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Warren Weekly

Your Hometown Newspaper

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Thought for the Week: Even with the best of maps and instruments, we can never fully chart our journeys. Gail Pool

PHARMACY OPTIONS

Attention: Today's Options and CCRX Clients

Please stop by your Warren Pharmacy and see your local Plan representative on Wednesday mornings about additional discounts you may be missing.

QUARTET TO PERFORM

The Sonship Gospel Quartet will be performing at the Warren United Church of Christ this Saturday, January 23 at 6 p.m.

The group from Franklin IN will offer an evening of gospel singing you're sure to enjoy. Join us for an evening of family entertainment and stay for a snack afterwards. A free will offering will be taken.

UCC is located at the corner of Second and Main Street in Warren. Our doors are open to all and we hope you will join us.

CENSUS RECRUITING

Ongoing Statewide Testing for Thousands of Locally-Based Part-Time Jobs

CHICAGO - The U.S. Census Bureau's Chicago Regional Census Center announced that nearly 45,000 people continue to be recruited across the State of Indiana for census takers and other positions for the 2010 Census. Tests for these positions—which pay between \$12.25 and \$15 per hour—are taking place now at numerous locations across the state.

"These jobs allow people to work in—and for—their neighborhoods," said Stanley D. Moore, Chicago Regional Director. "Even though most are part-time, temporary jobs lasting two to six weeks, working

on this once-a-decade headcount allows census takers to be a part of history," he added.

Conducted every decade since 1790, this constitutionally mandated enumeration of the U.S. population determines the number of seats Indiana will have in the House of Representatives. It also affects the apportionment of political districts as well as leads to the accurate distribution of community funding for schools, roads, neighborhood improvements, elderly care and the like.

The Census hires locally, and applicants are required to take a basic skills test and undergo a background check. Most jobs also require U.S. citizenship, a driver's license, use of a vehicle and the ability to go door-to-door to interview residents. Since the U.S. population is more diverse than ever, in many areas, the Census will need to hire people who are bilingual.

Testing times and locations across Indiana are available by calling, toll free, 1-866-861-2010. More information about the positions, including application forms and a practice test, are available at the 2010 Census website: www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Area testing sites, dates and times are as follows:

Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 Jan 21, 25, 28 at 10:00 am

Ivy Tech Community College, 261 S. Commerce Drive, Marion, IN 46539 Jan 21, 26, 28 at 9:30 am and 5:30 pm.

American Legion Post # 10, 1700 Pennsylvania Ave., Marion, IN 46953 Jan 23, 28

10:00 am

Evangelical United Methodist Church, 1000 Flaxmill Road, Bluffton, IN 46750 Jan 26 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm and Jan 23, 30 11:00 am.

Markle Townhall, 155 W. Sparks Street, Markle, IN 46770 - Jan 27 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm, and Jan 23, 30 11:00 am

MODOC

Come hear about "Modoc" the world famous elephant! January 27th, 2 p.m. at Heritage Pointe—Fults Recreation Room. Public invited free of charge!

Michael Beauchamp portrays on of the most famous animal trainers of the last century, Capt Terrell M Jacobs. Mr Beauchamp and his wife, Angie, own Modoc's Market, a downtown coffee specialty house. The store, named after the famous elephant that escaped from the Great American Circus at Wabash High School in 1942, features a theme connected to Modoc and Terrell Jacobs.

Captain Jacobs grew up in Wabash and he spent part of five decades traveling though the United States with the best known circuses of the day. He became famous in Madison Square Garden in 1937, when he surrounded only himself in a cat cage with 52 lions, tigers, and leopards, setting a world record. Capt Jacobs also traveled for a number of years with his elephant act, composed of Empress, Judy, and nationally famed Modoc.

Beauchamp has spent seven years collecting first-hand remembrances of people that were on-hand to witness the wacky events surrounding the

escape and eventual capture of Modoc, whose story hit headlines all across America. Beauchamp's portrayal includes humorous, factual and anecdotal stories from a time gone by.

SUNDAY LUNCH

PROS (Parents Reaching Out at Salamonie School) is hosting a Sunday lunch at the Knight Bergman Center in Warren on Sunday, January 31st from 11am – 1pm. The menu, which is generously prepared by Kim's Katered Affair and Salamonie Parents, includes ham, beef & noodles, chicken & noodles, lasagna, meatballs, hot dogs, mashed potatoes, rolls, corn, green beans, applesauce, assorted salads and desserts. The cost is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.50 for kids, age 6-12 and children 5 & under are Free!

For your dining entertainment members of the Salamonie Band will perform. There will also be projects on display from several of the classes. In the past funds generated from this lunch have been used for recess equipment, scholarships and improvements to the Salamonie School woods. We hope you will be able to come enjoy lunch with us on January 31st.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Huntington County Extension Annual Meeting will be held Monday, February 1 at Heritage Hall, Hier's Park. This year's annual meeting will focus on the important role volunteers have in our community and especially in the numerous county Extension programs. Fred Whitford, Coordinator of the Purdue

Pesticide Program will share an enlightening message "We Serve Because We Care" for all volunteers affirming that what we do truly does make a difference. Whether it's helping youth learn project skills in 4-H, developing citizenship and leadership skills through community service, cultivating gardens and healthy eating habits with Master Gardeners, Extension Homemakers encouraging young readers at Headstart and giving each child a special book bag, or through the many other volunteer experiences offered in county extension programs, seeing others make changes in their lives, businesses and farms is a wonderful reward.

The evening's program will begin with a light meal at 6:30 pm. At 7:00 pm a brief business meeting will be conducted to elect new members to the Huntington County Extension Board, recognize retiring board members and brief oral reports presented by the Extension staff, including Susy Jennings, Family Nutrition Program Advisor, Margy Stinson, program assistant; Karen Hinshaw, Extension Educator – Consumer & Family Sciences; Ed Farris, Extension Educator – Agriculture & Natural Resources and Linda Aldridge, Extension Educator – 4-H Youth Development.

Fred Whitford will conclude the evening with his entertaining remarks and a message for youth and adults. Fred has authored more than 200 research, extension, and regulatory publications, and has

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Troubled? Try Prayer!

