

Friday, December 27, 2024

Volume 39 Number 45



# Warren Weekly

Your Hometown Newspaper

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Thought for the Week: Merry Christmas and may 2025 be everything you wish for it to be!

### CHRISTMAS BEGINS

#### WITH...

CHRIST the Virgin born, sinless, Son of God!

Therefore, the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His Name Emmanuel. Isaiah 7:14 which translated means <sup>3</sup>God with us<sup>2</sup>

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

But, when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, that He might redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5

For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 But God commendeth His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His Name. John 1:12

an Angel of the Lord said... you shall call His Name JESUS for He shall save His people from their sins Matthew 1:20-21 (Luke 1:31)

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift 2 Corinthians 9:15

### ALMANACS AND CALENDARS

The Warren Pharmacy has copies of the new 2025 Farmers' Almanac. The Almanac contains tips for gardening, farming, cooking and recipes, along with

weather predictions for all of 2025 and many helpful insights that affect your life, including the best days to get your hair cut, and the best days to fish. It has astronomy information about the rotation of the Moon and the Planets.

Best of all it is Free when you fill a prescription at the Warren Pharmacy. Extra copies can be purchased for only \$1.00.

The Warren Pharmacy also has Wall Calendars for 2025 with illustrations by Norman Rockwell from the historic Saturday Evening Post and advertisements for Windmill Vitamins. Each Calendar starts with January 2025 with room on each day to write the important events that effect you and your family. There is a Fishing Guide and a Planting Guide for each day of each month.

These complimentary calendars are provided at no charge by your Healthcare professionals at the Warren Pharmacy.

### CHRISTMAS BOWS

Every year the Town of Warren sells bows to put on the Town's Christmas Tree. There are three colors of bows: White for deceased loved ones, Red for the living and Yellow for Veterans. This year's ribbons of honor were placed on the tree for the following people.

Elijah Gephart - White, Ruth Gephart - White, Roger Heaton - White, Francis Heaton - White, Margaret Rovene Heaton - White, Bernard Gebhart - Yellow, Philip Souder - White, Madge Hudson - White, Dorman Hudson - White, Barbara Brown - White, Dale Brown - Yellow, Janice Brown - White, Robert Stucky - Yellow, James & Marie Hunnicutt - Red, Brian Hunnicutt - Yellow, Brent Hunnicutt - Yellow, Annie Hunnicutt - Red, Logan Hunnicutt - Red, Max Fordyce -

White, Cindy, Pam & Julie (Dad) - White, Grandpa Max from Grandkids - White, Pewee Miller - White, Jon Ruble - White, John Bill Buzzard - White, Gerald & Maxine Sheets - White, Bill & Fay Cartwright - White, Warren & Louise Keene - White, Dwight & Margaret Ann Boxell - White, Myron Landrum - White, Jane Souers - White, Delbert Glasgow - White, Rosalee Glasgow - White, Michael Moreland Jr - White, Paul & Ruth Yount - White, Will & Irene Zeller - White, Morry Zeller - White, Ellen Laymon - White, Gordon Laymon - Yellow, Bueford Ebert - White, Bob Laymon - White, Buena Laymon - Yellow, Kenneth Cloud - Yellow, Linda Cloud - White, Jeff & Pam Cloud - Red, Rev Clyde Gunn - Yellow, Phylis Gunn - White, Dale Brown - White, Barbara Brown - White, Janice Brown - White, Sherman Brown - White, Lelah Brown - White, Floyd Brown - White, Waneta Brown - White, Von Brown - White, Devon Brown - White, Don Brown - White, Ernest Brown - White, George Mundrake - White, Keith Brown - Red, Sharon Brown - Red, Eloise

Evans (Grandma) - White, Bill Evans - White, Joseph & Virginia Sumwalt - White, Bill Martin - Red, Ted Williams - Yellow, Sharon Williams - Red, William W. Williams - Yellow, Alyce Tinkel - White, Michael Herring - Yellow, Dustin Conner - Yellow, Roger J Horrell - White, Wayne & Joenita Keller - White, WM A Cramer - White, Donna & Arnold Conner - White, Frances E Cramer - White, Lynn Bonewitz - Yellow, Chris Hiner - Yellow, Sandy Cully - Red, Marvin & Linda Gephart - White, Cecil & Edith Schwob - White, Homer & Anna Margaret Gephart - White, Dale & Willadean Schwob - White, Jimmy Schwob - White, Bud & Shirley Miller - White, George Sliger - White, Ronnie Gephart - White, Jerry Gephart - White, Barbara S Preston - White, (WMD) Bill Preston - White, Stephen Holmes - White, Stephen Holmes - Yellow, Jerry Boyer - White, John Strait - White, Susan Craig - White, Guy Jackson - White, Carlene Jackson - White, Carl Hamilton - White, Curly & Pat Boxell - Red, Andrew Elliot - Yellow, Kim Penrod "Gigi" - White, Shannon

Deakayne - White, Ray Toole - Red, Marvin Reinke - White, Hugh & Lou Ann Shafer - White, Kimberly Anne Shafer - White, Santos Ricardo Salazon Villanueva - White, Harold Brauchla - White, Ann Brauchla - White, George & Helen Bentley - White, Fred & Lela Zimmerman - White, Bob Zimmerman - White, Vern & Maribelle Sparks - White, Dan Sparks - White, Bud Lee - White, Billy Lows Sr - White, Kahlen & Cooper Lows - Red, Angel Marie & Charley - White, Paul Ruble - White, Ada Ruble - White, Leander Morrison - White, Elsie Morrison - White, Brad Morrison - White, Brett Kiel - White, Robert Jones - Red, Jerry Haney - White, Austin Hartman - Red, Carl & Pauline Scheib - White, Lloyd & Gwen Maines - White, Mike Coolman - White, Jennifer Bergman - Yellow, Nipper, Doc and Pete - White, Kenneth M Harris - White, Bob & Mary Rittenhouse - White, Don & Maxine Pinkerton - White, Michele Stafford - White.

Money collected from Bow Sales helps to maintain the Town's Christmas lights every year.



