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Volume 19, Number 44



Warren Weekly

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

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Thought for the Week: *We are the only ones who have the power to accomplish what we set out to do.* Anonymous

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene Children's Ministry will be presenting their Christmas program on Sunday evening, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. Come hear the Christmas story from a child's point of view. Cookie fellowship will follow program. This event is open to everyone in our community. We hope to see you there!

ADULT READING

An Adult Reading Group will have an organizational meeting at the Warren Library on Wednesday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. Interested people should sign up at the Library or call 375-3450.

JR LEADERS TO MEET

The Huntington County 4-H Junior Leaders will meet Thursday, December 9 from 6:15 - 7:30 pm at The Heritage of Huntington, 1180 W 500 N, Huntington. Junior Leaders will share Christmas songs with the residents and staff and then conduct their regular business meeting following their caroling. The group will continue to plan activities for the coming 4-H year and enjoy refreshments.

Huntington County 4-H Junior Leader organization is open to any 4-H member that is in the 7th grade or older. The club involves youth in activities to learn more about the local community, gain leadership skills and provide support to the county 4-H program.

For more information about Junior Leaders, contact the Purdue Extension Service - Huntington County Office, located at 354 N Jefferson Street - Suite 202 by calling 260-358-4826 or email at laldridg@purdue.edu.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Warren United Methodist Church will be having a Christmas Eve Communion Service on Dec. 24th at 7 PM. We will also have a Christmas Candlelight Service on Dec. 24th at 11PM.

SEEKING NEW CROP

If you want to sharpen your gardening skills and you have an interest in sharing your knowledge with others, Purdue University has the ideal program for you.

Beginning in February of 2005, a Purdue Master Gardener Program training series will be offered for residents in the Wells County area. The Purdue Master Gardener Program is a volunteer training program that provides a learning framework for participants to increase their knowledge on a wide variety of horticultural subjects. In turn, participants volunteer, representing Purdue University. As volunteers, participants grow by sharing knowledge while providing leadership and service in educational gardening activities within their communities.

Training will be held on Thursday evenings from February to May (14 sessions) at the Wells County Community Center (4-H Park) in Bluffton. Participants will be exposed to a wide range of subjects including soil and plant science, diagnosis of plant problems, pesticide safety, and culture of vegetable, flower, landscape, and fruit plants.

Materials and expenses for the series of classes cost \$110 per participant. This expense fee covers such items as reference notebooks, mailings, and name badges. These materials all become part of the Master Gardener's personal collection.

While the class will be encouraged to create new educational outreach programs, there are already plenty of opportunities for which volunteers are needed. Some of these projects

include the staffing information booths at gardening events, teaching public education classes, speaking to local clubs and organizations, assisting with in-school programs, and hands-on demonstration gardens.

If you'd like an application to join our league of volunteers or have questions about the program, contact Bill Horan, Purdue Extension Educator, at the Wells County Office (located in the Community Center at the 4-H Park in Bluffton, phone 260-824-6412 or email: horan@purdue.edu)

(3D) PREVENTION MONTH

INDIANAPOLIS - The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, a division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, is proud to join other states across the nation in recognizing December as "National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month."

The holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year for road travel. It also is one of the most dangerous, due to a high incidence of alcohol-related traffic crashes.

More than 17,000 motorists were killed in alcohol-related crashes in the United States last year, including 262 motorists on Indiana roadways. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which provides funding to the states for traffic safety enforcement and media campaigns, one American is injured every two minutes in an alcohol-related crash.

The Governor's Council offers motorists these simple reminders for a safer holiday season:

- If you are impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or get a sober friend or family member to come and get you;
- If you can't find safe transportation, stay where you are and sleep it off until you are

sober;

- If you think a friend is impaired, take the keys and prevent him or her from driving;
- Remember to always wear your seat belt.

For more information about impaired driving, please visit www.in.gov/cji or www.stopimpaireddriving.org on the Web.

SANTA AT QUAYLE CENTER

The Dan Quayle Center will again host a special guest this holiday season. Children of all ages will be able to make their last minute requests to Santa at the Museum on Wednesday, December 15th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. There is no admission charge to visit Santa. Optional photos with Santa will be available for purchase.

For more information, please contact the Center at (260)356-6356.

The Dan Quayle Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of Dan Quayle, the Indiana Vice Presidents and the Office of the Vice President and those who have held it. As the only vice-presidential museum in the country, the Center also provides exhibits and educational programming.

The Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. It is closed on Sunday, Monday and major holidays. Admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children, ages 7-17 and free for children, six and under. Museum members are also free. Group discounts available. Educational tours are available for school or adult groups upon request.

ATTEND SYMPOSIUM

INDIANAPOLIS - U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar announced that area high school students, Chelsea Kennedy and Shannon Goings, both of Huntington North High School, have been selected to

attend his "Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders" at the University of Indianapolis on December 11.

Every public and private high school in Indiana has been invited to select two outstanding juniors to attend the all-day conference. Last year, more than 500 students, representing high schools in almost all 92 counties across the state, attended the event. School officials who have not yet done so may access registration information at <http://lugar.senate.gov/symposium.html>.

Again, this year, Lugar will open the day-long program with an address to the students on national and world affairs. The students will then participate in a choice of ten discussion groups. Some of this year's topics include: homeland security, immigration, juvenile crime, Iraq, media responsibility, and U.S. leadership in the world. Students debate opposing views under the leadership of major state and national advocates on the subjects.

Students have been encouraged to donate canned food items that will be collected at registration and donated to Gleaners Food Bank in Indianapolis.

COUNCIL NOTES

The Van Buren Town Council met in short session on Wednesday evening, Dec. 1, 2004. President Tony Manry opened the meeting at 7 p.m. with all in attendance repeating the Pledge to the American Flag.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Members of the Van Buren Fire Department were in attendance and discussed plans to make improvements at the Fire Station. They plan to have a walk-through of the building and to list needed repairs to meet safety code.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

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WARREN WEEKLY is a free paper for the Warren, Indiana area. It is distributed every Friday to rural postal patrons of Warren, Liberty Center, and Van Buren, Indiana. The Warren Weekly is available at Cady's Express, and next to the Post Office in downtown Warren. The Warren Weekly is also available in several businesses in Van Buren. Total circulation is 3200.

