

Friday, December 14, 2007

Volume 22, Number 44



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Warren Weekly

Your Hometown Newspaper

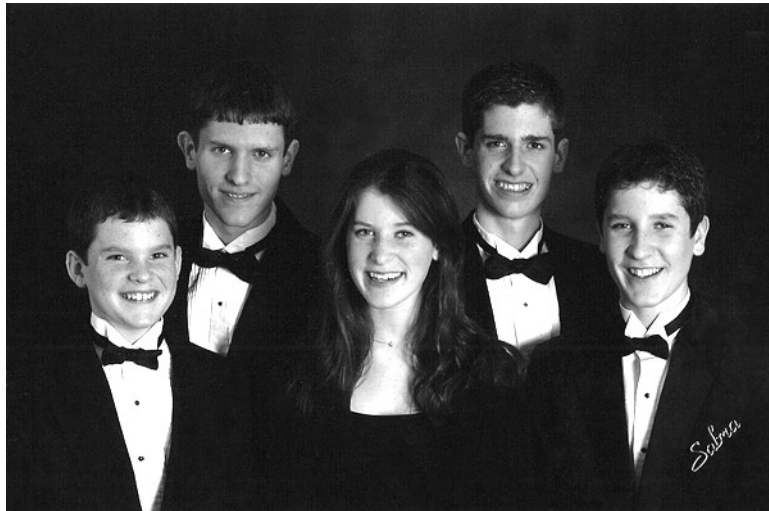
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Thought for the Week: *The highest reward for man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it.*



MOSSBURG STRINGS AT HERITAGE POINTE

The Mossburg Strings, comprised of the oldest five of nine children in the Mossburg family; Caleb (18), Aaron (17), Rachel (16), Jacob (14), and Jared (12) will be performing at 2 p.m. in the Applegate Chapel of Heritage Pointe on Thursday, December 20, 2007. The performance will be followed by a dessert reception in the Fults Recreation Room.

The group enjoys playing a variety of music styles including classical, fiddling, Christian, patriotic, Broadway, and oldies.

Past performances for this young group include:

- Luncheon concert for First Lady Laura Bush (Indianapolis, Indiana)
- Governor Mitch Daniels' Inauguration Gala (Indianapolis Convention Center)
- Open House (Rotunda of the State Capitol)
- National NACAA 4-H Talent Review (Cincinnati Convention Center and DeVoss Music Hall in Grand Rapids, MI)
- Indiana State Fair Youth Talent Winners (Indiana State Fair)
- Honeywell Center 50th Anniversary (Honeywell Center)
- Taylor University Parent's Weekend (Rediger Chapel Auditorium)
- Indiana Extension Homemakers State Convention (Purdue University, Loeb Playhouse)
- United Methodist Northern (Purdue University) and Southern (Indiana University) Annual Conferences
- Huntington College Fine Arts Concert (Merrillat Center for Performing Arts)
- Fort Wayne Philharmonic Galas (Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne Country Club)
- Opened for Steve Green, Ryan Dobson and Alan Keyes (Fort Wayne Coliseum)
- Hamilton County Prayer Breakfast with Tarik Glenn, retired offensive left tackle of the Indianapolis Colts
- Wesleyan Church International Headquarters

FARMERS MARKET

Mark your calendar for Saturday December 15 for the winter market. It will be at the Pulse Opera House lobby. Hours will be 9 a.m. till noon. Several of our regulars will be on hand to help with your holiday meal planning. Hope to see you there.

TO MEET

J.O.Y. Club will meet Tuesday December 18th at noon for a Holiday meal and Stories told by local resident John Plummer. J.O.Y. is held at the fellowship hall of the Van Buren United Methodist Church. The meal is free. freewill donations are gratefully accepted. For reservations please call 934-9960 or 934-1431.

2008 FARMER'S ALMANAC

The 2008 Farmer's Almanac is now available at the Warren Pharmacy. Your family may receive one copy FREE when you fill a prescription. It pays to visit the Warren Pharmacy!

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Van Buren Public Library would like to wish everyone a safe and fun holiday season! Mark your calendars, the library will be closed for the holidays on the following days:

Saturday, December 22nd
Monday, December 24th
Tuesday, December 25th
Saturday, December 29th
Monday, December 31st
Tuesday, January 1st

The library will return to normal hours of operation on Wednesday, January 2nd.

COUNCIL NOTES

by Bonnie Lloyd
The Van Buren Town Council held a short meeting on Wednesday evening, December 5. Held in the Council Room at Town Hall, the meeting opened at 7 pm. with President Tony Manry leading the Pledge to the American Flag.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Officer Pat Collins presented Council with the Police report. It

was noted that the 2002 Police car is now using one quart of oil per week.

Superintendent Jim Webb gave his report. He said that the water lines they had been working on would be completed soon.

He reported the new sander works well.

Webb also suggested Council should consider checking into raising water tap fees. The fees have been the same for several years.

The next Council meeting will be held December 19.

CORRECTION

Last week's report on the Raffle Winner from the Warren Pharmacy was incorrect. The winner was Lora Schorey of Bluffton who is the daughter of Jane Steele of Ossian and Steve Holmes of Warren.

OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to an Open House for Emma Williams who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on December 16, 2007. The Open House will be in the Fultz Recreation Room at Heritage Pointe from 2 to 3:30 p.m. No gifts please.

NEW AT WPL

New adult books received at the Warren Public Library include the following.

Fiction – Between Sundays by K Kingsbury; Double Cross by J Patterson; The New Year's Quilt by J Chiaverini; Third Degree by G Iles; Yada Yada Prayer Group Gets Decked Out by N Jackson; The Rebels by E Kelton; Bidding for Love by K Fforde; West of Texas Law by Tompkins; Darkest Evening of the Year by D Koontz.

Non-Fiction – Theme Parties Just for Kids ... and Families Too; Courage Under Fire: Profiles of Bravery (Civil War); The Poet's Corner; How Toyota Became #1; Rule Number Two: Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital; Birding Essentials; The Undecided Voter's Guide to the Next President; Escape by Carolyn Jessop; Maxed Out: Hard times Easy Credit; One Man Great Enough.

*Happy Birthday
Lilly*

PROTECTED SPECIES

Badgers, bobcats and river otters were removed from the state's endangered species list in 2005, but these furbearers are still protected and cannot legally be taken from the wild in Indiana by any method at any time.

The DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife reminds individuals of the importance of reporting any occurrences of these animals being unintentionally trapped/released or killed during Indiana fur harvest seasons, which are open now and, depending on species targeted, may run as late as March 31, 2008.

Information obtained from such reports is the primary means the DNR uses to evaluate the status, distribution, and relative abundance of these three furbearers. These data help the DNR determine how to best manage the populations of these animals.