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e-mail: wwklly@citiznet.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 Huggy Bear Ice Cream, Dollar General 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 wwklly@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

THE UPTOWN GARDENER by Ruth Herring



Another week has gone by that makes us that much closer to spring. I have eliminated the seed catalogs all down to one and have it almost memorized. Been doing a little cleanup work in the greenhouse in the sunroom. Often some of the leaves dry up on the plants and I try to keep them from becoming to messy. Also feels good to dig around in the soil. Many of the geraniums are blooming and also impatiens I saved. Also started some cuttings of begonias and they are looking healthy. That little greenhouse Wayne made for me is a sanity saver in the winter months. I have also been doing a lot of gazing out the window to the flower beds trying to decide on any changes I might make. With it all covered with snow it can really stir your imagination. So far this winter I have just enjoyed staying in and watch the snow falling while doing some quilting and other winter time projects.

This year, as before, I made no resolutions so I wouldn't feel bad breaking them. I just try to make the most of each day.

One of the nicest things to happen in this new year, Wayne and I became the proud Great grandparents, for the first time, of a beautiful baby girl. Welcome to the world Klynn Madison and thank you Kendra for the precious little one. Most all our siblings are sharing the title of great grandparents and we were beginning to feel left out.

In a few months I can think about sewing cute little girl things again.

In the winter time I try to make oven meals, which also helps to make the house warmer. Recently I did a potato casserole that we liked and perhaps you might like trying. Since we still are using potatoes from the garden it tasted even better.

Shred about 4 medium size potatoes and a small onion, to it add a can of cream mushroom soup and about a half of the can of milk. Add salt, pepper and garlic powder to your taste and 3/4 cup shredded sharp cheese. Mix it all together and put in a 2 quart size oiled baking dish cover and bake 30-40 minutes or until potatoes test done. Uncover last few minutes of baking time.

Have a safe and enjoyable winter.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We would appreciate your help informing any of our clients in your area that we have a new e-mail address. In the process of changing to a new one, we inadvertently lost all those we had. Our new e-mail address is: sheetswildlife@att.net.

Thank you very much for your assistance.
 Shirley Schug, Manager
 Sheets Wildlife Museum

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ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
 8013W 1100S - 90, Montpelier
 Phillip Freel Jr, Pastor
 Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School10:30 a.m.
 Wed Evening Carry-in & Fellowship6:30 p.m.

BANQUO CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 8294S 900W 35
 Gary Riley, Pastor
 Sunday School9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Youth Choir Practice 5:00 p.m.
 Wed. Bible Study6:30 p.m.
 Thurs. Kings Kids6:30 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.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
 Rev. Barry Humble, Pastor
 Jerome Markley, S.S. Supt.
 Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.
 Sunday School 10:30a.m.

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 Van Buren, Indiana 765-934-2199
 Pastor - William Shelor
 Youth Leaders - Heath & Kelly Jones
 Worship9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School10:40 a.m.
 Adult Bible Study Sun 6:30p.m.
 Youth Group Sun 6:30p.m.
 Handicap Accesible
 Little Panther Preschool 765.934.2099

HEALING WATERS MINISTRY — MAJENICA
 Pastor Richard Evans
 260/224-3376
 Sunday Service10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday7:00 p.m.

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN
 8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779
 Dick Case, Pastor
 Sun - 1st Worship Service..... 8:15a.m.
 Sunday School.....9:30a.m.
 2nd Worship Service10:30a.m.
 Youth Group (6th-12th).6:00p.m.
 Wed - Circle of Friends (3yrs old - 5th grade) . 6:30-8p.m.

HANFIELD UNITED METHODIST
 101 N 400 E - Marion 765/664-8726
 Timothy Helm, Senior Pastor
 1st Worship.....9:00 a.m.
 2nd Worship.....10:30 a.m.

HERITAGE POINTE
 Sunday Morning Worship9:30 a.m.
 OTHER SERVICES BY ANNOUNCEMENT
 Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat
 Chapel Services9:00 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.
 ThursdayPrayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES
 9019 E 300 S - Warren Indiana
 Jim Graham, Pastor
 260/494-6753 260/489-1456
 260/375-4224
 Sunday School 9:30am
 Morning Worship 10:30am

HILLCREST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 375-2510
 Rev Mark Davis
 Bus Service 375-2510
www.hillcrestnazchurch.org
 Sunday School9:30 a.m.
 Worship10:30 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
 227 N Main St, Warren, IN 375-3873
 Kathy Newton, Pastor
 Sunday School9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service10:00 a.m.

LANCASTER WESLEYAN
 468-2411
 Doug Sharrard, Pastor
 David Thrift, S.S. Supt.
 Sunday School9:30 a.m.
 Worship10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday:
 CYC/Teen/Adult Meetings 7:00 p.m.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH
 694-6622
 Pastor Dan Sommer
 Sunday School9:00 a.m.
 Fellowship 9:55a.m.
 Worship 10:15a.m.
 Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

LIBERTY CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Pastor Devin Cook
 Morning Worship9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School10:45 a.m.

MCNATT UNITED METHODIST
 375-4359
 Bill VanHaften, Pastor
 Lois Slusher, Supt.
 Coffee Fellowship.....8:30 a.m.
 Worship9:15 a.m.
 Sunday School10:30 a.m.
 Bible Study - Wed. 7:00 p.m.

MT. ETNA UNITED METHODIST
 260/468-2148
 Tony Johnson - Pastor
 Trad. Worship 9:00 a.m.
 Mdrn Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Fellowship 10:00 a.m.

MOUNT ETNA WESLEYAN
 Rev. Charles Dederick, Pastor
 Sunday School9:30 a.m.
 Worship10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Evening6:00 p.m.
 Mid-Week (Wed)6:00 p.m.

PLUM TREE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 375-2691
 Dr. Jeane Spoor, Pastor
 Sunday School9:30 a.m.
 Worship10:30 a.m.