It is sent anywhere in the Continental United States for three (3) months for \$9.50, six (6) months for \$19 or \$38 for one year. Mail name, address, and payment to WARREN WEEKLY at: PO Box 695, Warren, IN 46792.

Deadline for news and/or advertising is 10:00 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 PJ's Flower and Gift Shop or mail to P O Box 695, Warren. Van Buren residents may call Mary Jo Zoda at 765-934-3637.

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

PROPERTY DESTROYED

On Thanksgiving Day, my family arose to an unexpected occurrence in our backyard. Someone, in the middle of the night, had driven through our back yard and did some damage to our landscaping and to our raspberry bushes. Needless to say no one came forward to apologize for the damage and offered any restitution for the damages done to our yard, let alone to our neighbor's yards in which they left tracks and tore up the grass in their yards also.

I hope the damage to the vehicle of the person responsible for this is not to extensive compared to our properties damage, because we know for a fact they have some damage to their vehicle (and we do have an idea of the truck that did the damage).

As winter approaches, we ask that the people with snowmobiles and 4 wheelers please be considerate for the property of other. If you don't have permission to ride in or on their property, please abide by it. You don't realize what's under the snow that you are tearing up or for the safety of riding, just ask some of the people that have been injured on these vehicles.

We have been trying hard to finish our property and make it a nice home for us and a nice site for our neighbors to appreciate to, but when you have to make repairs after everybody else's rudeness, it is very discouraging. So please be considerate of others property.

Sincerely,
John and Treva Flemming

NEW NICKELS HONOR AMERICAN WEST

Thomas Jefferson appears in a bolder image on new 5 cent coins, his first makeover since appearing on the coin in 1938.

Artist Joe Fitzgerald, who created the design for the front of the two nickels, says he wanted the image to be large enough so the public could see the determination and intelligence in his eyes. He wanted the image to give a sense of Jefferson's character, his kindness, and his sense of humor. The front of both nickels will include the word "Liberty," as written by Jefferson.

The back of one nickel features an American bison, a design reminiscent of the American West and the buffalo nickel first issued in 1913. The back of the second nickel features a view of the Pacific from a rocky coastline dotted with trees. The inscription says "Ocean in view! O! The joy!" That's a quote from William Clark's journal, a reference to the Lewis and Clark expedition's quest to reach the Pacific ocean.

WHAT WE SPEND

Canadians are expected to spend slightly more in 2004 than they spent per person in 2003 when the average Canadian spent \$575 on Christmas gifts. This year American consumers are expected to spend an average of \$655 per person, according to NPD group. Higher gasoline prices are expected to take a bite out of the holiday budget.

Read all the Advertisements in the Warren Weekly. They're full of all kinds of useful information.

<p style="text-align: center;">Zeller Construction</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Owner: Larry Highley 375-3477 or 260/359-2331 <i>Pole Barns, New Homes, Remodeling, Garages, Siding, Windows & Roofing</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">D & D BIKE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Over 200 in Stock Phone 375-3828 or 1-800-356-4440 Downtown Warren</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HEYDE OIL INC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">d/b/a Huggy Bear Ice Cream Stop and Huggy Bear Quik Stop & Motel</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">CITIZENS TELEPHONE CORP.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Serving Warren & Liberty Center 375-2111</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your "Internet Connection"</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">UNITED METHODIST MEMORIAL HOME</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P O Box 326 Warren, IN 46792</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ph. 260-375-2201</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">MarkleBank <i>Bridging the Gap</i> <small>MEMBER FDIC</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Warren Community Banking Center 450 Bennett Dr.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">260-375-4550 or 888-758-3111</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Strong & Secure Since 1947</i> www.marklebank.com</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">VB CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 765-934-4074 <i>Mike Helms, Pastor</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Adult Worship 10:30 a.m. Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Youth Hours 6:00 p.m. Evening Praise Hour 6:00 p.m. Hour of Power (Wed) 7:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH Van Buren, Indiana 765-934-2199 <i>Rev. Pat Mullen, Pastor</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:40 a.m. Bible Study, Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship Sun 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE — Majenica <i>Rev. Gus Hacker</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MT. ETNA UNITED METHODIST 260/468-2148 <i>Rev. Tom DeFries - Pastor</i></p> <p>Sunday Trad. Worship 9:00 a.m. Mdrn Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship & Classes 9:30 a.m. <i>Come As You Are</i></p> <p>Kids Club, Youth Group & Adult Studies - all Sunday 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JEFFERSON CENTER UNITED METHODIST Corner of 900S & 300W <i>Kathie Jones, Pastor</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARREN UNITED METHODIST <i>Rev. Mike Malone, Pastor</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. <i>Handicap Accessible & Staff Nursery</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARREN CHURCH OF CHRIST 375-3022 <i>Gerald O. Moreland, Minister</i> <i>Joe Hartley, BS Supt.</i></p> <p>Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN 8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779 <i>Dick Case, Interim Pastor</i></p> <p>Sun - 1st Worship Service 8:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. 2nd Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Youth Group (6th-12th) 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Wed - Circle of Friends (3yrs old - 5th grade) ... 6:30-8p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">McNATT UNITED METHODIST 375-4359 <i>Bill VanHaften, Pastor</i> <i>Lois Slusher, Supt.</i></p> <p>Coffee Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Bible Study - Wed. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WARREN WESLEYAN CHURCH 375-2330 6th & Nancy Sts. Warren <i>Rev. Andy Trowbridge, Pastor</i> <i>Wesley Welch, Supt.</i> <i>Sue Brown, Youth Worker</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Prayer Service ... 7:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH 694-6622 <i>Pastor Dan Sommer</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:55 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SALAMONIE CHURCH OF BRETHREN 468-2412 <i>Mel Zumbrun, Pastor</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 a.m. Church School 10:45 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BUCKEYE CHRISTIAN CHURCH 758-2085 <i>Kyle Dahlquist, Pastor</i> <i>Sandy Keplinger, Supt.</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BANQUO CHRISTIAN CHURCH 8294S 900W 35 <i>Gary Riley, Pastor</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Choir Practice 5:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Thurs. Kings Kids 6:30 p.m. BYG Youth Svc. (2&4Sun.) .. 6:00 p.m. CWF Ladies (3 Tue) 6:00 p.m. 1st Sun. (Qtrly) Praise Hour.. 6:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIBERTY CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>Steve Bard, Pastor</i></p> <p>Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HILLCREST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 375-2510 <i>Bill Keen, Pastor</i> <i>Bus Service 375-2510</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Youth Group (Wed.) 6:00 p.m. Wed. Midweek Service 6:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 375-2102 <i>Charles Dye, Jr., Pastor</i></p> <p>Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Junior Church 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the Month Fun Factory 1st/3rd Sundays 6:00p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE NEW BEGINNING SR 218, 2 1/8 mile west of Poneto <i>Steve Sutton, Pastor</i> 765/728-2065 for more info</p> <p>Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WARREN 1st BAPTIST CHURCH Corner of N. Wayne & Matilda Sts. <i>Rev. Bill Fisher, Pastor of Preaching and Discipleship</i> <i>Rev. Robert Bothast, Pastor of Family Life</i> <i>Debbie Wiley, S.S. Supt.</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VB UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 765-934-1431 <i>Pastor Blake J. Neff</i> <i>Youth Pastor Adam Pierce</i></p> <p>Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. UMYF 6- 7:30 p.m. Prayer-Bible Study (Thur) 7:30 p.m. www.vanburennumc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST <i>Rev. Barry Humble, Pastor</i> <i>Joe Kober, S.S. Supt.</i></p> <p>Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HANFIELD UNITED METHODIST 101 N 400 E - Marion, IN 765/664-8726 <i>Timothy Helm, Senior Pastor</i></p> <p>1st Worship 8:20 a.m. 2nd Worship 9:45 a.m. 3rd Worship 11:11 a.m. Sunday School Children & Youth Programs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLUM TREE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 375-2691 <i>Dr. Jeane Spoor, Pastor</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LANCASTER WESLEYAN 468-2411 <i>Doug Sharrard, Pastor</i> <i>Teresa Davis, S.S. Supt.</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday: CYC/Teen/Adult Meetings 7:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNITED METHODIST MEMORIAL HOME SUNDAY:</p> <p>Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. OTHER SERVICES BY ANNOUNCEMENT Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat Chapel Services 9:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOUNT ETNA WESLEYAN <i>Rev. Charles Dederick, Pastor</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m. Mid-Week (Wed) 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST 8013W 1100S - 90, Montpelier <i>Student Pastor - Eric Dubach</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed Evening Carry-in & Fellowship 6:30 p.m.</p>
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Attend the Church of your choice