Last year, a record 39 river otters were reported trapped from 21 Indiana counties during the 2006-07 fur harvest season. Similarly, 25 reports involving bobcats, primarily road-kills and trap-related incidents, were reported from 18 counties between October 2006 and August 2007. Fewer reports of badgers were received, mostly incidental captures or road-killed individual animals in the northern third of the state.

Private citizens cannot possess the carcass or hides of these furbearers if they were accidentally killed in Indiana; they can only possess them with satisfactory documentation to prove they were legally taken outside of the state; however, DNR facilities and educational/scientific institutions can possess pelts for educational use with written permission.

Incidents should be reported to Scott Johnson, DNR furbearer biologist, (812) 334-1137, sjohnson@dnr.IN.gov.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Call 375-3531 today to get your Holiday Greetings ordered for the December 21, 2007 issue of the Warren Weekly

New Year's Greetings will be published in the January 4th issue as there will not be a December 28 issue.

Troubled? Try Prayer!

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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 \$12, six (6) months for \$24 or \$48 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, mail to P O Box 695, Warren, fax to 260.375.7007 or email to wwkly@citiznet.com. 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

DANGERS AFTER STORMS

Winter storm season is upon us again, and that spells danger to our urban forest. High winds mixed with ice put tremendous pressures on trees growing near houses or power lines. In their wake, property owners face the task of clearing trees and downed limbs.

"Storm cleanup is often when many property owners crank up their first chain saw," notes Tchukki Andersen, staff arborist for the Tree Care Industry Association. "And, not surprisingly, they injure themselves. It is also the time when 'ambulance chasing' tree care operators arrive in town looking for work. Some of these people charge exorbitant amounts for their work," Andersen warns.

The Tree Care Industry Association, the trade organization for owners and operators of tree care businesses, offers these safety tips to help avoid personal injury or damage to property during storm clean-up, and to assure that you hire an ethical tree service professional.

Do not use a chain saw for tree removal unless you have years of experience in handling one. Even professional tree care personnel face risk of injury using chain saws. Even small trees bent under tension can be extremely hazardous. Tree removals are very unpredictable – don't take unnecessary chances!

If a utility line is down:

- Call the utility company immediately.
- Assume any downed line is energized.
- Don't touch a tree or anything touching the downed line. Make sure that nobody else, including children and pets, goes near it. Contact with energized lines can result in electrocution.

Buyer beware when purchasing tree care.

Violent storms often bring out the best in a community. Neighbors, even strangers, help each other cope with aggravations and property damage left in the wake of a storm. Unfortunately, storms also bring out the worst in a community — fast-buck artists looking to profit from the misfortunes of others. How can homeowners protect themselves when they need to hire a tree care company to clean up after a storm?

"With thousands of dollars at stake, not to mention the integrity and appearance of your property and your personal safety, make sure you investigate before deciding which company you should hire," warns Andersen.

If the "professional arborist" you hired to remove a tree drops it on your house instead of your lawn, it's too late to confirm the company is insured.

"Disreputable companies are renowned for ripping gutters off, breaking fences and bird baths, and even dropping trees on houses," says Andersen. "Then they typically fold up and leave, never to be seen again."

Disreputable companies tend to:

- Solicit work door-to-door
- Demand payment in advance
- Advertise topping
- Sell jobs without producing a written estimate or work order.

Start with the arborists listed in the phone book. Don't place much emphasis on the size of the Yellow Pages ad — some of the most reputable firms rely almost entirely on word-of-mouth advertising. Look instead for what the ad tells you about the company: number of years in business, professional affiliations, licenses, Accreditation, etc. Avoid companies that advertise topping, an injurious and unacceptable practice. You should be aware that the credentials of someone calling himself an arborist can vary widely. Don't just hire someone with a chain saw who knocks on your door! Look for the company displaying the credentials of a professional.


When you meet with the arborist:

- Ask to see current certificates of liability and workers' compensation insurance.
- Ask for written confirmation that work will be performed according to ANSI A300 industry standards
- Ask for local references, and check on the quality of their work and level of service.

CONTINUED PAGE 8

<p>Zeller Construction</p>  <p>Owner: Larry Highley 375-3477 or 260/359-2331 <i>Pole Barns, New Homes, Remodeling, Garages, Siding, Windows & Roofing</i></p>	<p>D & D BIKE</p> <p>Over 200 in Stock Phone 375-3828 or 1-800-356-4440 Downtown Warren</p>	<p>HEYDE OIL INC. d/b/a Huggy Bear <i>Ice Cream Stop and Huggy Bear Quik Stop & Motel</i></p>
 <p>CITIZENS TELEPHONE CORP.</p> <p><i>Serving Warren & Liberty Center</i> 375-2111</p> <p>Your "Internet Connection"</p>	 <p>P O Box 326 801 Htgn Ave Warren, IN 46792 UMMH.org 260-375-2201</p>	 <p>Warren Community Banking Center 450 Bennett Dr. 260-375-4550 or 888-758-3111 Strong & Secure Since 1947 www.marklebank.com</p>

<p>ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST 8013W 1100S - 90, Montpelier <i>Phillip Freel Jr, Pastor</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed Evening Carry-in & Fellowship 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>HILLCREST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 375-2510 <i>Rev Mark Davis</i> Bus Service 375-2510</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>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>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>JEFFERSON CENTER UNITED METHODIST Corner of 900S & 300W <i>Kathy Newton, Pastor</i></p> <p>Sunday School 8:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>SALAMONIE CHURCH OF BRETHREN 468-2412 <i>Mel Zumbrun, Pastor</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 a.m. Church School 10:45a.m.</p>
<p>BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST <i>Rev. Barry Humble, Pastor</i> <i>Jerome Markley, S.S. Supt.</i></p> <p>Sunday Worship 9:30a.m. Sunday School 10:30a.m.</p>	<p>LANCASTER WESLEYAN 468-2411 <i>Doug Sharrard, Pastor</i> <i>David Thrift, S.S. Supt.</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: CYC/Teen/Adult Meetings 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 375-2102 <i>Rev. Rick Pulling, Interim 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>CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH Van Buren, Indiana 765-934-2199 <i>Pastor - Interim</i> <i>Youth Minister Lynne Payne</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:40 a.m. Focus Youth Group - Sun 6:30-8:30p.m. Handicap Accessible</p>	<p>LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH 694-6622 <i>Pastor Dan Sommer</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:55a.m. Worship 10:15a.m. Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>VB UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 765-934-1431 <i>Pastor Blake J. Neff</i></p> <p>Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30a.m. Jr/Sr High UMYF (Sun)..... 6:30 p.m. Prayer-Bible Study (Thur).... 7:30 p.m. UMW 2nd Wed 7:00 p.m. www.vanburenumc.org</p>
<p>DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN 8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779 <i>Dick Case, Pastor</i></p> <p>Sun - 1st Worship Service..... 8:15a.m. Sunday School..... 9:30a.m. 2nd Worship Service 10:30a.m. Youth Group (6th-12th).6:00p.m. Wed - Circle of Friends (3yrs old - 5th grade) . 6:30-8p.m.</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>Dan Helm, Pastor</i></p> <p>Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</p>	<p>WARREN CHURCH OF CHRIST 375-3022 <i>Gerald O. Moreland, Minister</i> <i>Todd Winkler, Youth Minister</i> <i>Ruth Moreland, Secretary & BS Supt.</i></p> <p>Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</p>



