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Volume 35, Number 9



www.warrenweeklyindiana.com

Warren Weekly

Your Hometown Newspaper

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Thought for the Week: The only place where success comes before work is a dictionary. Vidal Sassoon

REMINISCE

As the Coronavirus takes over the news feed, we do need some other types of stories as well.

During this time of "down-time" I would love to hear your stories.

Take a few minutes to think about and write about your life in these communities we all love.

Share the stories of how your family and ancestors came to this community. Tell us how things were different when you were a child. This is a chance to share our local history with our younger generations.

Let's lighten up the weekly paper. I've always said that the Warren Weekly was to be a "happy" paper. As you've probably noticed we don't get involved in the controversies and negativity. The purpose of the Warren Weekly is to keep the communities of Warren, Liberty Center and Van Buren informed of the "happenings" of the area.

Send your stories to the Warren Weekly by email to editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com or by mail to Warren Weekly, PO Box 695, Warren, IN 46792. You may also put your info into an envelope addressed to Warren Weekly and drop it in the mail slot at Town Hall.

Want to share photos from year's past - either scan and email to the above email, or include with your mailed or dropped off item. If sending an original, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope to get your photo returned to you.

During this time, I'm trying to keep the paper going out each week. Even though the Warren Weekly is a free paper to the community - it is not free to get it produced each week. Advertising is what pays the bills

and keeps the newspaper coming into your homes on a weekly basis.

Don't forget there are pick-up points for those who do not receive it in the mail. Pick-up points in Warren right now are the bright blue distribution boxes at the Post Office and Dollar General, inside the door at Warren Pharmacy and on the paper rack at Warren Market (Marathon). In Van Buren you can find pick-up points at Circle K and on the counter at the Post Office.

I look forward to your submissions.

FROM WARREN TOWN

CLERK

After additional announcements were made by the President over the weekend with the Governor expected to extend the 'shelter in place', I have made the decision that going forward until such time as the crisis is over, Town Hall will be staffed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday only. I wanted to keep regular days for the public.

Marcy will be working on the same schedule as you have set for the utility department, three on and two off or vice versa. I will be working the extra day on the two day week for Marcy. The 'closed' days I will work from home as necessary. Contacts with attorneys, grants, etc. can continue from home.

As I believe that not everyone is aware of what happens through this office, we send out approximately 850 bills per month. Of that, approximately 100 people have automatic withdrawal on the 10th of the month. Therefore we have 'contact' in one way or another

with the rest, mostly through and until the 15th of each month. Credit card payments average around \$40,000+ per month which require office time and we would expect that amount to double at least. Credit Card payments over the phone are even more time consuming as receipts have to be made, etc. On certain days we see as many as seventy five or more people. Two people will need to be in the office at the same time to handle the load of calls expected not only for payments but for account information and to conduct operational business of the Town and, as well, it is the end of the quarter and State/Federal Agencies are not delaying any due dates. We do not have options on what can and cannot be done, as other employees do, as deadlines must be met, payroll must be done, other operations must be timely. And, just prior to the 15th of each month, updates to accounts must be made to prepare for meter readings on the 15th.

Then, the reading reports are run, people who have leaks indicated are contacted, rereads are done and billing adjustments due to leaks, etc. are made and billing is calculated. Therefore, adaptations will be made going forward as necessary.

Credit Card payments will be posted daily as always. Checks, being received through the door and through the mail will be posted during the week received as it is estimated the virus can live up to five days on paper and will be posted only after being treated. Cash postings will be made once a week after being treated.

All doors to Town Hall will remain locked, including the back office door. Dealings with the Police and Utility Departments will be done by phone to provide social distancing which is nearly impossible in the office anyway.

Britney will not be available as her son has suffered from RSV and is on quarantine from the Day Care and from the public. As I had informed Ethan, Marcy has Pernicious Anemia (Auto Immune Deficiency) which is considered to be at 'high risk'. I will monitor that carefully as I would with any employee. I, also, am high risk due to age and medical condition. I am addressing those issues as well.

Please check the Governor's Executive Orders or FMLA as to other actions that could, would be necessary, including leaves based on school closings, etc.

The office will remain locked, back office door also, when office is closed. The last part of each day will be spent sanitizing surfaces.

PHARMACY INFO

The Warren Pharmacy is planning to be open normal hours M-F 9-5:30 and Sat. 9-Noon, throughout this unusual COVID 19 crisis. We have received Essenhaus Beef Base, Chicken Base, their Canned Chicken and Noodles; and we have gloves in stock.

We are constantly attempting to obtain items necessary for each of us to survive this very contagious virus. Items, such as masks, gloves, thermometers, hand sanitizer, isopropyl alcohol, aloe vera gel, Lysol spray and even toilet paper are still in short or limited supply nationally.

We are working daily to obtain the medications and supplies needed for our community to remain healthy and fulfil their responsibilities. May the God of heaven have Mercy upon our nation. We pray for our community, and we truly appreciate your prayers for us, to remain healthy!

We are on call after hours, and our home phone 375-4190 is in the Warren Phone Book.

WAMA UPDATE

Hello everyone who cares about what the Warren Area Ministerial Association (WAMA) is doing, needs and wants to share with you.

First, we want to say how sorry we are to have to cancel our previously announced participation in the Community Good Friday Service that was to be held in cooperation with Heritage Pointe, Friday, April 10th. This is, of course, because of the outbreak of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 that we are all experiencing. All area churches have been cancelling services until they feel right about reopening for our safety.

Check with your local church about their announcements of cancellation decisions.

In order to let you know we have come to the realization that it is important to the community an explanation about recent decisions made by WAMA ministers and officers. We are including these guidelines in this Update to you, our faithful supporters. We are serious about being transparent and accountable about funds that are received from those of you who believe in what we are

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Mailing Address: P O Box 695, Warren, IN 46792
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Phone: (260)375-6290 **e-mail:** editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com
 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 Warren Market, Dollar General, and next to the Post Office in downtown Warren, along with various other businesses. The Warren Weekly is also available at Circle K in Van Buren. Total circulation is 3000.
 It is sent anywhere in the Continental United States for three (3) months for \$12.50, 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. Or you can request a digital copy (by e-mail) at a cost of \$24 per year.
 Deadline for news and/or advertising is 10 a.m. Tuesday, for that week's edition. Call if you need something in but won't have it here on time.
 Leave news and/or advertising at Town Hall or mail to PO Box 695, Warren or email to editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com.
 WARREN WEEKLY will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The firm assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part in which an error may occur, provided that it is reported within five days of publication.
 The publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement.

