

Friday, December 23, 2022

Volume 37, Number 46



www.warrenweeklyindiana.com



**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 • Fax 260/247-2426 • email: editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com

Thought for the Week: Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year!



Historic Warren Main Street 2022 Year in Review

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Historic Warren is to ensure historic building preservation to make Downtown Historic Warren a vibrant place to live, work and shop.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Historic Warren is to support community and economic development, in Downtown Warren, by continuing historic building preservation, encouraging, and promoting small businesses, and welcoming community involvement



2022 started out with Historic Warren Main Street being awarded a Creating Places \$50,000 matching grant from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCA) through Patronicity for Phase 3 of Riverside Park located downtown Warren.



On April 13, 2022 Warren received recognition for the Warren Historic District from the State of Indiana and was listed on the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures



May 19, 2022 the Warren Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United State Department of the Interior in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources & the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (This was a 4-year project for Historic Warren)



Historic Warren hosted our 2nd Annual Car Show on June 10, 2022 that brought in 82 cars to the Warren Community



June 23, 2022 Historic Warren Main Street accepted the donation of the former bank building from PNC Bank. The building has been renamed "The Exchange" to honor the history of the Exchange Bank of Warren that was originally build in 1887. (This was a 2 1/2 year project for Historic Warren)

The Exchange

September 1, 2022 Historic Warren Main Street leased the north office unit of The Exchange to the Indiana Dept. of Transportation bringing economic growth to our downtown area.



Historic Warren Main Street held a community meeting on September 22 with a presentation from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. We had a great turnout with 41 community members present to learn about opportunities within the Warren Historic District.



September 15 to October 7 Warren saw the completion of the Downtown Mural with Historic Warren Main Street partnering with the Town of Warren along with grants from the Huntington County Community Foundation and the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC). The mural will be promoted via the Huntington County Visitor Bureau's Mural Trail and will be listed in the Indiana Mural Trail Map for the State of Indiana.



October 25, Historic Warren partnered with the Warren Library & the United Church of Christ to bring a free event to the community to support an area artist and an opportunity to learn about block printing. The event was presented by Hoosier Type Co. through a grant from the Indiana Arts Commission.



October 28 Historic Warren participated in the Chamber of Commerce Scarecrow Festival and partnered with Heritage Pointe of Warren for a free give-a-way along with handing out 400 juice boxes to children.



Historic Warren Main Street finished the year out with our 11th Annual Holiday Walk & Festival of Trees on November 18, 2022. With 35 decorated trees, 45 businesses & organizations joining the Holiday Walk plus 12 Gingerbread Houses, we had a great event to showcase the Warren community.

YEAR END GIVING THERE'S STILL TIME

Support your local community by donating to Historic Warren Inc., a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit organization. Tax deductible donations can be mailed to Historic Warren Inc., PO Box 477, Warren, IN 46792



Historic Warren Main Street is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization and comprised of volunteers that love the Warren Community and has a vision for economic growth and preservation. We welcome donations so we may continue with future projects for the betterment of the Warren community and Huntington County.

POLICE STEPPING UP PATROLS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The Huntington County Sheriff's Department and the Warren Police Department announced that it will be stepping up patrols as part of the Safe Family Travel holiday enforcement campaign. Starting this week, officers will be out in greater numbers showing zero tolerance for anyone driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The department joins more than 200 participating law enforcement agencies in the campaign, which runs through January 1 of next year. While officers will be targeting impaired drivers, they will also be on high alert for seat belt violations and other forms of unsafe driving. Their goal is to help ensure people make it to and from their celebrations safely.

The extra high-visibility enforcement is funded with grants provided by the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration (NHTSA) through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI).

"If you're out celebrating over the holidays, make sure you have a sober ride home," said Huntington County Sheriff Chris Newton. "Driving impaired is costly and could be deadly. Not only could you kill yourself or someone else in a crash, but you could also face thousands of dollars in legal fees, jail time or a revoked license. It's not worth the risk."

According to early estimates from ICJI, 903 people have died in motor vehicle crashes so far this year in Indiana. Although still preliminary, this makes 2022 one of only three years in the past decade to break 900 fatalities. Moreover, if the pace continues, Indiana could experience one of the deadliest years since the early 2000s.

Data from the institute suggests that impaired

driving accounts for a significant portion of those fatalities. On average, approximately one-fourth of the state's fatal collisions are caused by drunk drivers every year. While this is cause for concern, tragically, driving under the influence tends to be more prevalent during the holiday season.

"There are four main causes behind the rising number of fatal crashes, all of which are completely preventable, and those are impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving and not wearing a seat belt," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "Unfortunately, driving under the influence is the one we're most concerned about this time of year."

With officers on high-alert, motorists are encouraged to plan ahead to get home safely by designating a sober driver or by using public transportation or a ride service like Uber or Lyft. Even if one drink is consumed,

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



It is Christmas week, and I feel like I'm running around like a chicken with its head cut off, but I'm sure I'll be ready by 5:00 Christmas Eve, I hope. Lol

I remember back when life was much simpler and being a kid was great. Well not always, cause I had a lot of chores that I was "supposed" to do, one being keeping my room clean. One night my sister and I was doing the dishes, well she was, I was there for moral support, when the doorbell rang. "I'll get that" I said, and I was off like a shot and when I opened the door there stood a man that was only supposed to do house calls on Christmas Eve and it wasn't Christmas Eve. Mr. Claus asked me if I had been good and if I was keeping my room clean? I said I was being good, but I'll work on my room. Well evidently Santa Claus didn't really care to wade through the junk that I had all over the place, so he reminded me that it better be clean before he shows up on Christmas Eve or no presents for Treva. I told him "I'll get right on that." I think my sister ended up finishing the dishes, and I was cleaning my room. My mom said I never seen so much junk fly in all my life. Well I wasn't gonna miss out on the presents so I knew to kick it in high gear or I was out of luck.

