

City hoping to negotiate pool proposal

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Loogootee Mayor Noel Harty, City Councilman Fred Dupps, and members of the Loogootee Park Board met with David Dahl of Midwestern Engineers this past Monday afternoon to go over possible changes to the proposal from RenoSys to rebuild the city pool. The city council accepted the \$522,600 proposal from RenoSys at their last meeting. The proposal included renovation of the current main pool and wading pool including making the wade pool a zero entrance, no step down into the pool required. The proposal also included updates to the fence around the pool, the drinking fountain, adding steps down into the pool, the installation of a lift chair, and the addition of swimming lanes.

In addition to the base price of \$522,600, the proposal included options of other perks that could be added to the pool, such as the slide, a water sprinkler in the wade pool, geysers in the wade pool, and shade umbrellas. The total amount budgeted for the project is \$550,000.

The pool will still not be deep enough to put back a diving board and this was discussed at the meeting as well. Dahl said the cost associated with digging the pool deep enough to put in a diving board would be a "budget buster". He said not only that, but most cities are shying away from diving boards at all due to liability issues.

Those attending the meeting Monday afternoon felt that the slide would be the main option that needed to be worked into the proposal. The slide proposed came with a cost (See 'POOL' continued on page three)

Student talks to Loogootee School Board about technology

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
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During patron input at the Loogootee School Board meeting Tuesday night, January 20, freshman student Carson Rayhill spoke to the board regarding his feelings on technology in regard to textbooks and testing. He read a letter to the board citing research that shows students do not retain as much when reading from electronic devices as opposed to print material. Rayhill also said he and his classmates' test scores, when testing electronically, are significantly lower than when taking the test in paper form. He said that if electronic books and testing are the way the school plans to go, his grades, along with many of his classmates' would plummet. He said he surveyed staff members at the school and 100 percent of the teachers he asked were in favor of traditional school-

ing, with pencil, paper and textbooks. He urged the school board to consider these things when deciding whether to move forward with more electronic testing or textbooks. The board thanked Carson for taking the time to write his letter and said it was well written.

The board accepted the resignation of Jason Hennette as varsity golf coach and gave permission to advertise to hire someone in the positions of junior high and varsity golf coaches and junior high track coach.

The board approved Sue Brady to serve as a consultant for the high ability grant and gave permission for the school to apply for that grant again this year. Superintendent Keller said the grant has been around for a while however a consultant has not been used by the school in the past. She said the state wants the school to better evaluate ac- (See 'LOGOOTE' cont. on page two)

Two new board members start term on Shoals School Board

Meeting minutes provided by Andrea Qualkenbush, Shoals Community School Corporation Secretary

The Shoals School Board met Thursday, January 14, the first meeting for new members Eva Neeley and Dianna Ragsdale, replacing Christy Farhar and Tony Cundiff who did not seek reelection. Other board members present were Mary Lou Billings, Lorna Troutman and Jim Bruner.

Board President Mary Lou Billings opened the floor for nominations of officers for the next year. Dianna Ragsdale made a motion nominating Mary Lou Billings to remain in the position of board president. The motion was seconded by Jim Bruner, and a 4-0-1 vote was given with Mary Lou Billings abstaining.

Lorna Troutman made a motion nominating Jim Bruner as board vice president. The motion was seconded by Dianna Ragsdale, and a 4-0-1 vote was given with Jim Bruner abstaining.