AREA NEWS

MORE PAGE 1

Council agreed to renew a two-year contract with Wabash Valley Landfill.

On Thursday, Dec. 9, the town engineers were scheduled to hold a Christmas dinner for town employees.

Officer Pat Collins reported both vehicles are running well. Not all cars in violation in Van Buren had been made legal.

Town employees will hold their Christmas dinner on Sunday, Dec. 12 in Fort Wayne.

The next Council meeting will be held Dec. 15.

OPEN HOUSE AT SALAMONIE

The Upper Wabash Interpretive Services features a Christmas Open House December 19, 2004. Visit the Interpretive Center between 2 and 4 p.m. for light refreshments including coffee and hot chocolate and receive a wildlife present too.

Marvin McNew, Director of the Interpretive Services, states, "I look forward to visitors joining us for a festive time. We have Dee Wust, Kristy McNew and Joyce Shultz playing Christmas carols on mountain dulcimers from 2 to 3 and seasonal music continues through 4 p.m. Visitors receive a suet feeder and suet to serve their winter birds. The exhibits are dressed for the season complete with snow and the Christmas greens are hung. Visitors can support the Interpretive Center wildlife. With a \$1 donation, guests place their name on the wildlife tree. I would love to see it literally covered in names of our friends and visitors."

The Salamonie Interpretive Center is open Wednesday through Friday and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from October through April. The building houses a multipurpose room that is ideal for workshops and programs. This barrier-free center features seasonally changing exhibits, floor to ceiling windows in the wildlife viewing area, and staff to answer your questions. The center is located in Lost Bridge West Recreation Area on Highway 105 in western Huntington County.

Visit our web site at www.in.gov/dnr/uwis/ for more information about available programs.

HOLIDAY MAIL DEADLINES

The Warren Post Office™ is ready to deliver your holidays. "We expect a very busy holiday mail season. We welcome all the cards, letters and packages our customers give us," says Sheryl Horst with the local Post Office.

HOLIDAY MAIL DEADLINES AND TIPS

Deadlines for U.S. delivery by Christmas: Using regular mail and Priority Mail service, mail holiday cards, letters and packages going out-of-state by Tuesday, December 21. Items to in state destinations should be sent by Wednesday, December 22. After those dates, you can use Express Mail service to have your packages delivered by Christmas.

Holiday mailing deadlines for delivery by Christmas to most overseas military locations and international destinations is Saturday, December 11. After those dates, you can use Express Mail service to have your packages delivered by Christmas.

Call 800-ASK-USPS (800-275-8777) to get the holiday customer service hours of your local Post Office, rates, and ZIP Codes. You can also get holiday mail information at www.usps.com.

Include the correct printed address on all cards, letters and packages including name, street, apartment number, city, state and ZIP Code. Print return address in the upper left corner. Never guess on the ZIP Code. There is a ZIP Code Lookup on www.usps.com or you can call 800-ASK-USPS.

For holiday cards and letters, the Post Office offers several colorful 37-cent holiday stamps including Santa Ornaments, Madonna & Child, Eid, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

In addition to your local Post Office, you can order holiday stamps and other stamps by phone at 800-STAMP-24 and from the Postal Service web site at www.usps.com. You can also order stamps by mail. Pick up a Stamps by Mail order form at your Post Office or from your letter carrier.

When preparing your package for mailing, use a strong, sturdy box with no writing on the outside.

Package the contents of your parcel tightly and securely, using newspaper, bubble wrap or other cushioning inside. Re-

move batteries from toys and items. Package cookies, fruitcakes and food items in leak-proof containers or secure protective wrapping. For packages, include the name and address destination on a piece of paper inside.

Seal your package with strong, reinforced packing tape. Do not use paper or string on the outside of the package. They can get tangled in mail processing equipment.