Now that I am an adult, and I look back on that night, I still don't know how Santa Claus kept a straight face, I'm sure they were just about to bust inside. But you know, I am a firm believer of Santa Claus to this day. My momma always said that when you have a ruff time in life and things aren't going as it should, there is always a Santa Claus in some way, shape or form, that will always be there for you and this year with all the issues that my niece has had due to her husband having a stroke at a young age of 39 has really brought out those Santa Clauses. People that don't even know them have opened up their hearts to help. I have been totally taken back by the help that she has received from people that it has brought me to tears a few times.

So whenever we get the chance we will pay it forward. The saying it's better to give than receive has been a thought in the back of my head for many years and to this day I live by those words. Nobody wants to ask for help, but there is times that you just have to and it has been one of those times for Annie, but without those Santa Clauses lord knows what they would have been through.

CONTINUED PAGE 8

These Spaces Available. Call the Warren Weekly for more info.

Help the Warren Weekly keep providing space for the many churches in our area



CITIZENS TELEPHONE CORPORATION
 375-2111
"Your Hometown Connection Partner"



**HERITAGE
POINTE
OF WARREN**
P O Box 326
801 Htgn Ave
Warren, IN 46792
LifeAtHeritage.org
260-375-2201



Frecker Ag Insurance Agency LLC
Phil Frecker
 Owner-Agent
Your Full Service Crop Insurance Agent
Ph: 260-348-8117
 2760 E 900 S, Warren, IN

**ASBURY CHAPEL
UNITED METHODIST**
 8013W 1100S -90, Montpelier
 Nick Miller, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.
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 BRETHREN
 8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779
 Matt Kennedy, Pastor
 Worship Service 9:00a.m.
 Sunday School 10:00a.m.
HANFIELD UNITED METHODIST
 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 Gerald Moreland, Ginny
 Soultz & John Moyer
 Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
OTHER SERVICES BY ANNOUNCEMENT
 Monday thru Friday
 Chapel Services 9:00 a.m.
WARREN 1st BAPTIST CHURCH
 727 N Wayne St, Warren
 260-375-2811
 office@warrenfirsbaptist.net
 Pator Rusty Strickler
 Youth Dir: Peter & Mindy Fairchild
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Youth Group: Grades 5-12 ...Sun 11:30
 Ekklesia Sun 6:30pm

**HILLCREST
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**
 375-2510
 Pastor Steven Spencer
 Bus Service 375-2510
www.warrennaz.org
 Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Wed. Midweek Service 6:30 p.m.
SOLID ROCK UNITED METHODIST
 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
 765.524.3390
 Pastor Trevor O'Dell, 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 Time 9:00a.m.
 Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT
 375-4359
 Bill VanHaften, 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. 7:00 p.m.
MT. ETNA UNITED METHODIST
 260/468-2148 Sr 9 & 124
 Rev. Michael Gallant - "Pastor Mike"
 Multi-Generational Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Fellowship 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Youth 4-6 p.m.
 Everyone is Welcome
**SALAMONIE
CHURCH OF BRETHREN**
 468-2412
 Mel Zumbrun, Pastor
 Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Church School 10:45a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 375-2102
www.warrenucc.net
 Troy Drayer, Senior Pastor
 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Contemporary Service - Wed 6:30 p.m.
 Youth Sunday School during
 Worship Service
 Youth Group-Wed 6:30 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 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 765-934-1431
 Pastor Brad Hensley
 Worship Service 9:30 am
 Sunday School 10:30am
 Not Home Alone - Wed 3:00 pm
 Prayer-Bible Study (Thur) 7:00 pm
 UMW 2nd Wed 7:00 pm
 Little Ones Book Club 1st Tue 10:00 am
 Just Older Youth 3rd Tue 12:00 pm
www.vanburenumc.org
WARREN CHURCH OF CHRIST
 375-3022
 Mickey Strong, Senior Minister
 Andrew Fisher, Youth Minister
 Liz Richardson, Childrens MinistryAsst.
 Tara Bower - Secretary
www.warrenchurchofchrist.org
 Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
 Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 11 to 11:50 a.m.
 Youth:
 K-6th grade, Mon 6:15-7pm
 Jr/Sr Hi, Sunday 6-8pm

WARREN WESLEYAN CHURCH
 6th & Nancy Sts. Warren
 260-228-9084
 Rev. Allen Laws, Pastor
 Wesley Welch, Supt.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:15 a.m.
 Wed Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
FARRVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
 11044 E 200 N, Marion, IN
 765-934-3609
 Pastor Al Soultz
 Sunday Worship 10:30 am
 Sunday School Classes 9:30 am
 Sunday Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm
 Thurs. Bible Study 7:00 pm



Please Attend The Church of Your Choice

AREA NEWS

MORE PAGE 1

never drive impaired or let friends get behind the wheel if they've been drinking. It's also important to wear a seat belt, put away the distractions and follow posted speed limits.

Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is illegal in Indiana and all 50 states. Those who choose to drive impaired are, not only risking their life and the lives of others, but also could face an arrest, jail time, and substantial fines and attorney fees. The average drunk driving arrest costs up to \$10,000.

Motorists are encouraged to contact the department or call 911 if they encounter an impaired driver on the road.

To learn more about the Huntington County Sheriff's Department, please visit their Facebook page at the following:

www.facebook.com/TheHuntingtonCountySheriffsDepartment

SNOW SHOVELING CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEART

The American Heart Association cautions that snow shoveling may carry increased risks for a cardiac event

With a blast of snow and arctic air forecast for much of Indiana later this week, the American Heart Association, the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on heart and brain health for all, urges caution when picking up that shovel or even starting the snowblower. Research shows that many people may face an increased risk of a heart attack or sudden cardiac arrest after shoveling heavy snow.