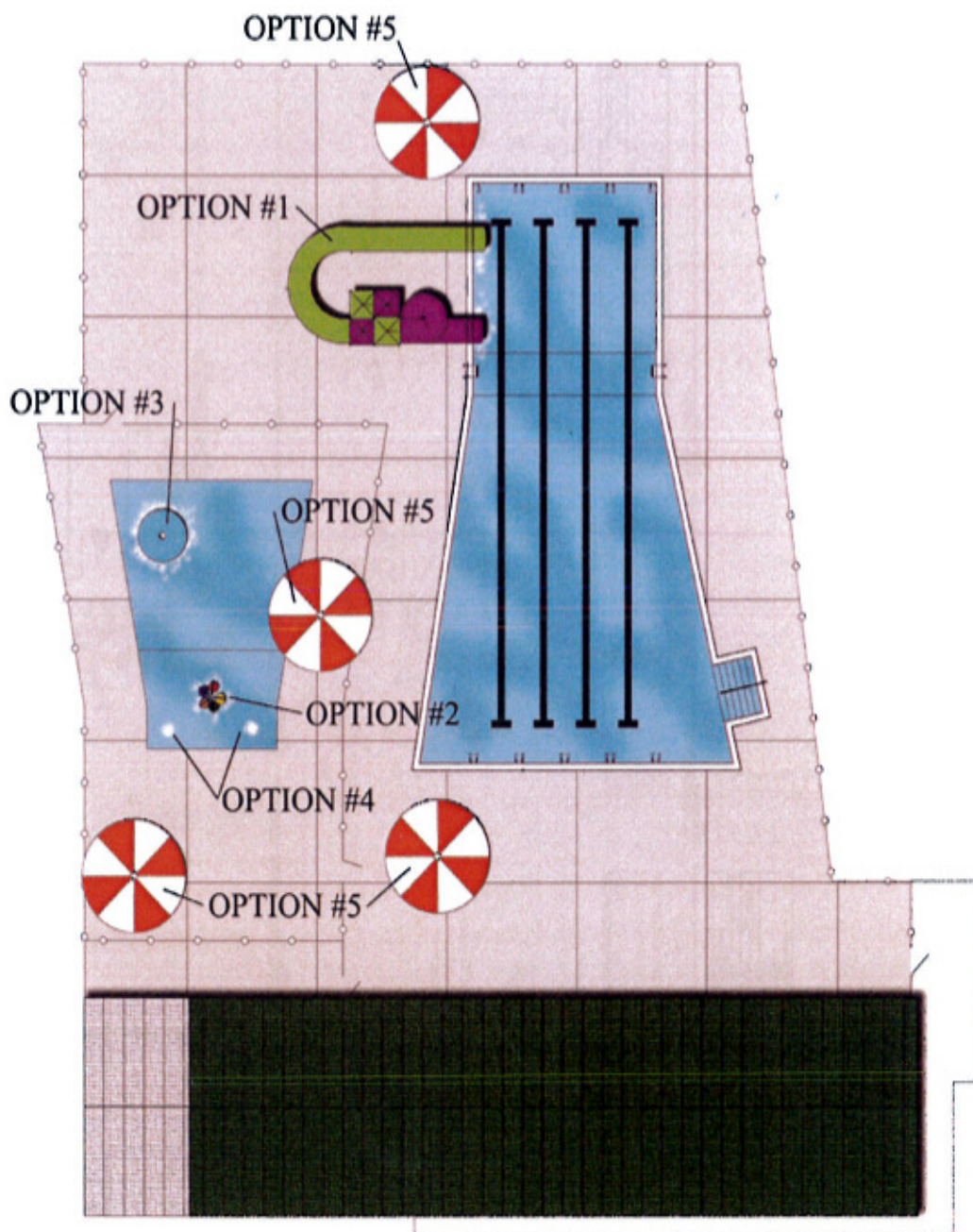
Jim Bruner made a motion nominating Lorna Troutman to remain in the position of board secretary. The motion was seconded by Eva Neeley, and a 4-0-1 vote was given with Lorna Troutman abstaining.

Mrs. Roush recommended that all board members serve as members of the board of finance. The board approved the recommendation.

The board agreed to schedule regular board meeting on the second Thursday of each month with regular sessions scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. and executive sessions at 5 p.m.

The board approved a resolution for board member pay at a per diem rate of \$109 for regular meetings and \$60 for special meetings or executive sessions.

In personnel action, the board:
-Accepted the retirement notification of Robert Igleheart effective at the end of the current school year. (See 'SHOALS' continued on page two)



-Photo/drawing provided by Midwestern Engineers

Shown above is the drawing from RenoSys of the Loogootee City Pool renovation along with the options available as add-ons. The main option the park board is looking at is the water slide, at a cost of \$68,000 (shown in the photo below). Options #2, #3, and #4 shown above are all sprinkler/geyser features for the wade pool. The pool organizers discussed purchasing the shade umbrellas on their own to save a few hundred dollars per umbrella. As of now, there is around \$25,000 remaining in the pool budget to purchase the options. The plan is to work with RenoSys to cut costs as much as possible.



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GLENDALE SFWA CAMPGROUND

SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

-Approved Cody Douglas, Thomas Potts, Calvin Evans, and Ian Perrottole as additional volunteers for the JBL basketball program.

-Resignation of Heather Tinkle from the position of varsity volleyball coach as well as give permission to post the position.

-Resignation of Melissa Hawkins and Ashley Hawkins as girls' varsity track coaches. The board also approved posting the positions.

-Cathy Royston and Amber Royston to serve as substitute teachers during the 2014-15 school year.

Mrs. Roush recommended the board approve a job description for a new social worker/disciplinarian position as well as give permission to post for interested applicants. The board reviewed the draft job description and noted one addition concerning the licensing requirements for qualified individuals. The board approved posting the position.