*Wishing You and Yours a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year too!*

Thank you for your support in 2024. We're looking forward to 2025. Warren Weekly & the Zoda Family

**WARREN WEEKLY** • Owner/Publisher: Nicki L. Zoda  
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**Phone:** (260)375-6290 **e-mail:** editor@warrenweeklyindiana.com  
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**Kudos, Kicks & Karats**

**HOLIDAY STRESS BUSTERS**

by Bryan Golden

41% of those polled are stressed by the holidays. Fortunately, there are many ways to bust holiday stress.

Set realistic goals. Your expectations should correspond to your circumstances, time, and money. Don't try to outdo family and friends. You don't have to impress anyone.

A wonderful holiday season doesn't have to be expensive. Set a manageable budget and stick to it. Determine before you go shopping how much you will spend on food and presents. Entertaining doesn't have to cost a lot. Sumptuous meals can be prepared without expensive ingredients. Use your imagination and creativity.

If there are lots of people on your gift list, contact them and agree to a maximum cost for each gift. They will probably appreciate a pre-set spending limit as much as you will. Consider making your own gifts, such as baked goods or crafts.

A variety of free or low-cost activities are available. Many communities provide holiday programs such as parades and winter carnivals. Informal gatherings with friends and family can be lots of fun without obligating anyone to host a big party.

Accept relatives and friends for who they are. Put aside differences; don't try to resolve them during gatherings. Bringing up past issues will not add to the seasonal joy.

Divorced parents need to be extra sensitive to their children's emotions. Make children's needs a priority and avoid using them as pawns. Children want to spend time with both of their parents so work together to facilitate reciprocal visitation.

If you are hosting a meal or party, ask each guest to bring a dish. Delegate responsibilities to your spouse and children. Everyone will feel included and no one has to carry the full load.

Don't snap at others. Have rules and guidelines for older children returning home for the holidays. Ask guests to supervise their children if they get too rambunctious.


Plan ahead for what you want to accomplish before the holiday rush starts. You can pace yourself if you have enough time. Spreading out activities leaves you calmer and more relaxed.

Prioritize what you want to accomplish. Organize your time to allow for the most important tasks. Say no to requests that don't fit your plans. Be flexible.

Make time for yourself. Maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating properly, exercising, and getting enough sleep.


It's normal and ok to feel sad during the holidays. Life is unpredictable and brings many changes. Don't compare today with the good old days from your past. Take charge of your life. Don't act like a victim. Spend time with supportive and caring people. Help others by volunteering. Whenever you bring a smile to someone's face, you will feel better too.

Make realistic resolutions. Set goals you can accomplish. Don't abandon your resolutions after a few weeks. After the holidays, actively working towards your goals will keep you positive and focused on the good in life.



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 Warren IN  
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 to all your non-internet friends. The Warren Weekly can be read at the Warren Public Library!



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Drop off your news and advertising for the **Warren Weekly** at **Town Hall** Downtown Warren

<p><b>ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST</b>              8013W 1100S - 90, Montpelier              Nick Miller, Pastor              Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.              Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>BANQUO CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b>              8924S 900W 35              Harold Smith, Pastor              Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.              Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST</b>              Steve Nevius, Pastor              Denise Heiniger, S.S. Supt.              Sunday Worship ..... 9:30a.m.              Sunday School ..... 10:45a.m.</p> <p><b>CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b>              Van Buren, Indiana 765-934-2199              Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.              Youth Group 4:30-7:30pm at SwitchUp              Handicap Accessible              Little Panther Preschool 765.934.2099</p> <p><b>HEALING WATERS MINISTRY — 5811 W 600 S, MT ETNA</b>              Pastor Wayne Couch              260/515-2517              Sunday Prayer ..... 9:15 a.m.              Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.              Worship Service ..... 10:30 a.m.              Wednesday Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.              Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.              Daycare provided during Worship</p> <p><b>DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN</b>              8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779              Matt Kennedy, Pastor              Worship Service ..... 9:00a.m.              Sunday School ..... 10:00a.m.</p> <p><b>HANFIELD GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH</b>              101 N 400 E - Marion 765/664-8726              Curtis Banker, Senior Pastor              Worship..... 10:30 a.m.              Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.</p> <p><b>THE NEW BEGINNING</b>              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.</p> <p><b>HERITAGE POINTE</b>              Chaplains Ginny Sultz, John Moyer &amp; Cindy Osgood              Sunday Morning Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.              Mon-Fri Chapel Services ..... 9:15 a.m.              Sunday Catholic Mass ..... 1:00p.m.              Thurs. Catholic Mass ..... 10:30a.m.</p> <p><b>WARREN 1st BAPTIST CHURCH</b>              727 N Wayne St, Warren              260-375-2811              office@warrenfirsbaptist.net              Pastor Mark Joynerr              Youth Dir: Peter &amp; Mindy Fairchild              Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.              Sunday Worship .....10:00 a.m.              Youth Group: Grades 5-12 ...Sun 11:30              Ekklesia ..... Sun 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>HILLCREST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b>              375-2510              Pastor Gale Sonny Bloom, Jr.              Bus Service 375-2510              www.warrennaz.org              Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.              Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>SOLID ROCK CHURCH OF WARREN</b>              485 Bennett Dr, Warren, IN              375-3873              John Boyanowski, Pastor              Sunday School ..... 9:00 a.m.              Worship Service ..... 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>LANCASTER WESLEYAN</b>              3147 W 543 S, Huntington              765.251.2322              Ron Forsythe, Pastor              Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.              Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.              Wednesdays:              Bible Study &amp; Prayer ..... 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH</b>              694-6622              Aaron Westfall, Pastor              Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.              Fellowship ..... 10:00a.m.              Worship ..... 10:15a.m.              Tues. Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.              Wed. Choir ..... 6:30p.m.              Monthly Meetings              1<sup>st</sup> Mon Ministry Team ..... 7:00 p.m.              3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Mens Prayer Breakfast 8:00 am              4<sup>th</sup> Mon ABW ..... 1:30 pm</p> <p><b>LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH</b>              Pastor Diane Samuels              Fellowship Time .....9:00a.m.              Morning Worship .....9:30 a.m.              Sunday School ..... 10:45 a.m.</p> <p><b>THE CHURCH AT MCNATT</b>              375-4359              Daniel Tucker, Pastor              Lois Slusher, Supt.              Brittney Miller, Youth &amp; Family Dir.              Coffee Fellowship..... 8:30 a.m.              Worship ..... 9:15 a.m.              Sunday School ..... 10:30 a.m.              Bible Study - Wed. .... 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>MT. ETNA COMMUNITY LIFE CHURCH</b>              260/468-2148 Sr 9 &amp; 124              Rev. Michael Gallant - "Pastor Mike"              Good Morning Church (Sunday School for all ages .....9:00 - 9:45              Worship Service .....10:00 - 11:00              Everyone is Welcome</p> <p><b>SALAMONIE CHURCH OF BRETHREN</b>              468-2412              Mel Zumbrun, Pastor              Worship .....9:30 a.m.              Church School ..... 10:45a.m.</p>	<p><b>1st CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF WARREN</b>              375-2102              www.firstccw.net              Troy Drayer, Senior Pastor              Takarra Myers, Youth Director              office@firstccw.net              Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.              Wednesday Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.              Youth Sunday School during              Worship Service              Youth Group-Wed ..... 6:00 p.m.              Communion 1st Sunday of the Month</p> <p><b>VB CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b>              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.</p> <p><b>VB CHURCH OF THE VINE</b>              765-934-1431              Pastor Brad Hensley              vanburenchurchofthevine@gmail.com              Worship Service ..... 9:30 am              Sunday School ..... 10:45am              Not Home Alone - Wed ..... 3:00 pm              Prayer Group (Thur)..... 6:30pm              Men Serving God Group ... 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. 9am              Little Ones Book Club 1st Tue 10:00 am              Just Older Youth 3rd Tue ..... 12:00 pm</p> <p><b>WARREN CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>              375-3022              Mickey Strong, Senior Minister              Andrew Fisher, Youth Minister              Liz Richardson, Childrens MinistryAsst.              Tara Bower - Secretary              www.warrenchurchofchrist.org              Fellowship .....9:15 a.m.              Worship &amp; Communion .....9:30 a.m.              Sunday School .....11 to 11:50 a.m.              Youth:              K-6th grade, Mon ..... 6:15-7pm              Jr/Sr Hi, Sunday ..... 6-8pm</p> <p><b>FARRVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b>              11044 E 200 N, Marion, IN              765-618-0027              Pastor Al Sultz              Sunday Worship..... 10:30 am              Sunday School Classes .....9:30 am              Wed. Bible Study .....7:00 pm</p>
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*Please Attend The Church of Your Choice*