Kudos, Kicks & Karats

Life in a Small Town

by Treva Flemming

Guest written by Ruth Herring

We were talking and she suggested I write a surprise article for everyone. This is no doubt a rerun but it is that time of year that makes me want to get outside and do a little digging in the good earth.

This is potato planting time and always think back to when it was a busy time for us at the home place. Unless it was freezing cold or pouring down rain Good Friday was the day we planted potatoes. First we had half day at school then it was required to attend Good Friday services, then home to change clothes and out to the potato lot. It was a rather large area, my dad sold potatoes in the late summer and fall. My job was to drop the potato seed which was cut up potato, each part had to have an eye for growth. Dad with his mighty garden tractor furried out the rows and he came behind me and covered them. We had a good system and it went fast. The plot we used for potatoes was where the old barn stood for many years, dad tore it down and built a new one in another space. The ground there was really well blessed with organic material and was very soft loamy soil. If the weather was warm enough I was allowed to go barefoot there. I guess that is why I still yearn for the warm spring days to kick off the shoes, but with foot problems that is just a dream.

When all was done the early garden was to be cleaned off and get ready for planting. Usually us kids raked it off and piled up the brush and remains from fall and winter, then for supper we had this great cook out of hot dogs and later toasted marshmallows this was before s'mores, why didn't we think of that and start the tradition. Instead Mom fixed maybe some potato salad and baked beans. Sure tasted good after a long day. We sat around the fire and watched for the stars to come out and dad knew quite a bit about the constellation and told us interesting things he had learned thru many years. Now that is what we called entertainment. I still can miss those days but now are just happy memories. This week I really think of my dad on April 6 he would have been 126 years old. HAPPY Birthday DAD.

Those of us in the lock down stay safe, be healthy, and share memories, they are priceless.



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ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
 8013W 1100S -90, Montpelier
 Phillip Freel Jr, Pastor

Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 Wed Carry-in & Fellowship .. 6:30 p.m.

BANQUO CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 8294S 900W 35
 Harold Smith, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Bible Study 6:00p.m.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
 Chad Yoder, Pastor
 Denise Heiniger, S.S. Supt.

Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45a.m.

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 Van Buren, Indiana 765-934-2199

Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Youth Group 4:30-7:30pm at SwitchUp
 Handicap Accessible

Little Panther Preschool 765.934.2099
HEALING WATERS MINISTRY —
5811 W 600 S, MT ETNA
 Pastor Wayne Couch
 260/515-2517

Sunday Prayer 9:15 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
 Daycare provided during Worship

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN
 8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779
 Matt Kennedy, Pastor

Worship Service 9:00a.m.
 Sunday School 10:00a.m.

HANFIELD UNITED METHODIST
 101 N 400 E - Marion 765/664-8726
 Timothy Helm, Senior Pastor
 1st Worship..... 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 2nd Worship..... 11:00 a.m.

THE NEW BEGINNING
 SR 218, 2 1/8 mile west of Poneto
 Steve Sutton, Pastor
 765/728-2065 for more info

Sunday Worship..... 10:30a.m.
 Thursday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

HERITAGE POINTE
 Chaplains Gerald Moreland, Ginny Soultz & Dick Case

Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
 OTHER SERVICES BY ANNOUNCEMENT
 Monday thru Friday

Chapel Services 9:00 a.m.
WARREN 1st BAPTIST CHURCH
 727 N Wayne St, Warren
 260-375-2811

office@warrenfirsbaptist.net
 Pator Rusty Strickler
 Youth Dir: Peter & Mindy Fairchild
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Youth Group: Grades 5-12 ...Sun 11:30
 Ekklesia Sun 6:30pm

HILLCREST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 375-2510
 Bus Service 375-2510

www.hillcrestnazchurch.org
 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.

SOLID ROCK UNITED METHODIST
 485 Bennett Dr, Warren, IN
 375-3873

Paul Burris, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

LANCASTER WESLEYAN
 3147 W 543 S, Huntington
 468-2411

Doug Sharrard, Pastor
 Pam Thompson, S.S. Supt.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday:
 CYC/Teen/Adult Meetings 7:00 p.m.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH
 694-6622

Aaron Westfall, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
 Fellowship 10:00a.m.

Worship 10:15a.m.
 Tues. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
 Wed. Choir 6:30p.m.

Monthly Meetings
 1st Mon Ministry Team 7:00 p.m.
 3rd Sat Mens Prayer Breakfast 8:00 am

4th Mon ABW 1:30 pm
LIBERTY CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Pastor Diane Samuels

Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT
 375-4359
 Bill VanHaften, Pastor

Lois Slusher, Supt.
 Brittney Miller, Youth & Family Dir.
 Coffee Fellowship..... 8:30 a.m.

Worship 9:15 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 Bible Study - Wed. 7:00 p.m.

MT. ETNA UNITED METHODIST
 260/468-2148 Sr 9 & 124

Rev. Michael Gallant - "Pastor Mike"
 Multi-Generational Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Fellowship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Youth 4-6 p.m.
 Everyone is Welcome
SALAMONIE CHURCH OF BRETHREN

468-2412
 Mel Zumbrun, Pastor
 Worship 9:30 a.m.

Church School 10:45a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 375-2102

Interim Pastor Troy Drayer
 Youth Pastor Troy & Mindy Drayer
 Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service - Wed 6:30 p.m.
 Youth Sunday School during Worship Service

Youth Group-Wed 6:30 p.m.
 Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

VB CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 765/934-3321 Parsonage
 Jeff Slater, Pastor

Jim Knight, Superintendent
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Adult Worship 10:30 a.m.

Children's Church 10:30a.m.
 Evening Praise Hour..... 6:00p.m.
 Hour of Power (Wed) 7:00p.m.

