

Friday, April 17, 2026

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# Warren Weekly

Your Hometown Newspaper

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

Thought for the Week: Do not condemn the judgement of another because it differs from your own. You may both be wrong. Dandemis

### ROUND-UP

Salamonie Elementary School Kindergarten Roundup will be held April 22, 2026 from 6:00 - 7:00pm

Please call the school office at 468-3093 if you have any questions. We would like to meet as many of our incoming students as we can that night.

Please register at [hccsc.jotform.com/240353815561959](http://hccsc.jotform.com/240353815561959).

### DONKEY BALL

New rodeo stars will be born during the wild and crazy Dairyland Donkey Basketball Show at the Grant County YMCA on April 25, 2026 starting at 7 p.m.!

It's basketball played on real, live donkeys and it will be wilder than a rodeo and funnier than a circus! All local players will be riding, so come out and see someone you know try to ride a donkey and play basketball at the same time. It's a thrill a minute, a spill a minute. Laugh as you've never laughed before at the wild and crazy Donkey Basketball show!

All proceeds will be for the benefit of Grant County 4-H Council.

Advance tickets can be purchased at the Grant County Purdue Extension Office.

Tickets may also be available at the gate if there is space available.

This donkey extravaganza will be a doubleheader, with a Championship playoff game between the winning teams to determine this year's champion.

See "Earthquake" or "Widow Maker", and other world-famous comedy donkeys! 500 pounds of pure dynamite. They are rough and tough and

hard to bluff and haven't been ridden yet.

### CONCERT SEASON

The list of this year's Final Friday's Concert is out. You can pick up your own schedule at Town Hall.

All concerts will be held the last Friday of the month at Riverside Park, 126 E 1st St, Warren (next to the Post Office). These concerts are free to the public and sponsored by various local businesses.

Headliner Sponsors are Citizens Telephone and East of Chicago. Spotlight Sponsors are Heritage Pointe Communities and New Dawn Dairy. Music Maker Sponsors are Blue Poppy Design and Warren Service and Supply. Friends of the Music include Bippus State Bank, Crossroads Pantry - Warren, DeWeese Softwater & Appliance, Down 2 Earth Excavating, LKQ Corp. Saturn-Wheel and Miranda Bolinber/HREG. Community Supporter is HILB Insurance Group.

In case of rain on any of the concert nights the concert will be held at KBC, 123 N Nancy St, Warren.

Scheduled this year are:

May 29 7-9pm The Hubie Ashcraft Band, sponsored by New Dawn Dairy

June 26 6:30 - 9:30pm Attaboy, sponsored by East of Chicago

July 31 7-9pm Time Travelers, supported by our 2026 Sponsors

August 28 6:30-9:30pm Whoa, Man! sponsored by Citizens Telephone

September 25 7-9pm Rylie Lynn Band, sponsored by Heritage Pointe.

Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets,

and come to have a great time!

### SUMMER READING AND MATH

High-quality reading and math instruction will be available to Hoosier students again this summer through the Summer Learning Labs (SLL). SLL is a free, five-week summer learning and enrichment program for students who will be in grades one through nine following summer break.

"Throughout the school year, our educators work tirelessly to help students build the strong reading and math skills they need to continue growing from one grade to the next," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "The summer months provide an important opportunity to continue that momentum, giving students the time and support necessary to make meaningful progress and return to school ready to learn in the fall. By partnering with schools and community organizations again this summer to offer the Summer Learning Labs, we are doubling-down on a proven investment and ensuring more students have access to the learning supports they need to thrive."

About Summer Learning Labs

For the second consecutive year, data show that after just five weeks of intentional, high-quality instruction during the summer, students who attended the Summer Learning Labs in 2025 achieved double-digit percentage point proficiency gains in both reading and math.

Students at all SLL sites will receive rigorous, high-quality reading and math instruction each day from licensed teachers to support continued student learning over the summer break, in addition to fun enrichment activities unique to each site. Nearly 12,000 students across all participating sites will receive support this year at no cost to their families.

The Summer Learning Labs first launched in Indianapolis through funding from the state's Student Learning Recovery Grant in 2021. This initial partnership between The Mind Trust and United Way of Central Indiana formed with the goal of accelerating student learning following the pandemic. After initial data indicated statistically significant academic growth, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) partnered with The Mind Trust to scale the successful Indy Summer Learning Labs model to additional regions across the state through the Expanding What Works grant.