Please Attend the Church of Your Choice

AREA NEWS

LENDING SCAM

Your BBB of Northern Indiana has received an alert from the St. Louis BBB regarding a company by the name of Alliance Lending, who has scammed large dollar amounts from consumers all over the nation. It's the typical online advanced fee loan scam, wiring money to Canada and never receiving anything. We continue to receive complaints daily. Indiana is one of 27 known states affected by this scam.

Alliance Lending uses an address of 1310 Papin St., St. Louis, and does business through a Web site, www.alliancelending.org. The address is an office building in downtown St. Louis, which does not list the company as a tenant. A spokesman for the owner of the building said that Alliance Lending is not a tenant of the building and has never been a tenant of the building.

Since Nov. 8, 2007, the BBB has received thirteen complaints and reports against the company. Complainants report that they searched for loans online and were contacted by the company via telephone. Consumers who were contacted by the company were told they were approved for loans, but the company needed payments as security deposits because of poor credit scores. Consumers are asked to wire the money to a (Barbara Windham) in DuPont, Ontario, Canada to secure the loan.

The registrant of the Web site, www.alliancelending.org, is listed as Jamie Bordeaux, Sophia, N. Carolina, 27350, according to BetterWhois.com. A representative of the Missouri Division of Finance said that Alliance Lending is not licensed by its office. Alliance Lending, is not registered with the Missouri secretary of state.

The BBB offers the following general tips regarding advance fee loans:

Reputable lenders never guarantee or promise that you will receive a loan before you apply, or before they have checked your credit report.

Don't give your credit card, bank account, or Social Security number on the telephone, by fax, or via the Internet unless you are familiar with the company and know why the information is necessary. Don't send money or money orders for a loan by wire. Reputable lenders don't pressure you to wire funds.

Make sure the company's physical address and phone number are available on its Web site. Beware if the loan broker hesitates to tell you the physical location of the company. Refuse to do business until you have obtained and verified its physical address or location.

Obtain the company's number in the phone book or from directory assistance, and call to make sure you're dealing with the company you think you are.

If the broker claims to have connections to established financial institutions, ask which lender the company deals with, and ask for the physical address of the lender. If you think you've been victimized by an advance fee loan scam, you may file a complaint with

the BBB at 800.552.4631 or by visiting www.bbb.org. If the company is located in Canada, you may report it to "Phonebusters, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Call Center" at 1-888-495-8501 or by visiting www.phonebusters.com.

COLD WEATHER TIPS

Mindful of the numerous health dangers that can be encountered during this season of cold weather, snow and ice, Parkview Huntington Hospital's ER manager, Charnjit Pabla, MD, has offered several safety tips.

Shoveling snow and ice is a strenuous activity, he explained. Persons who have to shovel should keep the following in mind:

- * Pace yourself and take frequent breaks.

- * Lift smaller loads, rather than large heavy ones.

- * Avoid large meals and caffeine both before and after shoveling.

- * Alcohol and shoveling or working snow blowing equipment do not mix.

- * Use a light plastic shovel with a small blade.

- * Spray shovel with some kind of lubricant such as WD-40 to keep snow from sticking.

- * Establish a rhythm.

- * People with a history of heart trouble, should not shovel snow without a physician's consent.

- * Using a snow blower takes effort also. Be sure to pace yourself and take breaks when doing this activity too.

Extreme cold temperatures associated with this time of year also place people who spend time outdoors at risk for health problems, Dr. Pabla added. "Make sure you dress warmly and wear layers of clothes rather than one heavy layer. Keep gloves on to avoid frostbite on hands and fingers, and wear a scarf or a coat with a high neck or collar to help keep flying snow from going down your neck, chest and back."

"Frostbite can occur to anyone exposed to very cold temperatures for a sustained period of time," he explained. "In severe cases, the flow of blood to the affected area has stopped and blood vessels have been damaged. In many cases, immediate treatment can reverse the damage, but in some instances amputation of the frostbitten area is necessary."

There are several signs and symptoms of frostbite, Dr. Pabla said. Any or all of them may be present in someone who has been outside in very cold weather for a long period of time. In the earliest stages of frostbite, a person's skin appears red and pain is often present. As the frostbite develops,

the skin becomes white or grayish yellow; it feels waxy and firm. The skin feels very cold and numb. Next, pain disappears and blisters may form. "Very often," he added, "the victim is not even aware of having frostbite until someone else notices one or more of these symptoms."

"If your fingers or other areas are frostbitten, prompt treatment is essential," he said. "Cover the affected areas with warm material — like a blanket, and seek professional care immediately. Never immerse the affected part in hot water. You can severely burn yourself because it may be difficult to truly judge the water temperature. And do not rub the affected part with snow or anything else."

Dr. Pabla also commented that prevention is the best treatment. "When you know you are going to be outside for an extended period of time, prepare ahead by dressing warmly and covering all exposed areas of skin that you can. People who work outdoors for a living tend to know how to dress for winter weather. But the very young and the very old are more at risk as they lose body heat more quickly. So, preventative measures are especially important for them." He also suggested avoiding the consumption of alcohol if outside for a long period of time.

Parkview Huntington Safety Coordinator Joe Rakoczy also reminded individuals to be safe when walking in parking lots and on sidewalks. "Walking in between cars is often more hazardous due to the inability to scatter salt and sand there as effectively as on roads, sidewalks and driveways," he cautioned. Walking in icy, snowy weather can be dangerous but these few tips can help you stay safe:

- * Dress in layers and wear boots with nonskid soles.

- * Walk on sidewalks where possible. If you must walk in the street, walk against the flow of traffic and as close to the curb as possible.

- * Don't wear a hat or scarf that will block your vision or makes it hard for you to hear traffic.

- * When crossing a street and before stepping off the curb, make sure oncoming traffic has come to a stop and that they aren't going to skid into you or a nearby object.

- * Avoid shoes with pointy toes and high heels when walking on an icy, snowy area.

- * Be careful exiting your car and make sure you have sound footing as you stand.