SALAMONIE CHURCH OF BRETHREN
 468-2412
 Mel Zumbrun, Pastor
 Worship9:30 a.m.
 Church School10:45a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 375-2102
 Pastor Scott Nedberg
 Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
 Junior Church 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

VB CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 765/934-3321 Parsonage
 Jeff Wass, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Adult Worship10:30 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 Blake J. Neff
 Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:30a.m.
 Jr/Sr High FLOCK (Sun)..... 6:00 p.m.
 Prayer-Bible Study (Thur).... 7:00 p.m.
 UMW 2nd Wed 7:00 p.m.
www.vanburenumc.org

WARREN CHURCH OF CHRIST
 375-3022
 Ethan T Stivers, Minister
 Nathan Ratcliff, Youth Minister
 Tara Bower and Melinda Haynes - Secretaries
 Shanna Fortney, Bible School Supt.
www.warrenchurchofchrist.org
 Fellowship9:15 a.m.
 Worship & Communion9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School10:45 a.m.

Youth:
 K-5th grade, Mon 6-7pm
 Jr/Sr Hi, Sunday 6-8pm
 TNT, Thur 6-8pm

WARREN 1ST BAPTIST CHURCH
 Corner of N. Wayne & Matilda Sts.
 Rev. Bill Fisher, Pastor of Preaching and Discipleship
 Rev. Robert Bothast, Pastor of Family Life
 Lori Buzzard, S.S. Supt.
 Sunday School9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Service 6:00p.m.

WARREN WESLEYAN CHURCH
 375-2330 6th & Nancy Sts. Warren
 Rev. Allen Laws, Pastor
 Wesley Welch, Supt.
 Sunday School9:30 a.m.
 Worship10:15 a.m.
 Wednesday Prayer Service..7:00p.m.
www.warrenwesleyan.com

FARRVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
 11044 E 200 N, Marion, IN 765-934-3609
 Pastor - Dan Metz
 Sunday Worship..... 10:30 am
 Sunday School Classes9:30 am
 Youth Group6:00 pm
 Sunday Adult Bible Study..... 6:00 pm
 Thurs. Bible Study7:00 pm



AREA NEWS

MORE PAGE 1

delivered over 3200 presentations to a wide array of audiences. His areas of expertise include Extension Outreach; Pesticide Safety Education; Pesticide Registration; Regulations; Insurance; Environmental and Safety Audits; Indiana Extension History.

The Huntington County Extension Annual Meeting is open to all citizens, youth and adults in Huntington. Reservations for this meeting are necessary and need to be made no later than Wednesday, January 27 to the Purdue Extension – Huntington County Office. Reservations may be placed by calling the Extension office at 260-358-4826, email to cholmes@purdue.edu or stopping by the office located at 354 N Jefferson – Suite 202, Huntington, Indiana.

TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

Bowers, Brewer, Garrett & Wiley, LLP law firm will award three educational scholarships to deserving Huntington County senior students. One scholarship will be named in honor of the late James W. Bowers. Scholarship applications, including instructions and criteria, may be obtained from the Guidance Office of Huntington North High School or by contacting Bowers, Brewer, Garrett & Wiley, LLP, 301 Warren Street, Huntington at 356-4800, or 121 N. Wayne Street, Warren at 260-375-2622. The applications are to be mailed or dropped off at the Huntington law office by March 1st. All information submitted will be confidential.

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Dogwood Glen and Kim's Katered Affair will be hosting Sunday Brunch on January 24th from 11am - 1pm. Buffet menu will include: Breakfast Pizza, French Toast Casserole, Pork Loin w/ Gravy, BBQ Chicken, Turkey Pot Pie, Baked Spaghetti, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Chicken Noodle Soup, Assorted Breads, Salads, Desserts and Beverages. Cost: \$10 for Adults, \$5 for 10.

PINK OUT

The Huntington University women's basketball team will host a "Pink Out" at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 13 at the University's Merillat Physical Education and Recreation Complex. The event will honor and celebrate breast cancer survivors during halftime of the Huntington University vs. Spring Arbor University women's basketball game.

"Pink Out" is a nationwide initiative of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics sponsored by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association to support breast cancer research and awareness programs. HU's "Pink Out" will become an annual women's basketball event to raise awareness and resources to advance breast cancer education and research. Proceeds from ticket donations, T-shirt sales and "pink" popcorn sales will benefit the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer.

In lieu of ticket sales, game-day admission will be exclusively on a donation basis with a suggested contribution of \$5 per adult and \$2 for children 12 and younger.

Breast cancer survivors will be honored guests for the game and will be admitted without charge. At the start of halftime, survivors will be escorted onto the floor for special recognition and presented with a complimentary gift provided by the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer.

"We encourage you to bring family, friends and breast cancer survivors on Saturday, February 13, as we 'paint the gym pink' (wear pink), honor survivors and raise funds to find a cure," said Lori Culler, HU women's basketball head coach.

To assist with planning for the halftime festivities, breast cancer survivors are asked, if possible, to register in advance by visiting our special HU "Pink Out" Web site at www.huntington.edu/athletics/wbasketball/pink-out/default.htm.

Local businesses and area residents are invited to serve as "Pink Out" sponsors, which provides a myriad of year-long corporate marketing benefits at the Merillat Complex and underwrites scholarship support for HU's women's basketball program. For details about "Pink Out" sponsorship, contact Culler at (260) 359-4213.

The Huntington University Foresters compete in 14 intercollegiate sports for men and women. In the past twelve years, Huntington has produced 70 NAIA All-America honors and 186 All-America Scholar Athlete honors. Huntington University is a comprehensive Christian college of the liberal arts offering graduate and

undergraduate programs in more than 70 academic concentrations. U.S. News & World Report ranks Huntington among the best colleges in the Midwest.

EAGLE WATCHING

Watch a bald eagle soar in Indiana skies during the Salamonie Bird Club eagle watching trip, Feb. 20, from 2 to 7 p.m.

Meet at the Interpretive Center for a short talk about eagles, then travel to well-known eagle hang-outs. The event ends at a nearby site where eagles roost for the night.

The trip consists of more than 30 miles, so participants should make sure they have sufficient gas, dress for the weather, and remember their binoculars. Those who need to leave early should drive separately or with a group who plans to do the same.