VB UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 765-934-1431
 Pastor Cindy Osgood

Worship Service 9:30 am
 Sunday School 10:30am
 Not Home Alone - Wed 3:00 pm

Prayer-Bible Study (Thur) 7:00 pm
 UMW 2nd Wed 7:00 pm
 Little Ones Book Club 1st Tue 10:00 am

Just Older Youth 3rd Tue 12:00 pm
www.vanburenumc.org
WARREN CHURCH OF CHRIST

375-3022
 Ethan T Stivers, Senior Minister
 Andrew Fisher, Youth Minister

Liz Richardson, Childrens MinistryAsst.
 Tara Bower - Secretary
www.warrenchurchofchrist.org

Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
 Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 11 to 11:50 a.m.

Youth:
 K-6th grade, Mon 6:15-7pm
 Jr/Sr Hi, Sunday 6-8pm

WARREN WESLEYAN CHURCH
375-2330 6th & Nancy Sts. Warren
 Rev. Allen Laws, Pastor

Wesley Welch, Supt.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:15 a.m.

Wed Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
FARRVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
 11044 E 200 N, Marion, IN

765-934-3609
 Pastor Al Soultz

Sunday Worship..... 10:30 am
 Sunday School Classes 9:30 am
 Sunday Adult Bible Study..... 6:00 pm

Thurs. Bible Study 7:00 pm



Please Attend The Church of Your Choice

AREA NEWS

MORE PAGE 1

doing as a community of believers for the needy in the Warren area.

WAMA "exists in Mission as the church; Supporting-Developing-Equipping our community through Jesus Christ our Lord". In light of that "mission", when possible, assistance may be provided to those in need as funds are available. To that end, the treasurer of WAMA will need to follow these (below) specific guidelines and procedural policies.

When an individual or family is seeking financial assistance, an application will be completed by the individual(s) seeking the assistance. A copy of photo identification is also requested.

Once the application is completed, the treasurer is empowered to offer assistance within consideration of the current WAMA account balance.

In the event that additional funds are being requested beyond the initial application, two additional WAMA board members (selected annually) should be sought for council by the Treasurer.

Following approval, the treasurer is empowered to provide funds to the merchant or business to which the applicant is indebted. No cash is to be distributed to any individuals. Examples would include, but not be limited to, housing, utilities, food, fuel, cellular provider, phone/internet, etc.

When an invoice is paid, a printed receipt should be attached to the application. In the event a charge card is used for an internet/phone payment or an in-store transaction (such as food gift card, "at the pump" fuel), a check requisition form should be completed and the

receipt attached to the application.

Funds available are typically provided from the receipts of donations. These donations come randomly from individuals as well as church offerings received during WAMA community services (Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Salomonie Festival Service, Thanksgiving, Third Wednesday Service).

When an offering is received, three individuals shall count and record the funds. The total amount will be tabulated and tellers shall sign and complete a form for deposit into the WAMA account. The deposit receipt shall then be attached to the counter's form.

During the regular monthly WAMA meeting the treasurer is expected to continue providing a monthly update of account information and bank statement and report on benevolence opportunities where funds have been distributed.

We hope these shared guidelines will help you feel confident WAMA is serious about the best possible use of funds entrusted to this ministry. Any questions can be directed to Treasurer Steven Spencer, Pastor of Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene or President Paul Burris, Pastor of Solid Rock UMC. Thank you for taking time to read this article. Pray for this ministry and we hope you will continue to support their efforts.

GERANIUM SALES

Due to the craziness in our world, local 4-H clubs have been prohibited from participating in any organized events, including fundraising events, for the immediate future. As a result, the Huntington County 4-H would have been unable to

proceed with their annual geranium sale this year. Huntington Nursery & Florist have decided to orchestrate the sale for them this year, and donate the proceeds back to the local clubs. The following is how the geranium sale will work this year...

1. Seed geraniums will still be \$1.75/plant (18 plants/flat), including sales tax.

2. All orders must be placed through Huntington Nursery & Florist and prepaid by Friday, April 10.

3. Customers can either place orders in person at Huntington Nursery & Florist, by phone at 260-356-4718, or by email at kyarger@huntingtonnursery.com.

4. If emailing an order, be sure to include the 4H club that you want the proceeds to go to.

5. Checks can be made out to Huntington Nursery & Florist, or we can process credit cards in person or over the phone.

6. Since 4H leaders cannot gather until at least mid-May, customers can pick up their geraniums at Huntington Nursery & Florist on April 30/May 1. All plants must be picked up by May 1st.

7. Once orders are finalized and picked up, Huntington Nursery & Florist will give \$8.00/flat back to each individual club for every flat sold by that club. If you do not have a club to designate, the proceeds will fund the Huntington County 4-H Leaders Organization.

For more information about Huntington County 4-H geranium sales, contact Purdue

Extension – Huntington County Office, County Annex Building, 1340 S Jefferson Street, Huntington or call 260-358-4826

OPIOID & ADDICTION STRATEGY

More than 200,000 employed Hoosiers are actively struggling with addiction. Businesses statewide have the opportunity to learn how to assist and retain valuable employees and learn prevention methods by virtually attending free meetings this spring.

The first priority for the Wellness Council of Indiana and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce is the safety of employees, members and investors. To adjust to the impact of COVID-19, and looking at the upcoming Indiana Workforce Recovery programs, it has been decided to make these events virtual.

The virtual sessions take place April 2, 7 and 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Indiana Workforce Recovery, which is putting on these educational events, is a joint initiative created two years ago in collaboration with the Wellness Council, the Indiana Chamber and Gov. Eric Holcomb's administration. The goal of the initiative is to prepare Hoosier employers to deal with public health crises that impact the Indiana workforce.

"In 2019, we welcomed more than 600 business participants to these events – business leaders, HR directors and other key decision-makers. They were eager to get the tools necessary

to manage the impact substance misuse has on their employees. We encourage other interested parties to take the step this year," says Mike Thibideau, director of Indiana Workforce Recovery.

"Nearly 800,000 Hoosiers have used illicit drugs in the past month – so the need is definitely there. The knowledge, experience and resources gained in these sessions will help employers address the full spectrum of addiction issues from recreational marijuana to severe opioid dependence. This information becomes even more essential in times of stress for employee populations. We are excited to be able to provide the same quality material as our entire series via a virtual format."

Continuing education unit credits are available for all participants.

