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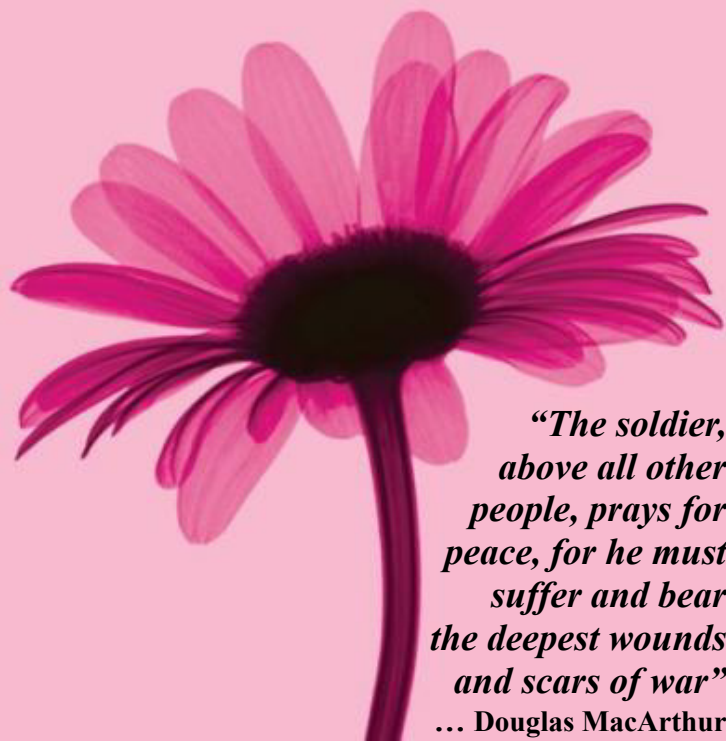

Good Neighbor News

SATURDAY, September 19, 2009

FREE

"Strengthening our local economy"

AGNeighborNews@aol.com

1st Year, No. 6

**"The soldier,
above all other
people, prays for
peace, for he must
suffer and bear
the deepest wounds
and scars of war"
... Douglas MacArthur**

Nean Smith. Does the name sound familiar? It is a name synonymous, in our area, with a certain event. Many men, women, children in our community have been affected by this woman's quiet, yet strong voice. Nean is a woman with a cause, a purpose ... and it's personal. Her purpose, if you will, is one that has so obviously been appointed by God. Whether you believe in God or not does not matter in the telling of this true story. This is a story, that if you haven't heard it before, may touch your heart, and if you have then you know it is one that is worth hearing again and again.

Nean is an unassuming woman. She is one of the most humble "soldiers" I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. She wants no personal accolades; yet she is deserving. She will be the first to tell you that she is nothing without her God. She will tell you that all of the glories, the praise, and the gratitude belong to God.

So, you may ask ... who is this woman and what local event does she champion? I will tell you. Not only does Nean "champion" this event every year, this cause, this race to find a cure to, in her words, "stomp out cancer" ... she "authored" it.

Before we talk about the event though ... let us go back 5 years in time and change gears.

Nean was in for just another routine doctor's appointment. After her examination her doctor casually mentioned to her that she may want to have a mammogram. So, upon that advice, she did. That mammogram led to a PET scan, a bone scan, a heart scan and other scans too numerous to mention here. These scans led her doc-

tor to suggest a needle biopsy of Nean's breast. Ah, the needle biopsy ... nothing to fret over ... right??? Dr. Laura Morris was Nean's oncology surgeon. She assured Nean that this biopsy would just be a little uncomfortable. Let's agree to just call it a necessary step in solving a mystery.

I sat down with Nean on September 1st this year and asked her several questions, one of which was:

(Brenda) "Nean ... how did you feel about the biopsy ... were you scared?"

(Nean) "At the very first I just felt like let's get this over with..." she paused and took a deep breath ... "and then, then I felt like I was stuck in mud and I was trying to climb out but I couldn't."

The needle biopsy confirmed that Nean had breast cancer. Dr. Laura Morris immediately counseled Nean that a lumpectomy would be a sound direction to eradicate the cancer. The lumpectomy was scheduled. (Brenda) "How did you feel now?" (Nean) "Stuck in the mud, again."