The American Heart Association's 2020 scientific

statement, Exercise-Related Acute Cardiovascular Events and Potential Deleterious Adaptations Following Long-Term Exercise Training: Placing the Risks Into Perspective—An Update, notes snow shoveling among the physical activities that may place extra stress on the heart, especially among people who aren't used to regular exercise. Numerous scientific research studies over the years have identified the dangers of shoveling snow for people with and without previously known heart disease.

"Shoveling a little snow off your sidewalk may not seem like hard work. However, the strain of heavy snow shoveling may be as or even more demanding on the heart than taking a treadmill stress test, according to research results," said Dr. William Gill, a cardiologist on the American Heart Association's Indianapolis board of directors. "After only two minutes of snow shoveling, study participants' heart rates exceeded 85% of maximal heart rate, which is a level more commonly expected during intense

aerobic exercise testing. The impact is hardest on those people who are least fit."

A study conducted in Canada a few years ago found that the chance of heart attack after a snowfall increased among men but not among women. The study found that, compared to no snowfall, a heavy snow – about 7-8 inches – was associated with 16% higher odds of men being admitted to the hospital with a heart attack, and a 34% increase in the chance of men dying from a heart attack.

Gill noted that winter weather in general can contribute to the increased risk and compared shoveling snow to working out in a freezer. Cold temperatures may increase blood pressure while simultaneously constricting the coronary arteries. Those factors, combined with the higher heart rate from the extra physical effort, may increase the risk for acute cardiac events. There are even studies that show an increased risk for heart attacks among people using automatic snow blowers. Similar to the extra exertion

of pushing shovel, pushing a snow blower can raise heart rate and blood pressure quickly.

"The impact of snow removal is especially concerning for people who already have cardiovascular risks like a sedentary lifestyle or obesity, being a current or former smoker, having diabetes, high cholesterol or high blood pressure, as well as people who have had a heart attack or stroke," Gill said. "People with these characteristics and those who have had bypass surgery or coronary angioplasty simply should not be shoveling snow."

Gill said the most important thing is to be aware of the

dangers, be prepared and take it easy, including taking short breaks. Even people who are relatively healthy should note that pushing the snow with a shovel is better physically than lifting and throwing it.

The American Heart Association urges everyone to learn the common signs of heart trouble and if you experience chest pain or pressure, lightheadedness or heart palpitations or irregular heart rhythms, stop the activity immediately. Call 9-1-1 if symptoms don't subside shortly after you stop shoveling or snow blowing. If you see someone collapse while shoveling

CONTINUED PAGE 4

*Joy to you and
yours at this
wonder
of all seasons.*



Campbell & Dye Insurance Inc
Karen & Lisa



Merry Christmas!
2022

*Thank you for your support in 2022!
It's been our pleasure to serve the Warren
Community and look forward to an even
better 2023.*

- Jeff

Shop Here for Last Minute Gifts

Our Holiday Hours:

Friday, Dec. 23rd 9am - 2pm
Saturday, Dec. 24th Closed
Sunday, Dec. 25th Closed
Monday Dec. 26th Closed
Tuesday, Dec. 27th 11am till 6pm
Wednesday, Dec. 28th 11am till 6pm
Thursday, Dec. 29th 11am till 7pm
Friday, Dec. 30th 9am till 2pm
Saturday, Dec. 31st Closed
Sunday, Jan. 1st Closed
Monday, Jan 2nd Closed

We accept EBT and SNAP
Follow us on Facebook
www.jeffsfarmmarket.com
609 E. 1st St. Warren

God Bless All of You this Christmas Season

Thank you for helping us help the
Great community of Warren.

Wishing you a Blessed New Year Ahead!



260-375-4505

115 N. Wayne St. Warren, IN

Established 1948

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.

Dec 21	7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall
Dec 24		CHRISTMAS EVE
Dec 25		CHRISTMAS DAY
Dec 26-30		WARREN WEEKLY CLOSED - NO PAPER THIS WEEK
Dec 31		NEW YEARS EVE
Jan 1		NEW YEARS DAY
Jan 4	Noon	W - Chamber Luncheon @ Knight Bergman Center
Jan 4	7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall
Jan 9	6:00p	W - Town Council Meeting @ Assembly 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

Thank You!

**Warren Law
Enforcement**

You Are Appreciated!

AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 3

snow, call for help and start Hands-Only CPR if they are unresponsive with no pulse.

Additional Resources:

AHA health information: How to Stay Active in Cold Weather

Snow shovel-related injuries and medical emergencies treated in US EDs, 1990 to 2006 – American Journal of Emergency Medicine

Cardiac Demands of Heavy Snow Shoveling – Journal of the American Medical Association

Acute myocardial infarction after manual or automated snow removal – American Journal of Cardiology

Sudden cardiac death after manual or automated snow removal – American Journal of Cardiology

Follow us on Twitter @HeartNews

HE BELIEVED

by Bill Gallivan
Bluffton, Indiana

It was a beautiful night with pristine snow covering everything on this wonderful Christmas Eve. It was the

most exciting time of year for little Billy and his younger brother, Bobby.

The entire home was filled with all sorts of holiday decorations and Christmas things and settings which were very popular and abundant in the mid 1950's. Decorating was a special family project having begun right after Thanksgiving and not a day before, ever, and that was Mom's rule. The six-foot real Christmas tree was chock full of pretty, dainty ornaments and quite a few beautifully wrapped gifts were spread out under the tree. Stockings were hung on the railing of the first set of wide stairs just before the landing which made a ninety degree turn and the remaining stairs took you to the second floor in the older home.