Rakoczy has additional advice for those who travel during the holidays. "With winter upon us once

again, it is especially important to be safe on our way to and from work, or on holiday outings," he said. "Travelers should check weather and road conditions for their travel route and time even before getting in their car. Also, drive defensively and allow yourself plenty of time," he added.

In addition, Rakoczy suggested that drivers make up a winter car kit and keep the following items stored in their vehicle during the winter months:

- * Flashlights with extra batteries.
- * First-aid kit with pocket knife.
- * Blankets.
- * Matches.
- * Extra clothes.

- * Small sack of sand for generating traction under wheels.

- * Small shovel.

- * Tools such as pliers, wrench and screwdriver.

- * Jumper cables and a set of tire chains or traction mats.

He also advised keeping a charged cell phone handy at all times while traveling as an extra safety feature.



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Open Saturday 9-3

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 12	Warren Chamber of Commerce Drawing 6:30 p.m.
Dec 12	7:00 PM - Joe Thomas Piano Christmas Concert at Warren Church of Christ
Dec 14-15	6-8:00 PM - Live Nativity at Warren Church of Christ
Dec 16	9:30 AM - Choir Christmas Cantata at Warren Church of Christ
Dec 19	Van Buren Town Council, 7 p.m.
Dec 20	Warren Town Council, 5:30 p.m., Assembly Hall
Dec 21	Warren Recycle Day
Dec 25	CHRISTMAS
Jan 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Jan 2	Chamber of Commerce Lunch, Noon, Assembly Hall
Jan 2	Van Buren Town Council, 7 p.m.
Jan 4	Warren Recycle Day
Jan 9	Chamber of Commerce Drawing 6:30 p.m.
Jan 14	Warren Town Council, 6:30 p.m. Assembly Hall
Jan 15	Knight Bergman Center Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Jan 16	Van Buren Town Council, 7 p.m.
Jan 18	Warren Recycle Day
Jan 21	Martin Luther King Jr Day
Jan 28	Warren Town Council, 6:30 p.m.

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 **Cancer Support Group** - 3rd Tuesday 6:30-8p.m. at Bluffton Regional South Campus **Walking in the Gym** 7-11 a.m. Monday - Friday

Winter Farmer's Market

Saturday, December 15

in the Pulse Opera House Lobby

9am to 12 noon

Holiday needs locally grown and made



AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 3

To register for these free workshops, please contact Jeff Teusch from Community Connections at (800) 310-9510 or via e-mail at jteusch@pathfinderservices.org. Community Connections is the Housing Division of Pathfinder Services Inc., a not for profit Human Services organization with offices in Huntington, Wabash, and Plymouth. Community Connections began in 1997 and has helped over 900 families fulfill the dream of homeownership and has provided over \$6.5 million in Down Payment Assistance to those families. Please visit www.cchomes.org for more information on Community Connections.

JR LEADERS TO MEET

The Huntington County 4-H Junior Leaders will meet Thursday, December 13 at 6-7:30 pm to go caroling for the Holiday Season at The Heritage, Huntington. All interested Junior Leaders are asked to meet at The Heritage 1180 W 500 N, Huntington.

The Junior Leader organization is also planning to participate in an Area 4-H Junior Leader event at Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne on Thursday, December 27, 2007. Members interested in attending must turn in a reservation and \$15 fee no later than Thursday, December 20 to the Purdue Extension – Huntington County Office. The group will meet at 4 pm to travel to the site in Fort Wayne for the event which will take place from 5-8 pm on December 27.

The County 4-H Junior Leader organization is open to any 4-H member in grade 7 or older. Members are welcome to invite friends to participate and join the 4-H program and Junior Leaders.

For more information, contact Linda Aldridge, laaldrig@purdue.edu or 260-358-4826 at the Purdue Extension – Huntington County office at 358-4826, located in the County Courthouse Annex Building, 354 N Jefferson – Suite 202, Huntington.

EUCHRE CLUB

The Jackson Township Euchre Club met at the home of Sharon Gebhart for their Christmas Party. Doris Tyler won high, Sharon Gebhart had low and Marjorie Michaud and Mary Jo Zoda tied for most lones. Others enjoying the evening were Joan Huffman, Sharron Roush, Carolyn Carroll, Jane Lieurance, Florence Taylor, Joyce Willman, Phyllis Dickey and Marge Jones. After an evening of Euchre a Christmas exchange was enjoyed by all. Joan Huffman will be the hostess in January.

INTERNET SAFETY

Twenty-Two children were at the Van Buren Public Library After School Story Time on Friday December 7th, 2007.

The children signed in and received material to make a cup coaster with a computer disc. The coasters turned out really cute.

Nancy Cook read the books "Merry Christmas Mom and Dad" by Mercer Mayer and "The tiny Star" by Arthur Ginolf these books can be found in the children's department of the library.

We introduced our special guest Sandy Meyer from SCAN Inc. (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect). Sandy shared with the children about Internet safety. She explained the Internet Safety Rules. Rule one if you get into a web sight you shouldn't be into, turn off the computer and tell an adult. Rule two don't send money. Rule three don't share information about yourself or others. Rule four don't talk to strangers. Sandy shared a lot of good advice for the children to follow.

Those attending were T.J. Holman, Devon Lester, Alie Gray, Caitlin Imhoff, Nixon Smith, Caitlin Costo, Broc Miller, Kylee Lester, Jacob Clupper, Bethany Bridenthal, Cathryne Anderson, Faith Wiggin, Lilly Stiles, Emilee Morgan, Autumn Harman, Jarren Griffith, Amanda Keifer, Ryan Rumble, Emily Webb, Chelsea Cason, Zack Handshoe and Kaylee Morgan.

Next story time will be December 14th. We will have our Christmas Bingo Party. Hope to see you!

PLAN DON'T EXPAND

by The FlyLady, Marla Cilley
Here we are in the middle of the holiday season. We see lots of things expanding from waistlines to credit card debt! At the same time other things are decreasing: our patience and time. Believe it or not I have one simple cure to all of these problems of expanding and decreasing.

It is menu planning. I know that you probably don't believe that this one thing can help you with your weight, debt, patience and time but it can.

During this time of year we are rushing around trying to get everything accomplished on top of everything else we have to do. We push ourselves till we are about to drop and then all of a sudden you hear that question that is the dread of every woman's heart, "What's for Dinner?"

So what do we usually do? We head for the phone or the nearest drive thru. All because we don't think we have time. What does that do to our disposable income? It builds up our credit card debt and those jeans just don't fit any more. You have placed that hard earned money on your backside and it's not in your wallet either.

With our morning routines, our before bed routines and a basic weekly plan we can know what's for dinner because we have made out our menus, written up a grocery list, we have gone to the grocery store and have all the things we need in the house to prepare the meals. All it takes is getting out a piece of paper right here and now. What is stopping you? I don't want to hear that you don't have time! This is just whining. This one little thing is going to help reduce the stress in your life.