For packages, print the complete name and address including ZIP Code in large print on one side of the package only. Make sure you print your return name and address in the upper left corner.

We encourage package senders to purchase package Delivery Confirmation service and insurance.

Take your packages directly to the Post Office for mailing. Best time is mid-morning or mid-afternoon.

Mail early. You save on postage costs, save on convenience, and help get your holiday mail there on time, avoiding possible bad winter storms, which can delay delivery.

The U.S. Postal Service expects the biggest and busiest mailing day of the year to be Monday, December 20. The biggest delivery day is expected to be Wednesday, December 22.

CAREGIVER TIPS

This holiday season take time to check on older relatives. Indiana Family and Social Services Administration offers tips to spot warning signs.

Celebrating the holidays with family and friends is a great American tradition. Visiting older relatives provides a perfect opportunity for families to check on their health and safety - especially if visits are not regular.

By observing behavior and surroundings, families may help prevent a serious health problem or potential accident. The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) offers the following eight warning signs:

1) Medications. Is your relative able to obtain, pay for and take medication as prescribed? Some older adults find it challenging to take medications as prescribed - especially if they are on multiple drugs. If the relative can't afford prescrip-

tions, check into HoosierRx, the state's prescription drug program for low-income seniors. Applications are available at most pharmacies and by calling the toll free number at 1-866-267-4679.

2) Health. Has your relative been able to schedule, afford and have regular medical check-ups? Treatment is more effective when physicians catch medical conditions early.

3) Behavior. Does your relative act in ways typical to their personality and does he/she seem to be himself/herself? Changes in behavior can be warning signs for a number of medical conditions, including Alzheimer's disease.

4) Mood. Does your relative seem to be in good spirits or are they agitated or depressed? Although the holidays can add to an individual's stress, changes in mood can be a signal of depression or other medical concerns. If sadness or depression continues for two weeks or more, contact a physician, mental health professional or mental health center for an evaluation. Depression is serious and is a major risk factor in suicide. If you are concerned about the risk of suicide, call 911 or 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433) toll-free immediately.

5) Hygiene. Does your relative pay attention to personal grooming by wearing clean clothes, bathing or showering,

and brushing teeth regularly? Poor hygiene may signal that assistance is needed with activities of daily living or that an evaluation is needed for medical care. FSSA supports a statewide network of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that may be able to help — call toll-free at 1-800-552-3662. Also contact the relative's regular physician.

6) Nutrition. Is the food in the refrigerator fresh? Does your relative seem to be able to shop for, afford, prepare and eat regular nutritious meals? Some older adults need assistance with proper nutrition. Your relative may be eligible for home-delivered meals. Call 1-800-552-3662 to reach the local AAA to inquire about eligibility.

7) Finances, bills and mail. Does your relative seem able to attend to financial matters? Are bills and mail opened and has your relative taken action by paying bills when due and responding to other mail when warranted?

8) Safety. Can your relative drive a car safely? Does he/she remember to turn off appliances after use?

"Careful observation and appropriate action can prevent medical and safety emergencies," said Cheryl Sullivan, secretary of FSSA. "Your action can have a positive impact

CONTINUED PAGE 4

Christmas Centerpieces, Poinsettias
Order your Christmas Dance Flowers

from

PJ's Flower & Gift Shop
M-T-W-F 9-5; Th & S 9-12
114 N Wayne St, Warren
(260)375-2702




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 cancelled, please notify WW.) Only event, place, time, and sponsor, for events in Warren, and the surrounding area will be listed.

- Dec 10** Warren Recycle Day
 - Dec 11** KBC Board Meeting, 8 a.m. at KBC
 - Dec 13** Warren Town Council, 6:30 p.m. Assembly Hall
 - Dec 14** Our Town Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Assembly Hall
 - Dec 15** Van Buren Town Council, 7 p.m.
 - Dec 24** Warren Recycle Day
 - Dec 27** Warren Town Council, 6:30 p.m. Assembly Hall
- Bread of Life Food Pantry** - Wed 4 - 5:30pm, Sat 10 - 11:30 at KBC or by appointment - Call 375-2381. **Bargain Basement** - Friday & Saturday 9 - 4 at KBC **Depression Support Group** 2nd & 4th Thurs at Hope Missionary Church, Bluffton 6-7:30 **Salamonie Valley Museum** Open Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. at KBC **Walking in the Gym** 7 - 11 a.m. daily

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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 3

resulting in enhanced independence, better health and increased longevity for your relative."

WOLF & DESSAUER

Wolf & Dessauer. Do you remember the thrilling animated figures in the storefront windows?

Did you ever shop in the store's Wee Willy Wand Christmas shop the secret, child-only holiday shop where kids could buy presents for mom and dad?

Have you ever driven through Fort Wayne and wondered in awe where that huge lighted Santa display that shines over downtown came from?

Before Glenbrook and Jefferson Point...there was Wolf & Dessauer. Built in the likeness of the modern department stores of its time Macy's, Marshall Field it was the flagship for retail shopping in downtown Fort Wayne. The place to see and be seen the grand and glorious Wolf & Dessauer was the heart of the Summit City for decades.

Jim and Kathie Barron, the co-authors of "Wolf & Dessauer: An Album of Memories, Volume Two", will reminisce about the store and sign books on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wells County Public Library.

Jim Barron's name may sound familiar to many people. He is a former Fort Wayne radio personality and continues to work in the community as a popular entertainer and magician. His interest in Wolf & Dessauer began when his young daughter, Erika, started collecting memorabilia from the long-gone store. Last year, the family put together a small book (volume one) and was thrilled with its overwhelming success.

This second volume contains over 100 color and black & white photos and sheds new light on the lives of the store founders, Sam Wolf and Myron Dessauer. There are also chapters about the man who saved the famous lighted Santa display from destruction and a tribute to Phil Steigerwald, the store's Santa Clause for 35 years.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase. It would make a wonderful Christmas gift for history buffs or anyone who recalls that nostalgic era. Twenty percent of the book's net profits will be divided between the Vera Bradley Breast Cancer Foundation and the Fort Wayne History Center.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Wells County Public Library at 260-824-1612.