# AREA NEWS

## PREPARE TO FILE IN 2025: GET READY FOR TAX SEASON WITH KEY UPDATES, ESSENTIAL TIPS

With the 2025 filing season quickly approaching, the Internal Revenue Service encouraged taxpayers to take key steps now to prepare for filing their 2024 federal income tax returns next year.

The IRS continues to improve taxpayer services to help people prepare for tax season with more digital tools and options available. The IRS encourages taxpayers to sign up now for an IRS Online Account to make tax season easier and help safeguard their tax information.

There are a number of things taxpayers can do to get ready as the end of 2024 nears and the start of the 2025 tax season approaches.

The IRS's Get Ready page on IRS.gov offers practical tips and resources to help taxpayers prepare. It highlights key updates and important steps for taxpayers to consider to make tax filing easier in 2025.

This reminder is part of a series designed to help taxpayers "Get Ready" for the upcoming filing season. Taking action now can reduce stress and ensure a smoother filing process next year.

Do more with an IRS Online Account

Individuals can create or access their IRS Online Account at Online account for individuals. With an IRS Online Account, they can:

- \* View key details from their most recent tax return, such as adjusted gross income.
- \* Request an Identity Protection PIN.
- \* Get account transcripts to include wage and income records.
- \* Sign tax forms like powers of attorney or tax information authorizations.
- \* View and edit language preferences and alternative media.
- \* Receive and view over 200 IRS electronic notices.
- \* View, make and cancel payments.
- \* Set up or change payment plans and check their balance.

Get an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN)

An IP PIN is a six-digit number that prevents someone else from filing a federal tax return using an individual's Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. It's a vital tool for ensuring the safety of taxpayers' personal and financial information.

New for the 2025 filing season, the IRS will accept Forms 1040, 1040-NR and 1040-SS even if a dependent has already been claimed on a previously filed return, as long as the primary taxpayer on the second return includes a valid IP PIN. This change will reduce the time for the agency to receive the tax return and accelerate the issuance of tax refunds for those with duplicate dependent returns.

The best way to sign up for an IP PIN is through the IRS Online Account. If an individual is unable to create an Online Account, alternative methods are available, such as in-person authentication at a Taxpayer Assistance Center. More information is available on how to sign up at Get an identity protection PIN (IP PIN).

Deadline for 2024 last quarterly estimated payment is Jan. 15, 2025

Taxpayers with non-wage income—such as unemployment benefits, self-employment income, annuity payments or earnings from digital assets—may need to make estimated or additional tax payments. The Tax

Withholding Estimator on IRS.gov can help wage earners determine if they need to make an additional payment to avoid an unexpected tax bill when filing their return.

1099-K reporting changes Taxpayers who received more than \$5,000 in payments for goods and services through an online marketplace or payment app in 2024 should expect to receive a Form 1099-K in January 2025. A copy of this form will be sent to the IRS as well.

Although the IRS is taking a phased in approach to implementation of the Form 1099-K reporting threshold, there have been no changes to the taxability of income. All income, including proceeds from part-time work, side jobs or the sale of goods and services is taxable. Taxpayers must report all income on their tax return unless it's excluded by law, whether they receive a Form 1099-K or not. The law doesn't allow taxpayers to avoid taxes on income earned just because they didn't get a form reporting the payments received.

It is important for taxpayers to understand why they received a Form 1099-K and how to use it along with their other records to figure and report the correct amount of income on their tax return. It is also important for taxpayers to know what to do if they received a Form 1099-K but shouldn't have. In either

situation, good recordkeeping is key. Having good records will help make tax filing easier.