Now grab that paper and no more whining. Get down your calendar

because you will be writing your menus on it. Now think of your family's favorite things to eat. Put them on your calendar. My way of thinking about this had to use what we have in the freezer to save even more money. Check out what is frozen and in your pantry to build these menus. This is easy.

Now write down the side dishes to go with the main course. Include a salad as one of them. Put lettuce and spinach on your list and other fresh veggies to make your salad. Most of what you will be buying at the grocery store will be the fresh stuff and staples anyway. We all know what this is (the stuff we always buy even if we don't have a list): toilet paper, washing powder, milk bread, peanut butter. You know your family's favorites and the item we don't like to run out of.

Now here is the secret to saving time in the kitchen. When you cut up stuff for one meal do enough for two meals and put together two casseroles or two meat loaves. It is just as easy to make two as one; then put the other one in the freeze for those nights you have a busy schedule.

Now the key to making this all happen is using your calendar to put the extra meal on the same day next month. If you do this all during the month of November you will have all your meals ready for December. Then you will really be cruising through the holidays.

As part of your before bed routine check your calendar for "What's for Dinner" tomorrow and pull it out of the freezer. When you get up in the morning you can utilize your crock pot so when you walk in the door you are greeted with a home cooked meal! Talk about fast food! This is it and it is so good for you.

For more help with menu planning or get some freezer meals put away for the holidays go to Leanne's website, www.SavingDinner.com. She has put together a special package for us to Cruise Through the holidays.

http://savingdinner.com/products/flylady_freezefest.html

For more help getting rid of your CHAOS; check out her website and join her free mentoring group at www.FlyLady.net or her book, Sink Reflections published by Bantam and her New York Times Best Selling book, Body Clutter published by Fireside. Copyright 2007 Marla Cilley Used by permission in this publication.

GROCERY STORE BLUES

by The Dinner Diva, Leanne Ely
One of the most miserable places on earth is the grocery store at 6 o'clock every night. Here you will see women standing in line with hungry, cranky kids buying overpriced, ready-to-eat food for their dinner. They might have a gallon of milk too, or maybe even some toilet paper, but one thing is for sure: they're unprepared, stressed out and all they want to do is get out of that long line, get home and get everyone fed.

It does not have to be that way and there are very simple solutions (baby steps!) to getting out of this awful rut and getting a grip on the food in your house. One of the first things to do is make a shopping list.

Yeah, you've heard it before and you somehow you think you don't need to do this: you think you know what you need. But let me ask you this? How many trips do you make each week to the store? The answer should be ONE. Even an extra trip to pick up a gallon of milk is too much—it's not going to go bad, so why not stock up? Now don't go emailing me explaining your space limitations. Obviously, if that is truly the case (and you've eliminated the "science project" leftovers taking up valuable space in the fridge) you have my blessing. But for the rest of us, once is absolutely enough. I cannot emphasize how important this is. Staying out of the store will help us keep our finances in order and give us more time to do the things we want to do.

The way to do this is to have a plan. It doesn't need to be elaborate, just a simple grocery list that coincides with what your family eats (a menu for the week), what you're running out of and how much you need of everything. If you're opening a can of tuna for lunch, put tuna on the grocery list—even if you have more in the pantry! And even if you don't pick it up this grocery trip, you have at least made the connection that you'll need it in the future, it's written down and it will be remembered when it is finally time for it to be bought. This is how you keep your pantry perpetually stocked.

At this point I have to address the warehouse store. This is NOT a good place for a lot of us to spend their time or their money. I have yet to meet a woman who can go into one of these places with a list and not come out with at least five other purchases because they were "good deals". And don't we all just

love a deal? I have more than once called up a friend to gloat over the good deal I snagged. There are always exceptions to the rule, but for the most part, it's a slippery slope and if you don't want to fall down, you must avoid places like those like the plague.

Here are some signs you've got a problem with warehouse stores:

- * your purchases are stuffed under beds in your home because you don't have the space.
- * you're lying to your husband about what you spent.
- * you're hiding your purchases.
- * you're nervous when it's time to check out hoping you have the money to buy all the stuff.
- * you feel guilty about it.

Of course, this can all apply to any store. Warehouse stores are the places that I happen to know from personal experience that you can completely whack out your family's household budget for months because of impulse purchases. And that's what the whole economy of a warehouse store is based on. They're counting on you to overspend and impulse buy and to thank you, they charge you a membership fee once a year for that privilege!

So get your menus together. If you need help, check out my website, www.savingdinner.com. Keep a running list (I have a cheap notepad with a magnet on my fridge and a pen in the knife drawer) and write it down as soon as you use it, and above all else spend a little extra time on the list before you leave the house. The time spent on the list will pay off big time, because you won't be running out the door to grab a can of tomatoes for a recipe because your perpetual grocery list has you covered. As this becomes a habit, you will be flying in the grocery department of your life, too! It will become easier, you'll spend less time and you'll be confident that you have what you need when you need it.

For more help putting dinner on your table check out her website). www.SavingDinner.com or her Saving Dinner Book series published by Ballantine and her New York Times Best Selling book Body Clutter, published by Fireside. Copyright 2007; Leanne Ely Used by permission in this publication.



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GENEALOGY REPORT

VORE

Carol L. Vore, 68, Bluffton, died Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007 at her home. Born in Bluffton on May 27, 1939 to George F. and Mildred E. (Woodward) Redd, she married Don F. Vore in Lewisville on Oct. 10, 1955; he survives.

Other survivors include four children, Sheryl E. (Harvey) Hilton, Geneva, Michelle A. (Robert) Grau of Greenwood, Steven A. (Cheryl) Vore of Upland, and Jill A. (Jason) Price of Liberty Center; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

There were no calling hours. A private family service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are being handled by Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home.

Preferred memorials are to the family or Family Hospice of Northeast Indiana.

SILLS

Constance "Connie" Joan Sils, 72, of Bluffton, died at 9:45 p.m. Monday Dec. 10, 2007, at Ossian Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Born in Bluffton to Claude L. and Mary Jane (Stogdill) Sils on Jan. 31, 1936, she graduated from Wabash High School in 1954.

Mrs. Sils was an active member of Epworth United Methodist Church in Bluffton. She retired from the Wells County Treasurer's Office in 1998 after 23 years service. She continued to work at this office as needed during busy tax seasons however, and she was currently working at the Wells County Veteran's Service Office.

Surviving relatives include two daughters, Mary (James) Craig and Alice (Philip) Grogg, both of Bluffton, one sister, Carolyn (Hobert) Stout of Bluffton; eight grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Sils was preceded in death by a son, Robert Oechsle.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, at the Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Calling hours will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Burial is at Mossburg Cemetery, in Liberty Center.

