

Friday, April 10, 2015

Volume 30, Number 9



Warren Weekly

Your Hometown Newspaper

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WARREN, IN 46792



PO Box 695, Warren IN 46792 • 260/375-3531 or 260/375-6290 • Fax 260/247-2426 • email: wwkly@citiznet.com

Thought for the Week: It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not to deserve them. Mark Twain



HUNTINGTON COUNTY YOUTH SPEND SPRING BREAK

HELPING OTHERS!

The youth of Warren United Church of Christ spent their Spring Break helping people from other countries in Greensboro, North Carolina. The youth painted the mural in the picture, helped weed the schools community garden, as well as delivering food and other supplies to Doris Henderson Newcomers School in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Pictured (front row from left) Elli Shape, Sophia Tolen, Shaylyn Suchcicki, Elijah Dimond, (2nd row) Brenda Tolen, Amanda Tolen, Sierra Tolen, Grace Dimond, Zachary Tolen, Will Shape, (back row) John Tolen, Don Williams, Heather Parsons, and Kristi Williams.

SATURDAY SUPPER

Warren United Church of Christ will be having their annual Spaghetti Supper on April 11th from 4:30-7:00 pm located at 202 East Second Street in our Fellowship Hall. There will be dine in, carry out, and limited delivery. Call 260-375-2102. It is a free will donation with proceeds to help fund missions projects.

SUNDAY LUNCH

Sigma Phi Gamma will be doing the April Sunday Luncheon on Sunday, April 12th from 11am-1pm. Menu includes baked steak, pulled pork, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, coleslaw, applesauce, desserts & drinks. Price is \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids age 6-12 and free for kids 5 &

under. Carry outs will be available, proceeds to benefit community projects.

REUNION

The Alumni of Lancaster Twp High School, Huntington County, are reaching out to all who graduated from Lancaster or went to Lancaster at one point in time and would have graduated by 1966.

We are having an Alumni Banquet on May 9, 2014 at the Habecker Dining Commons at Huntington University with registration starting at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00. Honored classes will be 1945, '55 and '65.

Advance reservations are required for the event, and there is a charge per person attending.

Dinner reservations must be made by April 22, 2015.

If you know of anyone that has been missed, please contact MaryAnn (Douglass) Eller at 260.356.0869 or PO Box 411, Huntington IN 46750, so she can update the Alumni list.

Looking forward to hearing from our former classmates.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

The Van Buren Popcorn Festival Committee is continuing to make plans to hold a Spaghetti Supper on April 18. The event will be held at the SwitchUp building on Saturday, April 18 from 4 to 6 p.m.

BREAKFAST

The Warren Sportsman's Club is having their Annual Spring All You Can Eat Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Saturday, April 18th from 6:30 am-10:00 am. Cost is still: Adults ~ \$6.00, Kids 5-12 ~ \$4.00, and children under the age of 5 will eat for free. Come out and enjoy a great breakfast before you start your day.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, April 18th.

TOWN CLEAN-UP

Van Buren has scheduled Town Clean-Up for May 1 and 2.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing in Van Buren is scheduled for Monday evening, June 8. The Hearing is in regard to plans for a new Fire Station. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room at Town Hall. Local residents are urged to attend. A large turnout will help to get a grant.

JACKSON ALUMNI

The 77th annual Alumni Banquet of Jackson Center High School will be held Saturday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Southern Wells High School.

All former students, teachers and staff are welcome.

For reservations (due by April 11) or information, call Rita Blinn at 260.375.2593.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

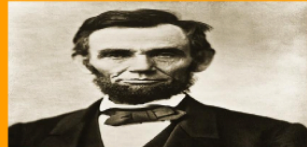
For the last two years Boy Scout Troop 122 has collected food for the Bread for Life food pantry

here in Warren. The first year we had approximately 250 lbs. Last year we collected approximately 600 lbs. This year we would really like to hit a 1000 lbs.

We will be helping our Charter, Sigma Phi Gamma, with their luncheon this Sunday, April 12. Luncheon is from 11am-1pm at the Knight Bergman Center. While you are there sign up for us to come to your house and pick up a brown grocery bag (we provide). Pick up will be between 6pm and 8pm April 15th. You just

CONTINUED PAGE 3

"Keeping Mr. Lincoln" Dinner & Dramatic Reading of the Life Story of Lincoln



Larry Bower as Lincoln Matthew Doss Randy Neuman Travis Fisher Debi Sackett Ed Clark

KEEPING MR LINCOLN

APRIL 14 will be the 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY of the Shooting of President Lincoln in 1865. ON APRIL 14, 2015, the Pulse Opera House presents: "KEEPING MR LINCOLN," a dramatic reading presenting the life story of Lincoln. Portraying Lincoln will be WBCL's Larry Bower, along with Travis Fisher, Matthew Doss, Randy Neuman, Debi Sackett, and Ed Clark. The evening starts out with a Dinner / Reception starting at 5:30pm with the performance following the Dinner. Dinner -Show Tickets are \$40 per person & can be reserved at 260-375-7017 or at pulseoperahouse.org. The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Warren United Church of Christ, just two blocks East of the Pulse Opera House. The dinner will be catered by Kim's Katered Affair. WE HOPE YOU JOIN US IN THIS CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF LINCOLN Plus It Helps Raise Funds to Keep the Theatre Doors Open. Please Make Your Reservations BEFORE April 8 so we can inform our caterer.