Prepare to include digital assets on taxes in 2025

Just like previous filing years, taxpayers must report all digital asset-related income when they file their 2024 federal income tax return. A digital asset is property that is stored electronically and can be bought, sold, owned, transferred or traded. Examples include convertible virtual currencies and cryptocurrencies, stablecoins and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

If a taxpayer had digital asset transactions last year, they should be sure to keep records that prove their purchase, receipt, sale, exchange or any other disposition of the digital assets and that includes the fair market value, as measured in U.S. dollars of all digital assets received as income or as a payment in the ordinary course of a trade or business.

When filing 2024 federal income tax returns, taxpayers will be asked to answer "Yes" or "No" to the following question:

"At any time during the tax year, did you:

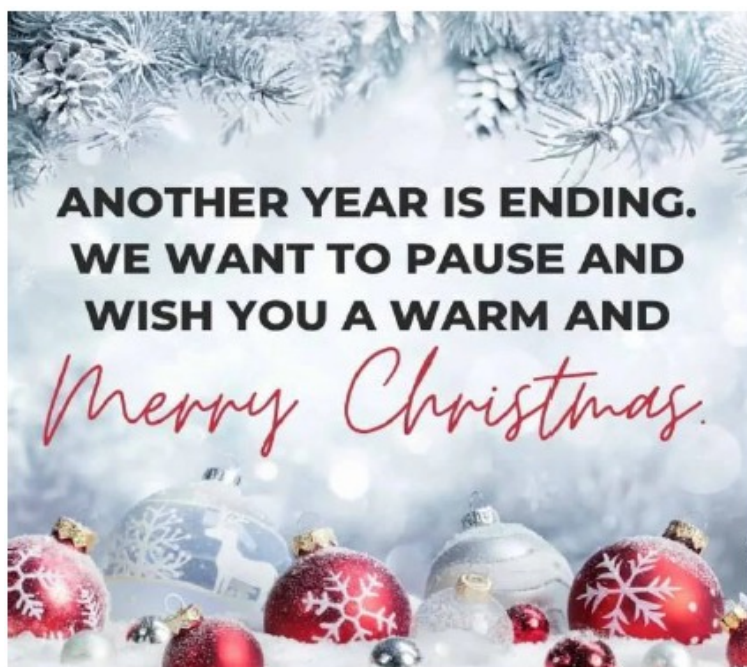
- (a) receive (as a reward, award or payment for property or services); or
- (b) sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of a digital asset (or a financial interest in a digital asset)?"

Taxpayers should be prepared to answer the question by reviewing the digital assets landing page and FAQ available on IRS.gov. In addition to checking the "Yes" box, taxpayers must report all income related to their digital asset transactions. Information on how to report digital asset transactions, including calculating capital gain or loss, determining basis and reporting the income on the correct form can also be found on the digital assets landing page.

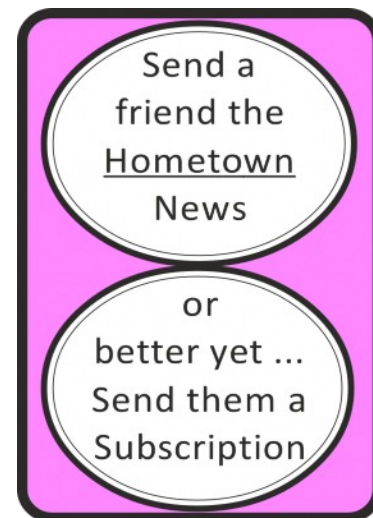
Understand refund timing and how to avoid delays

Several factors can influence the timing of a refund after the IRS receives a tax return. While the IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days, taxpayers are advised not to depend on receiving a 2024 federal tax refund by a specific date for major purchases or bill payments. Some returns may require additional review and take longer to process if there are possible errors, missing information, or indications of identity theft or fraud.

**CONTINUED PAGE 4**



- Jeff



### Community Calendar

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

Dec 24		Christmas Eve
Dec 25		Christmas Day
Dec 31		New Year's Eve
Jan 1		New Year's Day
Jan 8	Noon	W - Chamber Luncheon @ KBC
Jan 8	7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall
Jan 13	6:00p	W - Town Council @ Assembly Hall
Jan 14	6:30p	W - SSF Meeting
Jan 15	7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall

**Bread of Life Food Pantry - Wednesdays - 2 - 4:00pm at KBC;**  
**Bargain Basement - Friday & Saturday - 9 - 4 at KBC**  
**These Events Can Also Be Found at [www.warrenweeklyindiana.com](http://www.warrenweeklyindiana.com)**

## AREA NEWS CONTINUED

**MORE PAGE 3**

Additionally, under the PATH Act, the IRS cannot issue refunds for tax returns claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) before mid-February. The IRS must hold the entire refund—not just the portion associated with these credits—until the review is complete.

Gather and organize 2024 tax documents

To make tax time easier, taxpayers should establish an effective record-keeping system, either electronic or paper, to organize all important documents in one place. This includes year-end income forms such as Forms W-2 from employers, Forms 1099 from banks or other payers, Forms 1099-K from third-party payment networks, Forms 1099-NEC for nonemployee compensation, Forms 1099-MISC for miscellaneous income, Forms 1099-INT for interest income and records of all digital asset transactions.

Having all necessary documentation ensures taxpayers can file an accurate return and reduces the likelihood of processing delays or refund issues.

Use direct deposit for a faster refund

Filing electronically and selecting direct deposit remains the fastest and safest way for taxpayers to receive their 2024 tax refunds. Direct deposit ensures quicker access to refunds compared to receiving a paper check.

For those without a bank account, resources are available to help. Individuals can learn how to open an account at an FDIC-insured bank or use the national Credit Union Locator tool. Veterans can explore the Veterans Benefits Banking Program for financial services at participating banks.

Tax refunds can also be deposited onto prepaid debit cards or through mobile payment apps, provided they have routing and account numbers. Taxpayers should confirm with the mobile app provider or financial institution which numbers to use when completing their tax return.

Free filing options  
Seventy percent of all taxpayers can use free brand name tax software to prepare and file their federal income tax return electronically using IRS Free File. All taxpayers, regardless of income level, can also use IRS Free File Fillable Forms.

Taxpayers living in participating states with relatively simple tax returns can use Direct File and file their tax return online directly with the IRS. The Direct File program is another option for taxpayers to file their taxes. Taxpayers can see if they are eligible for Direct File.