Specific information to join the virtual Zoom events:

April 2 - The Zoom meeting ID: 414-715-587, A Zoom login is not required to join the event. Join by computer or Zoom app: <https://indianachamber.zoom.us/j/414715587> or Join audio by phone: Dial in: (929) 205-6099 Access code: 414-715-587#

April 7 - The Zoom meeting ID: 388 787 549, A Zoom login is not required to join the event. Join via computer or Zoom app: <https://indianachamber.zoom.us/j/388787549>, Join audio via phone: Dial in: (929) 205-6099, Access code: 388 787 549#

April 27 - The Zoom meeting ID: 898 054 356, A Zoom login is not required to join the event. Join via computer or Zoom app: <https://indianachamber.zoom.us/j/898054356> Join audio via phone: Dial in: (929) 205-6099 Access code: 898 054 356#

CONTINUED PAGE 4

Community Calendar

Items listed here are open to the public. If there is an admission charge or items are for sale or a donation is necessary, there is a one-time \$5 fee to be listed. Events can be listed for as long as 6 months. (If an event is canceled, please notify WW.) Only event, place, time, and sponsor, for events in Warren, and the surrounding area will be listed.

Mar 16	6:30p	W - KBC Board Meeting at KBC
Mar 17		ST PATRICK'S DAY
Mar 18	7 pm	V - Town Council Meeting
Apr 1	Noon	W - Chamber of Commerce Luncheon at KBC
Apr 1	7pm	V - Town Council Meeting
Apr 12		EASTER
Apr 13	5pm	W - Town Council at Assembly Hall
Apr 14	6:30 pm	SSF Committee Meeting at KBC

Bread of Life Food Pantry - Wed 2 - 4:00pm & 6 - 8:00p.m. at KBC
Bargain Basement - Friday & Saturday 9 - 4 at KBC ; **Cancer Support Group** - 3rd Tuesday 6:30-8p.m. at Bluffton Regional South Campus
These Events Can Also Be Found at www.warrenweeklyindiana.com



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PAID ADVERTISING

AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 3

The slide presentation and additional resources will be sent to all attendees after each virtual event.

An additional benefit: Attendees can order up to 600 complimentary prescription disposal kits for their organization.

The events are presented by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, Community Health Network, IU Health, Parkview Health, St. Vincent/Ascension the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, RALI (Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative), the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, and the Vectren Foundation, as well as local chambers of commerce.

Earlier this year, the Wellness Council of Indiana also announced a new addiction treatment and recovery program via Centerstone, a mental health and addiction treatment services provider. Through the exclusive partnership, any Indiana employer can give their current or prospective workers a second chance through this award-winning model recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor. More information is available at www.wellnessindiana.org/secondchance.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID TRAINING

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, in partnership with the American Red Cross Indiana, announced today a series of trainings in Psychological First Aid for Hoosier health care and social services professionals. Psychological First Aid is an approach to helping people who have been exposed to a disaster or traumatic event, in this case the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning next week, the Red Cross will offer two virtual, instructor-led for health care professionals, social services professionals and the like who may be able to help administer Psychological First Aid should they encounter Hoosiers experiencing distress or needing help coping.

"Being a health care professional is a calling, and now is our time to rise to that calling," said Jennifer Sullivan, M.D., M.P.H., FSSA secretary. "In this time of enhanced anxiety and uncertainty, we want to do all

we can to equip health and wellness professionals with effective tools to support the mental well-being of Hoosiers. Psychological First Aid is a tried-and-true approach to reducing the emotional effects caused by traumatic events, so that Hoosiers have the best chance of maintaining normalcy."

"We know that both medical and mental health providers are likely to encounter individuals who are experiencing various levels of emotional distress about the outbreak and its impact on them, their families and communities," said Jay Chaudhary, director of the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction. "Providers should know how best to acknowledge the uncertainty people feel about emerging diseases and help Hoosiers understand that there is an emotional component to potential health concerns. This Psychological First Aid training is designed to help in this effort."

DMHA also recommends that Hoosiers feeling distress or anxiety due to the pandemic call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990. This hotline provides live crisis counseling and is toll-free, multi-lingual and confidential. A text option is also available: Text "TalkWithUs" to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

SOCIAL DISTANCING TIPS: 15 WAYS TO STAY BOTH SANE AND SAFE

Practicing social distancing to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic may sound scary or impossible to do, but there are ways to appropriately handle the process, says Jagdish Khubchandani, a health science professor at Ball State University. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19 that include recommendations for social distancing—a term epidemiologists use to refer to a conscious effort to reduce close contact between people and hopefully stymie community transmission of the virus.

"Social distancing can be tough on people and disrupt the social and economic fibers of our society," Khubchandani said. "Given the existing crisis of isolation in societies—with probably the loneliest young generation that we have today—social distancing can also take a personal health toll on people, causing psychological problems, among many others."

Khubchandani recommended 15 ways to counterbalance the effects of social distancing:

Maintain a routine. As much as possible, social distancing should not disrupt your sleep-wake cycle, working hours, and daily activities.

Make social distancing a positive by taking the time to focus on your personality and personal health, reassessing your work, training, diet patterns, physical activity levels, and health habits.

Carve time to cook for yourself and others in need. Add more fruits, vegetable, vitamins, and proteins to your diet (most adults in the United States do not consume enough fruits and vegetables). Get 2-3 meals a day.

Go for a walk or exercise at home. Definitely go out in nature as much as possible. Only half of American adults today get enough exercise.

Do not let anxiety or being at home lead you to indulge in binge eating or alcohol and drug use. Don't oversleep, but do sleep at least 7 hours. Our recent study found that more than a third of Americans sleep less than 7 hours.

Social distancing can cause anxiety and depression due to disruption of routines, isolation, and fear due to a pandemic. If you or someone you know is struggling, there are ways to get help from a distance.

Think forward and try to make best use of technology to finish your work, attend meetings, and engage with coworkers with the same frequency that is required during active office hours. The good news: Working from home can make people more productive and happier.

Small breaks due to social distancing are also times to reassess your skill and training—think of an online course, certification, training, personality development, or new language to learn.

Engage in spring cleaning, clear that clutter, and donate non-junk household stuff. Household clutter can harbor infections, pollutants, and create unhygienic spaces.

Social distancing should not translate to an unhealthy life on social media. While you can certainly become a victim of myths, misinformation, anxiety, and fear mongering, you may also inadvertently become a perpetrator, creating more trouble for communities.