Preferred memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

TURNER



Former Huntington postmaster Rodger W. Turner, 82, died at 6:30 a.m. Monday (Dec. 10, 2007) at Heritage Pointe in Warren.

Mr. Turner, a Huntington resident, was a 30-year employee of the United States Postal Service and had served as Huntington's postmaster, retiring in March 1981.

He was a 1943 graduate of Huntington High School. He served in the Army with the 302nd Fighter Control Squadron during World War II, rising to the rank of sergeant. He was a member of Central Christian Church, Amity Lodge 483 F. and A. M. in Huntington, the Fort Wayne Valley Scottish Rite, the Mizpah Shrine in Fort Wayne, and served as the Exalted Ruler of the Elks Club in Huntington.

Mr. Turner was born Aug. 22, 1925, in Huntington, to George R. and Dessie Ham Turner. He married Betty J. Lockwood in Huntington on May 11, 1944. She died June 13, 1990. He married Myra J. Hower in Huntington on May 18, 1991. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Deborah Harris of Indianapolis and Marta Sue Miller of Huntington; three stepdaughters, Katherine Runyan, Cynthia Claus, and Carla Meyer; four stepsons, Steve Hower, George Hower, David Hower, and James Hower; and six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Calling is from 3-8 p.m. Thursday at Deal-Rice Funeral Home, Huntington Chapel. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the funeral home with Dr. Sam Young officiating.

Burial will be in the Gardens of Memory cemetery with members of Post 2689 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars providing military graveside honors.

Preferred memorials are to the American Heart Association or the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

Ask SHIP

by Mary Phillips

Q: I received a letter stating that I will no longer receive Extra Help next year. I am on limited income, is there anything I can do?

A: Letters were sent to Medicare beneficiaries, who no longer automatically qualify for Extra Help. A person automatically qualified for extra help if they fell into specific categories. These categories are as follows: they have both Medicare and Medicaid (dual-eligible); they are part of the Medicare Savings Program (they get help paying for their Medicare premiums and/or co-pays from Medicaid); or they have Medicare and receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Those beneficiaries who are no longer in one of these categories will not automatically qualify for Extra Help in 2008.

You may still qualify for Extra Help, even if you do not qualify automatically. You will just need to complete an application for Extra Help. Applications were included in the letters informing beneficiaries they no longer automatically qualify.

To speed up the determination process you can apply online at the Social Security website www.ssa.gov.

Q: What are the enrollment periods for Medicare Advantage Plans?

A: There are four types of enrollment periods for Medicare Advantage Plans (MA): Initial Enrollment, Annual Enrollment, A Open Enrollment, and Special Enrollment.

The Initial Enrollment Period is determined by when your Medicare coverage begins. There is a 7-month period for Initial Enrollment. This period includes the 3 months before an individual becomes eligible, the month the person becomes eligible, and the 3 months after the month of eligibility.

The Annual Enrollment Period begins November 15th and ends December 31st. Every year during this time period, Medicare beneficiaries will be able to enroll into a plan, switch plans or disenroll from a plan and return to Original Medicare.

The Open Enrollment Period runs between January 1st and March 31st each year. You may join or switch plans at this time; however, your choice of plans will be limited based on your prescription drug coverage. Between January 1st and March 31st, you will not be able to add or drop drug coverage.

If you have a MA Plan with drug coverage (MAPD), you can join another MAPD plan, Original Medicare with a Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) or a Private-Fee-For-Service (PFFS) advantage plan with a PDP.

If you have a MA Plan with no drug coverage (MA-only), you can join another MA-only or Original Medicare only.

If you have Original Medicare and a PDP, you can join MAPD, or a PFFS with the same PDP.

If you have Original Medicare, you can join a MA-only plan.

Special Enrollment Periods are available when specific conditions occur, such as, when you move out of the service area.

For more information on Medicare Advantage Plans and the enrollment periods call SHIP at 1-800-452-4800, 1-800 Medicare (1-800-633-4227), or go to the Medicare website www.medicare.gov.

SHIP is a free, unbiased counseling program provided by the Indiana State Department of Insurance. For assistance, call your local SHIP site to make an appointment or call the state office at 1-800-452-4800 to obtain a list of local SHIP sites. Address your questions to:

Ask SHIP
714 West 53rd Street
Anderson, IN 46013

Or www.Medicare.in.gov 1-800-452-4800

LISTEN UP! How To TURN AUDIOBOOKS INTO FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

(StatePoint) Gathering everyone for quality family entertainment can be as important as sitting down to dinner together.

In today's fast-paced world of hundreds of television channels, millions of Web sites and iPods in every kid's backpack, sometimes it seems that entertainment is becoming a solitary experience that each family member enjoys alone.

One innovative form of family entertainment that is becoming more and more popular with parents is the audiobook - stories the whole family can listen to on CDs, at home and in the car. Particularly popular, these days, are fantasy and magic-oriented tales that can be engaging for both parents and children alike.

Audiobooks are being used by parents as a great way to get kids to use their imagination, and as innovative tools to get children interested in reading. As many parents can attest, audiobooks make for wonderful diversions on those long family car trips.

"We all like a good story. It's no wonder more families are turning to audiobooks, as nothing beats having a great storyteller read one to you," said Jennifer Feldman, Publisher, Scholastic Audio Group.

Here are some ideas for enjoying audiobooks with your family:

* Treat new audiobook releases the way you would new movies and get the whole family excited for upcoming stories. This season, for instance, highly-anticipated new family-friendly releases include "What-the-Dickens: The Story of a Rogue Toothfairy" by Gregory Maguire, who also wrote "Wicked," the best-seller that became a Broadway musical; and "Seeing Redd," the second in the hugely popular "The Looking Glass Wars" trilogy. Other much-heralded tales that are debuting include "Into the Mist," a prequel to the magical creature-filled "Land of Elyon" series; and "Paint the Wind," an epic horse story in the tradition of Black Stallion.

* Make the car a place for storytelling. Instead of turning on

the radio, engage your family's minds by taking audiobooks on the road. A good story can make those long car trips seem shorter!

* Schedule regular audiobook nights the way you would a movie night. Prepare some favorite healthy snacks and listen to a chapter of an audiobook.

* Dream up your own sequels and prequels together. Challenge your kids to invent their own tales of what happens next to characters once an audiobook is finished. Tell the stories to each other and have kids draw pictures of what they think the characters and scenes look like.

Above all, choose audiobooks that are both entertaining and educational. Just as with movies or TV shows, some audiobooks are not suitable for the whole family. Turn to trusted publishers like Scholastic (www.scholastic.com), known for creating great books and entertainment for kids.