The board re-appointed treasurers as follows:

- Corporation treasurer – Lisa Elliott
- Corporation deputy and cafeteria treasurer – Dorothy Tredway
- Junior/senior high ECA treasurer – Deborah Howell
- Elementary ECA treasurer – Angela Sango

The board approved the bonding of the following employees: Lisa Elliott \$85,000, Dorothy Tredway \$85,000, Deborah Howell \$10,000, Angela Sango \$10,000, and Andrea Qualkenbush \$5,000.

The board approved appointing Superintendent Roush to the vocational and joint services special education cooperative board.

Mrs. Roush recommended the board approve conflict of interest disclosure statements for board members Dianna Ragsdale and Eva Neeley. Ragsdale and Neeley abstained from their respective votes.

The board held a second reading of changes to the non-certified handbook and voted to approve changes. The board also held a second reading of changes to board policy #4610, attendance at conferences, and approved changes.

The board voted to approve renewal of the chamber of commerce membership.

The board approved elementary students to participate in the Math-A-Thon fundraiser to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital.

The board approved the following facility usage requests:

-Approval to hold Wood Memorial vs. Springs Valley boys varsity basketball game prior to the Shoals game on January 24, 2015.

-Martin County Sheriff's Department, Indiana State Police and conservation officers to hold medical training on February 19, 2015 as well as active shooter training. Both events will be scheduled after school hours.

-The Lions Club to hold the boys' basketball banquet in the cafeteria on March 2, 2015.

The board approved Indiana All Star Driving School to use school facilities to conduct driver education classes during the summer of 2015. The fee will remain the same as last year at \$315 per student.

Discussion and action concerning the proposal of a high school activity period was tabled.

Mrs. Roush reported that Elementary ECA Treasurer Angie Sango and Corporation Treasurer Lisa Elliott had no outstanding checks more than two years old to be cancelled.

The board approved cancellation of three junior/senior high ECA checks as follows: check number 19387 dated 4/10/12 to Richard Sircy for \$2; check number 19404 dated 4/19/12 to Rick Smith for \$65; and check number 19468 dated 5/17/12 to Yoder's Furniture for \$450.

The board discussed the sale of standing timber located on school property. A motion to advertise the sale of the timber to interested bidders in the local newspaper for the period of one week was made by Lorna

Troutman, seconded by Dianna Ragsdale, and a 5-0 vote was given.

Mrs. Roush recommended the board approve a request to make the boys' varsity basketball game on January 30, 2015 a "Coaches vs. Cancer" fundraiser game. The board approved.

The board approved the 4th grade students to take a field trip to Squire Boone Caverns on April 16, 2015.

Mrs. Roush requested formal approval to purchase a new school bus according to the school bus replacement plan. The new bus will be purchased through the IAESC Procurement cooperative purchasing group at a cost of approximately \$107,514. The new bus will replace the current bus #1C. The board approved the purchase.

Mrs. Roush provided the board with a proposed calendar for the 2015-16 school year. She requested the board approve the calendar as presented with an additional snow day added in April. The school calendar will be available on the school website at <http://shoals.k12.in.us>. The board approved the calendar.

Lucas Calhoun, junior/senior high school principal, reported on the following:

-Welcome and congratulations to new board members

-Big congratulations to the high school pep band for dominating at the Orleans Invitational

-Preparation for ECA testing is underway

-Investigating the possibility of establishing a Bass Fishing Club

-Preparations have begun for the 2015-16 class schedule with additional agriculture, dual credit, and a new capstone class being

LOGOOTE

(Continued from page one)

celerated classes to make sure they are best serving students, which is the reason for consulting with Brady. Keller said Brady will cost around \$1,400 plus her mileage. Any grant money received will reimburse the cost.

Superintendent Keller spoke to the board about getting bonding ready to do work on the schools' roofs, windows, doors and lighting. She said the maintenance crew feels the roof will last another year before repairs are needed so the windows and doors will be the first project. Keller said the windows and doors being upgraded will also provide energy efficiency. She estimated the replacement of all the roofs at around \$500,000 and windows will cost around \$100,000 depending on whether they decide to go with the same size windows or do something different. She said the max for all work to be done cannot exceed \$2 million and she is expecting everything to cost around \$1.9 million. The board approved going ahead with getting the bond work started.

Superintendent Keller said Rick Graves will be inducted into the tennis coaches hall of fame on February 6. She said Athletic Director Josh Mullis has requested permission to purchase signage to put on the tennis court acknowledging this honor. The board approved.