As Nean was being prepped for surgery, the pastor there asked her if she would like to be anointed prior to her surgery, she didn't hesitate ... "yes" ... and so she was. She said although she had never had surgery of any kind prior to her surgery that day, she felt a huge blanket of peace wash over her. Gary and several friends accompanied Nean to that lumpectomy. Gary is the other half of Nean; he is her best friend, her confidante, her husband. He had no idea going into that appointment that he would have to make an excruciatingly difficult decision; for not long into the lumpectomy procedure (as Nean was still under) Dr. Laura

Morris had to step away to have a word with him. The cancer had been more aggressive than first believed ... a mastectomy was highly recommended. Dr. Morris felt it was imperative that they take it all now ... and not wait. She counseled Gary that if he didn't make that decision for Nean now that she would certainly be seeing Nean back on the operating table in the near future. All of Nean's friends who were there in attendance assured Gary that Nean would be just fine with whatever decision he came to. A mastectomy was performed.

Nean remembers waking up in recovery and Dr. Morris telling her how sorry she was but that they had to "take it all."

Into Nean's life came Dr. Pennington; Nean's oncologist. After accessing Nean's medical records, he sat Nean down and told her (with tears in his eyes) ... "if you were my own daughter I would urge you to have these treatments (chemo and radiation)." Nean said she knew in that moment that "here was a doctor that wanted me to live. He wanted me to live."

After 8 rounds of 3 different types of chemo and 38 rounds of radiation she is wondrously alive and vibrant and thankful! Her release from her treatments was celebrated with cake ... a perfect little cake, actually, that had the words CELEBRATE LIFE in pink icing on top. Nean was convicted that she would do just that ... every little moment ... every day. Night after night she would fall to sleep, thankful; only to be wakened in the night feeling that the Lord was giving her direction. Bit by bit the dawn of realization hit. Faith dictated that she set about making her own fliers, talking to everyone and anyone who would listen about her purpose, her goal. Stacy Pletcher at Rulli's was instrumental in having the shirts printed. Greencroft allowed Nean to hold her 1st event on their property. Hawkins donated all of the water. Nean baked all of the cookies, the brownies, the refreshments. This woman was driven! That first year 119 ... yes, 119 walkers responded! Have you realized the event we are referring to yet? It is **MIDDLEBURY WALKS FOR A CURE**. That very first event dictated that a new place be found to host any successive events as this woman's purpose had already outgrown its original "home". Das Essenhaus has generously "stepped up to the plate" to host this very necessary celebration for all of the years since. Last year there were 419 walkers and 68 runners participating in the event that raised over

\$21,000.00 and was launched from one woman's obedience to God as well as her determination in finding a cure so that no other woman, man, or family should have to experience, firsthand, the disease of breast cancer.

Here we are ... 5 years later and looking forward to this very special time of celebration, courage and determination! When I asked Nean if she were given the opportunity to announce a very public "thank you" to anyone involved in her cancer care and treatment her eyes quickly welled up with tears, yet a beautiful smile found its way to her lips and she nodded, momentarily unable to speak. "Yes ... my husband; Gary, my sons; Ryan, Shawn, and Cory ... my church, my friends ..." as I, too, was moved to tears at that point Nean leaned forward and said "everyone just steps up ... they just step up". So many people, doctors, nurses, clinical secretaries & assistants ... everyone embraced her and supported her in fighting her fight and winning.

Speaking of fighting; Nean felt early on that Middlebury needed their own symbol for this event ... one that "stood out" from the common pink ribbon we are all familiar with ... one that was just for those here that were effected/affected/infected by this hostile disease ... one that symbolized faith, courage and hope ... and her son, Shawn delivered. Shawn's creation speaks to all of us in a very loud and resounding way ... as does his mother's determination. She gives hope to all who have suffered or are suffering at the hand of cancer ... every type of cancer.

My final question to Nean was ... "Do you ever hope for a certain outcome, either monetary or otherwise from this event?"

Without hesitation she responded, "No" ... "whatever God wants ... that's what I want." She went on ... "God said that this was his plan for me ... that he has a plan for all of us" ...

Every year Nean invites a different Pastor to come and offer the opening prayer. She is often asked why she even has a prayer given. Her response is basically that "God is the 1st person you should approach" ...