Older adults, members of the military and many other taxpayers—depending on their income—may also qualify for free tax return preparation and electronic filing by IRS-trained volunteers through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax

Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs.

**STATE PARK PROPERTIES TO OFFER FIRST DAY HIKES ON NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Usher in 2025 with other outdoor lovers at one of the many First Day Hikes offered Jan. 1 at Indiana's state parks and lakes.

First Day Hikes are a healthy way to start the new year. They offer a chance to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature, and connect with friends. Find one near you at [on.IN.gov/INStateParkEvents](http://on.IN.gov/INStateParkEvents).

The hikes are organized by Indiana State Parks in cooperation with America's State Parks. They will take place in all 50 states. First Day Hikes originated more than 20 years ago at the Blue Hills Reservation, a state park in Milton, Massachusetts. The program was launched to foster healthy lifestyles and promote year-round recreation at state parks. For more information, visit [America's State Parks website at stateparks.org](http://America's State Parks website at stateparks.org).

The hikes are listed below. More may be added, so check the website if your favorite place isn't listed. Make sure to wear sturdy, comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.

\* Brookville Lake. Meet at the Campground Shelter at Mounds State Recreation Area at 11 a.m. to hike the Wildlife Wander Trail, a .75-mile hike that should take approximately 45 minutes.

\* Brown County State Park. Two hikes will be offered. A .25-mile accessible hike on the Friends Trail will take place at 10 a.m.

Meet at the park office. Hot chocolate will be available there afterward. A moderate 1.2-mile hike will take place on Trail 7 at noon. Meet at Ogle Lake. A bonfire and treat will be available after the hike at Ogle Lake Picnic Shelter.

\* Chain O'Lakes State Park. Meet at the boat rental parking lot at 11 a.m. This guided hike is about 1.5 miles over easy terrain and should last about 1.5 hours. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served afterward. A \$1 donation for the cookies is suggested.

\* Charlestown State Park. Meet at the parking lot at 10 a.m. for a 2.5-mile hike to Rose Island on trails 3 and 4. This hike takes approximately two hours and is considered moderately rugged.

\* Clifty Falls State Park. Meet at Clifty Shelter at 10 a.m. This 1.5-hour moderately rugged hike is on trails 7 and 6, which meander along the east side of Clifty Creek with scenic views of the canyon below. Refreshments will be provided afterward.

\* Deam Lake State Recreation Area. Meet at the parking lot at the entrance of the campground at 10 a.m. for a 2-mile hike of the Lake Vista Loop. Runners of any level can meet at the same location to complete a 3- or 5-mile loop through the campground and adjacent roads.

Hot chocolate and snacks will be provided afterward.

\* Falls of the Ohio State Park. Meet at the Interpretive Center at 1 p.m. for an exploration hike to the fossil beds. Learn about Devonian sea life as well as plants and animals that live along the river's edge. Bring binoculars to look for winter birds. The Interpretive Center will offer access to restrooms before and after the hike but will otherwise be closed.

\* Fort Harrison State Park. Meet at Delaware Lake Shelter at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. for a 2-mile hike on Harrison Trace, a paved trail. Hot chocolate will be provided at noon.

\* Hardy Lake. Meet at the main trailhead for an easy ¾-mile introductory birding hike at 11 a.m.

\* Harmonie State Park. Meet at the campground overflow parking lot at 1 p.m. CT for a hike of Trail 5. Hot cocoa and cookies will be available afterward, and donations are welcome.

\* Indiana Dunes State Park. Meet at the City West Shelter for a 2-mile-long loop along the beach and Trail 7 starting at 10 a.m. Enjoy snacks and a cozy campfire provided by Friends of the Indiana Dunes.

**CONTINUED PAGE 6**

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## GENEALOGY REPORT

### O'BRIEN

Paul A. O'Brien, 83 of Marion, Indiana, passed away on Monday, December 16, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Paul was born on May 19, 1941, in Indianapolis, IN, to Charles and Mable (Davis) O'Brien. He graduated from Manilla High School in 1959. Paul earned the Ross Reid Memorial award for being an outstanding basketball player in 1959. He attended Butler College and graduated from Ball State in 1977.

Paul married Neta June (Stallsmith) O'Brien on July 7, 1963, at the Van Buren Methodist Church. Paul worked for Roberts and Schaefer as a Controller in Chicago, IL for 25 years. Paul and June attended Center Chapel Church in rural Marion, Indiana. Paul had many hobbies and interests including gardening, bowling, playing euchre, IU Sports, and the St. Louis Cardinals. He was a man with both smarts and a sense of humor. Paul was a devoted family man and kept his family as his focus.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Mable O'Brien.

Loving survivors include his wife of 61 years, Neta June O'Brien of Marion, IN, sons, Randy O'Brien of Van Buren, IN, and Mike (Justine) O'Brien of Zionsville, IN, grandchildren, Derek (Kirstin) O'Brien of Anderson, IN, Conner (Samantha) O'Brien of Pendleton, IN, Tyler (Ashlee) O'Brien of Richmond, KY, Rachel O'Brien, of Indianapolis, IN, Kevin O'Brien of Chicago, IL, Nathan O'Brien of Jersey City, NJ, Michelle O'Brien of Cincinnati, OH, and Elizabeth Stallsmith of Marion, IN, brother, Roger (Martie) O'Brien of Lakeland, FL, and special friend, Richard Woolsey of Marion, IN.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember at Center Chapel Church located at 8733 E 200 S Marion, IN 46953, on Friday,

December 20, 2024, from 10am to 1:30pm. A funeral service will begin at 1:30pm with Pastor Mark Sanders officiating. Burial will follow at the Van Buren Cemetery in Van Buren, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to: Center Chapel Church

Arrangements have been entrusted to Ferguson & Glancy Funeral Home in Van Buren, Indiana.

### SOUERS

John Maurice Souers, 94, of Warren, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.



He was born on March 9, 1930, in Huntington County to Ira and Ruth (Boyd) Souers.

John graduated from Jefferson Township High School in 1948.

He worked as a farmer for six years and for Schenkel Dairy for 50 years.

John married Doris (Wilcoxson) Souers on July 4, 1982, at Jefferson Center Church.