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WARREN WEEKLY • Owner/Publisher: Nicki L. Zoda
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e-mail: wwkly@citiznet.com web: www.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 the Warren Market, Huggy Bear Ice Cream, Dollar General and next to the Post Office in downtown Warren. The Warren Weekly is also available in a few businesses in Van Buren. Total circulation is 3000.
 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. Email subscriptions are \$24 per 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 Town Hall in Warren, mail to P O Box 695, Warren, fax to 260.247.2426 or email to wwkly@citiznet.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

SSF
 Just a little information on the 2015 Salamonie Summer Festival. Without the support and love from the community it makes it hard to plan events for your entertainment for festival weekend. We are planning and working hard for all of you.
 Please come and help us plan the events. The next meeting is Monday the 13th of April at the Sportsmans Club starting at 6:30 p.m. We need all of the new and old ideas to make this happen.
 The big thing is your financial support to make it all come about for the July 4th weekend. Please send all donations to SSF, Box 140, Warren IN 46792

A MESSAGE FROM THE BASEMENT

For those who don't know already, all proceeds from the Bargain Basement help pay bills for the Civic Center. It takes a lot to keep an old building going.
 We want to make it clear to a small number of our shoppers. When you put the items that are not allowed, that cost more, in the bottom of your \$5.00 bag, or change or take off price tags, of taken items out of packages, or put items in your purse or pockets - you are stealing from the Warren and area communities. Our prices are the lowest in any Thrift Store for miles around.
 We volunteers have enough to do without have to "police" the BB. We have the right to ban you from the store.
 We ask again, please do not leave donations outside the BB. The weather is not kind to your donations. Some have to be thrown out because they are ruined by the weather.
 Bargain Basement hours are Fri & Sat 9:00 - 4:00.
 Your donations are still tax deductible.
 I've been told this message is a waste of time, maybe it is, but maybe it will encourage a few to do the right thing.
 Thank You

SEND YOUR FAVORITE OUT-OF-TOWNER, COLLEGE STUDENT OR RELATIVE A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE WARREN WEEKLY. IT MAKES A TREASURED GIFT EVERY YEAR. (SEE PAGE 7 FOR MORE DETAILS)

This size ad is always specially priced at ... **\$18**
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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
 Brad Kelly, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
 Thurs. Kings Kids 6:30 p.m.
 BYG Youth Svc. (2&4Sun.) 6:00 p.m.
 CWF Ladies (3 Tue) 6:00 p.m.

HILLCREST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 375-2510
 Rev Mark Davis
 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.
SOLIDROCK UNITED METHODIST
 485 Bennett Dr, Warren, IN 375-3873
 Kathy Newton, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 375-2102
 Pastor Scott Nedberg
 Youth Pastor - Pastor Heather Parsons
 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Contemporary Service - Wed 6:30 p.m.
 Junior Church 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 Youth Meetings-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 Leon Pomeroy
 Worship Service 9:30 am
 The Highway (2nd Service)..... 11:00 am
 Sunday School 10:30am
 Not Home Alone - Wed 2:30 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
 The Loft (Youth 7th-12th) Sun ... 5:00pm
 www.vanburenumc.org

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
 Rev. Barry Humble, Pastor
 Denise Heinger, S.S. Supt.
 Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45a.m.
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 Van Buren, Indiana 765-934-2199
 Pastor - Heath Jones
 Youth Leaders - Kelly Jones
 Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:40 a.m.
 Adult Bible Study Sun 6:30p.m.
 Youth Group Sun 6:00p.m.
 Handicap Accessible
 Little Panther Preschool 765.934.2099
HEALING WATERS MINISTRY — MAJENICA
 Pastor Wayne Couch
 260/224-3376
 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 Service

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 9:00 a.m.
 Fellowship 9:55 a.m.
 Worship 10:15 a.m.
 Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

WARREN CHURCH OF CHRIST
 375-3022
 Ethan T Stivers, Minister
 Ben Renkenberger, Youth Minister
 Tara Bower and Melinda Haynes - Secretaries
 www.warrenchurchofchrist.org
 Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
 Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 11 to 11:40 a.m.
 Youth: (Start back up in the fall)
 K-5th grade, Mon 6-7pm
 Jr/SrHi, Sunday 6-7:30pm
WARREN 1ST BAPTIST CHURCH
 Corner of N. Wayne & Matilda Sts.
 Senior Pastor Rev. Bill Fisher
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
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
 Pastor Richard Ladouceur
 11044 E 200 N, Marion, IN 765-934-3609
 Sunday Worship 10:30 am
 Sunday School Classes 9:30 am
 Youth Group 6:00 pm
 Sunday Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm
 Thurs. Bible Study 7:00 pm

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN
 8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779
 Matt Kennedy, Pastor
 1st Worship Service 8:15a.m.
 Sunday School 9:30a.m.
 2nd Worship Service 10:30a.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.

LIBERTY CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Pastor Chad Yoder
 Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
MCNATT UNITED METHODIST
 375-4359
 Bill VanHaften, Pastor
 Lois Slusher, Supt.
 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 School 10:45-11:30a.m.
 Sunday Youth 6-7:30 p.m.
 Come as you are for all services

PLUM TREE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 375-2691
 Jill Miller, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.
SALAMONIE CHURCH OF BRETHREN
 468-2412
 Mel Zumbun, Pastor
 Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Church School 10:45a.m.

HERITAGE POINTE
 Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
 OTHER SERVICES BY ANNOUNCEMENT
 Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat
 Chapel Services 9:00 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.
NEW HOPE MINISTRIES
 9019 S 300 W - Warren Indiana
 Jim Graham, Pastor
 260/494-6753 260/489-1456
 260/375-4224
 Sunday School 9:30am
 Morning Worship 10:30am

LIBERTY CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Pastor Chad Yoder
 Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
MCNATT UNITED METHODIST
 375-4359
 Bill VanHaften, Pastor
 Lois Slusher, Supt.
 Coffee Fellowship 8:30 a.m.
 Worship 9:15 a.m.
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 Worship 10:30 a.m.
SALAMONIE CHURCH OF BRETHREN
 468-2412
 Mel Zumbun, Pastor
 Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Church School 10:45a.m.