RECEIVES AWARD

Huntington, IN, — Carol Shuttleworth, President and CEO of Shuttleworth, Inc. was honored as one of the 21 Women in Leadership. The second Annual 21 Women in Leadership Award is designed to recognize women of all ages, races, and religions who have demonstrated unwavering dedication to the betterment of their family, their company or their community at large.

Each leader was selected by a panel of judges, primarily due to the care and passion given to her work and her mission. "I was honored and pleased my employees would feel that way about me," says Shuttleworth, of being nominated. "I hope that I'll always be able to live up to the image of it...it's wonderful to know that your employees perceive you that way and feel that you're worthy of being called an outstanding leader."

The 2004 recipients included Sue Ehinger, Senior Vice President Parkview Hospital; Barbara Gilbert, Owner Barbara's Beginnings; Renetta Williams, Executive Director Health Visions; Ronnie Greenberg, President and CEO Fort Wayne's Women's Bureau; Marita Hattem, Director Medical Staff Services; Rosa Chapman, Executive Director Friends of Bethany; Susanne Moorman Rowe, General Manager Corporate Communications American Electric Power; Debbie

Lewis, Registered Nurse Steuben County WIC Program and Breastfeeding Coordinator; Amy Lane Burton, First Vice President Investments and Branch Manager Robert W. Baird & Co.; Janet Chrzan, Vice President Lincoln National Corporation Life Financial Services; Dawn Rosemond, Attorney with Barnes and Thornburg; Lisa Pacula, Manager Ronald McDonald Room; Suzanne Handshoe, Mayor of Kendallville; Debra Faye Williams-Robbins, Administrator Northrop-South Side Area; Dr. Marcia Sauter, Vice President Academic Affairs University Saint Francis; Linda Miles, Director Huntington County Love in the Name of Christ; Karen Gillie, Anthis Information Technology Instructor and Department Chair; Dr. Pamela Kelly, Board Member Fort Wayne Philharmonic and Parkview Foundations; Madeleine Baker, Executive Director Early Childhood Alliance; and Jennifer Sheperd, State Treasurer FFA.

Since 1962, Shuttleworth has been a leading international engineering, consulting and manufacturing supplier of conveyors and devices, with over 15,000 installations worldwide. As packaging application specialists, Shuttleworth engineers and manufactures conveyor handling solutions for paper conversion & printed materials, healthcare, food & beverage, automotive components, elec-

tronics and consumer products. Our engineering team, with its on-site R&D and demonstration laboratories, became an additional resource to our customers for their product handling needs.

EAGLES WIN THREE

The Huntington Eagles Junior Varsity boys held off an aggressive fast paced game against the KCHE Eagles 30-26. The Kosciusko County Home Educators Eagles team is based in Warsaw. After taking a 12-7 lead in the first quarter led by Colin Featherston's 3 trays, Warsaw fought back to tie the game at 23 by the end of the 3rd. Then, in the 4th Quarter, Kolby Shultz drained his 3rd 3 pointer and a disciplined Huntington squad was able to maintain a lead that was threatened often. Warsaw was led by Robert Barr with 9 & Nathaniel Strietzel with 6.

The Huntington Eagles were led by Colin & Kolby each with 9 points. Vincent Burnworth 6.

Sharing 2 points each were Austin Abbott, Taylor Frank & Dominic Hubleby.

The Junior High Eagles (14 & under) led the whole game to win 37-30. Colin Featherston had 13, Vincent Burnworth 8, Kolby Shultz 7, Caleb Featherston 6, Taylor Frank 2, Brain Kelsey 1. Warsaw's Adam Keener had 18.

The Lady Eagles dominated the JV KCHE Lady Eagles 36-10. Six foot eighth grader Rebecca Daniels had 16 points in the paint, Megan Gibbons 9, Samantha Kelsey 4, Becca Weaver 4, Kiera Shultz 2, Baila Bennett 1. Warsaw's Hannah Tyson & Monica O'Daniels each had 4.

The Eagles Boys Varsity & Jr. High, and the Lady Eagles will each play Saturday in a tournament in Indianapolis, IN.

SUBSTITUTE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

Every time you make a purchase online or in person, your personal information can fall into the wrong hands, making you a victim of identity theft.

In Prying Eyes: Protect Your Privacy From People Who Sell to You, Snoop on You, or Steal From You (Random House Reference, 448 pages), author Eric Gertler suggests that consumers ask if they can provide a driver's license number instead of a social security number. It is sometimes even accepted by government agencies, and for employee files, and academic records.

STORYTIME

Joan Boyer shared several wonderful children's books written by Max Lucado at story time at the Warren Public Library on Friday, December 3.

She told of The Crippled Lamb; Jacob's Gift; Alabater's Song; and closed with Just the Way You Are. The children received coloring pages and a candy cane treat, complete with the story of this favorite holiday tradition.

Sarah Bothast, Sydney Bowmn, Ashlyn Nestleroad, Andrew Smekens, Sydney Smekens, William Sackett, and Colin Sackett were present.

Story time will be held each of the next two Friday mornings at 10:00 unless school is cancelled due to the weather.



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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

THANK YOU

The family of Lester (Bub) A Boxell would like to thank friends, family and all others for their kindness during our recent loss.

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Lyle & Family
Pam & Family
Kelly & Family

COOK

A sister of Mrs. Stanley (Luanne) Morton of Warren, Bonnie Milholland Cook, 75, Berne, died Thursday, Dec. 2, 2004 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Other survivors include her husband, Gordon R. Cook, of Berne; two sons, Greg and Allan Milholland, both of Decatur; another sister, Kathleen Woodward of Berne; and four grandchildren.

Services were held at the Cross United Church of Christ in Berne. Calling hours were held at Yager-Kirchhofer Funeral Home in Berne, and prior to the service at the church. Burial in MRE Cemetery.

McGOWEN

Clara Alene (Holmes) Armstrong McGowen, 94, Allendale, IL, died Saturday, Dec. 4, 2004, at the United Methodist Village in Lawrenceville, IL.

She had worked at the United Methodist Home in Warren, Ind.

She was born April 14, 1910 in Huntington County, IN to Yearsley E. and Ethel Chaney Holmes.

Surviving are a son, LaMoine Armstrong, Mt. Carmel, IL; three sisters, Isabelle Daugherty, Chandler, IN, Martha Daugherty, Warren, IN and Betty Blinn, Marion, IN; a brother, Dale Holmes, Ruskin, FL; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Nondas Schafer and a brother, Donald Holmes.

