said his biggest challenge was COVID was a that destroyed house, office, equipment and all. Employees wondering whether they had to work, payroll us-

Baker advised that the most common mistake is not just robust cybersecurity — a mistake Baker said his company had to learn the hard way only recently.

Q: What's the biggest risk you took?

Selleneck and Baker both said their most significant risks were in the form of partnerships, many of which didn't go well. That's made them cautious about who they're willing to go into business with.

The most unusual answer was from Kemper, who said his biggest risk was moving his Microfinish business to Warren County in the first place. Kemper is originally from St. Charles.

"I had customers... and I was confident I could get work, but I didn't have anything (at the time)," was our best avenue to do that.

Q: What is your advice for someone considering opening a business?

"Mostly it has to be not only something you know, but if you need to like it, and I still enjoy what I'm doing. I think that's key.

Kemper said an entrepreneur needs to have a business plan and ask some key questions: "What makes your business different from somebody else's in that area? How will you attract customers?"

Baker, answering a later question, said a helpful thing for an owner is being willing to learn bits of knowledge and wisdom from anyone you meet and hang onto that learning.

"There's some smart, smart people in this community," Baker said. "If you listen to their stories and you pick up the bits and pieces and apply their institutional knowledge and their years of experience, you can put that to work for you sometime in the future when a problem arises.

The Warren County Library will host two programs in October that explore a dark period in American history and a mysterious part of the past found right here in Warren County.

- The Salem Witch Trials will be the subject of a Tuesday, Oct. 19 program hosted by historian Victoria Cosner, starting at 6 p.m. Cosner will discuss the Salem witch-hunts and mass hysteria, and how these events have captured the imagination of Americans.

Registration is required by calling 636-456-3321, stopping by the library or going to the Scenic Regional Library website.

- Warren County’s mysterious Picture Cave, full of ancient Native American paintings, will be the subject of an Oct. 27 program led by archaeologist Michael Fuller. The program starts at 6 p.m.

Fuller will discuss the phenomenal and historic discovery of Picture Cave in an outdoor program. Attendees are asked to bring their own chairs, and are encouraged to RSVP ahead of time by calling 636-456-3321, stopping by the library or going to the Scenic Regional Library website.

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