He is the reason for her hope, her endurance, her courage, her determination and her perseverance.

Middlebury Walks For A Cure should be something we all show our support for. If you recall, at the beginning of this article I referred to Nean as a soldier. I'm sure you can see why. She is a soldier fighting in two armies and whether or not you believe in her "General" in the spiritual army she is fighting for; I beseech you to believe that we should all show our support for the many soldiers she fights alongside who will be walking/running for a cure of a very indiscriminate disease that will undoubtedly touch us all one way or another.

I invite you all to please come out and show your support even if you're unable to give in a monetary way ... give from your heart and show these "soldiers" that you care.

100% of all proceeds from Vendors are contributed to the walk! (Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of our Ven-

Story continued on page 6

Merchants Supporting Our Community:

Look inside for their valuable coupons and Ads.

- A Good Neighbor Heating & Cooling
- Dutch Country Market
- Jerry's Standard Service
- JoJo's Pretzels
- Keeping Tabs Tax and Accounting
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- R & S Carpet Cleaning
- Rob's Barber Shop
- Rulli's Italian American Restaurant & Catering
- Schrock Mobile Power Washing
- The Cinnamon Stick
- The Music and Dance Academy
- Varns & Hoover Hardware Store



The Corner Office:

A word from Bob Dwyer, Jr.

Its Sunday afternoon; it's a beautiful day. My wife, Brenda is outside cleaning the RV. I know she was really hoping we could have gone somewhere this weekend but I still have

work that needs to be completed; the deadline for this article is Monday morning (not to mention all the other things I need to complete) so, I'm in the office working and trying to fig-

ure out what to write about. I suppose it could be about carbon monoxide or stimulus credits and rebates or maybe I should mention energy savings ... the list goes on and on but I just decided it's time to go hug my wife and tell her

I love her. It's time to remind her how much she means to me and how blessed I am to have her in my life. So the only advice I have for our readers this time is: go and tell your husband or wife you love them, take a moment to remember what is truly important. Do you have grown children that moved away? Make sure you call

them tonight and tell them goodnight; remind them how much you love them. Please take a moment right now to think about what life would be like without those you love in it. Now, go let them know how much they matter. Sorry for the short article-but it's time for me to go do what matters the most.

FURNACE CONTEST WINNER!

Announcement!

We are excited to announce and congratulate the winner of our Free Furnace Contest! Sharol Cloud of Bristol, IN will be receiving a brand new, installed furnace from A Good Neighbor Heating and Air Conditioning! Congratulations, Sharol may your new furnace bring you many, many years of cozy, warm comfort and thank you to all participants for entering our contest!

Water Heaters



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574 825-1677

From The Pulpit

I waited anxiously; wondering if the Lord would urge anyone to step forward for this month's "From the Pulpit". No one did.

So, to fill this space, this month ... I would like to say ... I know there are many people in our readership area that are hurting.

Some of you have been displaced from jobs (some of you at a not-so-tender age), some are battling illness/disease, some of you are scarred from a broken relationship, the loss of a loved one or maybe you simply feel that life has beaten you up and you're just plain tired.

There are many churches in this area that have wonderful people, not unlike you, in attendance. There are many avenues to finding healing. I, personally, think there's nothing in the world better than the warm embrace of people that have all assembled in a place because of their intense love for the Lord. If you've read the messages that have previously appeared in this space, you'll be well equipped for a good start on deciding where you might want to visit.

Many circumstances have had all of us "crying out" at one time or another in our lives. Whatever you need, whatever direction you take ... know that I am praying for you. Are you wondering how that's possible when I don't even know you? It's easy ... I simply ask God to please be with each and every reader of this article and to please supply their needs and give them direction. In my faith, I believe He will. God bless you!

Attention: Local Clergymen/women:

Most local newspapers run a list of the churches in our area. That list is very helpful to people that are new to the community and seeking a church to become a part of as well as those that have lived here for a while but haven't yet found a church home. One thing these lists don't offer, though, is a feeling for what happens inside our various churches. **FROM THE PULPIT** is a monthly article featuring local clergymen/women who are willing to donate a bit of their time to write between 300-350 words either telling us about their faith, their work, their church or perhaps they will feel led to share a message that they have on their heart. Keep in mind that some of our readers don't have a church home, perhaps they're not even seeking one but this could be your opportunity to share an encouraging word with them. I am looking forward to seeing how this space is filled. We only have space to accommodate 12 preachers/pastors/ministers/priests per year so get your submissions in early! It won't cost your church a penny ... it will only cost you your time to write it and email it to us! Your submissions can be emailed to AGNeighborNews@aol.com.