Billy had just turned seven the last day of November and his brother had turned six the middle of the same month. It was a big deal to Bobby, he and his older brother were the "same age"

for a short fifteen days of the year.

They had separate bedrooms and this was the one and only night of the year they would share Bobby's room for the night. It was the only room in the huge old Victorian style home, on the second floor where the four bedrooms were, which had a window facing north. A window facing north was a necessity if you were going to stay up and watch for Santa Claus and his reindeer. Everyone knew Santa came from the North Pole so this reasoning only made sense.

Both beds of a set of bunk beds had been separated for this one special night earlier that day with Mom and Dad's help and the boys had pushed the heads of those two beds right smack up against the one and only window facing north. Of course, this now took a lot of time to get the measurements "exactly right"

so one bed did not have one fraction of an inch more room in front of that window than the other bed had.

The old wooden yardstick would come out and if one bed had "too much room" in front of that window the yardstick normally became a sword and a fight began. Actually, a fight would begin just about who would be the first one to think about going to get the yardstick in the first place. Someone was going to get whacked with that yardstick before the measuring actually began.

The yardstick was "hidden" by Mom in her kitchen. Sometimes the finder and holder of the yardstick would try to "whack" Mom or Dad or whoever was standing around and in the way as he ran to the bedroom with the yardstick being waved around like a huge well won trophy. Dad got quick once and grabbed the yardstick

before it got out of the kitchen and kept it. Mom hid it so well one time it never did show up again until after Christmas.

Homemade cookies along with a glass of milk and some dog treats for Santa's reindeer were all so perfectly laid out on a special little table decorated just for Santa and placed near the stockings. Everything was ready for midnight of Christmas Eve when "it" would be happening.

The boys had been instructed not to make a bunch of noise when they went down to the tree on Christmas morning and not to open or to mess with any gifts until all of the family was up and everyone had breakfast. They could get into their stockings and stay busy with that until Mom and Dad were ready to begin the festivities.

CONTINUED PAGE 6



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Thank You for your support and looking forward to serving you in 2023.
Blue Poppy
DESIGN
Tamara 260-228-0390 10715 S Meridian Rd, Warren

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

BOLINGER'S
Warren
Service
AND
Supply

Rheem | **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

THORNE
INSURANCE

Independent Insurance Agent

Kevin Killen
(260) 468-2953
877-464-1044
Call today for a FREE quote.

"Insurance that Insures."

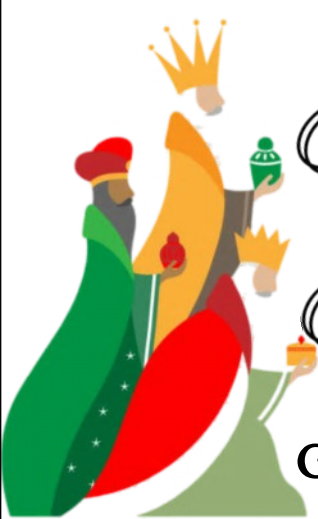


Season's Greetings
We appreciate your patronage
Warren Automotive
Warren, Indiana
375-3401

It pays to Shop at the
Warren Pharmacy
260/375-2135

ORTHO-MOLECULAR PRODUCTS® & HYLAND'S Homeopathic

10% off
with this coupon
Expires 12/31/22



Happy Holidays
Bowers, Brewer, Garrett and Wiley LLP
Attorneys at Law

Happy Holidays
Thank you for your business in 2022. Looking forward to working with you in 2023.

Bells Repair Shop

Ron Bell
Owner/ Auto Tech
Bellmotorsports@yahoo.com

335 E-3rd St.
Warren IN 46792

BBB Accredited Business
Cell. 260-228-1030
Shop 260-375-3024

GENEALOGY REPORT

SAVAGE

Bonnie Sue Savage, 70, passed away Dec. 10, 2022 at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne, IN.

She was born August 21, 1952 in Marion, IN, the daughter of the late Walter Kirkpatrick and Mary Scott.

Bonnie graduated from Eastbrook High School and earned her Master's in Nursing from Indiana University.

She was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for 50 years.

Bonnie was a Nurse Practitioner and worked at the Fort Wayne VA Medical Center for 35 years.

She is survived by her husband, Ronald Savage of Laotto, IN; children, Wendy (John Mason) Savage of Fairfax, VA; Randy Savage of Elkhart, IN; brothers Kenny (Rhonda) Kirkpatrick of Fairland, IN; Tom (Debbie) Kirkpatrick of Sneads Ferry, NC; and a sister, Kathie (Steve) McAtee of Marion, IN.

Funeral service will be 11 am Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church 3425 Crescent Ave. Fort Wayne, IN with visitation one hour prior.

Visitation also Sunday, December 18, 2022 from 3-7pm and Monday, December 19, 2022 from 2-4 and 6-8 at D.O. McComb and Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne, IN.

Burial in Highland Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Make a Wish Foundation 6201 Corporate Dr. Suite 100 Indianapolis, IN 46278.

RUCKMAN

Tina E. Ruckman, 58, of Huntington, passed with her family by her side at 2:08 pm on Monday, December 12, 2022, at

Parkview Huntington Hospital.

Tina was born on June 11th, 1964, in Marion, IN, the daughter of Greenberry "Judge" Lamb and Alice "Charlene" (Pendleton) Lamb.

She graduated from Eastbrook High School in Marion, IN with the class of 1982 and continued her education at Ivy Tech Fort Wayne where she received her associates degree in paralegal studies.

Tina married the love of her life Michael L. Ruckman on August 31st, 1984, in Huntington, IN.

She served the Huntington County Prosecutor's Office as a Child Support Enforcement Case Worker for 25 years.