Advance registration is required by calling (260) 468-2127 or visiting the Salamonie Interpretive Center. There is no fee for the event or property admission at this time.

SAFE HAVEN

This past fall, a new support group was added to the list of the many services offered by the Wabash Friends Counseling Center. The Safe Haven: A Support Group for Chronic Pain and Physical Illness and Challenges addresses the needs and issues affecting those who suffer from chronic pain and illness and will continue to meet throughout the winter and spring months. The Safe Haven

support group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Wabash Friends Church (3563 South SR 13, Wabash) in rooms 108/109. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19th. The Safe Haven support group seeks to offer those who attend HELP: H—Hope while living with the present reality of physical suffering, E—Encouragement in facing daily struggles and challenges, L—a Listening ear and opportunity to share feelings in a safe and understanding environment, and P—Practical ways to adapt and cope with chronic pain, illness, and physical challenges. Adults of any age or gender who suffer from chronic pain, illness, or other physical challenges are welcome to attend. Other support groups offered by the Wabash Friends Counseling Center include New Beginnings, Family and Friends of Those Who are in Jail, Grief Share, Divorce Care, and Bipolar Support Group. For more information about the Safe Haven or other support groups, please contact the Wabash Friends Counseling Center at 563-8452 or 877-350-1658, e-mail counseling@wabashfriends.org or visit our website at www.wabashfriendscounseling.org.

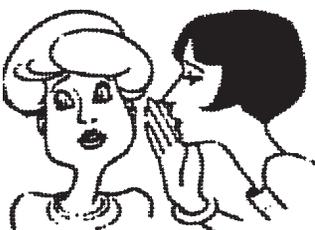
Donate Blood!
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Community Calendar

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

Jan 20	Van Buren Town Council, 7 pm
Jan 25	Warren Town Council, 4p.m.
Jan 31	Sunday Lunch, 11-1p at KBC, sponsored by PROS
Feb 2	Groundhog Day
Feb 3	Warren Chamber of Commerce, noon, Assembly Hall
Feb 3	Van Buren Town Council, 7 p.m.
Feb 8	Warren Town Council, 6:30 p.m.
Feb 12	Lincoln's Birthday
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 15	President's Day

Bread of Life Food Pantry - Wed 2 - 5:00pm at KBC or by appointment - Call 375-2381. **Bargain Basement** - Friday & Saturday 9 - 4 at KBC **Cancer Support Group** - 3rd Tuesday 6:30-8p.m. at Bluffton Regional South Campus



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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MARRIAGE RETREAT

Whether your marriage is fantastic or faltering, young or seasoned, the Growth Focused Marriage Retreat sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center will provide couples the opportunity for learning, laughter and leisure. In its tenth year, the weekend retreat is open to all married couples. "We've had between 50 and 80 couples join us each year, many from outside the church," said Scott Makin, Director of the Wabash Friends Counseling Center. "We welcome any married couple to join us for a weekend away from life's daily demands in a relaxing and comfortable setting."

This year's retreat will be held the weekend of February 5th through the 7th at the Farmstead Inn and Conference Center, Shipshewana. Built in 2004, the Farmstead Inn reflects a traditional Amish farmhouse. The center features welcoming fireplaces in the spacious entrance and throughout the Inn. There is an indoor pool and hot tub, ping pong and basketball court. Located next to the Trading Place Antique Gallery (over 100 vendors), across the street from Yoder's Red Barne Shops, and within walking distance of 90 specialty stores in historic downtown Shipshewana, opportunities for shopping and leisure are abundant. The weekend schedule begins on Friday evening and concludes at noon on Sunday.

Learning opportunities are provided through retreat speaker Dr. Gary Oliver, author, speaker, professor and executive director of the Center for Relationship Enrichment at John Brown University, Arkansas. An engaging speaker, Oliver will present information relevant to for marriages at any stage. "Our retreat is focused on strengthening marriages, not just to help those who are struggling, but for those who are interested in building an even stronger marriage and enjoyable relationship."

"Laughter is a big part of the weekend," says Makin. "The two men we have as emcees do a great job of creating fun situations and creative games for awarding door prizes. Our community has generously donated wonderful gifts for our couples such a pizza, movie date

night, gift baskets, gift certificates for services such as massages or even tax preparation!" Each couple is welcomed with in-room refreshments and a gift bag of goodies.

Leisure time is built into the schedule with ample free time on Saturday afternoon, game and movie night, and a Jim Barrons, Illusionist and Comedian. Jim is a full time professional entertainer and a morning radio personality on WBCL radio. He has performed and emceed shows with Donny Osmond, actor Kevin Bacon, The Smothers Brothers, and singers Chubby Checker and Mark Lowry.

Jami Hashbarger of Helping Touch Massage will be at the retreat Friday and all day Saturday offering 15 minute (\$10) chair massages or an hour Swedish massage for \$30 (during the free time).

Affordably priced, the Retreat's \$85 Registration Fee includes room reservation, a light sandwich supper on Friday, refreshments throughout the weekend, banquet dinner on Saturday night, retreat speaker, entertainment and door prizes. Room rate at the Farmstead Inn is \$69 plus taxes per night and includes a breakfast each morning. The following is the schedule for the weekend:

Friday, February 5 3:00 - 7:30 pm Check In, 5:00 - 7:30 pm light snacks and sandwiches, 7:30 pm Retreat begins with door prizes and Dr. Gary Oliver speaking. Movie and games follow.

Saturday, February 6 - 9am- 11 am Music, door prizes and Dr. Gary Oliver., 11am - 6pm. Free Time, 6pm - Banquet and Dr. Gary Oliver speaking. 8:30 pm - Jim Barrons, Illusionist/Comedian

Sunday, February 7 - 10am - 11:30 am singing and sharing time from with check out at 12:30 pm.

To register or for additional Information visit www.wabashfriendscounseling.com, email Scott Makin, scott@wabashfriends.org or call 877.350.1658. The registration fee is due by January 31st.



RUMMAGE/FLEA MARKET

The Blackford County 4-H Fairboard is sponsoring a Rummage/Flea Market Sale on Saturday, February 20, at the Blackford County 4-H Fairgrounds, from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There will also be food available for purchase. If you need further information, please call the Purdue Extension Office at 765-348-3213.