Graveside services were held in Highland Memorial Cemetery in Mount Carmel, IL.

Visitation was held at Short Funeral Home in Mount Carmel.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Allendale United Methodist Church.

BIRTHS

Darrin and Megan (Peel) Eichorn, 721 South 6th, Goshen, IN 46526, are the parents of a daughter, Libby, born November 22, 2004, at the Goshen Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds 11.5 ounces and joins a sister, Zoe, age 2 1/2.

Maternal grandparents are Ann and Jim Brandon, Nattawa, Michigan and Robert and Sharon Peel, Carmel, In. Paternal grandparents are Galen and Carol Ann Eichorn, Sturgis, Michigan. Sammy Cook and the late Guy D. Cook are the maternal great-grandparents and Edna Stauffer, Goshen, IN is the paternal great-grandmother.

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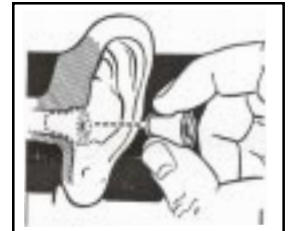
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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

CHAMBER MEETING

The November meeting opened with all present introducing themselves and the business they were representing. Twenty-eight members were present to enjoy lunch catered by the Wagon Wheel Cafe.

President Gina Canady reported that the Scarecrow Festival was a huge success again this year. New ideas were discussed for 2005. Among suggestions were more lighting, signage for participating businesses, costume parade, more games and drinks.

Cynthia Wehr was present to discuss the creation of a Child Advocacy Center in Huntington County. She announced that on December 2, 2004 there would be a "We Commit" Breakfast & Presentation held at Huntington College and invited all present to attend. The presentation will reflect on the collaborative effort to create a neutral facility to be available to victims of child abuse in our community.

The upcoming Winter Warrenland was discussed, volunteers were asked to help with the annual event held on Friday November 26, 2004.

The Chamber is checking prices on public address systems for downtown and also committed to purchasing more tables and chairs for the annex building. Due to the tremendous attendance at Chamber meetings more seating is needed.

New board members for 2005-2006-2007 were elected. Julia Glessner, Joe Cassidy & Gina Canady will fill that term.

Businesses represented at this meeting were: Accent Interiors; Warren Pharmacy; Warren Furniture Works; Hunnicutt Kennedy & Assoc; Town of Warren; Pulse Opera House, Natalie Jeannes; Robert H Berghoff DDS; Salamonie School; Marion Tent & Awning; Huntington Co Child Advocacy Center; Huntington Co Chamber of Commerce; The Tab; Bower, Brewer, Garrett & Wiley; National City; Salamonie Mills; LaQuinta Inn; Crain Ford; Macs Oil; Kevin DeaKyne DDS; Zeller Construction; Gebharts Floral Barn; United Methodist Memorial Home; DeWeese Softwater; D&D Bike Shop; Bolingers Propane-Warren Service & Supply.

AFTER SCHOOL STORIES

Twenty-seven children attended the Van Buren Public Library Popcorn Day. The children signed in and received a picture of Bookworm Poppy to color. On the back of the sheet of paper were games to play and popcorn information to read.

Karen read some of the nutritional value of popcorn. The children couldn't believe popcorn was part of the food Pyramid. We found out popcorn is in the Bread & Cereal Group.

The children shared ways they use popcorn. One young lady said she strings popcorn and lays it on bushes outside for the birds to eat. What a good idea. Other children said they string it and use it on their Christmas tree. Oh, the many ways we can all use popcorn.

Karen read the book "Popcorn at the Palace" by Emily Arnold McCully as the children enjoyed their treat of popcorn donated by Weavers.

Those attending were: Amy Kerr, David Irwin, Ashley Kerr, Taylor Beck, Mandi Beck, Jaedyn Beck, Jared, Catherine Anderson, Delta Oswald-Benge and Icily Baker, Brittini-lynn Davis, Caitlyn Hoffheins, Austin Hoffheins; Rikki Rumble, Justin Smith, Nathan, Taylor Nall, Caige Colburn, Cassie Davis, Randon Timmons, Haley Timmons, Delta Oswald, Samantha Kessinger, Emily Webb, Philip Dailey, Mark Stevenson and Eddie Quick.

The popcorn information came free the Indiana Farm Bureau meeting we attended this fall. We want to thank the Farm Bureau for giving us ideas we can use for our Story Time.

This Friday after School will be Bingo Day with prizes. Hope to see you!

HONOR ROLL

The following students achieved Honor Roll for the First Grading Period at Southern Wells Elementary School:

Sixth Grade High Honor: Chelsea Adams, Kayla Banter, Julia Bartlett, Devin Bower, Karie Lavanchy, Damon Smith, Megan Bryant, Cristin Carter, Mikala Habegger, Emily Hartley, Alison McCammon, Mandy Stoffer, and Chelsea Masterson.

Sixth Grade Honor Roll: Melanie Ford, Jordan Gillum, Amanda Knowles, Sean Quillen, Nick Quinn, Drew Runkle, Jack-

son Truex, Blake Zent, Teagan Bennett, Tyler Cassiday, Colten Jones, April McCoy, Gage Minniear, James Mossburg, Kelsey Samsel, Brandi Stanford, Grace Stalker, Amber Monroe, Austin Schortgen, Acacia Herr, Luke Roush, Emily Oswalt, Daniel Schmidt, Linly Lloyd, and Conner Stoffel.

Fifth Grade High Honor: Bryce Longenberger, Jake Mechling, Mallory Preston, Jayde Sills, Quaid Zoda, Jordan Alstoft, Chelsea Clifton, Bekah Coolman, Kyle Penrod, Morgan Perry, Kaitlin Bonewit, Tory Harter, Lillian Hartley, Sadie Herr, Jagger Love, Kelsey Miller, Lucas Miller, and Austin Smith.

Fifth Grade Honor Roll: Kaitlyn Dunnuck, Cody Frazier, Trevor Furnish, David Haigh, Katie Pinkerton, Stephanie Snow, Brandon Longenberger, Katie Love, Kevin Ramseyer, Korbin Rhamy, Clayton Hamilton, Cory Haviland, and Josie Rhodes.