Tina enjoyed cooking and baking for others, and always made them feel special each birthday and holiday.

She loved cruises and trips to the casino with her husband.

She had a heart of gold and never met a stranger.

She devoted many hours helping others and was a faithful volunteer for the United Way.

Survivors include her loving husband, Michael L. Ruckman of Huntington, IN; her pride and joys, daughters, Christina N. (Rebecca) Ruckman of Huntington, IN and Sydney M. Ray of Roanoke, IN; and grandson, Jett R. Winters of Roanoke IN.

She is also survived by her brother Donald (Anita) Lamb of Van Buren, IN, several close friends and her loyal fur companion, Piper.

She was preceded in death by her father, Greenberry "Judge" Lamb and mother, Alice "Charlene" Lamb.

Visitation will be from 4:00pm-6:00pm Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN.

Funeral services will follow at 6:00pm, at Bailey-Love Mortuary with officiating Pastor Jim Hippensteel.

Preferred memorials to the Cancer Services of Huntington County or Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN 46750.

BENNETT

Patrick Michael Bennett Sr., 73 of Warren, Indiana,

passed away on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at Enlive of Huntington.

Patrick was born on April 7, 1949 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Homer and Irma (Welch) Bennett. He attended Central High School and served in the United States Army from 1968-1974. Patrick married Rebecca A. Martin on August 23, 1991. In their 31 years of marriage, they made many memories, including Patrick teaching Rebecca how to fish. He was an avid fisherman and loved going hunting and fishing. His sense of humor and his presence will be missed by all who knew him.

Patrick was preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Irma Bennett, and brother, Gordon Bennett.

Loving survivors include his wife, Rebecca A. Bennett of Warren, IN, sons, Patrick M. (Rebecca) Bennett Jr. of Georgia, and Philip (Jessica) Bennett of South Carolina, daughter, Bonnie (Shane) McCuen of Tennessee, grandchildren, Lilee Bennett, Daegan Bennett, Holt Bennett, Knoxx Bennett, Cadence Bennett, Tatum Bennett, Merridy Bennett, Asher Bennett, Destinee Bennett, Michael McCuen, and Sydnee McCuen, brothers,

Richard Bennett of Florida, and Troy Bennett of Ossian, IN, and sister, Dorothy Barrad of Fort Wayne, IN.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home located at 203 N. Matilda

Warren, IN 46792, on Friday, December 16, 2022, from 1pm to 5pm. Military rites will be performed at 4:30PM. Inurnment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Warren, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Lung Cancer Foundation of America.

SHARPE

David L. Sharpe, 67, of Montpelier, passed away at 2:42 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022 at his home in Montpelier.

He was born on Monday, March 14, 1955, in Wells County. David attended Southern Wells High School. He lived his early years in Southern Wells before moving to Montpelier. David worked at Franklin Electric and for McCammon Trucking for 46 years. He enjoyed racing cars, riding his Harley Davidson, and was a motorcycle enthusiast. He and his brother John built a tractor and enjoyed watching and participating in tractor pulls.

He will be sadly missed by his daughters, Rhonda Kershner of Montpelier, Angie Sharpe of North Port, Florida, grandchildren, Felicia Baxter of Wabash, Tyler Sharpe of Bluffton, Marissa Kershner of Bluffton, great grandson, Brysen Sharpe of North Port, Florida, sister, Sherry Heron of Montpelier, and brother, John Heron of Liberty Center.

He was preceded in death by his father, Nile A. Sharpe, mother, Elizabeth Justine (Brickley) Heron, great granddaughter, Harper Steed, and brother, Mike Brickley.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home 109 W Windsor St Montpelier on Monday, Dec. 19, 2022 from 5 to 8 p.m. There will be no services.

GRAY

Brian Douglas Gray, 42, of Warren, IN, passed away on Sunday, December 18, 2022 at Lutheran Hospital Fort Wayne, IN.

Brian was born on December 26, 1979 in Huntington, IN, to Patty (Drabenstot) Villanueva and Donald Gray.

Brian was a high school graduate from Huntington North High School. He worked at the Postal remote encoding center in Fort Wayne. He was a member of Mt. Etna United Methodist Church. He was a Hobbyist that collected baseball cards and vintage video games to sell. He loved all kinds of animals.

He is survived by his parents, and one sister, Christine Gray, Fort Wayne; one step-brother, Joseph (Stephanie) Villanueva, Bluffton; and three step-sisters, Holly Villanueva, Huntington, Kari (James) Green, Warren and KaylaAnn Villanueva, Warren.

He was preceded in death by his step-father, Santos Villanueva.

Calling will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Etna Community Life Church, 6383 W 600 S, Huntington, IN 46750.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Etna United Methodist Church, 6383 W 600 S, Huntington, IN 46750 with Pastor Mike Gallant presiding.

Burial will be at a later date.

Memorials can be made to Huntington Humane Society

CONTINUED PAGE 6

AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 5

or Helping Paws in care of McElhaney-Hart/Deal Rice Funeral Home, 715 N. Jefferson Street, Huntington, IN 46750.

JONES

Kathaleen V. Jones, 102, Hartford City, passed away on December 18, 2022 at her residence.

She was born in Upland on February 26, 1920 to Hugh Raymond Monroe and Doris Isola (Lucas) Monroe. Her parents preceded her in death both passing away in 1984.

She married William Ervin Jones and he was killed in France during WWII. She then married Charles R. Jones on September 5, 1947 in Dunkirk, IN and he passed away on October 10, 1994.

Kathaleen enjoyed singing, listening to old time music, cooking and traveling. She was a member of the Bethel Center Church of the Brethren. She also was a member of the Van Buren American Legion Auxiliary.