Based on American Time Use Survey and leisure related time-spending patterns worldwide, we spend too much time on screen. Except for 1-2 times day to watch national news for general consumption and local news to check spread of COVID-19 in your own community, you are likely over-consuming information and taking away time from yourself and friends and family.

Reach out to people and offer help. Social distancing should also help reinvest in and recreate social bonds. Consider providing for and helping those at risk or marginalized (e.g. the elderly, disabled, and homeless; survivors of natural disasters; and those living in shelters). You will certainly find someone in the neighborhood who needs some help, this can be done from a distance, on phone, or by online activities and giving.

Check your list of contacts on email and phone. Certainly, there are people you have not talked to in a while—time to check on their wellbeing and connect. This will also help you feel more connected, social, healthier, and engaged. Be kind to all; you never know who is struggling and how you can make a difference.

Engage in alternative activities

CONTINUED PAGE 5



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GENEALOGY REPORT

PROCTOR

Peggy J. (Parker) Proctor, 86, passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at Signature Health of Muncie.

She was born on January 27, 1934 in Modoc, Indiana, the daughter of Clarence and Thelma (McCallister) Parker.

Peggy graduated from Modoc High School. She retired from First Merchants Bank as a Senior Teller after 20 years of service. Peggy also worked at several department stores in Muncie before her career at the bank. She loved her family, she was an avid Indiana Pacers fan, and enjoyed watching and listening to basketball.

Survivors include her two children, Debra Norris (husband, Bruce) and Miles Proctor (wife, Kelly); three step-grandchildren, Jason Norris, Chandra West, and Alison Monce; two sisters, Paula Parker and Paulette Stautamoyer; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Jack Proctor, and brother, Gene Parker.

A private memorial service for Peggy will be held.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association, 3816 Paysphere Circle, Chicago, IL 60674.

VANCAMP

Norma K. Van Camp, 88, of Pennville, IN, formerly of Warren & Keystone,

passed away at 9:15 PM on Monday, March 30, 2020 at Signature Health & Rehabilitation in Bluffton, IN.

She was born on Friday, March 11, 1932, in Huntington County, IN. She married Marlin E. Van Camp on Saturday, January 27, 1951 in Warren, IN. He preceded her in death on October 20, 1996. Norma was a graduate of Warren High School. She attended the Keystone United Methodist Church and the Sonlight Wesleyan Church. Norma retired from Arby's of Bluffton in 1995 and

she also worked at Snug Restaurant in Bluffton. She was a member of Chester Twp. Night clubbers and the Home Economic Club. She loved gardening, flowers, and exhibiting flowers around Indiana.

Norma will be sadly missed by her Son - Charles Van Camp, Fort Wayne, IN, Daughter - Kathy Mosser, Pennville, IN, Sister - Lola Knight, Bluffton, IN, Sister-in-law - Susie Boxell, Warren, IN, and Brother-in-laws - Jim Van Camp, Warren, IN and Frank Van Camp, Montpelier, IN.

She was preceded in death by her Father - Paul Boxell, Mother - Edna (Meece) Boxell, Husband - Marlin E. "Rip" Van Camp, Sons - Tony Van Camp, Gregory Van Camp, Brother - Phillip Boxell, and Sister - Pauline Slater.

Due to health concerns related to the Covid-19, private family visitation will be held at the funeral home.

A public graveside service will be held at Brookside Memorial Park at 2:00 PM on Friday, April 03, 2020 with Rev. Dewey Zent officiating.

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

ADDINGTON

George L. Addington Jr., 63, of rural Keystone, passed away Saturday morning, March 28, 2020, at his residence.

Junior was born Oct. 18, 1956, in Bluffton, to George L. Addington Sr. and Hannah "Haskell" Brickey Addington. He married Diana L. Surbaugh April 15, 1978, in Liberty Center; she preceded him in death Oct. 15, 2014.

A 1975 graduate of Southern Wells High School, Junior worked for the Wells County Sheriff's Department for more than 36 years, serving most of those years as a confinement officer and the past six years in maintenance. He was also a lifelong farmer in Wells County.

Junior enjoyed working on tractors and attending auctions, where he enjoyed buying and selling farm equipment. He also enjoyed playing his guitar and had a love for country and bluegrass music. At least a couple times a year he would travel to Gate City, Va., to visit family members. Junior loved his family and especially enjoyed spending time with his two daughters.

Survivors include two daughters, Mindy M. Addington of Bluffton and Sharlene L. Addington of Petroleum; a sister, Vesta (John) Hartnagel of Pigeon Forge, Tenn.; a sister-in-law, Phyllis "Judy" Addington of Keystone; and his father-in-law, Harold Surbaugh of Liberty Center.

In addition to his wife and parents, Junior was preceded in death by a brother, Donald K. Addington, and his mother-in-law, Elizabeth "Betty" Surbaugh.

Due to the restrictions and isolation caused by the coronavirus pandemic, private family services officiated by Rev. Terry Werst are being held with burial at the Alberson Cemetery in Adams County. Once all legal restrictions caused by the virus have been lifted, a public visitation and memorial service will be held at the

Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton.

Those service arrangements will be published in the Bluffton News-Banner and will be posted online at www.goodwincaleharnish.com as soon as they are scheduled.

Memorial contributions may be made to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation or to an organization of the donor's choice.

DEARING

Randall E. Dearing, 57, of Kokomo, IN, and formerly of Van Buren, IN, died Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 2:17 p.m. at his residence.

He was born Aug. 19, 1962, in Grant County to John D. and Ooyce V. Purvis Dearing. His mother survives in Van Buren.

Mr. Dearing was a 1980 graduate of Eastbrook High School. He formerly attended Countryside Church in Van Buren. He was a former Grant County EMT. He worked at Chrysler Corporation in Kokomo for 21 years. He was also a certified electrician. He was a member of the UAW, Sons of the Legion at the Van Buren American Legion and he was also a patriot guard.

Additional survivors include a daughter, Amber Renae (Jonathan) Holloway, of Hartford City; two sons, Randall E. Dearing II, of New Haven, and Hayden Lawson, of Kokomo; a brother, John D. (Kathy) Dearing II, of Marion; and a sister, Patricia A. (Jeff) Cansler, of Fairmount.