Fourth Grade High Honor: Devin Price, Kayona Benefiel, and Bridget Rugg.

Fourth Grade Honor Roll: Weslee Bass, Amy Boxell, Jackson Johnson, Colton Kellam, Samantha Rhodes, Megan Stoffer, Katie Early, Vanessa Haigh, Rikki Johnson, Morgan Napier, Taylor Estes, Shea Merchant, Mikayla Pettibone.

Third Grade High Honor: Ivy Maddox, Alex Schmidt, Katelyn Kline, Andrea Murray, and Cole Preston.

Third Grade Honor Roll: Jessica Betz, Cassie Crickard, Brianna Frazier, Darren Gillum, Chandler Harris, Chantel Merchant, Hilary Paxson, Cori Mossburg, Amanda Reimer, Clay Watson, Carissa Carter, Josh Markley, Olivia Mossburg, Austin Osborn, Chet Owens, Zach Penrod, Amanda Price, Christa Schortgen, Hanna Thompson, Arley Carey, Tracy Furnish, Dain Gerber, Jake Masterson, Daniel Mossburg, Ashton Prible, Megan Thompson, Mike Thompson, Austin Vaughn, and Aly Zoda.

Second Grade High Honor Roll: Meghan Yencer, Brooke

Penrod, Lela Knowles, Brooke Kratzer, Jordyn Sills, Timber Tucker, Megan Lefebvre, Samantha McDonald, Abby Gregg, Allison Blevins, Daniel Shultz, Brooke Gephart, Vanessa Drennen, and Emilee Junk.

Second Grade Honor Roll: Josh Rhoton, Molly Stoffel, Jessyca Baumgartner, Savannah DeaKyne, Sheridan Carney, Molly Williams, Kedrick Barr, Taylor Doepker, Jacob Stout, Amy Elliott, Bryar Hedrick, Zane Herr, Kiara Leas, Jacob Roush, Brittany Thatcher, and Brad Woodward.

RAIDER OF THE DAY

The following students were Raider of the Day winners for October and November at Southern Wells Elementary School:

Ashlyn Boxell (K), Brianna Frazier (3), Blake Dollier (K), Kelli Roush (2), Josh Durham (K), Abraham Herr (K), Brittany Thatcher (2), Vince Drennen (K), Bryce Bonewit (1), Tracy Furnish (3), Grant Harris (1), Kenneth Heiniger (K), Conner Bradt (K), Landon Cassiday (2), Braxton Gerber (K), Cole

Preston (3), Kyle Butche (K), Brooke Kratzer (2), Nicholas Childers (K), Jessica Betz (3), Allison Blevins (2), Brant Mechling (1), Cody Crickard (K), Jake Masterson (3), Isaiah Perry (1), Carissa Carter (3), Jackson Bartlett (1) Samantha McDonald (2) Hayley Grover (K), Jordyn Sills (2), Clay Watson (3), Brad Woodward (2), Chloe Elam (K), Serena Wirt (1), Jesyca Baumgartner (2), Sydney Elam (3), Ian Abney (K), and Sam VanHaften (2).

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EXAMPLE
For Sale -- 1986 Ford Fairlane, 4 door, power steering and brakes,
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
10321 N. Victory, Warren. Phone 260-000-0000.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18

AREA NEWS CONTINUED

HAPPY RED HATTERS

Nine ladies of the Van Buren Happy Red Hatters enjoyed a lovely lunch at Bearcreek Farms, then attended the Christmas Show. Both were very good. The ladies shopped the Red Hat boutique also. Date of the Hostess House luncheon of December 10 was talked about with reservations needed by December 8th. Also, December 13th the group has been invited to share with Northwood Retirement Center Red Hatters. The baked goods for the food pantry Christmas baskets need to be at the Central Christian Church by noon on December 20th. A box will be provided for placing goods. Those enjoying the day were Shelby Goff, Wiladean Harte, Waunita Linton, Shirley Shinholt, Louise Ruple, Mary Ellen Hawkins, Norma Briner, Anna Lou Saylor, and Donna Zent. Shirley Shinholt was in charge of arrangements. Reservations for the 10th outing to Donna Zent.

CAREGIVING DURING THE HOLIDAYS CAN BE A CHALLENGE

The holiday season can be an especially difficult time for someone who suffers from dementia. Given the loss of coping skills that accompany certain brain disorders, the rush-rush atmosphere between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and the change in the family's normal routine, the holidays can spell trouble for both the care recipient and the caregiver.

Professionals who work with Alzheimer's disease patients tell caregivers that during this time of year, they need to be extra sensitive to the symptoms or behaviors that indicate that their loved ones are reacting to stress. In addition, caregivers should respect the instincts of the patient. For instance, if she said she doesn't want to go somewhere, it is probably because she doesn't think she can handle the situation. Unfamiliar people and places can be especially frightening for dementia patients. Let the patient be your guide.

The size of holiday gatherings needs to be limited. Large, loud groups can be too much for someone who suffers from dementia. Remember that if the caregiver is more stressed than usual, the care recipient will react to that stress. It is not always possible for him or her to understand what is happening and why the atmosphere has changed. Give yourself a break by turning down invitations for events you know will be difficult

for your loved one to tolerate. It's important to tell yourself you don't have to attend everything. Caregivers need to take time out to rest.

Excessive decorations such as flashing lights can also cause stress for your loved one. Lights and clutter can be overwhelming and add to a person's confusion. Minimizing decorations and lighting not only decreases your loved one's agitation, but leaves you with one less chore at the holidays.

Not only during the holidays but throughout the year, caregivers should remember that if agitation and tension begin to build during an activity, its time to stop for a break. Once you find the activities that make your loved one happy, stick with them. Dementia patients are comfortable with a routine. Rather than becoming bored, they are likely to feel more secure.

Finally, simplify. Even though the family has always done things a certain way, the dementia patient might find the traditions too overwhelming. By keeping things as simple as possible, everyone can stay in the right frame of mind to enjoy the special activities that accompany the season.

At this time and throughout the year, speak gently to your loved one. Be kind and reassuring. Be relaxed. Accept your loved one as he or she is. Focus on him or her. Show respect. Don't shout. Make eye contact. Smile. Laugh. Mind your body language. Touch your loved one's shoulder. Pat a hand. Use his or her name and words of endearment. Don't argue. Focus on what's good. Remember that he or she is a living human being who did not choose this condition. That's especially important to remember during this most special time of year.