Voted #1



Flat Top Haircut

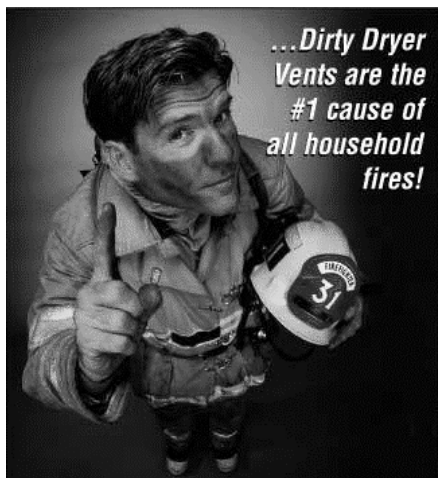


Flat Tops
Children's first Haircuts
Regular cut's
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Down Town Bristol
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Meet Your Neighbor



Alpacas: my personal definition would be; sweet, soft, cuddly, even-tempered little critters that are just so adorable it's almost impossible not to fall in love with them. The true definition (according to Webster's) is 1 kind of llama 2 cloth from its long, silky wool.

If you want the most accurate definition you should probably consult with someone who lives with Alpacas and knows just about every single thing there is to know about them.

You know what? You're in luck because right here in Middlebury we have our

very own Alpaca Farm ... INDIAN PRAIRIE ALPACAS owned by Steve & Renae Ruple.

Steve & Renae are two of the kindest people you'd ever hope to meet.

Hold on though ... there's more! Steve & Renae are soon to host their 3RD ANNUAL ALPACA OPEN HOUSE & CARNIVAL! It's on Saturday, September 26 (just a few short days away) from 10AM - 4PM. They are located at 11134 C.R. 2! This is going to be one fun-filled day of activities, discovery, education and to top that off ... local arti-

sans will be there performing demonstrations of their crafts!

Steve & Renae have a really nice website that showcases their passion: www.Indianprairiealpacas.com

It is worth the time it takes to visit. I was thankful for the easy navigation and the beautiful pictures throughout. Did you know that alpacas are only shorn once a year and that the average alpaca yields 4 to 6 pounds of wool (fleece) although some yield up to as much as 10+ pounds?

Steve & Renae began "farming" alpacas in 2006 with four of the soft, cuddly, furry little critters. 21 alpacas later (a total of 25 now) they are loving it more than ever. Renae spends her entire day with the alpacas. Her hands-on approach keeps them all just as sweet as can be.

Alpacas are excellent with children. They stand (full grown) about waist high to an adult (their backs) and then their long necks bring their heads up about face to face high with an average adult.

The Ruples shear the animals on site as well as process part of

their fleece into batts for local area crafters. They work with a mill to get the fleece spun into yarn.

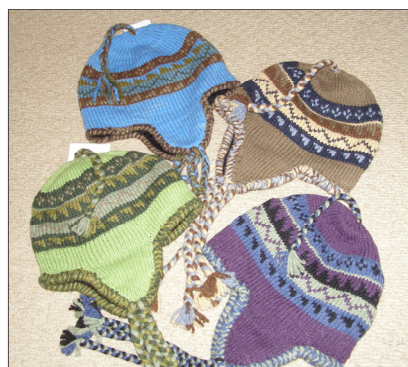
There is a small shop at the farm that sells byproducts from the alpacas such as hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and tiny stuffed bears & alpacas as well as a wide variety of yarns.

The ALPACA OPEN HOUSE & CARNIVAL is always held on the last weekend of September but if you can't make it ... don't fret. Steve & Renae invite anyone from individuals to groups to stop by anytime by appointment. They are happy to show you around and let you pet the animals.

They offer free consultations, sales, breeding, assis-

tance in start-up of your own alpaca farm/fiber processing and they top it off with excellent customer service! I could go on and on introducing you to this neighbor but I strongly suggest you go on out to the festival next weekend and introduce yourself! You'll be glad you did and if you take the kids I guarantee it will be one of those family outings that they will cherish for years to come!