PHONE CARDS FOR TROOPS

While the task of picking up a phone and calling a loved one in the U.S. is easy, the act becomes a bit more complicated when you're overseas. And in the military. And in a hospital.

This summer, Secretary of State Todd Rokita visited Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, a military casualty hospital operated by the U.S. European Military Command. It's also a primary medical evacuation destination for U.S. troops participating in Iraq and Afghanistan military operations. When told that international calling charges are not covered and injured troops were unable to contact home, he was determined to help meet this small but important need.

"I was deeply moved by the commitment, courage and high-spirits of the wounded soldiers I met," Rokita said. "More than one hospital staff member told me that when wounded soldiers regained consciousness, their first words were often identical: before asking about their own injuries, they would inquire if their fellow soldiers were okay, and then ask how soon they could get back to the field because their unit would be counting on them."

Being able to call home is something often taken for granted at home but is something injured troops overseas treasure.

"A lot of families' fears could be alleviated if their wounded loved ones were able to contact them," Rokita said. "This is why I was determined to help collect the domestic phone cards for the soldiers, especially during the holiday season."

As a result, Rokita and his office are collecting 60 to 120 minute domestic prepaid telephone cards to be sent to wounded troops stationed overseas. The effort has been ongoing since Rokita returned home from his trip abroad, and the number of cards collected and sent has slowly been growing.

Phone cards can be purchased at local retailers. Please mail or

deliver the cards to: Military Phone Card Program, c/o Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita, 201 Statehouse, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Rokita will forward the collection starting December 19 so the soldiers can have the cards in time to call their loved ones over the holidays.

FAMILY HEALTH HISTORY

(SPM Wire) How familiar are you with the health of your family tree? Do you know what medical problems seem to run in your family?

A careful family health history may provide insight into the risk of inheriting specific diseases, shared environmental factors, and individual health concerns.

People can't change their genes, but knowing a family's health history can help people take action to reduce higher disease risks that could be related to genes. For instance, they might seek health advice and have preventive screening earlier for the diseases identified such as diabetes, heart disease or cancer.

"Having a conversation about your family health history may help ensure a longer, healthier future together," said Acting U.S. Surgeon General Steven K. Galson, M.D., M.P.H. "By sharing information, loved ones can help each other learn about diseases for which they may be at risk, and take steps which may reduce their vulnerability to them."

Results of these important holiday conversations should be put down in writing so that they can be saved and even shared with doctors.

"Creating a health record will make it easier for every family member to preserve his or her health," Dr. Galson said.

A health history also can encourage changes in behavior that affect personal health, such as smoking, inactivity, and poor eating habits. People with a family health history of some chronic diseases and cancer may have the most to gain from making lifestyle changes.

Surveys indicate more than 90 percent of Americans believe that knowing their family health history is important. But they also show that only about one third of Americans have ever tried to gather

and write down their family's health history.

That's why the U.S. Surgeon General has created the Family History Initiative. Information about family history can be accessed for free through the Surgeon General's Web site at surgeongeneral.gov/familyhistory.

Because family health history is such a powerful screening technique, the Surgeon General has made available a free computerized tool to help make it easy for anyone to create a portrait of their family's health. To access the tool, called "My Family Health Portrait," go to <http://familyhistory.hhs.gov>.

The Web site makes it easy to organize and report family history to health care providers.

In addition to the Web-based tool, printable versions and other resources related to the Surgeon General's Family Health Initiative are also available online for users to share with their families and their doctors.

"I encourage families to make the time to sit down together and become familiar with the health history of previous generations," Dr. Galson said. "This may help family members for years to come."

HOLIDAY CLEAN UP MADE SIMPLE

(StatePoint) The holiday season is upon us and the house guests are starting to arrive. Inevitably, you will be vacuuming up broken ornaments, pine needles and New Year's Eve confetti, but what about germs and allergen not visible to the naked eye?

The right vacuum will not only help eliminate these hidden health hazards, but also make clean-up easier after decking the halls.

Walter Taffarello, Panasonic's AeroBlast vacuum specialist, offers some useful tips on how vacuuming can make pesky holiday clean-ups a cinch and rid your home of germs, allergens and dust

CONTINUED PAGE 8



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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 6

mites. This year becoming "The Grinch" can be avoided with quick and easy holiday cleaning guidelines.

* Vacuuming is not exclusive to floors and stairs. Be sure to also vacuum mattresses and pillows to rid your guest room of dust mites.

* Is pet hair a problem? Use an air turbine brush to clean furniture and upholstery before guests arrive.

* Choose vacuums with removable attachments that can efficiently clean any surface, including above-floor cleaning, hard-to-reach crevices and bare floors. Your vacuum should come equipped with an ergonomic telescopic handle, all-floors feature and crevice tool that is fully adjustable to best fit the handle height to any user and those hard-to-reach places on any surface.

* With some traditional vacuums you have to go through the hassle of not only cleaning your house, but also cleaning the vacuum itself by emptying the bag. Skip the extra step by investing in a new bagless vacuum that comes equipped with automatic filter cleaning systems. For instance, the models in the AeroBlast line automatically clean the filter every time the vacuum is turned on by shooting a blast of air into the filter system, keeping the filter from clogging and maintaining the vacuum's suction.

* Blinds, drapes and lampshades attract dust and germs as much as any other part of the house, but are just as easily cleaned when using a removable attachment such as an extension wand or dusting brush.

* How long as it been since you really cleaned your couch? According to the "Clean Home Journal," cleaning couch cushions, especially around the holidays, is a must. Dust mite allergens hidden in folds and fibers could trigger allergic reactions in some of your guests. Use a vacuum with an attachment like an upholstery brush or crevice tool to clean your couch's corners.

* If you have family members that suffer from allergies, consider purchasing a vacuum with a HEPA filter. Rather than circulating small particles that irritate allergy sufferers back into the home environment, HEPA filters trap the dust and particles, releasing clean air back into your home.

* Test sound levels on vacuums before purchasing. For example, the motors in the Panasonic AeroBlast lines are surprisingly quiet at maximum power, so you won't drown out holiday music during a quick holiday clean-up.

* Be sure to use a vacuum with a performance indicator that lets you know if there is an obstruction in the air flow, such as a clogged hose or any other type of air restriction. If any new trinkets get lost in shuffle of all the wrapping paper, you will be informed of the obstruction immediately.

"The key is making cleaning easier and more efficient, without compromising suction power. That's why Panasonic designed the AeroBlast vacuums with

features like the dirt sensor, quick-draw extending hose and HEPA filters," said Taffarello. "This type of vacuum is ideal for cleaning this holiday season. Since all of the models are bagless and come equipped with an easy-to clean dirt cup that detaches at the touch of a button, they make the most undesirable chore of the holiday season as easy and quick as possible."