Due to the circumstances with COVID-19, funeral

MORE PAGE 4

to keep your mind and body active such as: listening to music and singing, trying dancing or biking, yoga or meditation, taking virtual tours of museums and places of interest, sketching and painting, reading books or novels, solving puzzles or engaging in board games, trying new recipes and learning about other cultures, etc.

Do not isolate yourself totally (physical distancing should not become social isolation). Don't be afraid, don't panic, and do keep communicating with others.

HONOR ROLL

Students achieving Honor Roll status for the 3rd quarter of the 2019 - 2020 school year at Salamonie are as follows:

All A's

Fifth grade - Kiara Barr, Noah Bolinger, Isaiah Bordeaux, Gage Clanin, Charles Close, Dalton Couch, Libby Couch, Jersey Donaldson, Elsa Fortney, Kaine Landrum, Abrielle markley, Nora McDaniel, Elijah Richardson, Ryne Scott, Xoie Shepherd, Micah Vogleman, Hayden Yeiter, harley Zumbrun.

Fourth Grade - Jackson Blair, Claire Brown, Roxy Brown, Reece Bumgardner, Aryanna Caley, Bella Claus, Addison Douglas, Brayden Freiburger, Bryce Gilbert, Peyton Harvey, Zoey Hensel, Enrique Holland, Carter Landrum, Morgan Leffert, Rylee Pelphrey, Owen Poulson, Addison Richardson, Cheyenne Shepherd, Kellan Spahr, Addison Stivers, Lincoln Stivers, Adaira Stockman, Peyton Ward.

Third grade - Levi Adams, Morgan Blair, Jaylen Browning, Gunnar Clanin, Bentley Darling, Jayhla Erickson, Jaxie Gray, Adelyn Heim, Aynslee Jones, Josilyn Kelsey, Addison Kirby, Ashlynn Leist, Brinlee Ludemann, Jaxon Minnich, Callie Richardson, Xavier Richison, Reed Scott, Graham Shuler, Nakishia Stout, Maximus Willey.

Second grade - Adelyn Anspaugh, Kai Bordeaux, Charlotte Bragg, Bristol Buckland, Abrianna Cocklin, Rylee Dollarhite, Clare Fortney, Alison Herstad, Emoree Jones, Thorne Killen, Ella Lochmaier, Cooper Lows, Eden Markley, Eliza Maul, Naomi Rybolt, Hudson Shenefield, Finley Smith, Makayla Smith, Leighton Walker, Jordan Walters.

CONTINUED PAGE 6

Have 401(k) questions? Let's talk.



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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 5

As/Bs

Fifth Grade - Adriana Alba, Aiden Coleman, Laney DeWeese, Hayden Geese, Hunter Gillespie, Brody Harris, Irelynn Hethcote, Ryleigh Hethcote, Sarah Parker, Carson Shuttleworth, Braylon Szelis, Dominic Ward

Fourth Grade - Gauge Barr, Landon Burns, Samantha Cole, Cale Craig, Tricia Craig, Lucy Fairchild, Rylee Flood, Crisitian Gates, Jayden Johnson, Jorden Loshe, Tucker Mann, Ruthie Mautz, Tayshaun McQueen, Jessica Michaud, Aubrey Miller, Kipton Newman, Kylynn Slusher, Hayden Wagers, Colton Whitachre, Cooper Wolf.

Third Grade - Giselle Barton, James Douglass, Asher Draffen, Kaidyn Flohr, Ember Hack, Anderson Hacker, Robert Harty, Mason McCord, Aiden Reichard, Bradley Sapp, Wesley Scalf, Hailey Sluder, Liam Spitler, Lola Sudler, Henry Sunderman, Trinity Warup, Jazzlynn Yeagan, Jayma Zahm

Second Grade - Alexandra Alba, Ezekiel Barker, Mason Cady, Laura Clappitt, Laura Craig, Ryder Douglas, Danya DuPriest, Lilly Forney, Gracie Gillespie, Israel Goble, Briley Gray, Evelyn Hartman, Adelynn Hethcote, Caylie Lassiter, Ava Leas, Aaryah McClain, Aspen McCool, Tanner Morris, Chance Myers, Channing Olinger, Crissyana Yzaguirre

A SAN ANTONIO (S-A) TRIP - DAY #1

By Larry Ryan
We were fortunate to have the Ft. Wayne tour director stop for us at Ugalde's Restaurant. It was 7:30 am. on a Saturday morning. The traffic moved along well until we reached Indianapolis.

After losing an hour detouring around our state capitol city, we finally headed south on I-65. The tour bus crossed the Ohio River into Louisville at 12 noon.

The University of Louisville's sport complex, with their bright green athletic fields, was viewed in passing.

Our vehicle sailed by "The Lions Den" super adult store which was followed by two sets of 3 white crosses. Planned redemption? While scanning the rolling hills, roadside trees and green valleys, my wife and I considered the meaning of the three crosses. Our cell phone memory bank came up with a few different references. Most seemed plausible.

An ear ache, which developed this morning, lingered for the rest of the day. No, it was not caused by eavesdropping on other passenger's conversations! Laughter drowned out the possible good ones anyway.

The terrain south of Louisville reminded me of traveling through Monroe County in Indiana on highway # 37. The bus motored past Mammoth Cave, Park City, Diamond Caverns, Glasgow, and Somerset exits. We also passed the National Corvette and National Railpark and Train Museums. Western Kentucky U. was viewed in passing and interestingly enough, Barren River had some distinguishable water in it!

After lunch near Bowling Green, KY, a prominent sign beckoned travelers to an underground "Zip-Line" at Lost River Cave. Something different to try? Not today or ever! The bus drove over a collection of "heat bumps" (my definition) which were slightly raised wedges in the asphalt pavement. These abruptly interrupted the after-lunch naptime.

At 3 pm. we entered Tennessee and quickly noticed corn shelling equipment at work in the fields. Ahead of Indiana, obviously. The next road sign advertised, "Live Vigorously with Tennessee Whiskey" which was followed by the exit for Goodlettsville. Is there a spirit of connection?

We reached Nashville, TN at 2:30 pm. local time and turned west on I-40. Passed Old Hickory Boulevard and transitioned onto hilly terrain. Some hills were more strenuous for the bus and driver. The tour bus swept by Bucksnort, TN and Loretta Lynn's Kitchen before crossing the Buffalo and Tennessee Rivers and onto the land between the lakes.