Please Attend the Church of Your Choice

AREA NEWS

MORE PAGE 1

leave the sack outside on the front porch or step and we will collect it. If that time doesn't work then we will arrange something else. You can donate any food except perishable items. You can also donate toiletries.

If you don't plan on making it to the luncheon and would still like to donate please call Tammy Jackson at 765-251-3919.

OPEN CLOSET

Farrville Community Church invites you to the Spring Open Closet Free Clothing Event, Saturday, April 18th 8am - noon.

The Church is located at 11044 E 200N, Marion (Grant County). Two miles north on SR 5, then 2 miles East on 200N.

This is a community event open to Everyone! Free coffee, milk and muffins! Miscellaneous household items. Shop, visit and fill as many bags as your family needs. All at no cost to you.

Be sure and share this information with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you.

VOLUNTEER CALL-OUT

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, Ouabache State Park and Bluffton Parks Department will have a volunteer call-out on April 16 at 6pm in Ouabache State Park Lodge Recreation Building.

With tight budgets and limited staff, Ouabache and Bluffton Parks are looking for responsible and dedicated people to fill many needs. Individuals can help on a

regular basis or when they have time. Representatives from Ouabache and Bluffton Parks will list specific needs like trail maintenance, shelter upkeep, landscape needs, exotic plant control, event coordination and many more. Some projects will be independent lead while other volunteers will work with staff. People will be able to fill out all necessary volunteer paperwork following the informational meeting.

"We value the efforts of volunteering which help to keep the park in great shape for visitors. It is amazing what one person's donated time can accomplish," said Mike Miller, Assistant Property Manager of Ouabache State Park.

Bluffton Parks Department Superintendent, Pam Vanderkolk said "We hope to see the support of many people at this call-out. Individuals and families can really help make a difference."

For more information, call park office at (260) 824-0926. Or email Jody Heaston, jheaston@dnr.in.gov

Information about Ouabache State Park is available at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2975.htm>. Information about Bluffton Parks and Recreation Department is at <http://www.blufftonindiana.net/parks-department/>.

Use the handy order form on Page 7 for your Classified ad

VOLUNTEER WEEK

Ouabache State Park will host a Trail Maintenance Day on April 18 at 12:30 p.m. to celebrate volunteer week and to get the park ready for recreation season. People interested are to bring a pair of work gloves and meet at Ouabache State Park Lodge Recreation Building. Volunteers are to sign in at the main gate. For more information, call park office at (260) 824-0926.

From maintaining trails to entering computer data, people can donate their time and talents to Ouabache anytime of the year. "We look forward to seeing people help get the park in great shape for recreation season. It is amazing what one person's donated time can accomplish," said Mike Miller, Assistant Property Manager of Ouabache State Park.

Information about volunteer events and opportunities throughout the state is available at stateparks.IN.gov/2443.htm.

MONDAY LEAGUE

If you are interested in playing in a golf league (handicap system) at Dogwood Glen or want more information, please call Larry Langdon at 375-3049 or sign up at the course. This would be for ALL golfers, men, women, young, senior, HP employees and anyone.

League membership is \$20.00. Regular green fees apply for play.

Tee times flexible. Preferred start 9 a.m. on Monday. All use green tee boxes. Start play on Monday June 1.

FREE SHRED DAY

iAB Financial Bank is taking the steps necessary to help you protect your identity by again offering their Annual Free Community Shred Day on Saturday, April 18th. With identity theft on the rise as the fastest growing crime in America, iAB is sponsoring this event to enable customers to protect themselves by purging their files of those old, but still confidential, documents. iAB in-

vites the public to bring up to 5 boxes of material to be shredded from 9-11 a.m. at the following three locations:

- * iAB Fort Wayne Operations Center: 118 East Ludwig Road
- * iAB Bluffton North Office: 1405 Baker Place
- * iAB Huntington Office: 2845 Guilford Street

This event creates a secure environment for document destruction, with a professional shredding service in attendance to help customers by ensuring proper procedures are followed when handling and destroying paperwork such as old tax forms, credit card applications and bank statements. "Identity protection is a responsibility we take very seriously at iAB Financial Bank," stated Michael C. Marhenke, iAB President and CEO. "We want our customers to know we are looking out for them and seek to be their partner in safety and security with respect to their financial information."

In addition to the free shred event, iAB seeks to stay informed regarding the latest methods of identity theft and/or scams, and along with the American Bankers Association recommends the following methods of protecting yourself and others:

- * Get to know your banker and build a relationship with the people who handle your finances. They can look out for any suspicious activity related to your account. Report any suspected fraud to your bank immediately.

- * Shred sensitive papers. Receipts, banks statements, old tax forms and credit card offers should all be shredded before being thrown away.

- * Don't share your secrets. Don't give out your Social Security number or account information to anyone who contacts you online or over the phone. Protect your PINs and passwords and do not reveal sensitive or personal information on social networking sites.

- * Keep an eye out for missing

mail. Fraudsters look for monthly bank or credit card statements, or other mail that might contain your financial information.

- * Monitor your credit report. Order a free copy of your report from one of the three credit reporting agencies at annualcreditreport.com

- * Use online banking to protect yourself. Monitor your financial accounts regularly for fraudulent transactions.

- * Protect your computer. Virus protection should be active and up to date. Look for an "s" after the "http" to be sure the website you are using is secure.