Family gatherings can get messy no matter the time of year. But the right vacuum makes cleaning the house and eliminating germs quick and simple.

TEN THINGS TO KEEP TEEN DRIVERS SAFE

(SPM Wire) Getting the keys to the family car - or better still, a car of their own - can be one of the biggest things in the lives of most teenagers. For their parents, however, it can be a source of worry.

There are many things parents of teen drivers can do to improve their teens' safety behind the wheel.

"Parents can have a tremendous impact on their teens' safety," said Robert L. Darbelnet, President and CEO of AAA, which has created a list of ten things parents can do to help keep teen drivers safe:

* Know and understand your teen - Not all teens are ready to drive at the same age. Teenagers mature, develop emotionally and become responsible at varying rates, which parents need to gauge as they determine when their teen is ready to drive.

* Be a positive and responsible role model - Teenagers learn from their parents' behavior. Research has found that, when using collisions and traffic tickets as criteria, parents of teens involved in crashes were more likely to have poor driving records than parents of collision-free teens.

* Choose a quality driving school - Driving is a risky activity for teens and warrants professional instruction. Driving schools that feature cutting-edge curriculums, high degrees of interaction and professionally-trained instructors are suggested. Parents can consult their local AAA club for potential local recommendations.

* Practice might not make perfect, but it can make for better teen drivers - As an important supplement to formal driver education, supervised driving sessions with parents provide teens with opportunities to enhance learning, reinforce proper techniques and skills, and receive constructive feedback from the people that care most about their safety.

* Keep teen drivers free of teen passengers and off the road at night - Research indicates that a teen driver's chances of crashing increase with each additional teen passenger. Know who is driving with your teen at all times. Teen crash rates spike at night, with most crashes happening between 9 p.m. and midnight.

* Encourage teens to get enough sleep - Teens need about nine hours of sleep nightly, but many fall short. Lack of sleep can negatively

affect vision, hand-eye coordination, reaction time and judgment.

* Eliminate distractions - Cell phones and text messaging can be hazardous. With surveys reporting widespread use of distracting technology by teen drivers, more than one-third of states ban cell phone use by new teen drivers. Parents should make it a strict rule in their households.

* Create a parent-teen driving agreement - Written rules, conditions, restrictions and consequences of teens' driving establish driving as a privilege, and not to be taken lightly. Look to state graduated driver licensing programs as the minimum. Parents should establish rules and consequences that they and their teens agree upon that extend beyond state laws. If the teen breaks a family driving rule, consequences should be enforced and the situation should be used as an opportunity for learning. Proper driving should be encouraged and rewarded with additional liberties. AAA offers parent-teen driving agreements at www.aaa.com/publicaffairs.

* Set a time for weekly discussion and review - Parental involvement and communication is critical in the prevention of teen-related crashes, injuries and fatalities. Designate a time each week to address concerns (both parent and teen), review the teen's driving performance and chart the progression towards established goals.

* Make smart vehicle choice decisions for teens - As the family member most likely to crash, a teen should drive the safest vehicle the family owns. Things to consider are vehicle type (sedans are generally safer than sports cars, SUVs and pickup trucks), size (larger vehicles fare better in crashes than smaller vehicles) and safety technology (front and side air bags, anti-lock brakes and stability control systems).

Keeping teens safe on the road is one way to help teen drivers turn into adult ones.

MORE PAGE 2

• Verify professional affiliations, such as membership in the Tree Care Industry Association.

• Check to see if the company is Accredited by the Tree Care Industry Association, the highest business credential attainable in the industry.

• Don't be lured by a bargain and don't pay in advance.

• Insist on a signed contract as to cost, dates when work is to be performed, and exactly what is to be done.

• Insist that climbing spikes are used only if the tree is to be cut down, since they damage the tree.

• Get a second opinion if it will add to your comfort level. Make sure that a complete diagnosis of the potential for tree failure is performed before a tree is removed.

What should you do?

Homeowners who would like a professional arborist to assess their trees should contact the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA),

a 69-year-old public and professional resource on trees and arboriculture. It has more than 2,000 member companies who recognize stringent safety and performance standards and who are required to carry liability insurance. TCIA has the nation's only Accreditation program that helps consumers find tree care companies that have been inspected and accredited based on: adherence to industry standards for quality and safety; maintenance of trained, professional staff; and dedication to ethics and quality in business practices. An easy way to find a tree care service provider in your area is to use the "Locate Your Local TCIA Member Companies" program. You can use this service by calling 1-800-733-2622 or by doing a ZIP code search at www.treecaretips.org.



MARKLEBANK HONORS VETERANS WITH FLAGS FLOWN OVER THE U.S. CAPITOL

MARKLE, Ind. — In honor of our country's veterans and Veterans' Day, MarkleBank held a drawing in each of its five markets for veterans to win a flag that was flown over the United States Capitol.

Beckie Collins, an Air Force veteran, is the Markle winner. She served in the Air Force from 1987 through 1991. Collins was stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida, during Desert Storm and also served in Phoenix at Luke AFB. She was an Aerospace Medical Technician in the Flight Surgeon's Office.

Alan Slagel, an Army veteran, is the Huntington winner. Slagel, a radar operator, was in Germany with the Army from 1959 to 1963. He was stationed at Zirndorf near Nuremberg and was also stationed along the border with East Germany and Czechoslovakia. While on guard duty, he watched the East Germans build the wall and put up barbed wire along the border. Slagel was the first westerner a particular escapee encountered after successfully fleeing East Germany.

Tom Mortimore is the Warren/Van Buren winner. Mortimore was in the Army from 1980 to 1984. He currently serves full-time in the Indiana Air National Guard where he has served since 1988. Mortimore, a machinist, recently returned from his third tour in Iraq in four years. He has also been stationed in Korea, Hawaii, Qatar, and Bahrain.

Tom Mortimore, pictured above at left, received his flag from Kim Heyde, center, the Office Manager at MarkleBank's Huntington branch, and Lee Pasko, right, MarkleBank Vice President.

Carl Biesiada, a Navy veteran, is the Fort Wayne winner. Biesiada served aboard an aircraft carrier, the USS Monterrey, in the South Pacific from November 1944 to May 1946. Also serving on the USS Monterrey at the same time was Gerald Ford, who later became President of the United States. Biesiada served on gas detail and refueled planes when they landed. Biesiada's ship was in Tokyo Bay when the war with Japan ended in 1945.

Greg Vanover, a Navy veteran, is the Bluffton winner and was unavailable for a photo.

MarkleBank is a state-chartered community bank and is a subsidiary of Independent Alliance Banks. MarkleBank currently operates seven banking centers, the main office in Markle, two in Bluffton, one in Warren, Huntington, Fort Wayne, and Van Buren.

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