We departed the bus after a long, 600 miles bus ride for an overnight stay in a Hampton Inn at Bartlett, TN. All passengers were eager to be free from the 50 seat vehicle for several hours. After locating our room and shuttling the suitcases inside, we spied Gus's Original Spicy Chicken Restaurant. It advertised their specialty, plus slaw, baked beans, fried okra, and fried pickles. A bonafide, real southern meal. Plus it was the closest. No grits yet! The okra and pickles were OK.

Slept well on a full stomach! More traveling tomorrow.

HOLCOMB'S SURGE PLANS

Governor Eric J. Holcomb today signed an executive order and detailed Indiana's plan for the anticipated spike in COVID-19 cases. To see a copy of the executive order, click here: <https://www.in.gov/gov/2384.htm>

"We see a surge coming and we're calling in the reinforcements, bolstering Indiana's capacity to provide additional health care services during this emergency," said Gov. Eric J. Holcomb. "By eliminating licensing barriers and tapping in to the available talent pool of healthcare workers, Hoosiers are staffing up and stepping up to meet this challenge head-on."

The executive order allows the following professionals who do not currently hold an active license to practice:

- medical professionals who retired or became inactive in the last five years
- medical professionals who hold licenses in other states
- medical professionals who held licenses in other states and retired or became inactive in the last five years
- certain medical students and graduates

These professionals must register with the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency via their website at www.in.gov/pla. These professionals will be able to assist in screenings, telemedicine and other basic procedures to allow regularly licensed medical professionals to be on the frontline.

In Indiana, the baseline number of critical care hospital beds is 1,432. As of Monday, hospitals have already taken steps to increase the number of critical care hospital beds to 1,940. Overall, the state's plan is to double the number, if needed, by taking existing noncritical care hospital beds, recovery rooms, operating rooms and outpatient facilities, turning them into critical care hospital beds.

In Indiana, the baseline number of ventilators is 1,177 ventilators. As of Monday, hospitals have identified another 750 ventilators that can be used for critical care patients. Overall, the state's plan is to double the number, if needed, by

repurposing ventilators from operating rooms, ambulatory care centers, EMS and the Indiana National Guard.

Additionally, the surge plan calls for moving less critical patients to alternate facilities including neighborhood hospitals, medical clinics and state-owned hospitals, such as unopened floors at the NeuroDiagnostic Institute hospital in Indianapolis and the Richmond State Hospital.

If needed, after all of these steps are exhausted, Indiana will be prepared to put patients in alternative facilities. The Indiana National Guard and Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with FEMA, are in charge of these plans.

The state of Indiana has been working on plans related to COVID-19 since January, and each hospital has a disaster plan in place. Planning has become more specific for state health and hospital officials as models of the projected impact of coronavirus became available. Based on those models,

Indiana's patient surge is expected to begin soon and the peak is expected to be mid-April to mid-May.

SS ON TIME

Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, reminds the public that Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments will continue to be paid on time during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The agency also reminds everyone to be aware of scammers who try to take

CONTINUED PAGE 8

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Please make check payable to KBC and mail to:
KBC
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Registration forms will be taken from now to Saturday, April 4, 2020. Entries received after this time will go on a waiting list and will not be guaranteed a place on the team.

(Please print & complete one form per player)

Player's Name: _____ M ☐ F ☐

Birthdate: _____ Age as June 1, 2020: _____

Parents Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: (____) _____ Team Last Year _____

Name of Brother/Sister on same team: _____

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ADULT S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ 1X ☐ 2X ☐

Parent's Signature: _____

Are you willing to coach or help coach this year: Yes ☐ No ☐

We will attempt to accommodate family member requests; however the KBC Baseball Board has final say on team rosters. Practices start in mid-April. Games start in May.

Denny Stroud, KBC Baseball Director 260-375-3711 or 260-228-1617

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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 6

advantage of the pandemic to trick people into providing personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash, to maintain Social Security benefit payments or receive economic impact payments from the Department of the Treasury.

"Social Security will pay monthly benefits on time and these payments will not be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic," Commissioner Saul said. "I want our beneficiaries to be aware that scammers may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping or somehow changing your Social Security payments, but that is not true. Don't be fooled."

The Department of the Treasury will soon provide information about economic impact payments under the recently enacted law, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act. Treasury, not Social Security, will be making direct payments to eligible people. Please do not call Social Security about these payments as the agency does not have information to share.

The agency continues to direct the public to its online self-service options whenever possible. Local offices are closed to the public but are available by phone.

To allow available agents to provide better phone coverage, the agency is temporarily changing the National 800 Number hours starting on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. The hours will change from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time to 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. local time. The agency is experiencing longer than normal wait times on the 800 Number and asks the public to remain patient, use its online services at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call their local office.

Please visit the agency's COVID-19 web page at www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/ for important information and updates.

ARE CORONAVIRUS WORRIES KEEPING YOU AWAKE? STRETCHES IN BED WILL CALM YOU

Anxiety about the spread of the coronavirus is leading to sleepless nights for some people – and that can result in even more health problems.

Studies have shown that a lack of sleep weakens the immune system, the last thing anyone needs when a potentially deadly virus is making the rounds.

The question many bleary-eyed people face is how they can remedy their insomnia without

resorting to medication, anything else that they have to take orally, or a significant lifestyle change. One answer: stretches done on the bed that relax the body and mind, allowing them to drift into slumber and be better prepared for the next day – and keep that immune system humming as well, says Larry Piller (www.larrypiller.com), a Certified Massage Practitioner and author of *Stretching Your Way: A Unique & Leisurely Muscle Stretching System*.

"I consider these the crown jewels of stretches for sleep because everyone who tries them falls asleep," Piller says. "Just by knowing that these stretches are waiting for you anytime you want them, day or night, it will give you a feeling of tranquility as opposed to a night of anxiousness. Stretching has many benefits, and one of those is that it can help you wind down and ease the tension at the end of the day."

So, for those struggling to rid themselves of their coronavirus worries, Piller offers a few examples of what he calls "superstar stretches for sleeping":

Stretch 1. While lying on your back, extend your shoulder out as is comfortable and lift your hand up as though you are trying to stop traffic. Then turn your arm and your hand backward, letting your little finger be your guide. Let your little finger land where roughly the No. 7 would be on a clock. Just extend your shoulder out as is comfortable and bring your fingers back as is comfortable.