Dr. Keller gave an investments update to the board reporting that the corporation has \$975,000 in certificates of deposit. She said at German American Bank, they have \$200,000 on a 12-month CD at .35 percent interest. At Martin County Co-Op Credit Union, they have \$250,000 on a 24-month CD at 1.25 percent interest. At First Federal Savings Bank they have \$300,000 on a 12-month CD at .35 percent interest. She said interest rates are low all around.

The board gave Superintendent Keller permission to hire an outside auditor to come in and audit the extra-curricular activities accounts since the state board of accounts is no longer looking at them during their audits every two year. She said it will cost \$100 a day and will take a few days.

Keller also suggested the board look into raising pay for substitute teachers since it is getting harder to find subs to come in. She said she is also looking into getting training put together for substitutes.

planned for seniors

-Homecoming game and dance is scheduled for January 30

-A 3 on 3 intramural basketball tourney is scheduled over the next few weeks during post lunch activity time

Austin Malone, elementary principal, reported on the following:

-Currently focused on preparing for upcoming ISTEP testing

-Acuity testing has been postponed temporarily due to software problems

-\$1,975 was received from the last Box Tops for Education cycle. Thanks to everyone that saved and turned in box tops.

-National Assessment Progress testing scheduled for February 10

-Susan Schmidt with SIEC will be present on January 20 and 21 for professional development

-Planning to survey community members about the possibility of offering a general education pre-school class next school year

-Mrs. Roush and Mr. Malone are scheduled to visit Bloomington area schools to view their pre-school and high ability programs

-Thank you to The River Church and the student council for the donation of coats

-School has been selected to be part of an upcoming episode of "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader" hosted by Jeff Foxworthy that airs on FOX. Shoals Elementary students will be selected to participate and have chance to win money based on correct answers.

The board approved the use of our facilities for the filming of "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader."

Candace Roush, superintendent, reported on the following:

-The board will attend board training on January 21 at Jasper High School.

-Shoals is looking into the possibility of partnering with Loogootee on some substitute training.

-Bus inspections will be January 29 and 30.

-The boys' basketball team will be conducting two tournaments in the summer program.

-Shoals and Loogootee school systems will be partnering up with other local county officials to update the Martin County anti-truancy policy.

-Shoals will be looking into updating background checks to include child protection service check with the local DCS department.

-Shoals School Corporation would like to thank Pastor Joseph Seger with the United Methodist Church for donating network cable and patch cable to the school.

-An update of the 2015-2016 school year technology plan was presented to the board. Community and school surveys that were sent out showed an outstanding percentage of people want to look at providing computer devices for students to help better prepare them for the future. The school is looking at funding the technology plan using the Common School Fund Loan. A list of technology items and improvements were stated and more details will be presented at the February board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

The next meeting of the board will be a regular session on February 12 at 6 p.m.

High School Principal Chip Mehafey told the board that back in November, 16 students submitted a speech on what it means to be a veteran in the Voice of Democracy competition. The local American Legion formed a committee and selected Nick Bowling as the winner. Nick is a junior at Loogootee High School. He will receive a prize of \$300 and a plaque and his speech will now move on to regional competition.

The board gave the superintendent permission to cancel and void three checks written in 2011 and 2012 totaling \$78.54, that were never cashed.

The board held a second reading of the seclusion and restraint policy and passed it

as presented. The board briefly discussed the policy for the new board members. Superintendent Keller said seclusion and restraints are only used in the case of a student potentially harming themselves or another student. She said the policy is almost never used but has to be in place per the state.

The board approved changes to the fuel prices in the bus contracts. Diesel increased 69 cents over the base cost in 2009 but is 53 cents lower than last quarter. Gas is 19 cents more than the base cost in January of 2009 but is \$1.11 lower than last quarter.

Board members Tim Bradley and Scott Hall were reportedly both on travel for their jobs and therefore not present at the meeting.

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OBITUARIES

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

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BARBARA PATTON

Barbara F. Patton passed away at 12:12 p.m. Friday, January 16, 2015 at University of Louisville Hospital. A resident of Shoals, she was 64.



She was born April 7, 1950 in Crawford County; the daughter of Harold and Cornealia (Kemp) Patton.

She attended Shoals Baptist Church and most recently attended The River Church in Shoals. She was previously employed by Carefree in Paoli. She loved to read the Bible and do word searches.

She is survived by her long-time companion, Bobby Holt of Shoals. She will be missed by her friends in Shoals and her little Chihuahua dog.

She is preceded in death by her parents and a brother in infancy.