"Each summer, we see the impact of high-quality learning environments where students can grow, explore, and build a strong academic foundation for the next year. Summer Learning Labs are delivering real academic results, and we're proud to continue working with the Indiana Department of Education to provide access to this opportunity for students across Indiana," said Brandon Brown, CEO of The Mind Trust.

2026 Summer Learning Labs anchor partners

BGC SLL will be run by the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Northern Indiana Corridor (BGCNIC), which plans to serve approximately 5,800 students

across the state. Beginning this year, BGC SLL will manage programming for the Northwest Indiana region of SLL, in addition to their previous service regions. Program dates for BGC SLL will vary by location.

Indy SLL will be run by The Mind Trust and plans to serve approximately 5,500 students across Indianapolis. Programming for ISLL will begin Monday, June 15, and end on Friday, July 17.

Southeast SLL will be run by Creating Avenues for Student Transformation (CAST) and plans to serve approximately 200 students in Campbellsburg, Hanover, Salem, and New Pekin. Programming for Southeast SLL will take place from Tuesday, May 26, to Friday, June 26.

Wabash SLL will be run by Wabash County YMCA and will serve approximately 50 students in North Manchester. Programming for Wabash SLL will begin Monday, June 8, and end on Friday, July 17.

To learn more about these free summer learning opportunities, visit [thesummerlearninglabs.com](http://thesummerlearninglabs.com).

### WILD KRATTS LIVE 2.0

The Wild Kratts LIVE! stage show that has kids across North America buzzing is coming to Muncie with an ALL NEW show: "Wild Kratts LIVE 2.0 - Activate Creature Power!" Get ready to dive into another classic Wild Kratts adventure with the Kratt brothers as they combine live action and animation, with Martin and Chris LIVE on stage and the rest of the Wild Kratts team on screen, at the Tortuga HQ. Which creature powers will they activate and what new

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**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  
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**Kudos, Kicks & Karats**



It has been a busy month, hopefully it slows down, oh wait, festival is next, no time to slow down now. 59th annual Salamonie Summer Festival will be here before you know it and this year we are celebrating America's 250th birthday with the theme Courtesy of the Red White and Blue. There are some new things on the slate of events and hope all will like.

Coming up is our 2nd fundraiser. Saturday April 25th the Texas tenderloin wagon will be at dash 90 wines and will be selling a one bun sandwich, fries and a drink (soda) for \$14.00 with a portion of the proceeds going to the festival fireworks fund, come out and help support the festival and have a great time. Hours are 12 noon till 8 p.m.

My main project has been downsizing household stuff. 38 years of junk as what I call it. Ok, I admit I have a room that I call the pit. It's full of Christmas and holiday decorations, and just a bunch of miscellaneous, why did I keep that stuff. Well the trash man will be getting a lot of it, some will get sold. I guess that's what happens when you get too involved in so many things. But that's ok, it keeps me busy.

I've also been trying to get the outside cleaned up, since I couldn't get it done last fall, talk about a mess. Last year I have suffered with sciatica and I just couldn't get a whole lot done. I was doing good getting through the grocery store and still struggle a little with that, but my shopping cart helps alot. Been doing some pelvic exercises and it has helped me tremendously. I still suffer from fibromyalgia but now that the winter months are over, it kinda eases up.

Been doing some recipe testing for the fairs and getting kinda excited with what I'm taking. I'm kinda steering away from cookies and doing more breads. So we will see how that goes.

Hope you all are enjoying the weather, I know I am. I started to take my break times at work outside and they haven't had to drag me back in to finish the day. Hope you all have a great week and with all the rain coming in be smart when approaching high water.

**Obituaries, Birth Announcements, Wedding & Anniversary Announcements are always FREE in the Warren Weekly!**

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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 BRETHREN</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 Soultz, 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 BRETHREN</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/>             vanburechurchofthevine@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 Soultz<br/>             Sunday Worship..... 10:30 am<br/>             Sunday School Classes .....9:30 am<br/>             Wed. Bible Study .....7:00 pm</p> |
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*Please Attend The Church of Your Choice*

# AREA NEWS

**MORE PAGE 1**

and amazing 'WOW!' facts will you learn? Experience, live-on-stage, the electrifying excitement and the inspiring quest of the Kratt Brothers that make the hit television series Wild Kratts a family favorite time and time again!

Wild Kratts LIVE 2.0 will be at Emens Auditorium in Muncie on November 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Fans can go to [www.wildkrattslive.com](http://www.wildkrattslive.com) to register for a pre-sale code that will give them early access to tickets. A limited number of VIP tickets will be available for this pre-sale. Each VIP ticket includes a premium seat at the show, a meet and greet with Chris and Martin Kratt, a personally autographed color photo, and photograph with the brothers that is taken with a personal camera.

