

LOCAL SCENE

Thursday, Dec. 12

- Free Legal Services' Attorney, NECAC, 10 a.m. - noon.
- W8 Watchers meeting, 107 W. Walton, Warrenton, 5 p.m.
- Merry Grinchmas family fun fest, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 6 p.m. RSVP.
- Annual Christmas concert, St. Ignatius of Loyola School, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

- Retired teachers and public school worker meeting, College United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.
- Story Time for Preschoolers, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 10 a.m.
- Senior Citizens meeting, Immanuel United Church of Christ, Wright City, 10:30 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, Wright City, 5:15 p.m.
- Christmas movie trivia night with Scenic Regional Library, Blue Anchor Bistro, Warrenton, 5:00 p.m. RSVP.

- Warren County Democratic Central Committee meeting, Scenic Regional Library, Wright City, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly, First Baptist Church, 104 Hedeman, Wright City, 9 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.
- Hot chocolate happy hour, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 6 p.m. RSVP.
- Alcoholics Anonymous



the track has effectively become a commercial operation in an area reserved for agriculture.

In a letter submitted to the county, Jones requested the elected Warren County Commission review and overturn the planning board's decision on Hickory Ridge.

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to the loud noise from several events this year. She also alleged numerous and varied public safety and environmental hazards of allowing the track to operate.

Opponents of Hickory Ridge previously have engaged in several unsuccessful appeals and legal challenges

contend that the track provides a family-friendly venue for the local racing community.

Several public safety officials testified in October that they had no concerns about the facility or the events, outside of two traffic and noise complaints from nearby residents.

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FACILITY

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In a letter protesting the ruling, representatives of Warren County Organics argue that the facility will be operated at the highest standards.

"Warren County Organics LLC is a proud member of the US Composting Council which is considered the gold standard for composting facilities and certification," the letter states. "We will pride ourselves in providing Warren County with a composting facility that will divert organics away from the landfills and instead be composted for beneficial use."

Hamlin's proposal is to collect and grind yard waste into rows of com-

post, then sell the composted material as mulch. Hamlin said he has years of prior experience working at a composting facility in St. Peters.

The composting facility eventually wants to add food waste to its operation, but Hamlin said no meat or other waste that would cause a strong odor would be allowed.

A group of residents in the Forest Lake Subdivision, just north of the would-be composting site, strongly opposed the proposal. Residents were skeptical of Hamlin's assurance that odor wouldn't be an issue, and fear runoff from the compost could affect the health of the lake within their neighborhood.

Wright City officials also opposed the facility proposal, arguing that the county should reserve the

property along I-70 for future commercial development.

The composting business's appeal letter partly addresses those concerns, pointing out that the proposed site is currently zoned for agricultural uses, and that water runoff is regulated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The letter also references the county's ability to grant a CUP with specific conditions or limitations that the composting operation would have to comply with.

Hamlin will have a chance to make his case in a hearing before the county commission in early January. Opponents will also have a chance to speak. A tentative date for the hearing has been scheduled for Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Warren County Administration Building.

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