He loved spending time outdoors, mowing, and tending to his home. John had attended Jefferson Center Church and Solid Rock Church throughout his lifetime.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Ira and Ruth Souers.

Loving survivors include his wife, Doris Souers, of Warren; children, David Souers, of Warren, and Linda (Dan) Ice, of Swayzee; grandchildren, Mike Dail, Jerry Dail, Amanda (Chris) Thompson-Zahn and Heather (Chris) Zell; great-grandchildren, Bri, Logan, Christopher, Autumn, Jordan, Olivia, Adyson, Trevor, Chase, Megan, Nora, Nolan, Charlie and Bella.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember at Heritage Pointe, Applegate Chapel, 801 Huntington Ave., Warren, on Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, from 1 to 7 p.m. and again on

Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, from 10 to 11 a.m.

A funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday with Chaplain Ginny Soultz officiating.

Burial will follow at Lancaster Cemetery, Huntington County.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Solid Rock Church, 485 Bennett Dr., Warren, IN 46792 or Heritage Pointe General Fund, 801 Huntington Ave., Warren, IN 46792.

### BOLLHOEFER

Lisa Rene Bollhoefer, 60, of Jonesboro, passed away at 10:10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana, Fort Wayne.

She was born in Marion on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 1964, to Verlie and Judy (Williams) Crouch.

On July 23, 1988, she married Gregory Bollhoefer who survives.

Lisa graduated from Eastbrook High School Class of 1982.

She worked as a massage therapist for 15 years.

Lisa was a 20-year member of Lighthouse Assembly of God, Marion.

She loved to cook from scratch, never from a box for her family.

Lisa enjoyed canning and loved her flower gardening, with her favorite being hostas.

She loved to read the Bible, cookbooks and crime and mystery.

Lisa enjoyed horses, watching old movies and, most of all, being with her grandkids.

Survivors include her mother, Judy A. Malone, of Fairmount; husband, Gregory Bollhoefer, of Jonesboro; son, Aaron (Abby) Bollhoefer, of Willow Park, Texas; daughters, Elizabeth (Tyler) Gallaway, of Marion, Sierra (Josh) Stoffer, of Marion, and Michelle Lowe, of Wabash; daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Runyan; grandchildren, Brooklynn, Maverick, Rylie, Karlee, Leona, Remington and Makenna; sisters, Jodie (Mark) Stevens, of Jonesboro, and Alicia Lewis, of Fairmount; several nieces,

nephews and cousins; special friends, Helen and Anita.

Lisa was preceded in death by her father, Verlie A. Crouch, stepfather, James F. Malone, and cherished grandparents.


The family will receive visitors from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St., Gas City.

A service to celebrate Lisa's life will be at 11 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 30, 2024, at Lighthouse Assembly of God, 5909 S. Jay St., Marion, with Pastor Jerry Gallaway officiating.

Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery, Gas City.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Lighthouse Assembly of God, 5909 S. Jay St., Marion, IN 46953.

### SHELLEY

 Donald Dean Shelley age 82, Palmetto, Florida died December 14, 2024.

He was born July 20, 1942 and was a graduate from

Salamonie Township High School in 1960. Don proudly served in the military in the US Army. He worked in accounting and computers in Oklahoma and Indiana. He moved to Florida in 1995 and became an owner/manager of a motel in Sarasota. He was married in 1966 to Viola Ridley they had two sons Gregory (deceased) and Scott. Don has six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

He loved to play the organ and through the years of group lessons Don had built many quality friendships. He was also blessed by having great neighbors whose friendship he cherished. Until Covid Don was an active member of First Baptist Church Palmetto where he served in the kitchen on family nights. Don will always be remembered for his quick wit, his smile and compassion for others.

There will be a memorial service for Don on Tuesday, January 7 at First Baptist Church Palmetto, FL at 2 o'clock.

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## AREA NEWS CONTINUED

### MORE PAGE 4

\* Interlake Off-road State Recreation Area. Participants must provide their own ORV. All ORV rules and regulations apply. Interlake will be open, and participants can stop in the office to purchase their 2025 ORV pass.

\* Lieber State Recreation Area. Meet at the campground parking lot for a 1.5-mile hike at 10 a.m. on the newest trail at Lieber SRA. Hot chocolate, cookies and a warm fire will be available afterward at the Nature Center.

\* Lincoln State Park. Meet at the Nature Center at noon CT for a hike across the dam to the Civilian Conservation Corps camp at the front of the property. The hike will showcase the CCC's lasting impact on the park.

\* McCormick's Creek State Park. Meet at Centennial Shelter for hot chocolate and cookies, then hike along the Echo Canyon Trail at your own pace. The event runs from 1 to 4 p.m.

\* Mississinewa Lake. Join Upper Wabash Interpretive Services staff at 10 a.m. for a 1-mile stroll through the woods. Dress for the weather. Friendly dogs on leashes are welcome. Advance registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127.

\* Monroe Lake. Meet at the Bay View Shelter in Fairfax State Recreation Area for the annual First Day Trail Run/Walk. Participants can choose from a 1.3-, 2.9-, or 3.7-mile course. Advance registration is available through Dec. 30 for \$15 at [bit.ly/monroefirstday](http://bit.ly/monroefirstday). Same-day registration is \$20, cash or check only.

\* Mounds State Park. Meet at the Nature Center at 5:30 p.m. for a guided hike to the Great Mound. The hike is along the paved accessible path and lasts approximately 45 minutes. The Nature Center will open at 4:30 p.m. to welcome hikers.

\* O'Bannon Woods State Park. Join the park staff at Wyandotte

Woods State Recreation Area at 10 a.m. for a half-hour tour of Little Wyandotte Cave.

\* Ouabache State Park. Meet at the bison enclosure parking lot at 10 a.m. for a hike around the bison enclosure. The hike is on a mostly level gravel surface and includes a stop at the feeding station to observe the bison up close.

\* Patoka Lake. Meet at the Nature Center at noon for a .6-mile hike of Trail 4. Hot chocolate will be available afterward.

