

## LOCAL SCENE

### Tuesday, Dec. 3

- Stitch in Time quilt guild, College United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m.
- Story Time for Preschoolers, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 10 a.m.
- Chicks with Sticks, crochet or knitting lessons, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 1 p.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Grace Bible Church, 25445 S. Highway 47, Warrenton, 5:15 p.m.
- Cocaine Anonymous, 116 South Maine St., Bellflower, 5:45 p.m.
- Holiday movie night, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 5:30 p.m. RSVP.

### Wednesday, Dec. 4

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly, First Baptist Church, 104 Hedeman, Wright City, 9 a.m.
- Veterans Coffee, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 9-10 a.m.
- Bingo, Warrenton Elks Lodge, 10 a.m.
- Story Time for Preschoolers, Scenic Regional Library, Wright City, 10 a.m.
- The Kiwanis Club of Wright City meeting, Ruiz Castillo, Wright City, noon.
- Mat Pilates, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 5 p.m. RSVP.
- 17 annual ornament making, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Hot chocolate happy hour, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 6 p.m. RSVP.
- Parent Grief Group, Martin Funeral Home, 6-7:30 p.m.
- VFW Post 2180 Auxiliary meeting, Warrenton VFW, 6:30 p.m.
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games, band performances and other community events.

"Turf would benefit the most by number of hours on it, with PE by far," said Buck. "Band would also benefit from having the flat surface and clearer lines. Sports would also benefit, but PE and band would be the most impacted."

The option to repair the current surface was also presented but is expected to take more routine maintenance than a turf surface would. Currently, the district pays around \$20,000 a year to maintain the grass field.

While the turf would be mostly a one-time expense to be re-evaluated on a 10-year basis, it was anticipated to cost the district between \$675,000 to \$825,000.

"We are fiscally very sound right now, so we have the funds for it," said Buck. "Locally we have had record increases in new construction

the community might support the decision.

Regardless, the board will have to decide how to facilitate a usable space for students.

"If we don't do something now, then we're essentially telling ourselves we're going to deal with this the next five years," said Board President Austin Jones, who voted in favor of installing turf. "We're looking at five years of nursing this along."

The five years would sustain the field until it is potentially relocated with the construction of a new high school. The board plans to bring a plan for a new school to voters in 2023.

That was a source of concern for several board members and administrators, who were afraid investing in a turf surface might compromise the public's support of the new high school.

"I'd like to see more go toward academics," said

Mikus and Erin Williams. Voting against were Michael Bates, Mary Groeper, Alice Jensen and Heidi Halleman.

Buck said the unknowns about the future location of the high school makes such decisions more difficult.

"My biggest concern is that we end up with turf at a middle school building five years after we install it," said Buck, who added that the current high school would likely house seventh and eighth grade.

One reason the need for an upgraded playing surface has increased is that the field is getting more use, due to the recent implementation of boys and girls soccer programs.

For the time being, the district will explore options for repairing the current field surface in hopes of minimizing the amount of non-usable days.

## Wright City Christmas Parade is Dec. 5

The annual Christmas parade will light up downtown Wright City next week on Thursday, Dec. 5.

The parade begins at 6 p.m. at Ruge Park. It will travel north on Elm Street and then turn west toward Diekroeger Park. Carolers from Wright City High School will entertain parade-goers.

Once at the park, there will be annual traditions around a bonfire. Wright City firefighters will be making s'mores at the park, and Mayor Dan Rowden will tell the origin of the yule log.

High school Student Council students will be

handing out hot chocolate and cookies, and the Kiwanis Club will have hot cider.

Santa and Mrs. Clause will be in the Wil Heilliger Building for photos. Kids can also write a letter to Santa while there, and Youth in Need will have other activities.

"With the help of the students and other community groups this event has grown and blossomed into a hugely successful community event," Wright City Parks Director Curt Kehoe said in a summary provided to *The Record*.

New this year, local

businesses are adding some extra color to the parade route. Businesses are competing to have the best-decorated lamp post in downtown.

### Breakfast with Santa

The following Saturday, Dec. 7, the Wright City Parks Department and high school Student Council are hosting a pancake breakfast with Santa. Children 10 and younger eat free, and anyone else is \$3.

Parents as Teachers will provide an activity at the breakfast, and Warren County Literacy will be handing out free books.