Since 2014, Wild Kratts LIVE! has performed over 225 shows for hundreds of thousands of fans in over 135 cities across North America. It was created for the stage by the imaginative minds of Martin and Chris Kratt from Zoboomafoo, Kratt's Creatures, and Kratt Bros. Be the Creature.

**SIGMA PHI**

Beta Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma Sorority met on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at the Knight Bergmann Center in Warren. All but three members were able to attend.

Minutes were read and treasurer's report was given, highlighting our income from the recent fundraiser luncheon held in March. We discussed the upcoming BINGO fundraiser to be held July 3rd during the Salamonie Summer Festival. Members will work on obtaining sponsorships and donations to create the BINGO prizes and a list was distributed with theme ideas for the prizes.

Multiple letters of correspondence from Province and International chapters were read. Tara Korporal, our chapter Service Secretary, reported she sent several cards (get well, thinking of you, birthday, sympathy) to members within our Chapter and Province.

Carol Irick, Kelly Jones, Beth Ostermeyer, and Tara were all able to attend our recent Province meeting in March and reported on the meeting. The chapters in the Province were able to donate nearly \$30,000 back into their communities, which increased around \$4600 from last year. 73 members from the 9 chapters in our Province attended and they enjoyed a touching memorial service for members who have passed away, some great food, and some great fellowship with sorority sisters. The theme was "Let's Get Groovy" and they also enjoyed the DJ for Saturday night's entertainment, along with the creative costumes our sorority sisters wore.

Our scholarship committee reported Cleyton Wilkerson from Southern Wells was selected as the recipient of our Beta Delta Chapter scholarship. Cleyton hopes to attend Ball State University and study Political Science.

We also voted to donate \$100 to the Miss Warren Pageant, and \$500 to the Salamonie Summer Festival to

sponsor a magician during the festival. Our next business meeting will be held May 5th.

**THE BRANSON SHOWS TRIP DAY 2, PART 1**

by Larry Ryan

It was a cloudy and windy morning in Rolla, MO. After a complimentary breakfast of scrambled eggs, etc., we departed 8:45 am. Our tour guide allowed us extra sleep as a reward for being good travelers the previous day! The route was adjacent to Old Highway 66 and I quickly spotted a shiny, silver, double-wide diner named, "Route 66 Southern Diner." That authentic style is becoming rare.

The tree leaves had become brown and not colorful anymore. Hilly pastures were dotted with Black Angus cattle. The bus sped past the Ozarks Technical College building. Springfield, MO was listed at 86 miles ahead. We passed an old, small, isolated log cabin with an inscription, "Buckon City Hall." A fairly flat area ahead had hay bales scattered throughout the field. Stocking up for winter! Valleys stretched wide and shallow streams meandered leisurely within them.

At Springfield, the driver forced the bus to leave its westward path and turned south on US Highway # 65 toward Branson, MO. We were immediately engulfed

with numerous signs advertising eateries, hotels, and entertainment. The bus engine struggled to pass these public features as the road was going uphill. Yes, we were approaching the Ozark Mountains.

The bus passed several hill-climbing tests. Thank goodness! It also motored past the Bracken Boat Building Company, the James River Ford Dealership, and the Lifepoint Church. Much of the side road scenery was tapered mountain walls which had been chiseled down for highway access. It reminded me of the surroundings on Highway # 37 between Martinsville and Bloomington, Indiana. Evergreen trees were punctuated along our route. The majority of them were ideally-shaped for living room Christmas Trees. Nature at its best!

Where there was enough road-side space, billboards advertised the many Branson variety shows. But not to be missed was a tall, white, religious cross with blue teardrops. At 10:30, a sign notified us that Branson was only 7 miles ahead. Soon we passed Silver Dollar City and Table Rock Lake exits which were also cut through rock. Next, we crossed US # 160, Ozark Mountain High Road, Bee Creek Road, and Branson Landing Blvd. The latter went to the Historic Downtown area.

Soon, the bus turned right onto State Road # 76. Immediately, it was apparent that all the buildings were constructed on hilly terrain. There was not a level place in

town. We passed a sign to Lake Taneycomo, the War Memorial Plaza, and the Board Walk Theater which was formerly known as the Kenny Rogers Theater. As we drove by the 5-floor, Grand Victorian Hotel, the tour director announced that would be our home for three days. It was too early to check-in. The driver manipulated the bus into a left turn and onto Highway # 165 south. Our group was headed for lunch.

**SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS**

by Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens Ask Rusty – I'll be 70 on New Year's Day. When Should I Apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I was born on January 1st, 1958, so I believe Social Security considers me to be 70 as of December 2027. I'm planning on filing when I turn 70 to maximize the payment. I'm not sure if I should start in December, with the first payment in January 2028. Or should I start in January with the first payment in February 2028? I know I can start anytime, however I don't want to file before the maximum payment, even by one month. Signed: Wanting Maximum Benefit

Dear Wanting: You are correct that if your birth date is January 1, 1958, you are

**CONTINUED PAGE 4**



**Weekly Specials  
April 16 - 22**

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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.

- Apr 15 7:00p V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall
- Apr 20 6:30p W - KBC Board Meeting @ KBC
- Apr 22 EARTH DAY
- May 6 Noon W - Chamber of Commerce Luncheon @ KBC
- May 6 7:00p V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall
- May 11 5:00p W - Town Council Meeting @ Assembly Hall
- May 12 6:30p W - SSF Meeting @ KBC
- May 18 6:30p W - KBC Board Meeting @ KBC
- May 20 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)

*Thank You!*  
**Warren Law Enforcement**  
*You Are Appreciated!*

## AREA NEWS CONTINUED

### MORE PAGE 3

entitled to your full age 70 benefit in December 2027. So, if you claim your SS benefit to start in December 2027 you will get your maximum benefit amount and you will receive that payment in January 2028 (on the 2nd Wednesday). Basically, anyone born on the first of any month is considered to have been born in the previous month for SS benefit purposes.

You can apply for your benefits up to 4 months prior to your birthday month, and SS usually suggests applying about 3 months in advance to give them time to process your application. When you complete the application, you will specify the month you wish your benefits to start, so applying early does not present a problem. You can either call SSA at 1.800.772.1213 to make an appointment to apply over the phone, or you can apply online at [www.ssa.gov/apply](http://www.ssa.gov/apply).

The one thing you might want to do is put the following in the "Remarks" section of your application for SS benefits: "I do not wish to receive any retroactive Social Security benefits. I want my benefits to become effective with the first month of my age 70 eligibility (December 2027 because I was born on the first of January)."

Including that remark will ensure that your benefit will be the full maximum amount you are entitled to at 70 years of age, without any reduction. And I congratulate you on choosing a strategy which maximizes your monthly benefit and will likely provide you with the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits.

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

([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-dvisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-dvisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

About AMAC  
The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [amac.us](http://amac.us) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation ([www.AmacFoundation.org](http://www.AmacFoundation.org)) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at [www.amac.us/join-amac](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

### HOW TO NAVIGATE THE GROCERY STORE WITHOUT DECISION FATIGUE

(StatePoint) Ever take a trip to the grocery store and feel overwhelmed by all the choices available? Save time and money by opting for products already tested by other consumers.

Product of the Year USA, the nation's largest consumer-voted awards program dedicated to recognizing product innovation, has announced the winners of the 2026 Product of the Year Awards. Winners were selected based on the opinions of 40,000 American shoppers through an independent national study conducted by Kantar, a leading global research firm.

So the next time you're at the supermarket, be on the look-out for this year's winners, which include the grocery store essentials listed below. You can easily find these crowd-pleasing foods and beverages when shopping in-store and online by simply looking for Product of the Year's red seal of approval.

Breakfast: Eggo Protein Waffles and Pancakes

Eggo Protein Waffles are crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside, while Eggo Protein Pancakes are golden, fluffy and delicious. Both come in multiple flavors and offer a wholesome, tasty way to fuel mornings with 20% of the recommended daily value of protein in every serving.

Granola: ALDI-Exclusive Simply Nature Granola Bites Available in Strawberry or Chocolate Chip, these bites are great for breakfast, a midday boost, or a convenient on-the-go treat. With low calories, non-GMO ingredients, and gluten-free certification, they provide a healthy and satisfying option to enjoy anytime.

Healthy Beverage: Clearly Canadian Originals

The original flavored sparkling water has launched a new Sunset Orange flavor bursting with fresh clementine and zesty citrus notes, with a touch of sweetness and a crisp refreshing finish. Crafted with pure Canadian spring water with naturally occurring hydrating minerals, its naturally big flavor relies on simple ingredients.

Hydration: Jumex Hydrolit +Advance

This high-performance hydration drink is designed to fuel your body and mind, delivering five essential ions for optimal electrolyte balance, natural caffeine for sustained energy, and choline to boost focus and mental clarity. Whether you're training, recovering, or on the go, Hydrolit +Advance goes beyond the basics to keep you performing at your peak.