Kathaleen will be sadly missed by her grandsons, Christopher Jones-Ball, Ryan (wife, Candance) Jones and Scott Jones; great-grandchildren, Sierra Ball and Asher Jones.; sister, Janet Barker of Gas City; several nieces and nephews.

She is also preceded in death by her children, Gary D. Jones, William E. Jones, Michael D. Jones, Dianna Lynn Jones and twins, Charles L. and Cheryl Ann Jones, who passed away as infants; siblings, Imogene Vallad, Norma Hawk, Vera Farman, Betty Trebar, Joan Ervin, Judy Ragsdale and Alephous Monroe.

Funeral service will be at 2 pm Friday, December 23, 2022 at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St. Hartford City.

Visitation will be from 12 (noon) to 2 pm Friday, December 23, 2022.

Burial will follow at Gardens of Memory in Muncie.

Memorials may be made to Donor's Choice.

MORE PAGE 4

The boys loved to investigate the neatly wrapped presents and check out their name tags and try to guess what was for whom by the shape of the package and what it sounded like when they shook it or slightly squeezed it trying not putting too big of a dent into the gift.

Billy was at the age everything was interesting to him. He would observe certain things which others seemed to ignore or simply miss and overlook.

This Christmas morning was the one day his life would change forever and his being "too observant" was a lesson he wasn't particularly ready to learn.

As the boys were checking out name tags, Billy's

demeanor suddenly and very drastically changed. He grabbed his little stuffed dog he brought with him everywhere and threw the package he was looking at back under the tree, got up from the floor and headed back upstairs crying. He was skipping as many stairs as he could to get back to his room as quickly as he could. After he slammed his bedroom door shut, he jumped into bed and covered himself and his dog under every cover he could grab so he couldn't see anything and anyone else couldn't see him either.

Mom was the first to observe everyone was at breakfast and getting ready for Christmas morning, except for Billy. She went to his room.

A light knocking was heard at Billy's bedroom door.

"Billy, everyone is waiting on you. It's Christmas morning and Santa came last night. Are you OK?"

Mom didn't wait for an answer as she walked into his room after she had made the announcement and

noticed a huge bundle under his bed covers. She gently laid her hand on the bundle and asked him to show himself, which he reluctantly did after a lengthy hesitation. His face was still buried in his pillow and he wasn't going to look at her.

"Come on Billy. You're holding up Christmas for everyone."

When he turned to look at his mom, his pillow was soaked, his eyes were red from crying and his lip was curled up as he was showing Mom his very mad and disgusted look.

She pulled back the covers, gently grabbed his hand and slowly allowed him to get out of bed on his own. He was in no hurry to do any of this and she once again asked if he was OK and what was wrong.


His lips were sealed and he was not talking to her. His lip was still curled up and he wanted to let her know he was still very, very mad! He grabbed his stuffed dog and hugged it tightly as they slowly walked from his room towards the top of the stairs out of sight of the rest of the

CONTINUED PAGE 8



Wishing you all the blessings of the Holiday Season

CITIZENS TELEPHONE, INC.
Serving Warren and Liberty Center



Season's Greetings
from
Warren Family Dentistry
Dr's Zach & Libbie and Staff
375-2626



*Endless hope.
relentless joy.
Started with a
Baby Boy*
For King and Country

Bolinger's Propane Service



FRECKER AG CONSULTING SERVICE
Specializing In:
• Full line of Branded & Generic Herbicides
• Soil Sample by Soil Type
• Nutrient/Pest Management
• Fertilizer / Chemical Recommendation
Phil Frecker
Agronomist
Warren, Indiana (260) 348-8117



Lisa M. Garrott
Attorney at Law
Estate Planning & Business Law
HRG
ATTORNEYS SINCE 1870
260-356-4100 OR 260-375-2311
visit us at: www.hrglaw.com



LEAS CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, LLC
(317) 710-1305 • Cell
(812) 212-7127 • Office
LeasCC@outlook.com
› Epoxy Floors › Small Commercial Concrete
› Decorative Stamp › Plowing
› Pole Barns ...and more!
MICK & KATIE LEAS, OWNERS

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

Spread the Word

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

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

Support
the
businesses
who bring
you
Your
Hometown
News

MARATHON 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

Shoemaker Construction

Cory Shoemaker
Owner

PO Box 265
Warren IN 46792
FREE ESTIMATES

(260)388-5558
INSURED

This size ad is always
specially priced at ...

Tell everybody in Warren, Van Buren and
Liberty Center about your product or ser-
vice. Give us the facts -- we'll layout the
ad! Call for prices on other size ads.

\$18

editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com
PO Box 695 • 260-375-6290

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
ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

Merry
Christmas
from Everyone
at ...



WARREN CABLE TV
375-2115

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



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



Let a
Classified Ad
Work 4 You!

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

family and the Christmas tree and setting down stairs.

She took the first step down the stairs and Billy grabbed her hand tighter preventing her from taking another step and pulled her arm towards him.

"Mommy..."

She turned and looked down at him as he was crying more tears now and he was trying to wipe them on his pajama sleeves and also on his stuffed dog without letting go of her hand.

"What is it Billy? What's wrong?"

"Mommy..."

His words couldn't come out over his tears and his lips quivering so much and he wouldn't take his eyes off of her, either.

Her patience was wearing thin but something told her to relax this time.

They both could hear the Christmas music playing downstairs and the light chatter of his dad, his brother and sister all carrying on some conversation around the Christmas tree.

With a very faint whisper so no one down stairs could hear them, now that his tears had been wiped away by her and on his own pajama sleeve and also onto his stuffed dog, Billy was ready to finally speak to her. He tugged on her arm so she would bring her face much closer to him.

"Mommy...Santa's handwriting looks just like yours."