\* Pokagon State Park. Enjoy a 2.5-mile hike through the park's beautiful winter landscapes. The hike will begin at the CCC Shelter at 9 a.m. Refreshments provided by the Friends of Pokagon will be available after the hike at the CCC Shelter. Parking is available in the main beach and CCC Shelter parking lots.

\* Potato Creek State Park. Meet at 2 p.m. at the Nature Center for a 1-mile moderate hike on Trail 1, then warm up around the fire with s'mores and hot drinks. Bring binoculars in hopes of seeing eagles and other wildlife.

\* Prophetstown State Park. Meet at the Coneflower Shelter in Prairie View Picnic Area at 1 p.m. for an easy 2-mile hike.

\* Raccoon State Recreation Area. Meet at 1 p.m. at the beach house for a hike about some of the history hidden in plain sight around the beach area.

\* Redbird Off-road State Recreation Area. Meet at the office at 11 a.m. for a motorized "hike."

\* Shades State Park. Meet at Hickory Shelter at 11 a.m. for a rugged hike of Trail 1, which will include Devil's Punch Bowl, Silver Cascade Falls, and Prospect Point. Come a few minutes early for a warm beverage and a treat.

\* Salamonie Lake. Hike along Salamonie Lake's Tree Trail and enjoy s'mores afterward. Meet at the Interpretive Center at 4:30 p.m. Advance registration is

requested by calling 260-468-2127.

\* Shakamak State Park. Meet at the Historic Log Cabin for a hike at 1 p.m. Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided afterward.

\* Spring Mill State Park. Meet at Spring Mill Inn at 9 a.m. for a 1.5-hour hike through three nature preserves. Meet at Gus Grissom Memorial parking lot at 10 a.m. for a .25-mile accessible hike on Trail 6 with great views of the karst landscape. Afterward, meet at Spring Mill Inn for hot chocolate and snacks in the Lakeview Room.

\* Starve Hollow State Recreation Area. Meet at the Forest Education Center at 2 p.m. for a hike around the campground and lake's edge. Hot chocolate will be provided.

\* Summit Lake State Park. Meet at the park office at 9 a.m. to enjoy coffee and snacks. At 10 a.m., join park staff for a prairie hike.

\* Tippecanoe River State Park. Meet at the fire tower parking lot at 11 a.m. for this .5-mile hike, which will include a talk on the

history of the fire tower and its preservation.

\* Turkey Run State Park. Meet at the Turkey Run Inn lobby at 11 a.m. for a guided hike through Rocky Hollow. Hiking boots are recommended. Warm beverages and treats will be provided in the Strauss Room of the inn at 10 a.m.

\* Versailles State Park. Meet at the Oak Grove Shelter parking lot for a challenging 3-mile hike of Trail 1. Refreshments provided afterward at Oak Grove Shelter.

\* Whitewater Memorial State Park. Meet at Poplar Grove Shelter at 2 p.m. for a 2.5-mile hike of the Memorial Loop Trail that should take approximately 90 minutes.

### BRANSON CHRISTMAS TRIP DAY # 1

by Larry Ryan  
On December 2, 2024 with an air temperature of 14 degrees in town, the black, number 512 bus headed south towards Missouri at 8:30 am. Soon after entering I-69, an adjacent, a roadside fence was spotted that had been crushed by an apparent rogue vehicle. I

immediately fastened my seatbelt.

After adding more passengers at the Marion and Daleville exits, the driver motored past two fake moose posing in an empty lot. On a recent trip to the northeast US, we never saw a live moose. Disappointment happens. Goats were spotted along I-69. Their long, winter coats of hair caused them to resemble mountain goats. The non-mountainous, highest point in Indiana is north of Richmond. My wife and I took a granddaughter there on a 4th Grade, History trip. She had to climb over a privacy fence to stand on the actual, flat spot.

After passing the Nestle Plant west of Anderson, a truck with lettering, "I'd rather be driving a Harley, but this b.... pays the bills" was left in the bus exhaust. Our driver expertly handled the road construction in Indianapolis and joined I-70 which passed the airport and FedEx complex in this westward adventure.



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## AREA NEWS CONTINUED

At 12:05 the Terra Haute, off ramp was avoided and soon the Wabash River was crossed. We were 180 miles from St. Louis. A new time zone was entered and snow flurries became visible. Two fields of Sorghum had stalks standing erect and a flock of birds were enjoying spilled corn kernels in another field. It was 11:45 when the bus departed from a rest stop and passed a tanker truck with "American Oil; American Jobs" inscribed on it.

The traveling group stopped in Effingham, Illinois where the ground was white with frozen flakes. Lunch was enjoyed at Niemerg's Steakhouse. I chose chopped sirloin, salad bar, and tapioca pudding. We departed at 2 pm and passed billboards for Dhifston Pueblo Indian Crafts and Meramec Caverns. Snowing intensified! Along the way, 4 oil well pumps were in action and the driver motored past a Lincoln Historic Site near Vandalia. He also sped past Mulberry Grove and Keyesport exits. The snowing ceased. After purposely missing Beaver Creek and Greenville, a sign indicated that St. Louis was 41 miles ahead.

After eluting Pocahontas and Paul Simon Freeway departures, the bus joined I-55 as the sky turned to medium gray. At 3:20, the St. Louis Arch was spotted. The mighty Mississippi River was traversed five minutes later. The driver located I-44 west and passed the St. Louis University campus. Row houses and automobiles had an inch of snow coverings. An attorney's billboard advertisement added letters that read: "Feliz Lawvidad."

At 3:40 the bus took an exodus from the interstate highway and entered the Lindenwood Park District in St. Louis. The area was occupied by mostly large, square, brick houses and accompanied by same-shaped garages. On Jamison Avenue, the driver stopped at Ted Drewes Famous Frozen Custard shop. The owner has been in business for over 80 years and sells Christmas trees seasonally. My wife and I did not participate and stayed on the bus. Our stomachs had no space for a treat.

Afterwards, while migrating westward, the drive drove by "Santa's Magical Kingdom" with

gold lights on several trees. The next sign that appeared stated, "Gobble, Gobble; Go Easy on the Throttle." Surprisingly, we spotted a Hornsby truck from Uniondale, IN in the middle of Missouri. As sunset approached at 5 o'clock, a bronze color stared at us between the horizon and the low clouds.