Indian Prairie Alpacas 11134 CR 2 Middlebury, IN 46540, 574-536-7164 or 574-825-3216, email: prairiealpaca@msn.com or visit their website www.Indianprairiealpacas.com (Tell them a good neighbor sent you!)



From our Kitchen

Corny Corn Muffins

INGREDIENTS:

1 Box Jiffy Cornbread mix (follow directions on box)

Mix in:

1 cup frozen sweet corn (kernels)

1/2 cup sugar

1 t. seasoned pepper

1/4 t. seasoned salt

DIRECTIONS:

Bake according to directions on box ... so delicious!



Optional ingredients:

3 T. pimento (very drained & dried in between folded paper towels)

2 T. finely chopped jalapeño pepper

3 T. grated Cheddar cheese

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Let us show you how to collect up to \$1500.00 in stimulus tax credits + rebates from gas companies and manufacturers. Don't let these incentives go! This is your money; use it now before it's gone.

FREE Estimates

We will beat any competitor's estimate by up to \$500, GUARANTEED!!!

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- #1 Attack the Virus Before it Attacks You
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- #3 Prepare Yourself for the Fight

We can help protect your home or business. Offices, Schools, Daycare, senior living facilities, public buildings and more.

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Canadian Government
 Chinese Government
 Japanese Government



Free phone consultation

A Good Neighbor is an indoor air quality company that offers testing and remedies to indoor air quality issues. Some of the advance products we carry have shown high inactivation rates in many viruses including Avian influenza (Bird Flu) Norwalk Virus, SARS, Streptococcus and others. These products along with proper humidity levels and high quality filtering can help in the protection of many indoor air quality issues. Too often the consumer is overlooked and not educated on the advances and protection available to them in indoor air quality. I'm offering the opportunity of a free phone consultation so you can ask questions and not feel pressured this is about making your home or business a safer and healthier environment. Think of all the hours you spend indoors; what's in your air is in your lungs. We can talk about the swine flu, low level carbon monoxide, radon gas (the second leading cause of lung cancer), lung evasive air particles, asthma, air duct cleaning, what ever you would like to know about we will try to help.



Call Bob for your free phone consultation
 574 825-1677

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Complete furnace tune up and safety check

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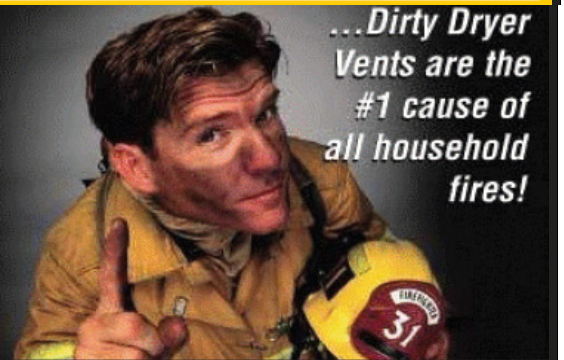
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Identify air leaks and problems in your home with thermal imaging
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FREE Estimates



Story continued from front page



dors!)

Our Speaker this year (YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!!!) is none other than Muffet McGraw; Head Coach for Notre Dame Women's Basketball!

We would all like to thank Muffet, in advance, for her (highly anticipated) participation this year and to all of the soldiers that walk/run for the cure ... may you feel the same exuberant joy, enrichment and peace that Nean will feel on this, her 5th year celebration of remission!!!

Donations may be mailed to: United Cancer Services of Elkhart County (make your checks out to this name) 23971 US 33 East, Elkhart, IN 46517.

**Middlebury
Walks For A Cure
5k Walk & Run
at Das Essenhaus
Conference Center
Sunday,
October 4th, 2009
Walk begins at 2 pm
(574) 825-2860
Doors open
at 12 Noon**

\$100 WINNER!

A Good Neighbor is proud to announce the winner of last month's "Find the Furnace & Hot Water Heater" Contest.

This is our winner Randy Bontrager of Shipshewana, IN.

Randy is pictured at right with his \$100.00 check!

Congratulations to Randy and thank you to all of those that participated in the contest!



Be sure to watch for more contests in upcoming issues of A Good Neighbor News and good luck!