Visitation was held this morning Wednesday, January 21 at 11 a.m. until the hour of service at 1 p.m. at the Queen-Lee Funeral Home in Shoals. Burial followed in Spring Hill Cemetery. Pastor Ed Farhar officiated the service.

Condolences may be made online at www.queenlee.com.

BETTY RASICO

Betty L. Rasico passed away Friday, January 16, 2015 at Loogootee Nursing Center. A resident of Loogootee, she was 84.



She was born June 24, 1930 in Pike County; daughter of the late Glen Arnold and Olive (Traylor) Garland and was raised by grandparents, Ora and Elmer Traylor and Emmett and Florence Traylor of Otwell.

She attended Otwell School and graduated in 1948. She studied nursing at Welborn Memorial Hospital School of Nursing and graduated in 1952. She was employed at various hospitals and nursing homes during her 40 years in the nursing profession. She was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

She is survived by daughters, Debbie Wagler of Terre Haute and Annette Rasico of Loogootee; son, Gary Rasico of Loogootee; brothers, Jim Traylor and Max Arnold, both of Washington; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband of 46 years, Ted Rasico; daughter, Teresa Rasico; and grandson, Wesley Hugunin.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, January 20 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, officiated by Very Reverend J. Kenneth Walker. Burial followed in St. John Catholic Cemetery.

Brocksmith-Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com.

HOWARD MEYER

Howard J. Meyer passed away at 7:15 a.m. Monday, January 19, 2015, at Deaconess Hospice. A resident of Evansville, he was 93.

He was born August 5, 1921 in Shoals; the son of the late John Henry and Anna (Ziegler) Meyer.

He graduated from Shoals High School and Purdue University. He was a lifelong Lutheran and was a member of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer since 2002. He worked as an agricultural extension agent for Purdue University in Daviess and Owen counties until he retired in 1982. During his retirement he loved working in his yard, Purdue sports, Cardinal baseball and spending time with his wife and family. He was a WWII Veteran and was wounded during advanced training.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 64



years, Elizabeth "Betty" Louise (Greene) Meyer of Evansville; daughter, Debra K. (Raymond) Miller of Middlebury; son, Mark J. (Deborah) Meyer of Evansville; grandson, Dax (Emily) Denton of Indianapolis; sister, Evelyn Peek of Bloomington; brother, Martin Meyer of Jasper; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sisters, Arnetta Defibaugh, Helen Harding and Mary Mullen.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, January 22 at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, 1811 Lincoln Ave., Evansville, IN 47714, officiated by Rev. Tom Wenig, with burial in Goodwill Cemetery in Loogootee. Friends may visit Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Alexander East Chapel and Thursday from 9 a.m. until service time at the church.

The family would like to thank the Deaconess Hospice staff for their care, kindness and compassion.

Memorial contributions may be made online to the Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.com or to Deaconess Hospice, 701 Garfield Ave., Evansville, IN 47710. Condolences may be made online at www.AlexanderEastChapel.com.

REESE BOYD

Reese Lane Boyd passed away at 1:20 p.m. January 17, 2015 at the Norton Audubon Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.



A resident of Shoals, he was 46.

He was born September 10, 1968 in Daviess County; the son of Lloyd and Alice (Sorrells) Boyd. He graduated from Shoals High School with the Class of 1987 and Vincennes University with a degree in aviation. He was a commercial pilot, and most recently worked as an air ambulance pilot for Air-Med Corporation in Alabama. He was a member of Shoals St. Mary of The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

He is survived by his mother, Allie Boyd of Shoals; three sisters, Vanessa Dorsett of Mitchell, Sonja Boyd of Shoals, and Stephanie Houchins of Shoals; one brother, Jeffrey Boyd of Cleburne, Texas; 18 nieces and nephews, 25 great nieces and nephews, and many lifelong friends and neighbors.

He is preceded in death by his father, Lloyd "Moose" Boyd on April 5, 2008; his maternal grandparents, Lawrence and Maude Sorrells; and paternal grandparents, Benjamin and Vada Boyd.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. this evening, Wednesday, January 21 at the Queen-Lee Funeral Home in Shoals. A Rosary will be prayed at 5 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, January 22 at St. Mary of The Immaculate Conception Catholic in Shoals. The Rev. J. Kenneth Walker will celebrate the mass. Burial will follow in Spring Hill Cemetery in Shoals.

Condolences may be made online to the family at www.queenlee.com.

ANNA LOU MATHIAS

Anna Lou Mathias passed away Monday, January 19, 2015 at Loogootee Health Care and Rehabilitation. A resident of Loogootee, she was 84.