After passing the Wild Animal Adventure and Doolittle Acres mobile home park, it was dark! The Comfort Inn at Fort Leonard Wood, MO was located by 6:40. After moving the luggage and brushing teeth, the bus gathered the tired passengers to a rendezvous at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Broccoli Casserole, corn bread, and fruit cup satisfied the hunger.

Leave early tomorrow for Branson and a Clay Cooper morning show.

### JUST NEED A HUG

by Daris Howard

I don't get much chance to play Santa, but I like to when I can. And I never do it for pay because that takes away from the reason I do it. Each time I get the chance to brighten the lives of children, I always feel it is I who come away better for the experience.

This year, I was Santa for a big group of children. The director sent me instructions on when to come in. At the right time, I jingled the bells in my hand and made my way into the hall. As I stood waving, before going to take my place, a young girl, about three years old, came over and hugged my knees.

I knelt down and talked to her. I asked her if she was going to come up and visit with me. In wide-eyed wonder, she nodded. As she and I were talking, a little boy on the first row saw me. He put down what he was playing with and came running with arms spread wide. He threw his arms around my neck and hugged me for quite some time before his mother called to him. When he pulled away, I also asked him if he was going to come up and see me. He nodded vehemently.

Once I was settled in the chair that was prepared for me, the children flocked to get in line. With the children in the group and all of their siblings, there were probably more than fifty of them.

One of the first to come to me was a little girl who was around seven. She stopped in front of me and looked right into my eyes.

"Are you the real Santa?" she asked.

I love to help children believe in the magic of Christmas, and I laughed a deep Santa chuckle. "Of course I am."

"Then am I naughty, or am I nice?" she said in a somewhat defiant tone.

I considered the type of child that would ask such a question and used that logic to answer. "You," I replied, "are a bit mischievous. But you are still a good girl."

I must have nailed it. Her face showed her amazement. "You are the real Santa!"

She then leaned up close and told me that for Christmas, she really wanted an American Girl doll. I talked to her briefly about American Girl movies, and she left with a candy cane.

One little girl asked me for a robot cat.

"Do you have a dog to terrorize with it?" She said no, so I said, "Then what fun is a robot cat?"

Her parents laughed. I told them that when I was in New York, there was a place that trained cats to be like watchdogs. They called them attack cats. But the problem was, the cats could not quickly distinguish their owners, and the cats often attacked their owners.

Near the end of the line came the boy who had hugged me. When it was his turn, I pulled him onto my lap.

"What would you like for Christmas?" I asked.

Though he was plenty old to speak, he said nothing. Instead, he threw his arms around my neck and hugged me tightly for some time. I hugged him back and felt there was more to his hug than just a child's love for the magic of Christmas. When he finally let go, and I looked into his face, he was smiling a happy smile.

"Is there anything else you want?" I asked.

He shook his head, so I grabbed a pretty blue candy cane. "I'm sure you could use this."

He gave me another big hug, smiled, took the candy cane, and headed on his way.

His mother said, "I'm sorry he hugged you so tightly and for so long."

I smiled. "It's okay. Even Santa needs hugs now and then."

"He lost his father some time ago," she said, "and he hasn't spoken a word since then. He also has hardly let anyone touch him. Maybe in Santa he feels a little of the love of his father."

After she left, I pondered what she said. Maybe there was a bigger reason I enjoyed playing the part of Santa. At this time of year when we celebrate the birth of He who loved children most, perhaps playing Santa helps me experience a portion of that love He has for them.

(Daris Howard, award-winning, syndicated columnist, playwright, and author, can be contacted at [daris@darishoward.com](mailto:daris@darishoward.com); or visit his website at <http://www.darishoward.com>, to buy his books.)

### TRUE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

by Bryan Golden

Among other things, the holidays are a time of giving and receiving gifts. The question most often asked of people is, "what did you get?" Much less frequently asked is, "what did you give?" Invariably, the inquiries concern material gifts. Purchasing a gift can certainly be thoughtful and a wonderful gesture, especially when it's backed up by your actions.

However, the most valuable presents are those that aren't sold in stores. When you give your love, your time, help someone in need, aid another in solving a problem or overcoming an obstacle, you give something priceless.

The true spirit of the holidays is giving. When you give, you receive. You can get anything in life you want by helping enough others get what they want. But only if you give without expecting anything in return. The impact of giving isn't limited to just the holiday season, it's something that has value all year.

The power of giving is often underestimated. When you give unconditionally, you don't just impact the recipient; you start a chain reaction. By brightening the life of one person you also affect all those who they then touch.

No gesture of giving or kindness is too small. Holding the door open at a store, helping someone carry groceries to their car,

letting another car in front of you, saying please and thank you, and saying hello to a stranger you pass on the sidewalk, are some of the many things you can do daily.

For family and friends, your time is one of the most precious gifts you can offer. Are you there for others when they need you? Do you offer a hand without being asked? Do you help out when asked?

Too often, people get caught up in their own desires, thus losing sight of the needs of others. A person who tries to get through life by looking out for himself or herself first is invariably frustrated. Often this person views life as a competition to determine who can accumulate more.

On the other hand, those who are concerned for the wellbeing of others are happier, more content, and more satisfied. By giving without expecting, they in turn receive the things they need.

Giving is a simple concept that works every time it is applied. There will be people who don't appreciate what you do, but it doesn't matter. You are giving without anticipating anything in return. Besides, there will be many more who are thankful for your efforts.

If you don't treat others well, buying a gift won't compensate for your behavior. The recipient might like what you give them but it won't make up for your actions. You can't bribe someone to forgive the way you treat them with a present.

The best gift you can receive is the joy of making someone else happy. Being unselfish is a wonderful way to live. When you give with no ulterior motives, your actions are seen as genuine. Should you expect something in return, your behavior is always suspect. We all know people who do nice things only when they want something in return.

Make giving a daily routine. Don't start and end with the holiday season. Every day is a good day to do something nice. When people feel good due to your actions, you can't help but feel happy yourself. And that is priceless. The most significant action you can take is having a positive impact on the lives of others.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at [Bryan@columnist.com](mailto:Bryan@columnist.com) or visit [www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com](http://www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com) Copyright 2024 Bryan Golden