- * Protect your mobile device. Use the passcode lock on your smartphone and other devices and use caution when downloading apps as they may contain malware with viruses designed to steal your information.

iAB Financial Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Independent Alliance Banks, Inc., is one of the largest locally-owned community banks in the area and employs approximately 290 people throughout Allen, Huntington, Marshall and Wells counties.

GARAGE SALE


Healing Waters Ministry of Majenka is having a Garage Sale on Saturday the 11th from 7am to 3pm. Come and help us pave our parking lot.

We have something for everyone and all priced to sell. Follow the signs to the location.



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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

Apr 7 & 8	W - Town Hall Closed for Software Updates & Training
Apr 11 4:30-7p	W - United Church of Christ Spaghetti Supper
Apr 13 5:30p	W - Town Council Meeting at Assembly Hall
Apr 15 7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting
Apr 20 6:30p	W - KBC Board Meeting at Knight Bergman Center
May 6 Noon	Warren Chamber of Commerce - Assembly Hall
May 6 7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting

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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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

SWINE BOOSTERS

The Huntington County Swine Boosters will meet on Tuesday April 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Huntington Co. Courthouse Annex Conference Room (first floor). The discussion items include 4-H Fair improvements, 4-H swine enrollment for 2015, Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) training and other old/new business. For more information, contact Purdue Extension – Huntington County Office, 354 N Jefferson – Suite 202, Huntington by calling 260-358-4826.

JR LEADERS

The Huntington County 4-H Junior Leaders will meet Thursday, April, 9, at the New Life Food Ministry, 323 N Jefferson Street, from 5:30-7:30 pm to help with the evening meal as part of their community service outreach projects. They will meet briefly after the meal to discuss upcoming events and activities.

The Huntington County 4-H Junior Leader organization is open to any 4-H member in grades 7-12. For more information, please contact Julia Miller, jwickert@purdue.edu or 260-358-4826 at the Purdue Extension – Huntington County office, located in the County Courthouse Annex Building, 354 N Jefferson Street – Suite 202, Huntington.

COUNCIL NOTES

The Van Buren Town Council held a short meeting on Wednesday, April 1. President Marvin Surber conducted the meeting which was held in the Council Room at Town Hall. All in attendance repeated the Pledge to the American Flag.

The meeting opened with a Public Hearing to get a grant for a new Fire Station. Tina Headerson explained the grant and the procedure which they are trying to do.

Officer Pat Collins presented the Police report. He reported he will be compiling a list of junk and abandoned vehicles in town.

Donnie Plummer gave the Utility report. He presented two quotes, one for new gutters and down spouts on the current Fire Stations, and new cement on the South Water Tower.

the next Council meeting will be April 15.

WCTU RALLY

The Mid-Year Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) will be meeting Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the Russiaville Friends Church in Russiaville, Indiana.

All members and guests will be welcomed for brunch and fellowship from 9:00 to 9:25am in the fellowship hall. Miss Sarah Ward will open the morning session at 9:30am. Mrs Wanda Tupps will lead singspiration. Host Pastor, Jamie Lyon of Russiaville Friends Church, will give devotions and prayer. Roll

call by Mrs Carolyn J Poer will follow. Mrs Tupps will give awards and Promotion Director's report. Mrs Lois Anderson will give Treasurer's report.

Other morning activities will include Department Directors' Presentations: Report from Circulations Manager, Mrs Betty Montgomery; Report from Miss Sarah F Ward, Editor of The Message; Mrs Gail Lephart, chairman of the Literature Table; and Mrs James Knight, Director of Honorary Members.

Mrs Margaret Ostenstad, WCTU World President, of Norway will speak on the title "We are a World of Tempted Humanity." Morning session will close with the audience singing Beautiful Hour of Noontide.

Lunch will be served by the Kokomo WCTU Union. Afternoon session will include pledges to the flags and membership pledge. Afternoon speaker will be Reba Harris of the Gilead House in Kokomo. The Gilead House opened to meet needs of women and men after they are released from prison. They offer counseling and support services; many of these people have been involved in drugs.

The audience will sing I'll Tell the World That I'm a Christian, the theme song for the year. WCTU Field Worker for Europe and former World Vice President, Mrs Brita Nilssen of Norway will speak on, "Showing We Care," as she reports on the Norwegian WCTU project in Guatemala. Mrs Nilssen and Mrs Ostenstad will be traveling on to Guatemala following their visit with WCTU in Indiana.

The meeting will close with the Friendship Circle and Benediction as the audience sings God Be With You.

Russiaville is located on State Road 26, south and west of Kokomo. The church is on the north side of State Road 26.

ALPHA ZETA

The March 21, 2015 meeting of the Alpha Zeta Chapter (Huntington, Wabash and Whitley Counties) of Delta Kappa Gamma society International was held at Grave Evangelical Church in Columbia City. President Carol Winterholter introduced two guests, Angie Grable and Holly Elwood.

The program was given by Angie Grable who used Power Point to explain a classroom innovation called Café 5 based on 2 books, The Café Book, and The Daily 5. She uses teaching by strategies grouping rather than by levels grouping with her students. "Café" stands for comprehension, accuracy, fluency and expanding vocabulary.

Michelle Ball, State Liaison, reminded members that we need to sell Delta Kappa Gamma to younger women so they know what great programs are available through the organization. She also share a few thoughts from her experience at the State Convention.

A service of remembrance was held for Dorothy Johnson, our last living founder, and for Jo Ann Hapner, both of whom passed away in January.

Minutes and the treasurer's report from the November 8, 2014 meeting were both approved.

Forms were passed out to recommend women for member-

ship. It was mentioned that there are categories for retired teachers and women who educate without being in a classroom to be invited to join.