PORK CHOPS

Pork Chop Dinner sponsored by the Blackford County 4-H Fairboard, Inc. on Sunday, February 21, starting at 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at the Blackford County 4-H Building, 310 E. Park Avenue, Hartford City, IN.

Menu: Pork Chop, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Dessert and Beverage.

Tickets can be purchased at the door.

If you need further information, please call the Purdue Extension Office at 765-348-3213.

CHAUTAUQUA

The Chautauqua Literary Club met January 8, 2010 at Heritage Pointe.

Sharon Gebhart, President, opened the meeting and welcomed the members present.

Roll call was answered by telling your favorite subject in school. Fifteen members responded: Sue Blair, Ann Brauchla, Barbara Engle, Sharon Gebhart, Linda Howell, Phyllis Hubbard, Joan Huffman, Georgina Laymon, LuEllyn Pond, Jane Ruble, Peggy Schweikhardt, Martha Shafer, Carolyn Sparks, Freda VanWinkle, and Peg Christner.

Phyllis Hubbard gave the Treasurer's report as President Sharon Gebhart conducted the business meeting. A Thank You note from McKenzie's House was read.

Linda Howell and Sharon Gebhart announced the program by asking each one present to give a favorite memory of their GRANDMOTHER. It was humorous, inspirational, and sweet to hear the precious memories.

Delicious refreshments were served by Joan Huffman and Ann Brauchla.

SCHOOL FOR FARMERS

School will be in session for farmers wanting to better educate themselves on sound business management practices during Purdue Management Academy: Target 2015.

The new program takes place Feb. 18 and 25 and March 4 and 11 at seven locations across Indiana. It is sponsored by Purdue University Extension and the North Central Risk Management Education Center.

Note that the Wells County Extension Office will be a host site for this program. The office is located at the Wells County Community Center on 1240 S. 4-H Road in Bluffton.

Producers of family-owned, multigenerational agricultural operations are the intended audience, said Kelly Heckaman, educator, Purdue Extension Kosciusko County, and the program coordinator.

"We are going to provide tools, resources and a network for producers to create a strategic business management program targeting 2015," Heckaman said. "A Purdue Extension survey in 2008 found that our producers are requesting more information on product and enterprise diversification strategies, marketing plans and strategies, business and strategic planning, employee management and transition, and estate planning.

"Our goal has been to create a top-notch management education program for producers in Indiana who have multiple family members or employees in the operation. The plus is that they can do this right here in Indiana."

Session titles and topics include:

* Feb. 18, "Strategic Business Planning" - Positioning the farm business, mission and vision statements, goal setting and measurement, business plan development, and standard operating procedures.

* Feb. 25, "Gathering and Utilizing Financial Information" - Measuring profitability, managing debt, using management accounting to link financial performance analysis, benchmarks and trends in financial information, and farm size.

* March 4, "Human Resources" - Enhancing work force productivity and job satisfaction, communicating

with family members, and communicating with stakeholders.

* March 11, "Marketing and Risk Management" - Developing a strategic marketing plan, why farm operations need public relations plans, training the next general manager and managing the farm in turbulent times.

Sessions will be conducted by a combination of interactive video broadcasts and live speakers at workshop locations. Keynote speakers appearing via interactive video include Purdue agricultural economists Corinne Alexander, Mike Boehlje and Allan Gray; Robert Milligan of Dairy Strategies LLC; and Dick Wittman of Wittman Consulting. Other presentations will be made by local Purdue Extension educators and agricultural professionals.

Registration is \$150 per person and includes program materials and meals. Registration for additional members from the same farm operation or family is \$100. A \$25 late charge will be assessed for registrations after the Feb. 10 deadline. A program brochure with additional information and registration form is available online at <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/Kosciusko/ANR.htm>.

For more information, contact Ed Farris, Agriculture and Natural Resource Educator, Purdue Extension - Huntington County Office, 354 N Jefferson - Suite 202, Huntington by calling 260-358-4826.

CATTLEMEN TO MEET

The Huntington County Cattlemen will meet on Thursday January 21st at 7:00 pm in the Family Living Building, Hier's Park. Topics for discussion include planning for the 2010 Preview Show and officer elections.

For more information, contact Purdue Extension - Huntington County Office, 354 N Jefferson - Suite 202, Huntington or call 260-358-4826.



GENEALOGY REPORT

WHITESSELL

Clara K. Whitesell, 88 of Huntington, passed away on Saturday afternoon January 9, 2010 at her residence. Mrs. Whitesell was a homemaker and a member of the First Brethren Church of Huntington.

She was born on April 27, 1921 in Markle, IN a daughter of Earl and Leah (Hipskin) Larr. She was united in marriage to Franklin R. Whitesell on February 4, 1945 in Huntington. He preceded her in death on Dec. 29, 1991.

Survivors include – 2 Sons: Tommie L. Whitesell of N. Manchester and Neil E. Whitesell of Ligonier; 3 daughters: Robert (Nancy) Houser, Cathie Lyons and Darlene Whitesell all of Huntington. A sister: Virginia Scher of Huntington and a brother: Harold Larr of Warren. 11 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and 4 great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son Rick J. Whitesell, a grandson Jerry

Wantland, 4 sisters: Miriam Winters, Leah Boher, Mary Larr and Ruth Caley and 4 brothers: Richard, William, Eldon and Joseph Larr.

Services were held at the Myers Funeral Home, Huntington Chapel, 2901 Guilford St., Huntington, IN.

Interment took place in the Gardens of Memory Cemetery in rural Huntington County.

Preferred Memorials are to the Parkview Home Health & Hospice, C/O Myers Funeral Home, 2901 Guilford St., Huntington, IN 46750

MARVO

Friends of Mary Jane Dalrymple Marvo learned of the death of her husband Harry Marvo on January 5, 2010.

Harry and Mary Jane have resided in West Palm Beach Florida for several years. Mary Jane is a former resident of Warren.

Cards may be sent to her at 7102 Gila Lane West Palm Beach, Florida 33411-5729.

