be higher than their PIA due to Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs). Hence, again, spouses do not always get half of their marital partner's Social Security benefit. Only when a spouse claims SS at full retirement age will the spouse's benefit be 50% of the partner's FRA' entitlement.

The Enigma: When Should I Claim my Spouse Benefit?

Considering all of this, many spouses face a puzzling decision: When is the best time to claim my spousal benefit? Well, though that is somewhat of an enigmatic

question, here are some things which should help you decide:

- If you are working but have not yet reached FRA, and your earnings will substantially exceed Social Security's Annual Earnings Test limit (\$24,480 for 2026 but the limit changes annually), then consider waiting longer to claim your spousal benefit. The AET would likely result in some (if not all) of your benefits being withheld.

- If you're not working (thus not subject to the AET) but urgently need the SS money, then claiming before FRA would be a prudent choice. You wouldn't get the full spousal benefit (all SS benefits taken before FRA are reduced), but if you urgently need the SS money, then claiming early is a viable option.

- If you have reason to believe your life expectancy will be short, then claiming before FRA is usually the right choice. Spouse benefits do not reach maximum until you reach your full retirement age but, if you will have a short life, claiming early will likely provide the most in lifetime benefits. FYI, the average life expectancy for those first eligible to claim Social Security is about 84 for a man and about 87 for a woman.

- If it is probable that you will be entitled to a surviving spouse (widow(er)) benefit later, then taking the spouse benefit early is usually a smart choice. For example, if your marital partner is older or is in poor health, and there are high odds that you will be a surviving spouse, then claiming your spouse benefit early is usually the right decision. FYI, a surviving spouse receives the higher of two benefits – either their own SS retirement benefit, or the amount their deceased marital partner was receiving at death.

In the final analysis, no one knows what lies ahead (the future is always a mystery) but

an informed decision based on the above considerations should allow you to make the right personal choice, even if your spouse benefit comes out to be less than 50% of your partner's amount.

Of course, if you are still perplexed by this topic, the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service provides expert Social Security advice at no charge.

This service is available via email to [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org), or by phone at 1.888.750.2622.

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**NEW REPORT FINDS MOST AMERICANS DON'T KNOW HOW TO PROTECT BRAIN HEALTH**

(StatePoint) Americans overwhelmingly say brain health matters deeply as they age, ranking it on par with – or even above – physical health. Yet despite this concern, most adults acknowledge they do not know how to protect or maintain their cognitive health, according to the 2026 "Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures" report and a new nationwide survey released by the Alzheimer's Association.

Eighty-eight percent of U.S. adults say maintaining brain health is very important, and almost all adults ages 40 and older surveyed (99%) say it is at least as important as physical health. However, only 9% say they know "a lot" about how to maintain their brain health. More than two-thirds say they worry about their brain health and about developing Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

"Americans care deeply about their brain health and say that midlife is the key time to start taking steps to support it," said Heather M. Snyder, Ph.D., senior vice president of Medical and Scientific Relations for the Alzheimer's Association. "But many don't know where to start and are looking for clear guidance on actions they can take."

The report comes as the impact of Alzheimer's disease continues to expand nationwide. An estimated 7.4 million Americans age 65 and older are currently living with clinical Alzheimer's dementia. Total annual costs of caring for people living with dementia nationwide – excluding unpaid care – are projected to reach \$409 billion this year, an increase of \$25 billion from 2025. Since 2000, deaths from Alzheimer's disease in the United States have increased 134%.

Despite broad awareness that lifestyle behaviors influence brain health, the survey reveals a significant disconnect between belief and action – and between brain health and dementia risk. While 75% of respondents say lifestyle behaviors such as diet, physical activity and sleep are very important for maintaining brain health, only 46% say those same behaviors are very important for reducing the risk

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## GENEALOGY REPORT

## AREA NEWS CONT.

### THIEBAUD

Sondra "Sandy" K. Thiebaud, 86, of Bluffton, passed away Monday evening, May 4, 2026, at Chateau Rehab and Healthcare Center in Fort Wayne. Funeral arrangements are currently pending with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Sandy was born on Feb. 9, 1940, in Alton, Illinois, to Lester and Eilane Little. She graduated from Alton High School. She was a janitor for Carlinville High School. She also worked at area nursing homes as a cook and housekeeper. She enjoyed working on word searches, putting puzzles together and listening to music, especially Elvis.

On Oct. 18, 1968, Sandy and Roy G. Thiebaud were married. They shared 52 years of marriage prior to his passing on March 8, 2020.

Survivors include her children; Mike (Nancy) Davenport of Gillespie, Illinois, Jeff Thiebaud of Virden, Illinois, Mary (Jay) Biberstein of Liberty Center, Robbie (Shelley) Thiebaud of Decatur and Tammie (Matt) Cooper of Bluffton. She is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren and two additional on the way.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband and a sister, Donna Gonzales.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Mike Gilbert officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton. Calling hours will take place from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to the family.

### WILSON

Diann Wilson, 75, of Andrews, passed away at 1:05 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at her residence.

She was born on December 12, 1950, in Huntington the daughter of Raymond Wilson and Patricia (Harshman) Wilson.

Diann enjoyed sitting by the window and looking out at the birds, squirrels and cats.