The proposed budget for 2015-2015 which includes a dues increase was passed.

Members were reminded that, if they are choosing to split the dues payment, the spring one is now due.

It was announced that Chelsie Fisher has been chosen to receive the Esther Mae Ashley Scholarship.

Cards were passed to be signed for members Carol Winterholter, June Everitt, Judy Jordan and Pat Reed who need cheer.

Because we now have members from Grant County, Carol Herzog moved that the Grant County Feed the Children Fund be added to the chapter's fund raising project in addition to the current counties. Barb Buroker seconded and the motion carried.

Karen Kinney presented at State Convention. Others attending were Carol Herzog, Barb Buroker, Carol Winterholter and Michelle Ball. Our chapter's newsletter was offered as one of five exemplary examples among the newsletters all over the state.

A new magazine, The Exchange, will soon be published and Delta Kappa Gamma members may share ideas for classroom use.

Barb Buroker asked that members tell her whether they want their state newsletter to arrive through e-mail or postal mail. She also announced that plans are being made for the Fall Arts Retreat to be held November 6-7, 2015 at Shiloh Park in Marion.

The May 2nd meeting will be at Heritage Pointe in Warren.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma Song at 12:20 p.m.

Those members attending from Huntington County were Joyle Allen, Bar Buroker, Vendetta Gutshall, Pat Hauenstein, Carol Herzog, Kathy Holst, Karen Kinney and Carol Winterholter.

DONATES TO CANCER SERVICES

iAB Financial Bank Legacy designees presented Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana with a \$1,000 donation to aid in providing resources, information and

CONTINUED PAGE 6

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GENEALOGY REPORT

SMITH

Karen S. Smith, 65 of Bluffton passed away early Saturday, April 04, 2015, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne as a result of an automobile accident in Northern Wells County.

Karen was born on June 29, 1949 in Bluffton to Clyde F. & Areta M. (Ogle) Oswalt. She graduated from Southern Wells School with the class of 1967. She enjoyed a career in Banking and worked at Old First National Bank in Bluffton and retired from Ossian State Bank. In her free time Karen enjoyed traveling, especially taking cruises.

Karen is survived by her son Ryan (wife Kami) Shaw of Carmel and two twin granddaughters, Olivia & Aliya Shaw. Along with a sister Sharon K. (husband Meredith A.) Oswalt-Curtis of Greenfield, a niece Margo (husband Robert) Curtis-Sutton, and two great-nephews John & Davinson Sutton all of Indianapolis.

She is preceded in death by her parents and her fiancé Paul E. Penrod.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held for Karen at 3:00 p.m. on Friday (April 10, 2015) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Angie Scott Meeks officiating. Burial will take place at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton. Calling Hours will take place from 12 Noon to 8 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made in Karen's memory to the American Diabetes Association or to the National Fibromyalgia Association. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

STANLEY

Richard Lee "Dick" Stanley, 85, of Huntington, passed away at 11 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at Miller's Merry Manor in Huntington.

He was born Sunday, Nov. 24, 1929, in Grant County. He married Martha H. Douglas on Friday, Feb. 10, 1956; she passed away Saturday, May 1, 2010. He was a Jefferson High School graduate and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Dick retired from Franklin Electric in Bluffton after many years of service. In his


younger years, he enjoyed riding his motorcycles in his free time.

Loving survivors include two daughters, Donna Stroup, of Bloomington, and Nancy (Joe) Oddo, of Glendale, Ariz.; two sons, Gary L. (Cathy) Stanley, of Warren, and David A. (Vicki) Stanley, of Huntington; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; four brothers, Charles L. (Shirley) Stanley, of Huntington, Kenneth R. Stanley, of Lebanon, Wayne L. (Carol) Stanley, of Marion, and Howard J. (Connie) Stanley, of Lebanon; and 10 sisters, Wilma Jean (Joe) Pilgrim, of Huntington, Janet (David) Daugherty, of Warren, Mona (Jim) Pinkerton, of Warren, Catherine King, of Warren, Laura Smithley, of Warren, Evelyn Lindstrom, of Elkhart, Mary (Lynn) Shaw, of Warren, Brenda (Gene) Kendall, of Amboy, and Rita (Glen) Benefiel, of Warren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbur L. and Marie (Fey) Stanley; a son, Robert Ray Stanley; and a brother, Keith Stanley.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home, 203 N. Matilda St., Warren from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 9. A service to celebrate Dick's life will be at Glancy-H. Brown & Son at 11 a.m. Friday, April 10, with viewing one hour before the service. Tim Smithley will be officiating. Burial will follow in the Gardens of Memory in Marion.

DAVIS

Jack W. Davis, 78, of  Fort Wayne, formerly of Wells County, passed away at 5:20 p.m. Thursday, April 2, 2015, at Heritage Pointe in Warren.

He was born Tuesday, Sept. 1, 1936, in Hempstead, Ark. He married Betty J. Holley Saturday, May 23, 1970, in Indiana. Jack

graduated in 1956 from Bluffton High School; shortly after high school he served in the U.S. Army from 1959-1962. He was a Wholesale Grocery Truck Driver and was employed for 44 years by FMC. He retired in 1996. Jack enjoyed fishing, and loved spending time watching the deer, squirrels, and raccoons in his backyard. He also loved spending time with his beloved dog Heidi II.

Survivors include a daughter, Renda Heyerly, of Montpelier; a stepson, Curt (Linda) Berindei, of Parkland, Fla.; two brothers, Paul "Whitey" (Aleena) Davis, of Montpelier, and Jim (Donna) Davis, of Montpelier; a sister, Janice (Lanny) Ray, of Montpelier; eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and an acquired daughter, Sandy (Kevin) Riley, Fort Wayne.