BIRTHS

Adaira Jane Stockman was born at Dupont Hospital Ft Wayne, IN on January 4, 2010 12:30 p.m. She weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz. and measured 20 3/4 in. Her parents are Eric Stockman and Jenifer Schlotter Warren, IN.

Grandparents: Joe Stockman Warren, IN, Jay Schlotter Montpelier, IN, and Jill Vogleman Huntington, IN. Great-Grandparents: Jean Haggerty Warren, IN, Mary Ann and Steve Holmes Warren, IN, Pete Schlotter, Montpelier, IN, Judy Belisle Warren, IN, Leonard Hardin Interlachen, FL.

Jay and Anetra Howell are the proud parents of Melissa Rae Howell. She was born Thursday January 7, 2010 at Huntington Parkview Hospital around 9:40pm. She was 6lbs 18.7 in long. Everyone is doing well and healthy.

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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

RECEIVED GRANT

Pathfinder Kids Kampus, the child services division of Pathfinder Services, Inc. received a grant for over \$1.2 million over 18 months to provide Early Head Start Services in Huntington County. These funds were made available through the American Recovery and Investment Act.

Beginning April 1st Pathfinder Kids Kampus will be providing three inclusive FREE program options, home based, combination (part day program) and center based care for 76 new children birth to three (3) years and expectant mothers who meet the eligibility requirements.

"Early Head Start programs enhance young children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; assist pregnant women to access comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care; support parents' efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and help parents move toward self-sufficiency," stated, Lisa Mettler, Administrator at Pathfinder Kids Kampus. "We are extremely excited to be able to provide critical services for Huntington County children and families"

Mettler added.

"The Early Head Start Grant is also an outstanding opportunity for Pathfinder Kids Kampus to create at least ten new professional jobs for Huntington County within the next four months," stated John Niederman, President of Pathfinder Services. "Through the Early Head Start Grant we will have the opportunity to employ an Assistant Center Director/Early Childhood Specialist, Child/Family Educator, Health Coordinator, Home Visitor, and various other positions," Niederman added.

For more information or for eligibility requirements to enroll in Early Head Start at Pathfinder Kids Kampus, please contact Lisa Mettler at (260) 356-0123 or at lmettler@pathfinderservices.org.

For more information regarding employment opportunities within this 18 month grant please contact Patty Brodbeck at (260) 356-0500 or at pbrodbeck@pathfinderservices.org. Job openings can also be found online at www.pathfinderservices.org.

Pathfinder Kids Kampus, Huntington, offers early intervention services along with child care and preschool

services for children from infancy to age 12. Pathfinder Kids Kampus is a Paths to QUALITY Provider and is the only licensed child care center in Huntington County. Pathfinder Kids Kampus can be found on the web at www.kidskampus.org and is a division of Pathfinder Services, a not-for-profit human and community development agency based in Huntington and serving Northeast Indiana.

INTENDS TO RUN

Jay Poe has announced his intention to run for another term as your Huntington County Surveyor. Poe, 51, is currently in his 20th year as the Huntington County Surveyor and has been very active within the surveying profession.

Locally, he was the office holder who over an 18 month period convinced County Council members to undertake the Geographic Information System (GIS) of computerized mapping. Originally this was to be funded by property taxes, however, just over half of the overall costs to establish the Huntington County GIS were recouped by grants which were originated by Poe. "The startup

of our GIS is the one thing I will always be proud of because I believe it is a tremendously valuable asset to our landowners" says Poe.

He has also alleviated the backlog of petitions for Drainage Board in Huntington County. "If a person files a petition for work on a County Regulated Drain we can start work on that petition the very day the Drainage Board accepts the petition". The "other projects" list (non petitioned but still needed drainage concerns) has been reduced to just a half a dozen projects which should all be addressed this year.

Poe is the past president of the following: the Indiana County Surveyor's Association, the North East Chapter of the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors, the Huntington County Plan Commission and the City of Huntington Board of Zoning Appeals.

He is currently the Chairman of our County GIS Advisory Committee. He is a past Vice President of the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission and the North East District of the Association of Indiana Counties along with being on the Board of Directors of the Association of Indiana Counties for 5 years.

He has been a speaker for seminars and continuing education courses offered by the Purdue Storm Water conference, Purdue Road School, County Surveyor's Association meetings, AIC meetings, the Farm Bureau Drainage School, the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyor's Statewide Convention and the Kankakee River Basin Commission.

He has been an expert witness, and testified in several court cases and has been a speaker for a St. Francis University class, high school classes, grade school classes and scouting meetings.

"I am asking the voters of Huntington County to allow me the opportunity to continue to provide my professional abilities to the office of the Huntington County Surveyor. Your vote in the May primary for Jay Poe to continue as the Huntington County Surveyor would be greatly appreciated".



Mail your news
items to the
Warren Weekly
P O Box 695
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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

RAILS TO ROMANCE

The Whitewater Valley Railroad is pleased to announce that tickets are now on sale for their annual RAILS TO ROMANCE train to dinner.

Take your sweetheart on an evening train ride for Valentine's. The train will depart from Grand Central Station in downtown Connersville, IN on Friday February 12 at 6:00 pm and Saturday February 13 at 5:00 pm. You will travel to Laurel, Indiana where dinner will be served at the Laurel Hotel Restaurant, a quaint countryside restaurant specializing in pan fried chicken and other home-style meals.

The fare for this romantic evening is \$39.00 per person. Fare includes round trip train ticket, meal, dessert, drink, tax and tip. Seating is limited. Reservations and meal selections are required in advance of the day of departure. Grand Central Station is located at 455 Market Street behind the Fayette County Courthouse.

Rails To Romance has become a romantic evening for many local and area couples. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Whitewater Valley Railroad at 765-825-2054 or by visiting www.whitewatervalleyrr.org.

For more information on other Whitewater Valley Railroad events such as: the Easter Bunny Express, Metamora, Excursions, Wild West Trains, Day Out With Thomas tm, Civil War Train, Steam in the Valley, the annual Pumpkinliner, THE POLAR EXPRESS tm, and other special holiday events log onto www.whitewatervalleyrr.org.