She also enjoyed being creative while coloring, drawing and making bracelets.

Survivors include her three sisters, Refa (Scott) Chopson, of Andrews, Belva (Chuck) Burcham, of Warren, and Rosemary Bailey, of Huntington; brother, Louis Wilson, of Andrews; many nieces and nephews.

Diann is preceded in death by her mother, Patricia Ann Wilson, father, Raymond E. Wilson, and sister, Belinda Hunnicutt.

There will be no services at this time.

Preferred memorials may be made to Paradigm Health Hospice & Palliative Care in care of Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 W. Park Dr., Huntington, IN 46750.

### PERRY

Steven W. Perry Jr, 32, of Liberty Center, passed away Wednesday evening, May 6, 2026, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Steven was born in Bluffton on Dec. 23, 1993. He was preceded in death by his father, Steven W. Perry Sr. He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Christine L. (Moser) and Jon Newell of Auburn.

A 2013 graduate of Southern Wells High School, Steven will be remembered for his love of riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle, along with working on cars or anything else that had a motor. He was an avid gamer and also enjoyed home construction projects. More than anything else, he loved spending time with his family, especially his beloved daughters, who were the center of his world.

In addition to his mother and stepfather, Steven is survived by his fiancée, Courtney Ellison of Liberty Center; his two daughters, Nadia and Nevaeh Perry, both of Liberty Center; a sister, Stephanie Gore of Fort Wayne; his paternal grandmother, Jackie Young of Roanoke; his maternal grandmother, Ann Bussel of Bluffton; maternal

grandfather, Randall Moser of Monroeville; his maternal great-grandmother, Gery Snider of Markle; along with several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Aside from his father, Steven was preceded in death by his paternal great-grandparents, Harold and Blanche Perry; his paternal step-grandfather, Michael Young; his grandfather, Ralph Perry; and maternal Step-grandfather, Steven Bussel.

Visitation will be Tuesday, May 12, 2026, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., at Goodwin – Harnish Funeral Home in Bluffton, followed immediately by a funeral service at 3 p.m. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Harley-Davidson Foundation, which has partnered with United Way Worldwide for a charity campaign.

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### MORE PAGE 4

of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Only 50% report getting at least seven hours of sleep daily or most days, 39% say they eat a healthy, balanced diet regularly, 42% engage in mentally stimulating activities such as reading or puzzles, and just 34% report regular physical activity. Nearly one-third say they exercise less than weekly or not at all.

At the same time, Americans express strong interest in programs designed to support brain health. Seventy-three percent say they would consider participating in such programs, particularly those focused on cognitive exercises (57%), health monitoring (46%), nutrition (36%) and physical activity (26%).

Many adults view midlife — ages 35 to 64 — as a critical window for protecting brain health. Nearly two in five (38%) believe people should begin taking steps during midlife, and 46% say formal brain health programs are most appropriate during this stage. At the same time, about one-third view brain health as a lifelong priority.

Health care providers are seen as trusted sources of guidance, but conversations about brain health rarely occur. Eighty-six percent of adults would welcome these discussions during routine visits. Yet only 14% report ever discussing how to maintain brain health with their provider, and just 11% say they have talked about reducing dementia risk.

"These findings highlight an opportunity to better integrate brain health into routine health care," Snyder said. "People are motivated to protect their brain health, and actionable guidance can support those efforts."

To address these gaps, the Alzheimer's Association is working with partners across communities, workplaces and health care systems to deliver research-backed resources and programs. These efforts are informed by the landmark U.S. POINTER study, which found that combining multiple healthy lifestyle habits can help protect cognitive function. Learn more at alz.org/facts.

"The takeaway from this report is clear: brain health is a lifelong priority, not an issue limited to older age," Snyder said. "By connecting individuals, communities, workplaces and health care, we can build a more equitable framework to support cognitive health and help reduce dementia risk for everyone."

### SIMPLE WAYS YOU CAN HELP PUT CHILDHOOD HUNGER TO BED

(StatePoint) Did you know that on any given night, 1 in 5 children in the United States will go to bed hungry? Fortunately, efforts are being made to help end childhood hunger, and there's a way for you to get involved through your everyday choices.

As part of Feed the Children's Put Child Hunger to Bed campaign, StarKist is joining as a partner and inviting consumers to take part in the fight against childhood hunger. From May 1 through Sept. 30, you can participate in the campaign in two simple but meaningful ways:

1. Every time you purchase a StarKist tuna pouch, StarKist will donate one pouch to Feed the Children, up to 100,000 pouches. Offered in more than 20 varieties that are convenient and ready-to-eat, each StarKist tuna pouch is seasoned, fully cooked and delivers 12 grams or more of protein, making it a simple, nutritious choice that can also help support families experiencing hunger.

2. In addition, StarKist will match donations dollar-for-dollar, up to \$100,000, to further support children and families across the United States.

Together, these efforts help provide meals and resources for children and families who need them, turning everyday purchases into meaningful support.

To learn more about the campaign or to donate directly, visit [StarKist.com/feedthechildren](http://StarKist.com/feedthechildren).

Warren Weekly archives can be found at [www.warrenweeklyindiana.com](http://www.warrenweeklyindiana.com)

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