He was preceded in death by his parents, Yates Franklin and Dorothy Ann (Golden) Davis; his wife; and brothers William Davis and Charles Davis.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9 at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St. Montpelier. Family and friends may also share and remember from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 10, at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne.

A service to celebrate Jack's life will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 11 at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, with visitation one hour prior to the service with Tom Rittichier officiating. Burial will follow in the Highland Park Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Preferred memorials to American Heart Association 6100 West 96th St., Suite 200 Indianapolis, IN 46278-6005 or Family Life Care 108 S. Jefferson St. Berne, IN 46711.

TAYLOR

Lowell A. Taylor, 77, of rural Van Buren, IN., passed away at 6:20AM on Saturday, April 4, 2015 at  his residence.

He was born on November 15, 1937 in Fairmount, IN., to Claude A. & Flossie Vetur Taylor. Flossie passed away when Lowell was very young. His father then married Ruby Martin, who raised him. Lowell married Eula Litchfield on June 26, 1979 in Van Buren; she survives.

Lowell was the owner and operator of Taylor Well Drilling Co. in Van Buren since 1961. He attended the Lincoln Blvd. Nazarene church in Marion. He was a former member of the Van Buren Lions Club and a lifetime member of the Van Buren American Legion Post 368. Lowell served in the US Army from 1957 to 1960. He was a people person; he loved a good tractor pull and especially meeting people anytime, anywhere. Lowell liked to work and spent most of his life doing so, but his favorite thing to do in his lifetime was to spend time with his family.

Survivors include his loving wife-Eula Taylor of Van Buren, IN., mother-Ruby (Martin) Taylor of Marion, IN., daughter-Cassie (William) Kirkpatrick, grandson-Tristan Kirkpatrick, granddaughters-Heaven & Amiya Kirkpatrick, and brother-Gary (Linda) Taylor all of Van Buren, IN.

He was preceded in death by his father-Claude A. Taylor, birth mother-Flossie Vetur Taylor and sister-Claudia Taylor.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Ferguson & Glancy Funeral Home 201 W. Main St. Van Buren on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 from 2PM-4PM and 6PM-8PM. A service to celebrate Lowell's

life will be at Ferguson & Glancy on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 11AM with Rev. Kent Martin officiating. Burial will follow in the Van Buren Cemetery.



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY


Richard & Joyce (Hollowell) Hinton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner at Heritage Pointe in Warren Indiana where they have resided for the past 5 years.

Dick & Joyce were married April 2, 1965 in Constantine, Michigan. The couple met at Memcor where they had both worked.

Richard retired from MagneTek, Hinton's Accounting & Bookkeeping Inc., and was the owner of Town & Country Homes, a real estate company. Joyce previously worked as Deputy County Assessor in Huntington, in the office of Wabash Magnetics, and as a REALTOR with Town & Country Homes.

They are the parents of Tracy (Brent) Walter of Huntington, (Granddaughter Emily), and Brian (June) Hinton, (Grandson Bo) of Roanoke. Thanks for the many cards and well wishes from friends.





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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 4

assistance for those affected by cancer. Each year, iAB holds a special breakfast in honor of Legacy employees to recognize their years of service and give them the opportunity to select a charitable organization to partner with in providing aid to the community.

This donation serves as a special commemoration of the partnership between iAB and these employees, as well as their individual commitment to one of iAB's core values of brotherhood. "To iAB and our employees, brotherhood calls us to give back to our community and care for others," said Michael C. Marhenke, iAB President & CEO. "I'm indebted to our Legacy employees for once again reaching out and partnering with others in ways that change lives."

iAB Financial Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Independent Alliance Banks, Inc., is one of the largest locally-owned community banks in the area and employs approximately 290 people throughout Allen, Huntington, Marshall and Wells counties.

CHAUTAUQUA

Twenty three members were present at the April meeting of the Chautauqua Club. President Betty Yoder welcomed everyone, and then led in the repeating of the Collect before Roll Call was answered with "Why is April Special to me?" During the business meeting sign-up sheets for 2015/16 programs and hostesses, and June 5 Spring luncheon were distributed. The Nominating committee submitted its slate of officers, and it was approved. It selected Pres. Peggy Schweikhardt, Vice President SueEllyn Jones, Secretary Nancy Bonham, Treasurer LuEllyn Pond.

The book, "The First 500," was reviewed by Sue Blair —as in the 1st person of Vera Dingman. The Jim Dingman family moved to Mesa, Arizona, in 1935 to be Pastor at a small Church. Since it was Depression time, the served for \$1 dollar a week. The couple had always had a longing to establish a Children's Home that they would call "Sunshine Acres." A rundown Boarding House came up for sale, and they were able eventually to acquire it. Absolutely every improvement needed to be added, and

plenty of reconstruction work needed to be done—all with the problem they had of no money. After a newspaper reporter interviewed Vera one day, the Optimist Club (of which Jim was a member), women's groups, Churches, volunteers, and businesses all pitched in to make this boarding house a new Children's Home for 20-25 children. The children came with all kinds of needs. It was amazing to see how many children had never experienced the love and safety before that this "new family" provided to them. Many stories brought smiles, but many also brought tears.

Art Linkletter heard about Sunshine Acres" and came to there to make a film of the children, and also to invite Vera to come to Hollywood to be interviewed on his show. The ladies of the area took her shopping to outfit her for the trip. She always cared for everyone else first before herself. Later on, she was chosen Arizona's Mother of the Year in Phoenix, Ariz. That led to a trip to New York for the national "Mother of the Year" contest with all the other winners. What an experience!

