LOCAL SCENE

Thursday, Dec. 12
• Free Legal Services' Attorney, NECAC, 10 a.m. - noon.
• W8 Watchers meeting, 107 W. Waite, Warren ton, 5 p.m.
• Merry Grinchmas family fun fest, S cenic Regional Library, Worren ton, 6 p.m.
• 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, S cenic Regiona Library, Worren ton, 10 a.m.
• Senior Citizens meeting, Emmanuel United Church of Christ, Wright City, 10:30 a.m.
• Chicks with Sticks, crochet or knitting lessons, S cenic Regional Library, Worren ton, 1 p.m.
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Grace Bible Church, 25445 S. Highway, Wright City, 5:15 p.m.
• Christmas movie trivia night with S cenic Regional Library, Blue Anchor Bistro, Worren ton, 6:00 p.m.
• Worren County Democratic Central Committee meeting, Scenic Regional Library, Wright City, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 18
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly, First Baptist Church, 104 Hedenman, Wright City, 9 a.m.
• Bingo, Worren ton Elk's Lodge, 10 a.m.
• Story Time for Preschoolers, Scenic Regional Library, Wright City, 10 a.m.
• The Kiwanis Club of Wright City meeting, Rizza Castillo, Wright City, 6:30 p.m.
• Mat Pilates, Scenic Regional Library, Worren ton, 5 p.m.
• Hot chocolate happy hour, Scenic Regional Library, Worren ton, 6 p.m.
• Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, Emmanuel United Church of Christ, 7 p.m.

FACILITY

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

"Worren 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 Worren County with a composting facility that will divert organics away from the landfill and instead be composted for beneficial use." Hamlin's proposal is to collect and grind yard waste into rows of compost, 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 operations, but Hamlin said no meat or other waste that would cause a strong odor should 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 assurances 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 M issouri 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 Worren County Administration Building.