FAIR DATES

The 2010 Wells County 4-H Fair will be held Saturday, July 17 through Thursday, July 22. Most of the 4-H Livestock shows, auction and other major events are expected to be on similar days as previous years.

Other major events scheduled at the 4-H Park in 2010 include: Wheels of Yesteryear Antique Power Show & Festival, August 13 – 15; Championship Rodeo, sponsored by 4-H, September 4; Gearhead Run Car Show, May 1; Open Horse Shows, April 17 – 18, May 8 – 9; June 19 – 20; July 30 – 31; Bluffton Street Fair Horse events, September 21 – 25; Wells County Home & Garden Expo, April 9 – 10.

The Indiana State Fair in

Indianapolis will be August 6 – 22, 2010. Schedule updates can be found at the State Fair web page www.in.gov/statefair/

The 4-H Association and Council recently elected officers for 2010. They include:

Wells County 4-H Association – President, Kent Ulmer; First Vice President, Brian Clark; Second Vice President, Chad Captin; Secretary, Gretta Nusbaumer; and Treasurer, Leah Sills.

The 4-H Association coordinates the 4-H Fair and operation of the 4-H Park. The 4-H Association Board of Directors is made up of adult volunteers from each township along with ten at-large members. The 4-H Association is expanding its volunteers for 2010. Interested adults willing to volunteer are invited to contact the Purdue Cooperative Extension Office located at the Wells County 4-H Park, 824-6412.

COUNSELORS NEEDED

Counties in northeast Indiana are now accepting applications for Camp Counselor position. Youth must be at least 15 years of age as of January 1, 2010 to apply. Typically this means 8th – 12th graders may serve as counselors. Youth must be a member of 4-H.

If selected, youth will need to attend the required training sessions so that they may serve as a counselor at the four day camp June 28 – July 1 at Camp Palmer, located in northwest Ohio.

For more information about serving as a Camp Counselor, contact the Wells County Office of the Purdue Extension Service, 824-6412 or email rscherer@purdue.edu

EDUCATION GRANTS

Harrison College participates in the Montgomery G.I Bill, Tuition Assistance programs and accepts many federal and private aid programs. In addition, we have established a Military Service Grant for active, reserve, guardsmen, retirees, veterans, and dependents of military personnel attending Harrison College. The grant amounts vary based on program and eligibility but are designed to allow students to maximize their military education benefits. As a rule of thumb, active service members can

reduce their tuition by more than 50%, while reserve, guard, retirees, veterans and dependents can reduce tuition by as much as 30%.

Ramone Cooper, Manager of Military and Corporate Partnerships states: "As, a former service member myself I am excited about the Military Service Grants now being offered by Harrison College. These Grants are just one example of the initiatives Harrison College implemented to ensure that not only my fellow service members but also their spouses, dependents, and retirees are able to pursue their educational goals in an environment that has their best interest at heart."

In addition to the military grants, Harrison also offers a military support program for service members and their families. Some of the features of this new program include: support groups for service members and their families, assistance with financial aid for service members and their families, and special credit transfers for service members. Harrison College will develop a task force to monitor how Harrison is assisting service members to ensure all their needs are being met and to provide a channel for feedback from service members and their families. If Harrison finds that it is not providing all the necessary tools for success, then the task force will step in to help Harrison make the changes needed.

Harrison College is a nationally accredited institution dedicated to excellence in higher learning. With a concentration on career-focused education, the college grants Associate and Bachelor Degrees, as well as Certificates and Diplomas. Harrison operates campuses throughout Indiana and Ohio. Students may also earn degrees by taking classes 100% online, or through a combination of online and classroom learning. Students may choose degrees from the Schools of Business, Criminal Justice, Health Sciences, Information Technology, and Veterinary Technology as well as the college's culinary division, The Chef's Academy. Harrison College was founded in 1902.

HAPPINESS IS NOT A STATE YOU VISIT

by The FlyLady, Marla Cilley
All I have ever wanted for you was happiness! As I stand in front of my fireplace, I realized that I have surrounded myself with things that make me happy. Pam and Peggy's book the Happiness File taught me many wonderful ways to nurture myself and identify what really does make me happy. At first you don't know what makes you happy. You just know what does not make you happy.

For me it started with shining my sink. I knew that a sink full of dirty dishes made me as bad as that nasty water smelled. When I focused on that one habit of keeping my sink clean and shiny, I found happiness each morning. The joy of cooking returned because I was not already behind before starting to cook. That one little habit changed my life.

My next habit was decluttering for 15 minutes a day. I had held on to so many painful memories. The act of getting those out of my home gave me joy. I would never have to feel those unhappy memories again as I walked across the room. Now my home only has good memories. If an item becomes a bad memory I immediately declutter it.

I learned from the Happiness File that simple routines for the morning, afternoon and evening can free me up to enjoy the beauty that is all around me. With my work done I was free to play, free to create or free to just sit! No guilt! A life with no guilt is a happy life.

Do you want to find happiness? Just sitting and hoping that happiness will find you is not going to happen. It takes practice to find out what brings you joy. With The Happiness File, I was able to work on one habit each month to help me find my joy.

With this habit of practicing new things each month I found my calling in life! I built my very

own happiness file right under my own roof. I had happy places in every room of my home: My kitchen had a clean and shiny sink, my living room had my favorite chair and a clean coffee table, my bedroom had a comfy bed that was made and my bathroom was clean and inviting each time I went in there. That was a lot because I was drinking my water and taking care of myself.

Happiness is not a state you visit for a short period to time. It is a place you reside. Make your home your happiness file and you will find the joy you have been searching for right under your own roof.

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 2010 Marla Cilley Used by permission in this publication.

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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

GET YOUR FAMILY

RECYCLING

(StatePoint) Each water bottle you recycle might not seem like much, but don't undervalue your efforts. Those bottles you drop in the recycling bin can be made into dozens of useful items, from new bottles to t-shirts, carpeting and even automotive parts.

Recycling can help save energy, money and land space, create new green jobs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By getting your whole family involved in the process, it can also be a fun way to do more to protect the environment. And it's easier than you think.