Kitchen Essentials: Reynolds Kitchens Parchment Cooking Bags

Parchment Cooking Bags offer an innovative way to prepare flavorful meals in just three steps. Place the bag on a sheet pan and fill with your ingredients, fold it closed, and bake. The parchment bags lock in moisture and flavor, making it easy to create delicious, family-sized meals with minimal cleanup. Perfect

for busy weeknights, they bring ease, taste and satisfaction to your kitchen.

Meal Ingredient: Knorr Flavor Bases

Knorr Premium Flavor Base is your secret to rich, authentic taste in every dish. Crafted by professional chefs with real, quality ingredients, each jar makes up to 52 cups of flavorful stock perfect for soups, marinades and roasted vegetables.

Plant Based: Organic Valley Oat Beverage

This new plant-based beverage blends ethically sourced, sustainably grown organic oats, water, and salt with organic MCT oil-rich texture and frothiness. Free from gums and seed oils, it's also non-dairy and lactose-free—perfect for lattes, smoothies, baking and more!

Protein Snack: Tyson Chicken Bites Cups

Delivering 35 grams of protein per serving, these chicken bites can be enjoyed as an appetizer or snack with your favorite dips.

Rice: Ben's Original Single-Serve Rice Cups

These convenient single-serving rice cups offer a quick, easy way to enjoy perfect rice in the perfect size for on-the-go meals, a quick snack or a convenient side for busy days and contain no artificial flavors or colors from artificial sources.

Spreadable Cheese: Rondelé by Président

Blending milk, cream, garlic and savory herbs into a whipped, creamy spread, this cheese delivers rich, comforting flavor to elevate everyday snacking, simple meals and casual entertaining. Made with no stabilizers, it offers quick convenience and versatility for busy lifestyles.

Additional winners include:

Cheese: Organic Valley Original American Cheese Block

Frozen Dessert: Kinder Frozen Dessert

Frozen Entree: Butterball Cook from Frozen Premium Whole Turkey

Health & Wellness: ALDI-Exclusive Elevation Ultra Filtered Milkshakes

Wine: Elliot Cooper Chardonnay

Zero Sugar Beverage: Clearly Canadian Zero Sugar

For more information and the complete list of this year's winners, visit [productoftheyearusa.com](http://productoftheyearusa.com).

By relying on the recommendations of thousands of consumers, you can load your grocery cart with the self-assurance of a savvy shopper.

### USE THE RIGHT PRODUCTS FOR THE RIGHT TASK THIS SPRING CLEANING SEASON

(StatePoint) While spring cleaning is not the most dreaded seasonal task among Americans — in an American Cleaning Institute survey, 80% of respondents said they would rather spring clean than fill out their tax forms — there's no reason to make it harder than it needs to be.

Rust-Oleum, a maker of a wide array of cleaning products, offers these tips and insights for beefing up your cleaning caddy and tackling your spring cleaning checklist with ease:

Tackling the Toughest Stains

Busy homes prone to tough messes need a concentrated formula that offers a reliable and effective way to remove anything from pet-related stains to crayon marks on the wall, lipstick on clothing, and grease in the kitchen and garage. That's where a solution like Krud Kutter Original comes into play. The "duct tape of cleaning," make it your go-to solution for both hard surfaces like walls, kitchen cabinets and garage floors, and soft surfaces like carpet and fabric. The beauty of a concentrated formula is that you can use it at full strength for removing paints, grease and oil, or dilute it for lighter cleaning tasks. In any case, apply your formula directly on the surface to be cleaned, allow to sit briefly, then wipe off with a clean cloth or towel. For tougher jobs, apply liberally and allow

CONTINUED PAGE 6

## GENEALOGY REPORT

### BANCROFT

Sally Jo Bancroft, age 78, of Marion, IN, passed away on Monday, April 6, 2026, at IU Health-Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, IN.



She was born December 13, 1947 in Marion. Sally was a 1965 graduate of Marion High School and attended Purdue University. She married William W. Bancroft, Jr. in 1967. He was killed in action in Vietnam in 1970.

Sally's passions in life revolved around her family and giving back to her community. She was a lifelong member of First U.M. Church in Marion where she was active in many groups, served on committees and participated in mission and outreach projects through the years. Sally also volunteered at the Marion VA, was active in the Van Buren American Legion, The Mississinewa Audubon Club, the Marion-Grant County Humane Society, The Canal Society of Indiana, the Mississinewa Battlefield Society and the Grant County Historical Society. Sally enjoyed reading and flower gardening and loved spending time with her mother before her passing in 2011.