GARDENING 101

Fall Beckons ...

Here on my porch looking out over the yard I am keenly aware that fall fast approaches. The garden is awash in splendid color. It

all reminds me that just yesterday I noticed pumpkins, squash and Indian corn are making their appearance at the vegetable & fruit stands along our country roads. As I turn

my gaze out toward the street I can see that there is that breathtaking mix of amber, rust, bright orange, deep gold, vibrant red and rustic brown adorning the trees that stand at attention (like so many sentinels) up and down both sides of our street. Soon it will be time for hot apple cider & roasting marshmallows out in the garden. That all-too-familiar crisp autumn chill greeted me this morning as I let the dogs out. I hear a slight rustle as I step off of the wooden porch just in

time to see the kittens poke their little heads up from the tall grass that protected them during the night and stretch their tiny lithe bodies. The chickens (who have been watching me with their keen little eyes) sweep down from their perspective branches in the trees to greet me and beg for their daily treats. As I venture further out past the barn and into the garden itself I see more clearly the last vestiges of summer. The heavily budded roses sleepily offer up their final

blooms ... as do the bowing hydrangeas. The tall grasses seem to be slumbering as they sway back and forth in this morning's gentle breeze. Mums playfully greet me with their thousands of blooms ... eager to please in their coats of dark rust, orange and yellow. For everything there is a season and this happens to be one of my favorites ... at least for now. You see, I am a four seasons girl ... I love them all!

Howdy Neighbor! What's wrong? You couldn't find your favorite

merchant here in the coupon clip-n-save portion on the back page of the Good Neighbor News? Well, let me help you out...

just clip this coupon and hand it to that favorite merchant of yours and have them

call Brenda

at 574-825-1677.

Let's work together to make sure their coupon is in next month's issue!



~A Good Neighbor News~

Current
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Senior Editor & Writer: Brenda Dwyer
Graphic Designer: Laurie Eads
55320 CR 8 Middlebury, IN 46540
PH: 574-825-1677 FAX: 574-825-1368
Email: AGNeighborNews@aol.com
or: AGNNewsEditor@aol.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

ITEMS FOR SALE

EMPLOYMENT

AUTOMOBILES



1965 Cadillac Coupe DeVille convertible, white with red leather interior. Road-ready, smooth driver! \$11,500.00 Firm. Serious inquiries only! Call: 574-361-3317.

PROPERTY



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CRAFTS & MORE

Homestead Popcorn & Crafts Dry flowers, crafts & gifts. Open 8-5 Mon. - Sat. Located at 6425 North 675 West, Shipshewana, IN.

WANTED

PROPERTY WANTED

NORTHRIDGE FAMILY looking for home - land contract/lease-purchase. 3+ Bedrooms, would love to be "out of town" but consider all locations. NHSfamily09@aol.com or (574) 238-6363.

EVENTS

COME TAKE A TOUR AT INDIAN PRAIRIE ALPACAS

September 26th from 10 am to 4 pm. We are promoting National Alpaca Farm Day along with other area farms. Joining us will be local vendors and artisans displaying handmade items along with demonstrations and shopping for all to enjoy. Just for the kids we will have games and prizes, coloring contest, chalk drawing and more. Come on out to the farm for a relaxing day of fun and education. Bring the entire family. Admission is FREE! For more information go to www.indianprairiealpacas.com or call 574-536-7164

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MISCELLANEOUS

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F & L COUNTRY STORE
55883 CR 43, Middlebury, IN 46540



Foxwood Hills Property on three lots. Private well and septic. \$25,000. **Call: 574-238-9080** for more information.

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Community Coupons are available on the back page.

Be sure to clip these coupons and stop in and save at your local businesses!



Place YOUR classified AD here! Sell, trade, seek or give it away!

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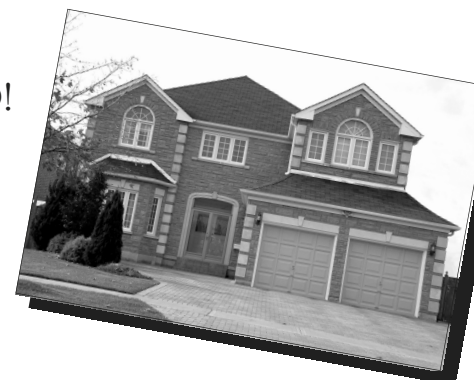
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What our Classified AD Section can do for you:

A picture is worth a thousand words! Add your picture to your classified AD!