You could hear a pin drop on the carpet at the head of those stairs. She looked at him. He looked back at her very hard with a serious stare and almost a full minute lapsed before she finally spoke.

This was also apparently the proper time when he would no longer be called, "Billy". "Bill..." she whispered back at him looking into his deep blue eyes.

Before she could get out another word his brother yelled out from down around the Christmas tree.

"OH BOY! THIS IS NEAT-O!"

Bill...immediately let go of his mom's hand and started skipping down two or three stairs at a time to get to where his little brother was while screaming at the top of his lungs.

"YOU BETTER KEEP YOUR COTTON-PICKIN' HANDS OFF MY STUFF!"

Merry Christmas to everyone.

MEMORIAL BOWS

Following is a list of the Memorial Bows placed on the Town of Warren's Christmas tree. The Tree this year was donated by Phil & Taya Decker. White bows were placed in honor of the deceased, Red for living and Yellow for Military/Veterans.

White bows: Wesley Lloyd, Tonya Espy, Linda Linker,

Cindy Leazier, Franci Leazier, Janet/Don Slusher, Scott Whitaker, Sheryl Slusher, Theodore Cochrane, Herschel Hall, Margaret Hall, Cary Masters, Patricia Snow, Brett Kiel, Bud Lee, George Mondrake, Dale/Barbara Brown, Janice Brown, Lloyd Morrison, Martha Morrison, Brad Morrison, Leaner/Elsie Morrison, Paul/Ada Ruble,

CONTINUED PAGE 9

MORE PAGE 2

So for those of you that have helped out with this family whether it's been financially or with prayers we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. They say "Small town big hearts" is the motto of this town and I am a firm believer in it.

Well this will be the last article for the year so, I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year and always remember "Believe" cause those wishes do come true. Thank you for another great year of allowing me to tell my story and share my family favorites.

In a couple of weeks I might write a year in review like I used to send to my family in their Christmas cards, until there was so much in them it cost too much to send them.

Lol
Merry Christmas!



AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 8

Ora/Hilda Banter, Dean/Janet Schmidt, Doffie/Ellen Howell, Billy Lows Sr, Angel, Georgina G Hemmick Laymon, Ruskin Laymon, Lucy E Bonham Laymon, David B Laymon, Don/Maxine Pinkerton, Warren/Louise Keene, Fay/Bill Cartwright, Jerry Boyer, William A Cramer, Frances Cramer, Roger J Horrell, Shannon Deakyne, Harvey Millington, Orian Runion, Betty Parker, Larry Campbell, Kenneth M Harris, Jane Schultz, Donna L Bolinger, Waldo Knight, Grandma/Grandpa Knight, LuAnn Shafer, Kimberly Shafer, Phyllis Pond, Clifford Ruble, Rose Ruble, Ira Pond, Bertha Pond, Kenneth/Maxine Perry, Ora/Mable Moriarity, Alan Brown, Joyce Keiffer, Michele Stafford, Donna Lou Bolinger, Elizabeth Bolinger, Bud Furnish, Pat Furnish, Barbara Breedlove, Joni Souers Dick, Theodore Kariger, William F Keser, Francis McIntyre, William Welker, Rosetta Welker, Kenny Welker, Leon Welsh, Corda Welsh, Bernard Cook, Nancy Cook, Loretta Shildmayer, Kenadi Diskey, Aaron Fritch, Angie Faulstich, Nancy Bieber, Paul/Ruth Yount, William/Irene Zeller, Morry Zeller, Ivan/Elizabeth Decker, Lilly Nutter, Kenny/Wilma Wilson, Phil/Bert Tinkle, Jon Ridenaur, Marvin/Linda Gebhart, Cecil/Edith Schwob, Dale/Willaden Schwob, Bud/Shirley Miller, George Sliger, Homer/Anna Margaret Gephart, Jimmy Schwob, George/Helen Bentley, Fred/Lela Zimmerman, Bob Zimmerman, Vern/Maribelle Sparks, Dan Sparks, Bob Heaston, Willadean Heaston, Bonnie Boxell, Gerald/Maxine Sheets, John Bill Buzzard, Betty Straley, Cristy Rideout, Roy/Cleo Stuber, Erle/Doris Stuber, Bill Williams, Ben Williams, Athalene Rice, Athalene Rice, Bob Rice, Bob Rice, Mark Rice, Janice Brown, Barbara Brown, Dorman Hudson, Madge Hudson, Myron Landrum, Margaret/Dwight Boxell, Jane Souers, Sandy Harmon, Lillian Morris, Eloise Evans,

Bill Evans, Rosa Slater, Mike Coolman, Lloyd/Gwen Mains, Carl/Pauline Scheib, Nipper/Doc/Pete, Lesa Salomon, Ron Blair, Norene Blair, Viola Blair, Mary Andres Vickrey, Dave VanVliet, Norma/Tony Chambers, Roger Ruble, Burlin Beavans, Jeannet Barsha, Lucille Beavans, Robert Beavans, Jim Miller, Cathy Kay Miller, Ralph/Opal Highley, Elwood/Lula Miller, Clarence Highley, WillaDene Schwob, PeeWee Miller, Kenny Freck, Lenora Freck, Jay/Bea Freck, Claude/Evelyn Bevington, Philip Souder, Jackie Huffman, Nathan Mills 707 and Joe/Virginia Sumwalt. Yellow Ribbons: Curt Linker, John Leazier, Eli Masters, LaVon Clevenger, Bruce Laymon, Thomas L Laymon, Robert Harlan Jr, Robert Harlan Sr, Robert Nevil, Hugh Shafer, George Pond, Robert Stucky, Larry keiffer, John Paul Bolinger, Richard McIntyre, Ed Moore, Wilbur A Long, Ernest Chapman, Ty Surfus, Quintin Surfus, USS Salamonie, Bernard Gebhart, J Ben/Elizabeth Good, Burton A/Elizabeth Gebhart, Ted Williams, Dale Brown, John Harmon, Jennifer Bergman, Roger Ruble, Jen Ruble, Dale Schwob, George Huffman and Richard Doversberger. Red Ribbons: Gerrie Clevenger, Cooper/Kahlen Lows, Carol Harlan, Jackson Johnson, Phil Gauntt, Chris Gauntt, Sharon Williams, Alyce Tinkel, Ruble Family, and Cindy/Connie/Garry/Lisa Miller.