Sally will be greatly missed by her fur baby, Bella, and many special friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, William W. Bancroft, Jr., son, William (Trey) Warner Bancroft III and parents, Charles and Sarah Charlotte (Kent) May.

A Celebration of Life will be held at First United Methodist Church, 624 S Adams St, Marion, on April 19th at 2:00 PM with Pastor Bob McHenry officiating. Interment will be at the Van Buren Cemetery in Van Buren. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made directly to the Marion-Grant County Humane Society.

### BUCKINGHAM

Nancy S. Buckingham, 87, of Warren and formerly of Huntington and Geneva, passed away on Friday, April 3, 2026, at Heritage Pointe of Warren.

She was a 1957 graduate of Roanoke High School.

Nancy was employed by Memcor from 1957 to 1984 and retired after 28 years of employment.

She was a devoted member of Pleasant Chapel Church, Roanoke.

Nancy was born on July 6, 1938, in Huntington, a daughter of the late William Dale and Berenice (Rupert) Stetzel.

She was united in marriage to Earl W. Buckingham on February 15, 1968. He preceded her in death on June 12, 1992.

Survivors include two sons, Tom (Becky) Stetzel, of Kokomo, and Jeff Stetzel, of Markle; two grandchildren, Tyler (Katelyn) Stetzel, of Kokomo, and Trey Stetzel, of Kokomo; a great-grandson, Trenton Stetzel.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a daughter, Susan Ann Stetzel, three brothers, Earl Wayne Stetzel, LeRoy D. Stetzel and Allen "Pete" Stetzel, and two sisters, Mary Eloise Beck and Dortha Mae Souers.

A visitation was on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at Myers Funeral Home Huntington Chapel, 2901 Guilford St., Huntington.

A funeral service was on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, immediately following the visitation at the funeral home.

Interment was at Riverside Cemetery, Geneva.

Memorial contributions can be made out to Pleasant Chapel Church in care of Myers Funeral Home, 2901 Guilford St., Huntington IN 46750.

### HOWELL

Lorraine Betty Howell, 80, of rural Bluffton, passed away at 8:18 a.m. Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana in Fort Wayne.

She was born Sunday, Nov. 25, 1945, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She married David L. Howell Saturday, Oct. 30, 1965.

She will be forever missed by her husband, David L. Howell, Bluffton; son, Mike (Joy) Howell, Lavonia, Georgia; daughter, Tresa Howell (Tom) Siegel, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin; brother, Mark (Sue) Warner; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Kermit Warner; mother, Betty (Gibney) Warner; and brothers, Mike and Kermit Warner.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

### HENDERSON

Raymond Lee Henderson, 65, passed away at Heritage Pointe of Warren on Monday, April 6, 2026.

He was born on October 21, 1960, in Marion to Thomas Henderson and Joan (Stevens) Henderson Carrender, who preceded him in death.

Raymond married Joan Schmidgall. Together they had two children. She preceded him in death in 2012.

There will be no visitation or service.

### WOOD

Gary D. Wood, 84, of LaFontaine, passed away at 11:01 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at Autumn Ridge Healthcare Center, Wabash.

He was born to Russell C. and Nedra (Siders) Wood on April 19, 1941, in Marion.

Gary was a 1959 graduate of Marion High School.

He married his high school sweetheart of 66 years, Cece M. Boxell, on October 2, 1959, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Marion.

Gary worked as a print pressman at Prototype, Marion.

He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Lodge #533,

LaFontaine, and Grace Community Church, Marion.

Gary served on the Wabash County Alcohol Board.

He was a past member of the LaFontaine Town Board.

Gary enjoyed woodworking, tending to his garden, a good joke and fishing.

He loved doing things for the people in his community, always willing to lend a helping hand.

Gary loved to attend his kids' and grandkids' sporting events and school activities.

Most of all, he loved his family and was deeply proud of them.

Gary is survived by his wife, Cece M. Wood, of LaFontaine; two sons, Gregg (Denise) Wood, of LaFontaine, and Mark (Mary) Wood, of Wabash; four grandchildren, Evan Wood, of Wabash, Megan (Chris) Anderson, of Columbia City, Nate (Randa) Wood, of Wabash, and Michael (Lauren) Wood, of Van Buren; nine great-grandchildren, Khloye Wood, Khyla Wood, Shaylee Jacobs, Khyndal Wood, Easton Korporal, Kori Korporal, Lainey Wood, Brigham Anderson and Brecken Anderson.