She was born April 18, 1930; daughter of the late James and Emma (Stewart) Gootte. She married Ernest Mathias on September 1, 1952 and he preceded her in death on November 12, 2012.

She was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, Ladies Auxiliary and the Veterans of Foreign War.

She is survived by son, Mike Mathias and wife, Valerie, of Westfield; John Mathias and wife, Brenda, of Loogootee; and



Charlie Mathias and wife, Kathy, of Petersburg; daughters, Susan Ackerman and husband, Eric, of Loogootee and Christine Walker and husband, Scott, of Loogootee; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sisters, Marilyn Burch and husband, Jim, of Loogootee; Betty Mattingly and husband, Fred, of Parrish, Florida; and Donna Howell of Greenwood; and brothers, Jimmy Gootte and wife, Christy, of Pineville, Louisiana and Jerry Gootte and wife, Ruth, of Utah.

She is preceded in death by husband, Ernie Mathias and her parents.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, January 23, 2015 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, officiated by Very Reverend J. Kenneth Walker and concelebrant Reverend Joseph Erbacher. Burial will follow in St. John Catholic Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Thursday, January 22 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Brocksmith-Blake Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary.

Online condolences may be made at www.brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com.

BRUCE SAGER

Bruce Sager passed away Monday, January 19, 2015 at St. Charles Healthcare Campus in Jasper. A resident of Loogootee, he was 84.



He was born June 20, 1930 in Freelandville, Indiana; son of the late Gustav and Edith (Kettlehut) Sager. He married Donna (Gilmore) Sager on October 7, 1951 and she preceded him in death in August 2007.

He served his county with the United States Army and was stationed in Panama in 1951. He retired from the U.S. Gypsum in January 1992 after 37 years of employment. Bruce loved the St. Louis Cardinals, IU Basketball, Indianapolis Colts, Indianapolis 500, showing his Model A car, gardening his roses and being with family and friends.

He is survived by sons, Rex Sager of Key Colony Beach, Florida and Gary Sager of Loogootee; daughters, Jan Mudd and husband, Tom, of Loogootee and Susan Norris of Loogootee; grandchildren, Amy Gieske, Ashley Matthews, Aaron Mudd, Amber Walker, Caitlyn Scott, Tylan Norris and

POOL

(Continued from page one)

of \$68,000. The second option discussed was the large umbrella sprinkler for the wade pool that is estimated at \$6,500.

The remaining money available in the budget is just \$25,000 which includes \$8,000 donated back by Attorney Isha Wright-Ryan, who agreed to do any work pro bono. The group wanted to go through the proposal piece by piece to find savings anywhere they could go toward the bonus options.

One of the ways discussed to save money on the renovation was to have someone volunteer to do the demolition of the current pool decking. Janie Frye said that they have had a company offer to donate the time and labor to do that. Samantha Nelson also noted that the fence improvements could possibly be done locally to save an additional amount of money.

Dahl said that they plan to meet with Renosys within the next month to discuss the proposal. He said anything changed from the original proposals would require a change order.

More will be known after the meeting with RenoSys as to what portions of the proposal they will be willing to give credit on, if work can be done by volunteers.

Tierlan Norris; great-grandchildren, Brooklyn, Jacob, Tucker, Abram and Adelyn; sister-in-law, Jaccia Sager, Sharon Early; and brother-in-law, Dwayne Early.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Ralph Sager.

There will be no visitation or funeral service. He will be buried at Bethel Church of Christ Cemetery in Freelandville, Indiana.

His memory may be honored by contributing to the Rita and Jack Butcher Loogootee Basketball Family Scholarship Fund in care of Martin County Community Foundation.

Condolences may be made online at www.brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com.

VERNA "JEAN" STUCKEY

Verna "Jean" Stuckey passed away Monday, January 19, 2015 at VNA Charlier Hospice Center. A resident of Evansville, she was 84.

She was born June 12, 1930 in Burns City; daughter of the late Victor and Wilma Ruth (Crays) Vickers. She retired as a credit manager from Raben Tire after 12 years

of service. She was an avid reader, a great cook, and enjoyed traveling to Puerto Rico in the winter.

She is survived by her husband of 64

years, Robert D. Stuckey of Evansville; sons, Robert M. (Linda) Stuckey of Collinsville, Illinois and David A. (Sandra) Stuckey of Tucson, Arizona; sister-in-law, Mary Vickers of Loogootee; grandchildren, Michael A. Stuckey, Kevin P. (Emily) Stuckey, Samuel D. (Margaret) Stuckey, and Dean A. (Cara) Stuckey; a great-granddaughter, Karly P. Stuckey, and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Louise Holt; and a brother, Donald Vickers.