Information provided by the Family Caregiver Program of Aging and In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, Inc. Contact 1-800-552-3662 or visit www.agingihs.org for more information.

All services are provided without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry.

BBB TIPS

The Better Business Bureau of Northeastern Indiana releases these tips monthly to keep consumers and businesses aware of scams occurring in and around northeastern Indiana. They are published for your safety. Please report anything suspicious to the Better Business Bureau so that we can alert other

consumers.

Florida's Attorney General Sues Telemarketers – A civil complaint was filed against Consumer Grants USA, Inc. and two of its corporate directors for violations of Florida's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act. The Attorney General's lawsuit alleges that the company used misleading solicitations to entice consumers to pay hundreds of dollars for information that was actually available to the public for free. Several Northeast Indiana residents have received calls from this company from the company guaranteeing a government grant ranging from \$8,000 to \$30,000 for a fee ranging from \$199 to \$249. Over the last 36 months, 359 complaints were filed by consumers nationally against this company.

WasteChek Consulting Programs - The Kansas City BBB has received complaints against WasteChek Consulting Programs, 6901 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Suite 219 Shawnee-Mission, KS 66202 alleging being invoiced for services not rendered. To date, the amounts, ostensibly for "solid waste consulting fees", have ranged from \$279.50 to \$8,359, as indicated by information supplied to the Bureau from companies solicited. Companies billed for the unauthorized services have voiced their objections in communications to the Bureau, claiming they requested no such waste hauling or disposal services from WasteChek Consulting Programs. The Bureau contacted an attorney representing WasteChek and was advised the firm's invoice is a "solicitation" and not a request for payment of the amounts billed. He stated firms' billed need not pay the amount invoiced until it is determined which "waste" services will be performed subsequently. The Bureau advises that a trade practice rule regarding invoicing billing mandated by the Federal Trade Commission requires that such a statement carrying with it clearly readable type that such unsolicited invoice is for information only and not a request to pay. WasteChek's invoice lists apparent services to be performed in the future. The unsolicited invoice offers a refund to participating firms if the services do not result in a savings after a 24-month trial period, providing the invoiced amount is remitted within 30 days of the invoice date. The invoice advises anyone with questions regarding to invoice to call 913-725-9280. So far the Kansas City Bureau has received calls from Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, Ohio, Missouri – we wanted to alert

business owners in northeast Indiana that it could come their way.

Subject: WASHINGTON MUTUAL: PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR INTERNET BANKING IDENTITY – Sounds 'phishy' to us. A northeast Indiana consumer received this E-mail: "Technical services of the Bank are carrying out a planned software upgrade. We earnestly ask you to visit the following link to start the procedure of confirmation of customers' data. <http://www.wamu.com/personal/welcome/confirmusersdata.htm>. This instruction has been sent to all bank customers and is obligatory to follow. Thank you for cooperating. Customers support service." Phishers are trying every scheme in the book to get your personal information. BEWARE!

Calls to local businesses from Nigeria are still coming in – A person claiming to be Johnny Mike from Nigeria through operator #IE5367 in Cleveland, OH from phone number 216.416.0033. Mike claims to have three Visa credit cards. The local company contacted Visa and they verified that only one by that name is on the accounts. This individual wanted to purchase \$5,334 worth of balloons and he has contacted the business five times. Each time the business ran his card, they would tell him the cards are no good and he gives them another number to try. The address he is currently giving is 7 Anikanamo St., Lagos Island, Lagos Nigeria, 23401.

Another such call – A West African call was made to a northeast Indiana business wanting all of a particular product they stocked. A Visa number was given with an expiration date of 08/08. Customer was going to pay UPS and have the items picked up for shipment the next day. Shipping address: Fuseini Sukeman, At. Tire Inc., 17th Airport St., Accra-Ghana, West Africa 00233.

Christmas Quiz – If you return a gift with a receipt, does the store have to give a refund? NO! If a store runs out of an advertised item, are they required to give you a rain check? NO! Can a store increase the price of an item after it's been put on layaway? NO! Is a retail store responsible for backing a manufacturer's warranty? NO!

Check 21 is a new law that went into effect October of this year. It shortens the grace period between the time your check is written and when the money is taken from your account. Money could be electronically debited from your bank account the same day it is written. Con-

sumer advocates predict consumers will lose millions of dollars in bounced check fees.

National ATM Debt Card, Universal Bancor, Advantage Plus and Phoenix Consumer Services are different companies calling Hoosiers offering credit cards. Consumers from all over Indiana have called to report \$129 to \$500 being taken out of accounts without authorization. All of these companies have the Bureau's lowest rating.

Home Works/Member Works offers, to its membership, savings on gardening, home improvement, decorating, etc. Consumers have complained about unauthorized charges (\$49 - \$89) and automatic renewals. There is government action in California and pending action in Florida. One Indiana consumer, a Home Works member, is having a problem contacting them.

Buyers' Union/Call One/Premier Movie Pass is telemarketing in Indiana offering a membership for \$277. Consumers have complained about unauthorized charges. One Indiana consumer was persuaded to join when she was told she would also receive \$200 worth of gas coupons. \$397.60 has been taken out of her account. Wish she had called the BBB first. This company has the Bureau's lowest rating.

Elite Activity/Jacobs Ladder appears to be an illegal pyramid scheme. Their website is very strange. It talks about "meeting others of like mind" and "giving a gift to one or more participants." The BBB warns against pyramid schemes even if they are called by different names such as "gifting clubs."

Premier Premium Communications appears to be sending invoices for amounts ranging from \$30 to \$1,000 to Hoosiers for telecommunications services. The problem? Complainants allege the company is billing them for Internet long-distance calls to the United Kingdom that were never made. Indiana consumers are disputing these charges and have called the BBB to complain.

Notary America/Southwest Notaries recruits notaries public from all over the country to provide verification services at loan closings. Notaries are alleging they provided the service, but were never paid. Claims range from \$75 to \$500. Thanks to the Tucson BBB for this tip.

Don't forget to order your Christmas Ad in the Warren Weekly.