He is preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Janene Leaming.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 13, 2026, at McDonald Funeral Home, LaFontaine Chapel, 104 S. Main St., LaFontaine, with Pastor Tim Mansbarger officiating.

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

Visitation for friends and family was on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials can be made to Grace Community Church, 1810 E. Bradford Pike, Marion, IN 46952 or Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607.

### LAHR

David M. Lahr, Beloved Husband, Father, and Grandfather; 74, of Rural Warren, Indiana, passed away at 8:10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

He was born on April 6, 1951, in Huntington, Indiana, to Cyril R. Lahr and Laura Stetzel Lahr, both of whom preceded him in death.

David was a lifelong resident of Huntington County and devoted his life to farming and agriculture. He graduated from Huntington North High School in 1969 and became a lifelong Huntington County farmer. In addition to farming, David worked as a semi driver and was associated with Lahrdale Trucking. He was a member of the Farm Bureau, a lifetime member of the Huntington County 4-H, and belonged to the Angus Association. David attended Lancaster Wesleyan Church.

David enjoyed attending the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin, working with beef cattle, and making hay and straw. He was passionate about farming and livestock, and his love for agriculture shaped much of his life. He was also an avid sports fan who enjoyed cheering for the Green Bay Packers as well as Purdue and IU basketball. David consistently showed up as a supportive caring Grandfather for his granddaughters, Natalie and Sophia, at sporting events and dance classes.

On June 4, 2003, David married Kathy Stinson Lahr in Huntington County, and she survives.

He is also survived by his children, Nathan Briles (Veronica) of Warren and Kristi Carey of Huntington; his grandchildren, Natalie Briles, Sophia Briles, Arley Carey, and Adam Carey; two great-grandchildren, Sailor Carey and River Carey; his sister, Susan Eng of Hartland, WI; along with three nieces and one nephew.

Family and friends may gather from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at Glancy Funeral Homes, H. Brown & Son Chapel in Warren, Indiana. A funeral service to celebrate David's life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Lancaster Cemetery.

CONTINUED PAGE 6

# GENEALOGY REPORT

# AREA NEWS CONTINUED

**MORE PAGE 5**

Memorial contributions may be made to the Natalie and Sophia Education Fund.

**SUMMERS**

Esther L. Summers, 88, of Warren, Indiana, passed away peacefully at 1:57 a.m. on Monday, April 13, 2026, at Heritage Pointe in Warren.



Esther was born on July 20, 1937, in Portland, Indiana, to Earl and Fern Noble. She later married the love of her life, Wendell Summers, on December 31, 1975, in Celina, Ohio. Together they built a life centered around family, love, and caring for others.

Esther dedicated much of her professional life to helping people. She served as the office manager at Jay County Hospital for 24 years and later worked for Dr. Ramey in Marion for 8 years, as well as serving as an insurance manager for 10 years at Markle Medical. No matter where she worked, Esther was known for her kindness, reliability, and her genuine concern for others.

More than anything, Esther was devoted to her family. She found great joy in hosting holidays, spending time with her grandchildren, and simply being together with those she loved. Esther had a caring heart and was always thinking

about her family's well-being. She especially worried when the weather turned bad or when loved ones were traveling or attending important events because she loved them deeply and wanted everyone to be safe. Her love was steady, protective, and always present.

Esther also enjoyed traveling, with North Fort Myers, Florida, holding a special place in her heart. Whether at home or away, she cherished making memories with family and creating moments filled with warmth and laughter.

She is survived by her loving husband, Wendell Summers of Warren, Indiana; daughters, Karla Brown of Markle, Indiana, and Twila Billman of Bluffton, Indiana; brothers, Harry Noble and Dale Noble; sister, Mary Baucher; grandchildren, Justin Stephen of Louisa, Kentucky, and Jeremy Stephen of Bluffton, Indiana; and six great-grandchildren.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember Esther at Heritage Pointe, Applegate Chapel, 801 N. Huntington Avenue, Warren, Indiana, on Sunday, April 19, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A Memorial Service to celebrate her life will follow at 5:00 p.m. with Chaplain Gerald Moreland officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 50 East 91st Street, Suite 100, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

**MORE PAGE 4**

to stand for a few minutes before scrubbing with a brush or scouring pad, then wiping with a wet rag.