Funeral services will be held this evening Wednesday, January 21 at 8 p.m. at Browning Funeral Home, 738 Diamond Avenue, Evansville, IN 47711 with Pastor Steve Clayton officiating. Funeral services will also be held at 11 am (EST) Thursday, January 22, 2015 at Brocksmith-Blake Funeral Home, 300 Church Street, Loogootee, IN 47553 with Pastor Greg Davis officiating. Entombment will follow at Goodwill Cemetery, Loogootee.

Friends may visit from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday, January 21 at Browning Funeral Home. Friends may also visit from 9 a.m. until service time at Brocksmith-Blake Funeral Home.

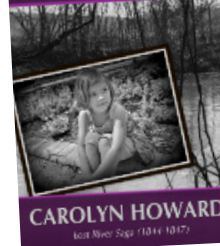
Memorial contributions may be made to the Boys and Girls Club, 700 Bellemeade Avenue, Evansville, IN 47713 or Boys Town, 14100 Crawford Street, Boys Town, NE 68010.

Condolences may be made online at www.brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com.

NEW BOOK By Carolyn Howard

Liza, Ever Always

If you're curious about the early history of Lost River Township in Martin County, West Baden, French Lick and Paoli, "Liza, Ever Always" covers the years 1844-1847.



You can read a sample chapter from "Liza, Ever Always" at <http://authorhoward.blogspot.com/> (or click this advertisement)

"Liza Ever Always" is available at all major online booksellers, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

COPS & COURT

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

12:13 a.m. - Received a report of a large rock in the roadway on US 50 west of Rama Dye Road. Deputy Harmon responded.

9:57 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

10:45 a.m. - Sheriff Roush and Deputy Dant transported two inmates to Rockville Correctional Facility.

12:00 p.m. - Received a report of loose livestock damaging private property south of Whitfield. Sergeant Keller responded.

2:13 p.m. - Received a report of an irate female in Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

6:40 p.m. - Received a report of a possible neglected dog east of Shoals. Sheriff Roush and Chief Deputy Greene responded.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

11:00 a.m. - Deputy Dant transported three inmates to court.

11:20 a.m. - Received a report of a possible broken down semi on US 50 near State Road 650. Major Burkhardt responded.

1:30 p.m. - Deputy Dant transported two inmates to court.

4:05 p.m. - Received a report of a semi hung up on Arvin Lane and damage to a stop sign. Sergeant Keller responded.

6:20 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash involving a deer on US 231 near Abel Lane. Deputy Harmon responded.

9:20 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County EMS and the Lost River Fire Department

responded. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

1:15 a.m. - Received a request for a welfare check southwest of Shoals. Deputy Baker and ISP Trooper Sexton responded.

6:37 a.m. - Received a report of a broken down vehicle on US 50 at the intersection of Rama Dye Road. Sheriff Roush, Deputy Dant, and G&M Wrecker Service responded.

9:00 a.m. - Received a report of a subject walking along US 50 east of Rama Dye Road. Sheriff Roush responded.

10:30 a.m. - Deputy Dant took one inmate to court.

3:00 p.m. - Received a report of a commercial burglar alarm at the Martin County Museum. Reserve Deputy McBeth responded.

5:25 p.m. - A subject came to the Martin County Sheriff's Department to report a battery. Major Burkhardt was advised.

5:56 p.m. - Received a request to assist the department of child services in Shoals. Sheriff Roush and Chief Deputy Greene responded.

11:09 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS transported to Daviess Community Hospital, Washington.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

1:14 a.m. - Received a report of a broke down vehicle on US 50 near Dover Hill Road. Deputy Baker and Loogootee Officer Nolan responded.

2:30 p.m. - Sheriff Roush transported one inmate to court.

3:00 p.m. - Deputy Dant transported two

inmates to court.

3:38 p.m. - Received a request to assist the department of child services in Shoals. Major Burkhardt responded.

9:11 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS and the Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

12:57 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

1:19 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County EMS requested officer assistance. Sheriff Roush, Chief Deputy Greene, Major Burkhardt, and Loogootee Captain Akles responded. A second ambulance was also requested. Both Martin County EMS units went to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

2:15 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Shoals. Major Burkhardt responded.

2:25 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver northbound on US 231 from Haysville. All on-duty officers were advised.

4:37 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

5:20 p.m. - Received a report of a possible broken down vehicle on US 50 west of Rama Dye Road. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

7:39 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

6:58 p.m. - Received a report of a jackknifed semi on US 50 near Red School Road. The Shoals Fire Department and G&M Wrecker Service responded.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

7:46 a.m. - Received a report of a civil dispute in Shoals. Sergeant Keller was advised.