The Good Neighbor Newspaper goes out to every business, church, organization and household in Middlebury, Bristol and Shipshewana! It is a full saturation mailing that consists of a circulation of over 11,000 addresses! For a small fee of \$5 or more, you can have your advertisement in the hands of well over 11,000 people, depending on how many individuals are at each address.
Call now to secure your spot!
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We now offer the addition of pictures to any classified AD! A one column x up to 1" Photo can be added for only \$10. A two column x up to 2" Photo can be added for only \$20! Call us at 574-825-1677 or email: AGNeighborNews@aol.com.



Kitchen Cupboard

205 N. Harrison St. Shipshewana, Davis Mercantile
Next to Jolo's Pretzels PH: 260-768-7969

Buy 1 Latte, Get 1 *FREE!

*Of equal or lesser value

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Oct. 17, 2009



Jerry's Standard Service

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101 N. Main St. • Middlebury, IN

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MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Oct. 17, 2009



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PH: 574-825-2705

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LIVE BANDS every Friday & Saturday!
Oct. 9 at 8 PM: "Over the Edge"
comedy act - Tickets on sale NOW!



Italian American
Restaurant & Catering

851 US 20, Middlebury, IN PH: 574-825-7222
OPEN: Sun - Thurs 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Friday & Saturday
11 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Web site: www.rullispizza.com

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Oct. 17, 2009

Offer good on Mondays only!

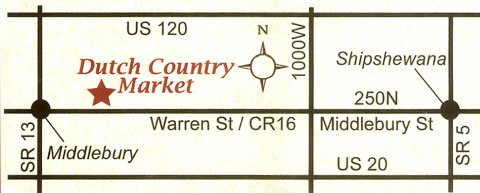
Buy 1
16" pizza
get a 12"
Pizza FREE!
Free pizza must be of equal or lesser value.

LIVE BANDS every Friday & Saturday!
Oct. 9 at 8 PM: "Over the Edge"
comedy act - Tickets on sale NOW!

Dutch Country Market

11401 CR 16 Middlebury

574-825-3594 • OPEN: M-F: 8:30-5:30, Sat: 8:30-4



APPLE BUTTER



\$1.00 OFF!
12 oz., Regular,
No Sugar & Honey

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Oct. 17, 2009



The Cinnamon Stick

"A Store in the Country"

102 S. Main St., Middlebury - 574-825-7725 • OPEN: M-F: 10-5:30, Sat: 9-4



YANKEE CANDLE SALE!

Buy 2, get the 3rd FREE!
Any Yankee Candle item!
Free item must be of equal or less value.

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Dec. 31, 2009

JOJO'S PRETZELS

Davis Mercantile • Shipshewana, IN
OPEN: Mon - Sat: 9AM-6PM

Buy any 2 pretzels,
get the 3rd FREE!
Limit one offer per customer.



MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Dec. 31, 2009

R&S Carpet Cleaning

PH: 260-562-2644

Carpet & Furniture cleaning & Scotch guard protection services.

FREE estimates.
Satisfaction
Guaranteed!

Toll Free: 877-865-6732
www.rscarpetcleaning.com

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Oct. 17, 2009

3 Areas cleaned for only
\$25 ea.! Min. order of 3
areas: max. total of 400
sq. ft. (additional fees apply
for jobs over 400 sq. ft.)

SCHROCK/MOBILE POWER WASH



FREE Concrete Porch OR Sidewalk
(up to 400 sq. ft.) with purchase of
WHOLE HOUSE POWER WASHING
FREE ESTIMATES!

- Houses - Siding - Decks - Concrete -
- No job too Big or Small -

Call
MATT at
574-312-1113 (Cell)

MUST present coupon. Expires Oct. 17, 2009

AIR DUCT CLEANING SPECIAL PRICING!



A Good Neighbor Heating & Cooling
AIR DUCT CLEANING
Special Pricing with this COUPON

574-825-1677

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES!

A Good Neighbor Heating & Cooling Middlebury, IN 574-825-1677

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Oct. 17, 2009