A national survey sponsored by Plastics Make it Possible, an initiative of the plastics industries of the American Chemistry Council, found that nearly 70 percent of households make an effort to recycle. Interestingly, of those homes that make recycling a priority, more than two out of three rely on the women of the house to serve as "recycling enforcers."

What better time than now for moms - and dads - to get their families recycling?

"It's encouraging that a majority of Americans are making an effort to recycle at home, but our goal is to get everyone recycling," said Steve Russell, vice president of plastics for the American Chemistry Council. "Many plastics can be easily recycled and given a second life as carpet, clothing, furniture, backyard decks, new bottles and bags, and other products we use every day."

Here are some helpful recycling tips from Russell:

*** Do Your Homework:** Find out what is accepted for recycling in your area. Though recycling varies nationwide, most community programs collect plastic bottles and many large grocery chains offer bins for recycling used plastic bags and product wraps. Web sites like www.earth911.com allow you to enter your zip code to locate recycling centers closest to you.

*** Check the Neck:** For recycling purposes, a bottle is any container with a neck or opening smaller than its base. Be sure to put these items in your recycling bin: milk jugs and beverage bottles; bottles from shampoo, toiletries, laundry detergent and other household cleaners;

bottles from salad dressing, cooking oil and condiments; and don't forget to include jars from things like peanut butter and mayonnaise.

*** Bring Empties Back to the Bin:** Many bottles and bags are used on the go, so remember to bring them back to where you can recycle them. When you're out and about, store empties in a backpack or briefcase, or leave them in the car.

*** Store Bags in a Bag:** Many large grocery stores offer collection bins so you can bring back used bags and product wraps. These programs allow you to recycle plastic shopping bags, newspaper bags, dry cleaning bags, and bread bags (with crumbs shaken out). Even plastic wraps from paper towels, bathroom tissue, napkins, diapers and cases of soda qualify. For neat, convenient storage, place bags and wraps in a used shopping bag until your next trip to the store. Visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org for more information.

*** Reuse!:** There are many ways to reuse things we often toss out. Used bags can become wet umbrella covers, suitcase savers for shoes, hand protectors when handling home messes, waste basket liners and more. Get creative with your bags and containers!

For more recycling tips, visit www.plasticsmakeitpossible.com.

THE INTERNET CAN TEACH YOUR KIDS IN WAYS MOST SCHOOLS CAN'T

(StatePoint) Over the past years, many of the nation's schools have been severely hamstrung. Massive federal and state budget cuts have made vital education resources hard to come by in the classroom.

But in an odd twist of fate, many of today's students already may be equipped to deal with this education shortfall.

Today's students facing the schooling budget crisis happen to be the most tech-savvy generation in history. With the Internet constantly changing the way students learn and interact, there are a number of ways in which going online may actually prepare young people for the real world -- in ways that many schools can't replicate.

By focusing on character-building offerings, today's children are becoming more

adept at dealing with real-world issues they soon will face in the workplace.

It's Who You Know

Many parents and teachers have worked hard to impress upon young people the importance of networking. But what used to be a trusty Rolodex now takes the form of online social networking on sites like Facebook and MySpace. And considering that more children, including 38 percent between ages 12 and 14, are getting involved with these social networks to interact with old friends while making new ones, the future workforce should be flooded with online profiles and connections.

Online Education

Even at schools not experiencing budget crunches, there are areas of study that aren't provided, especially when it comes to computers, software and technology. Online classes can bridge that gap by offering engaging technology training programs to students no matter where they live. One such concern, Giant Campus Academy (www.giantcampusacademy.com), is offering online classes taught by experts in subjects like game design, 3D modeling, digital photography and graphics, web design, programming, entrepreneurship and other highly-competitive fields. Courses are conveniently scheduled with school calendars with enrollment for the latest courses closing on February 17th.

And teens who are interested in specific careers can follow online career mapping guides to start learning necessary skills.

See the World

While some schools can't even afford a field trip to the local plastics factory, young people now have opportunities to pay virtual visits to some of the world's foremost cultural centers. Museums ranging from the Louvre to the American Museum of Natural History offer online tours of their exhibits. It might not be the same as visiting in person, but it's a great way to start learning about culture and history.

"Although the Internet is frequently used for non-educational reasons, it's obvious it also can help students learn critical skills outside the classroom and beyond the curriculum variety most schools

offer. You just need to know what to look for," says Pete Findley, CEO of Giant Campus.

Overall, parents are disappointed with the technology skills being taught in schools, according to new research by the nonprofit Project Tomorrow and Blackboard Inc. According to survey data, just one-third of parents and 40 percent of children in grades six through 12 believe schools are doing a good job of preparing students for the 21st century. That's where online courses and camps can help.

"Students aren't getting technology training they need in school due to budget cuts and lack of expertise, so they're turning elsewhere for the tools needed for 21st century preparedness," stresses Findley.

LOTS TO LEARN IN

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(SPM Wire) With 155.8 million females in the United States, there is plenty that can be learned from women, especially considering they outnumber their male counterparts by four million. And with women outnumbering men two-to-one in the 85-and-over age group, women's history certainly is relevant.

All Americans can learn more about that history in March, which originally was established as National Women's History

Week in 1981. That week later became a month.

Learning about women's history can be particularly insightful today, an age in which women account for 55 percent of college students and 66 percent of women of voting age went to the polls in the 2008 presidential election, compared to 62 percent of men.

TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR FAMILY'S TV HABITS

(SPM Wire) Television doesn't have to be a mindless experience.

"We have recommendations we share with parents," said Susan Scanlan, Co-Chair of the Smart Television Alliance (STA) and President of the Women's Research and Education Institute.

Try these recommendations: Watch programs with children. Find out what confuses them and what they've learned.

Control your television with technology like TiVo DVRs. Or borrow DVDs from the library to turn your TV into a library of quality shows.

Get recommendations. Nonprofit children's media experts like Kids First!, Common Sense Media and the Parents' Choice Foundation frequently offer choices at www.smarttelevisionalliance.org.

Ask friends what they let their kids watch to be sure your kids are watching wisely at their houses.

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