Stretch 2. While lying on your back on the bed, put your arm in a position as if showing your muscle to someone. Just extend your elbow out to the side as is comfortable for a tricep stretch. From that position, open your hand up all the way, extend your elbow to the side as is comfortable while bringing your thumb down toward you as is comfortable.

Stretch 3. While you lie on your back, just extend your shoulder and arm out as is comfortable, Piller says.

Stretch 4. While you lie on your back, bring your toes and the inner side of your foot inward to get a stretch on the side of the foot. These stretches for the side of your feet can be done lying on your side as well, as long as you have room to bring your foot or feet down or inward. You also can use a pillow between your legs to raise your foot so you can bring your foot or feet down, or hang your feet over the edge. "This by itself, or in combination with other stretches, has a high chance to put you to sleep like a little baby," Piller says.

A recent article in *Psychology Today* explored how a good night's sleep is necessary for a

person's immune system to run as efficiently as possible. A good, healthy immune system is one of the major things that may reduce the risk of the coronavirus. That makes it extremely important that people find simple and easy ways to relax at night, rather than lie staring at the ceiling as brooding fears about the coronavirus swirl around in their minds, Piller says.

"Life can be a job in itself, especially right now with all the concerns about the coronavirus," Piller says. "Most people do not want all the difficulties that every insomnia treatment is riddled with. They don't want to do all kinds of lifestyle changes that don't offer solutions or guarantees, and that have minimal results at best. These superstar stretches for sleeping are the world's easiest and safest. For me, muscle stretching is magic. You get total relief just knowing this effortless system is waiting for you at bedtime."

About Larry Piller - Larry Piller (www.larrypiller.com), a Certified Massage Practitioner, is author of *Stretching Your Way: A Unique & Leisurely Muscle Stretching System*, which BookAuthority named as one of the best new stretching books to read in 2020, one of the best stretching e-books for 2020, and one of the "Best Stretching Books of All Time." Piller became interested in stretching more than 25 years ago when he was plagued with lower back spasms from tightening muscles that over time became debilitating. He sought advice from various experts on stretching. When nothing worked, he experimented with stretching on his own and came up with his own system.

DOR HELPING

Today, the Indiana Department of Revenue (DOR) outlined temporary taxpayer relief initiatives recently implemented to support Hoosiers during the statewide COVID-19 health emergency.

"Now is the time where we have to find new ways to support our fellow Hoosiers and assist them during this challenging situation," explained DOR Commissioner Bob Grennes. "The entire DOR team cares deeply about the work we do and serving Hoosiers, and this is a time when we double down on our commitment to serve."

"Our team has been aggressively looking for ways to implement flexibility across all service functions while preserving revenue collection operations, which are vital to funding state services provided to Hoosiers – all with the goal of helping our fellow Hoosiers. We believe our 'Helping Hoosiers'

service enhancements do exactly that."

DOR's COVID-19 service enhancements include:

Filing, Payment & Registration Extensions

Extending certain individual and corporate filing and payment deadlines.

Extending certain motor carrier permitting, registration and International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) filing and payment requirements.

Extending expiring Registered Retail Merchant Certificates (RRMC) to June 30, 2020.

Implementing case-specific penalty adjustments for late filing and payments.

Expedited Refund Processing - Continuing all tax processing, ID protection, fraud detection and refund processing operations.

Reallocating resources to accelerate certain refund case reviews and approvals.

Debt Collection Relief

Suspending the creation of most tax filing bills, new warrants and liens. Prior audit and legal bills will continue to be issued to protect statutes of limitation.

Suspending creation of new sheriff and collection agency collection cases.

Suspending outbound collection call activity to focus additional resources on assisting Hoosiers with payment support and other customer-care questions.

Suspending creation of new levy and garnishment involuntary collection actions.

Canceling current levy and garnishment involuntary collection actions.

Offering installment payment plan agreements up to 60 months.

Working with Hoosiers to modify existing installment payment agreements.

Moving existing payment plan due dates to July 15, 2020, upon request.

Suspending payment plan terminations for missed payments.

Audit & Legal Protest Relief

Suspending all in-person field audit work and working collaboratively with all entities currently under audit via correspondence and teleconference to meet statutory requirements.

Suspending the non-filer desk audit letter distributions.

Modifying desk audit record verification requirements (including Schedule C expense verification).

Suspending all in-person protest hearings.

Extending the current 60-day legal protest window an additional 60 days for a total of 120 days.

Extending the current 30-day protest rehearing window an additional 60 days for a total of 90 days.

Adjusting all legal protest final decisions to delay triggering of downstream statutes of limitation.

Allowing the use of a valid/current Federal Power of Attorney form in lieu of Indiana's State Power of Attorney forms in certain circumstances.

Eliminating all possible remaining requirements for wet signatures.

Hardship & Offer-In-Comprise (OIC) Support

Relaxing certain record submission requirements for new case creation.

Extending the time frame for record submission on all pending hardship cases until July 31, 2020.

Extending new hardship and OIC case processing deadlines.

Supporting all requests to adjust payment plan terms.

Customer Service Options

Except for in-person services, all tax processing systems and operations are operating smoothly. Customer Service team members are here to help via phone, correspondence, email and online services Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. local time.

Call DOR's individual customer service line at 317-232-2240.

Call a specific District Office using the contact information at dor.in.gov/3390.htm.

Call DOR's Motor Carrier Services at 317-615-7200.

Contact a specific DOR business unit using a list of phone numbers and email addresses available at dor.in.gov/3325.htm. Email DOR using the online form at dor.in.gov/3392.htm.

Take advantage of our online services by visiting dor.in.gov/4331.htm.

Registration, filing and payment services including INTIME, INtax, INtax Pay and DORpay are fully functional and operating.

Tax Policy Assistance

Contact the DOR Tax Policy team to assist with any questions or needed clarifications by emailing taxpolicy@dor.in.gov.

"We recommend Hoosiers continue to comply with all tax filing and payment requirements, be responsive to DOR correspondence and to contact our team if they have questions or need assistance," added Commissioner Grennes. "This situation is very fluid and we will continue to look for ways to help Hoosiers during this very difficult time."

Any changes to this guidance, additional modifications to normal operations or changes to tax filing and payment deadlines will be posted on DOR's website, as well as DOR's social media accounts.