Making Mindful Daily Choices

If conscious consumption is important to you, look for products that meet U.S. EPA Safer Choice product standards and are USDA biobased-certified, such as Mean Green Refillable Ultra Powered Concentrate. This cleaning formula lasts up to four times longer than a regular bottle of cleaner, helping reduce plastic waste. But these benefits don't mean you have to compromise on effectiveness or efficiency. The unique design of the bottle's water chamber lets you prepare your cleaning solution at the sink. This makes it even easier for this concentrated formula to work effectively on everything from smudges and smears on glass to grease and grime in the kitchen to soap scum in the shower.

Prepping Your Home Exterior After a long winter of extreme weather exposure, your home's outdoor spaces may need special attention to maintain that curb appeal. Thankfully there are strategies for removing tough stains caused by mildew, mold, algae, fungus and moss, and restoring the original look to wood, vinyl, brick and stone. With either a tank sprayer or the product's hose-end sprayer, apply Moldex Instant Outdoor Cleaner onto the area to be treated. After allowing the product to work for 5-10 minutes, rinse it off. Available in both bleach and non-bleach formats, the bleach formula is especially heavy hitting, providing a satisfying instant whitening effect.

Doing a Deep Clean Deep cleaning tasks like eliminating gunk from your oven interior, scrubbing soot off the bottom of pans, and removing embedded dirt from grout are often associated with elbow grease, which is why they get postponed for so long. Fortunately, there's a way to

work smarter, not harder. Scoop The Pink Stuff Miracle Cleaning Paste onto a soft cloth or sponge, then scrub it onto the area to be cleaned. For extra stain removal power, leave it to sit for 10-15 minutes before washing the paste away with clean water.

Addressing Everyday Housework

Amid extensive spring cleaning efforts, don't neglect everyday tasks. Whether you're cleaning counters, showers or dirty sneakers, try a mild abrasive cleaner, such as The Pink Stuff The Miracle Paste Squeezable. This softer, easy-to-rinse formula comes in a convenient tube that lets you apply the paste directly where you need it so there's no mess or fuss. Squeeze the paste directly onto the surface to be cleaned, gently rub using a soft cloth, sponge or sonic scrubber, then rinse thoroughly to remove any residue.

By reaching for the right products for each task, you can make your spring clean feel effortless and enjoyable.

**PRIORITIZE SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS DURING YOUR SPRING CLEAN**

(StatePoint) Spring is the perfect time for a home refresh! While dusting the ceiling fan and scrubbing the tub are likely already on your to-do list, the most essential task of all may not be on your radar: cleaning and testing your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. A fresh home is great, but a safe one is even better. Did you know that working smoke alarms in the home doubles your chances of safely escaping a house fire? That's according to the National Fire Protection Association. This spring, Kidde, a pioneer in early smoke detection for over 100 years, is highlighting the importance of keeping your smoke and CO alarms up to date. Here's what they want you to know:

- Install devices throughout the house, on every level including the living room, kitchen, bedrooms, hallways, basement and garage. It's also a good idea to keep fire

extinguishers in the kitchen, basement, laundry room and garage.

- Smoke and CO devices aren't just plastic boxes – they're sophisticated mini-computers. Their sensors and circuits constantly analyze air particles, and like any computer, dust and neglect can inhibit their functionality. Clean your alarms this spring, and regularly after that, to help prevent false alarms. Use compressed air or a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush to clean the vents, and then wipe the device with a dry microfiber cloth.

- Smoke and CO alarms are electronic devices with sensors and circuits that wear out over time. It's recommended to replace them every 5 to 10 years depending on the model. You can determine whether it's time to replace or upgrade your alarms by looking at the manufacturing date. Be sure to opt for self-testing devices that help ensure the alarms are operating as expected, like the Kidde Smoke Alarm, 10-Year Battery Powered or the Combo Smoke CO Alarm, 10-Year Battery Powered, which last a full decade. Kidde's Detect line of devices offer revolutionary technology that provides fast, precise smoke detection, giving individuals and families more time to react and get to safety. The line also prioritizes enhanced sensing technology, which helps to reduce those nuisance alarms that can lead to consumers disabling their devices.

Remember, a self-testing device is not a substitute for a manual push test. No matter what style devices you have in your home, be sure to take time this spring to manually test them, and then monthly after that.

More information about fire and CO safety can be found by visiting <https://www.kidde.com>.

"A happy, healthy home starts with safety. Make sure your fire and carbon monoxide detectors are part of your seasonal refresh routine: clean them, test them, and replace any units that have reached their limit," says Isis Wu, president of Global Residential Fire & Safety at Kidde.

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