From the beginning of "Sunshine Acres" until 2014, Vera and Jim had loved and served 500 children, with many more to come. Their own children are carrying on the business with the same love and concern that Vera and Jim showed.

Vera died in 2005 at the age of

94, serene and content with the knowledge that God Will Provide, and that He is always in control.

For more information and story, visit the website Sunshine Acres, and see how the longing of Vera and Jim Dingman for a Children's Home was fulfilled. Anything is possible.

4-H MEETING

The Best-N-All and We Raise 'Em 4-H clubs met on March 19, 2015. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge, roll call was taken: who is going to win the NCAA basketball tournament? The newsletter was then reviewed, and James Ormiston had a health and safety presentation on tornadoes. Discussion was held on possible community service projects for this year, including Civic Center clean up in April or May, and holding a canned food drive in June with the Pork Chop 4-H club. The clubs are collecting pop tabs for Riley Children's Hospital again this year. The deadline for turning them in is July 1st. The Fun Run will be held again this year on July 11 at Hier's Park, including 10K, 5K, and 1 mile distances. The next club meeting is scheduled for May 7th at 7:00at the Warren United Church of Christ.

FISH FRY

A Fish Fry sponsored by the Blackford County 4-H Fairboard, Inc. and the Knights of Columbus on Sunday, April 19, starting at

11:00 am until 1:30 pm at the Blackford County 4-H Building, 310 E Park Avenue, Hartford City, IN.

Cost: \$9.00 adults (13 years and older), \$5.00 youth (6-12 years) and children 5 and under - Free! If you need further information, please call the Purdue Extension Office at 765.348.3213.

WILDFLOWER HIKE

Salamonie Lake will host a Wildflower Hike and Edible Plant Fest on May 2.

Participants should meet at the Salamonie Interpretive Center at 10 a.m. for an hour-long hike. Then, from 11:15 a.m. to noon, visitors can taste treats made from native plants.

Advance registration is required by calling (260) 468-2127.

This event is serving as Salamonie's "Second Saturday" educational event for May, although it is not taking place on the month's second Saturday.

Upper Wabash Interpretive Services (dnr.IN.gov/uwis) is at 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews, 46702.

CHILD IDENTITY THEFT

by Bill Stanczykiewicz
High profile cases of identity theft should place parents on high alert to protect their children who are prime targets of cyber thieves.

A survey conducted for the Identity Theft Assistance Center (ITAC) discovered that one in 40 households with children under age 18 experienced child identity fraud. The survey revealed that

the personal information most likely to be stolen and illegally used are the child's Social Security number (56 percent) and the child's date of birth (33 percent).

While investigating child identity theft cases on behalf of the Virginia State Police, Robert Chappell noticed a significant lack of awareness concerning children and identity fraud. "Parents often don't understand that their child's personal information is of value (to criminals)," said Marshall, author of, "Child Identity Theft: What Every Parent Needs to Know."

Marshall said the child's stolen information is used on a credit application, and the financial industry often views this phony first-time applicant as having good credit. "Criminals have learned that this means they have a high likelihood of success in getting credit issued in the child's name," Marshall explained.

Along with having pristine credit, children are targeted because illegally using a child's information can go undetected for years. The Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) warns, "By the time a young person opens his or her first checking accounts, credit card accounts, or applies for college financial aid, someone may have already had a decade-long shopping spree under that identity."

The consequences are both immediate and long-term. "It's not just a matter of proving that your six-year-old didn't buy that new

CONTINUED PAGE 8

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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 6

car,” the ITRC continues. “Bad credit or credit discrepancies can affect your child’s ability to get a job, to apply for financial aid, to join the military, (or) to pass a security check for travel.”

Parents can detect fraud sooner by watching for warning signs listed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Parents should be concerned if: your child receives credit card offers or marketing materials from banks; collection agencies contact you for unpaid debts in your child’s name; an application to open a bank account for your child is rejected due to bad credit; government benefits are denied because your child’s Social Security number is used under another person’s name; and the IRS reports that your child’s Social Security number is being utilized on another person’s tax return.

Parents who discover child identity theft should notify local police and file a report with the FTC at www.ftc.gov. The issuers of credit also should be notified. If the creditor does not cancel the expenses or credit, Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller advises parents to turn to their local circuit court for relief.

Even better, of course, is preventing identity theft from occurring at all. While the ITRC notes that there is no guarantee of protecting a child’s identity, parents can greatly increase the likelihood that a child’s information can stay safe.

For example, the child’s Social Security card and birth certificate should stay at home and not be carried around by parents. Moms should not post their maiden name on social media since a mother’s maiden name commonly is used as a password to enter financial websites. Similarly, parents should not post their child’s birth date or wish their child a happy birthday on social media – thus making the child’s birth date easily available to identity thieves.

Children and youth do not need to know their Social Security

numbers until, as teenagers, they are applying for a job or a driver’s license, and young people should be reminded to not share any personal information with others, either in person or online. Parents who need to share their child’s information online should do so only to known and trusted people or organizations on computers with proper firewall and anti-virus protections.

Zoeller, meanwhile, recommends that parents freeze the credit of each family member, including children, at www.indianaconsumer.com. The credit freeze can be lifted anytime credit is legitimately being applied for and then frozen again after the transaction.

“This is a serious crime,” Marshall said. “We need recognition of this problem not just among law enforcement but among parents and everyone who takes care of children.”