STORY OF THE CANDY CANE

The Candy Cane is a true CHRISTmas candy. A candy maker recreated a candy to honor the birth of our Savior. The candy is hard, because He is the Solid Rock. It is white, because He is Pure as snow, Virgin born, and without sin! It is in the shape of a J for at the precious Name of Jesus, every knee will bow & every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. It also has the shape of a Shepherd's staff, because He is the Good Shepherd. There are red stripes on the cane, because by His stripes

we are healed, and by His Blood and Death upon the Cross, the penalty for our sin is paid in full!

Three thin stripes remind us that the Father, Son & Holy Spirit each have a part in drawing us into a right relationship with the One True God through Jesus Christ!

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

It was just a few days before Christmas, and a young priest in a small town on the eastern plains of Colorado was building a nativity scene for the church, up front, near the altar.

He was busying himself with pine boughs late that afternoon and could not see the door, but heard the squeak as the door opened, and as he peered over the branches, he could see a small boy enter, poorly dressed against the biting cold.

The young boy quickly moved to an old steam radiator to warm himself, and after the sting of the cold had left his hands and face, he looked around the church, and his eyes came to rest on the nativity scene.

The young priest, fearful that he might frighten the lad, remained motionless behind the scene that housed the miniature child Jesus, and the rest of the familiar faces of the manger.

After satisfying himself that he was alone, the youngster approached the manger scene and stood before it, looking down on the babe in the crib. The priest, still hidden, was watching intently.

Finally the boy spoke: "You're poor too. You don't look like you will get any toys for Christmas either."

A tear trickled down the face, reddened with the warmth of the church after the hurt of the cold. "You know what I want for Christmas, more than anything else in the world," the boy told the infant Jesus. "A toy army Jeep, with a real driver in the seat. Any kind will do, but it has to have a soldier driving it, or it won't be any good."

The priest's heart was touched. His was a poor parish, but he didn't recognize this young boy and certainly by the looks of his clothes, there wouldn't be any money for toys, and little for food, in his home.

"I'll bet you can get me that toy Jeep with its soldier driver.

I'll come back tomorrow at the same time and see you again."

And with that the boy left the church and went out into the cold.

The priest finished his work on the manger, but his thoughts were on the boy and his request.

A toy Jeep wouldn't be hard to find, but one with a soldier driver - that would be a tough assignment! And the boy was firm. It had to have a soldier driver. "Well, it's worth a try," the priest thought. "I'll look in all the toy departments in town."

It was a small town, and the priest went into every store he could find, but found no toy Jeep with a soldier driver. He drove to a neighboring town, and after much searching his heart was filled with relief, he found a toy Jeep with a soldier driver.

Early the next morning, the priest made his way from the rectory to the church, holding his coat tightly around him. His thoughts turned to the young boy. "What was his home like?

Did it ever have heat?" The thoughts troubled him, but as he clutched the toy Jeep with its soldier driver in his gloved hand, he felt relieved. "At least the infant Jesus will have His gift for him."

The priest carefully placed the toy Jeep with its soldier driver next to the crib where the infant Jesus lay, and arranged the candle display so that there would be light upon the olive drab toy.

The priest went about his day and later in the afternoon again hid himself behind the manger to await the boy. Minutes passed into an hour, and the priest became discouraged.

"Maybe the boy lost his faith," he thought. The old radiator hissed out its sound of heat and again the priest's thoughts turned to the boy's ragged unsuitable coat to hold out the biting Colorado cold.

Darkness began to spread throughout the church, and only the warm glow of the candles lit the pews. The priest thought of turning on the lights, but dispelled the idea, thinking any minute the boy would appear.

Suddenly, the hinges groaned and squeaked, and the young boy appeared at the back of the church. Once again he went to the radiator to warm himself, and as he held out his hands to its warmth he let his eyes become accustomed to the dark. Finally, satisfying himself that

he was alone, he approached the manger scene.

The priest was breathless with anxiety, and as he came close, and the candle by the manger lit his face, the priest saw the magic of Christmas come alive in the boy's eyes.

"I knew you could find it!" The boy exclaimed. "It is just what I wanted, a toy Jeep with a real soldier driver!" A slight cloud appeared in his face. "But, I don't have anything to give you."

He said "Maybe I'll find something for you at home."

He turned and walked down the aisle, then suddenly he paused, then turned back, clutching the Jeep tightly in one hand, but holding something hidden in the other. He walked back to the manger scene, and placed an object in the crib with the infant Jesus, and merely said, "I'll share with you, Merry Christmas," and left the church.

The dim light failed to let the priest see what the boy had shared with the infant Jesus, but after the squeaky door closed behind the boy, he walked around to the front of the manger, and what he saw in the crib, put there by the boy, brought tears to his eyes.

The boy had placed in the crib with the infant Jesus the part of his toy that made it so special, the soldier driver.

A true story? Yes, it was a homily I heard from a young priest at a Christmas midnight mass in Colorado two years ago.

I'm sure he said it better than my attempt at writing it. You see, he authenticated the story.

He ended the story by simply holding up the toy soldier. He had saved it since that cold December day.