Bill Stanczykiewicz is President & CEO of the Indiana Youth Institute. He can be reached at iyi@iyi.org and followed @_billstan

SEND OFF SHOW

HeartSong Show Chorus invites friends, family and fans to their Send-Off performance on Sunday afternoon, April 12 at 3:00pm at the Church of the Brethren, 2302 S. Geneva, Marion as they prepare to leave for their annual spring competition in Lexington, KY.

The Region 4 Spring Competition, “High Stakes Harmony”, will start Thursday, April 16 with the Rising Star Quartet Contest for young singers, the Quartet competition on Friday and the Chorus competition on Saturday at the Lexington Center.

HeartSong will be competing with 21 other choruses from six states ranging in size from 15 to 150 singers for the opportunity to compete at the International competition in Las Vegas in 2016.

HeartSong Chorus (formerly Christmas City Chorus) is one of

over 600 choruses in Sweet Adeline International and has won many regional medals including their current 3rd place medal in the small chorus division of 15–30 singers.

The chorus sings four-part cappella harmony in the barber-shop style. They are based in Marion, but members come from nine counties in east central Indiana.

The public is encouraged to come out and support the exciting performance of this chorus. For more information about the chorus visit their website www.heartssongshowchorus.com Or call 765-677-SING.

ROMEO & JULIET

The Huntington University Theatre Company will present its final play of the spring semester, “Romeo and Juliet,” on April 15-18.

Shakespeare’s greatest romantic tragedy tells the story of love-struck youths who risk it all for one another amid the violent warring of their two powerful families. HUTC will present their own unique and innovative vision of this enduring tale of love and woe. The production will be set in a cyberpunk world, which will be evident in the setting and costumes.

Jay Duffer, associate professor of theater arts and director of the production, wanted to find a way to engage with audiences who have had little to no interaction with any of Shakespeare’s works while staying true to the humor, suspense, romance and violence found in the original production.

“We’ve actually had a lot of fun matching the original text to the visionary direction in which we want to take the show,” he said. “It does not create changes in the plot at all. It does, however, require a few minor changes to text at times. For instance, ‘rapier’ might be turned into a ‘broad sword,’ or ‘sword’ to a ‘gun,’ or ‘torch’ to ‘light’ or ‘beam,’ depending upon the various weapons/props used in that moment by an actor. There are also a few creative uses of modern technology since we are setting it in a time when social media is at the forefront of our culture. We remain faithful to the original text with only few exceptions for updating.”

“Romeo and Juliet” will debut in the Zurcher Auditorium in the Merillat Centre for the Arts at

Huntington University on April 15-18 at 7:30 p.m. with an additional 2 p.m. performance on April 18.

The play is not recommended for children ages 12 and younger due to the violence depicted on stage as well as the bawdy nature of some of Shakespeare’s writing.

For reservations, call the Merillat Centre for the Arts Box Office at (260) 359-4261 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Tickets are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for students and seniors, \$6 for children 13 and younger, \$5 for HU students and \$9 for HU faculty/staff. Tickets also will be sold at the door before every performance.

For more information about the Huntington University Theatre Company, visit www.huntington.edu/theatre.

THIS IS THE DAY 33

by Johnny A. Phillips
April 10, 2015

Trees, forests, woods, groves! At first glance, hardly a subject for a devotion. Unless you actually read the Bible! In my formative ministerial years an aged preacher pointed out how the Bible opens in the midst of a garden with the Tree of Life and ends in Paradise with the Tree of Life. Jonah sulked under a broadleaf tree, and Elijah rested under a juniper tree. Perhaps the most poetic words in human language are those of the Psalmist describing the man who pleases God: “...like a tree planted by the rivers of water,” and of course who can forget the frequent reference to the Cedars of Lebanon. To the above and a host of other Biblical references to trees too numerous to include here, I must my favorite with which most people are unfamiliar, the Parable of the Trees (Judges 9).

The point is sufficiently established: the Bible has much to say about trees. One hundred forty-three years ago today a group of folks in Nebraska City, Nebraska got together and decided to plant one million trees. Actually it was not the very first Arbor Day as that distinction would go to Villanueva de la Sierra, Spain back in 1805 when the forward thinking local priest, Father Roxo, persuaded the townspeople of the importance of trees. But for the United States

the Nebraskans were the first; in fact until 1945 they were known as the ‘Tree Planters’ and not the ‘Cornhuskers’ as now, and still one of their two official state names is ‘The Tree Planter State.’ Thirty years afterwards, Teddy Roosevelt, being an avid outdoorsman, was easily persuaded to promote the idea, and soon Americans everywhere were recognizing Arbor Day. Today about forty countries around the world join together for the occasion with each state within the USA deciding their respective date.

Do not simply pass this holiday off as an occasion for leftover tree huggers from the 70’s to make a scene; trees are vital to life. About one third of the land area of the earth is covered by forest, and each year we are losing a swath of them that would equal to the landmass of the nation of Panama.

All of us remember from our grade school science classes how trees turn carbon dioxide into oxygen, but few people realize that trees also absorb and store gases that cause global warming. In addition, trees contribute mightily to the maintenance of ground water and atmospheric water stability by expiring water into the air and preventing the soil from becoming too arid for other plant life.

While Third World countries often accuse Americans of causing global warming by dumping too many dangerous gasses into the air, in truth the deforestation taking place in Brazil, Madagascar, Sumatra and other nations around the world is every bit an equal culprit.

Way back in history when God had fashioned the earth and all living things, some people may say He made a mistake by giving man “dominion over” His creation (Genesis 1:26). But the interpretation depends upon one’s sense of responsibility (Goodness knows that we live in an era when people behave in terms of privilege as opposed to duty.). Too easily we are prone to think of dominion as control, but perhaps we should begin to think of the environment that God has given to us as a protectorate for which we are accountable.

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