9:22 a.m. - Received a report of a broken down vehicle on Bellgrade Drive. Sergeant Keller responded.

11:50 a.m. - Received a report of a civil dispute in Shoals. Sergeant Keller was advised.

1:39 p.m. - Received a report of a property dispute in Shoals. Sergeant Keller responded.

4:12 p.m. - Received a report of a horse down in a field southeast of Shoals. Sergeant Keller and ISP Trooper Sexton responded. They were assisted by ISP Trooper Beaver, the Lost River Fire Department, and the Orange County Animal Clinic.

6:21 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash involving a deer on US 50 near Scenic Hill Road. Deputy Harmon and Loogootee Sergeant Norris responded.

10:01 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Loogootee. Martin

Real estate transfers

Charlotte Ann Meyer, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jeffrey Dale Meyer and Nancy Rose Meyer**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 7, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana containing 3.967 acres, more or less.

Jason B. Speaks and Angela R. Speaks, of Morgan County, Indiana to **Delmar Knepp and Ida Mae Knepp**, of Daviess County, Indiana, a part of the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 2, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, located in Mitchell Township, Martin County, Indiana containing 22 acres, more or less.

Brian J. Sutton, of Martin County, Indiana to **Kevin Johnson and Emily Johnson**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana containing 1.10 acre.

County EMS and Deputy Harmon responded. Martin County EMS transported to Daviess Community Hospital, Washington.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

1:25 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

9:00 a.m. - Received a report of a horse running loose in a subject's yard east of Shoals. Sheriff Roush and Sergeant Keller responded.

11:17 a.m. - Received a report of mailbox vandalism east of Loogootee. Sergeant Keller responded.

11:58 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash with no injury on Capital Avenue near Chestnut Street. Sergeant Keller and the Shoals Fire Department responded.

1:56 p.m. - Received a report of a tree across the roadway on State Road 450 near Owens Road. Martin County Civil Defense responded.

2:10 p.m. - Received a report of a subject sitting along the roadway on US 50 near Dover Hill Road. Sergeant Keller responded.

5:42 p.m. - Received a report of a fight in progress on Larrimer Street in Crane Village. Sergeant Keller, Trooper Beaver, and Deputy Harmon responded.

5:47 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

8:35 p.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver northbound on US 231 from Whitfield. Deputy Harmon responded.

10:00 p.m. - Deputy Harmon assisted the Dubois County Sheriff's Department with a search for a juvenile in the woods on State Road 56 near Hillham.

11:47 p.m. - Received a report of a verbal dispute in progress on Main Street in Shoals. Deputy Harmon and Loogootee Sergeant Norris responded.

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Court News

Persons listed on criminals charges are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

CIVIL COURT New Suits Filed January 8

TD Bank USA vs. Jasmine M. Sheetz, civil collection.

January 12

James C. Johnson, Shirley M. Steadman, and Jesse Martinez vs. Douglas W. Schmitt and Best For Less Painting, civil collection.

January 13

German American Bank vs. Michael Bauer, Donna Bauer, Exterra Resources, Glenda S. Foust, Noble Energy, Inc.; Oconee Limited Partnership and Tecovas Partners II, LP, civil collection.

Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Opal Mesarosh, civil collection.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

January 12

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Autovest, LLC and against the defendant Brenda Tedrow in the amount of \$2,608.72.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suits Filed

January 7

West Boggs Sewer District vs. Tom Carico, complaint.

West Boggs Sewer District vs. Raymond Yoder, complaint.

January 12

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Danny J. Arthur, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

December 23

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Nathan Osborne in the amount of \$3,903.32.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

1:15 p.m. - An employee at the school called and reported possible criminal activity involving juveniles.

3:00 p.m. - Caller reported a possible computer scam.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

11:05 a.m. - Captain Hennette responded to a residential alarm on Nobles Court.

12:50 p.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

1:15 p.m. - Caller reported property damage in the high school parking lot.

2:06 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic complaint on East Broadway Street.

3:57 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless vehicle on US 50.

6:11 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on Cedar Street.

8:30 p.m. - Caller reported that her credit card information had been stolen. Officer Nolan completed a case report.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

8:40 a.m. - A male came on station to report a vehicle had struck a state road sign and also done damage to city property on US 231. Vehicle left the scene.

10:00 a.m. - Captain Hennette transported a male to Jasper Memorial Hospital for a mental evaluation.

10:50 a.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

12:40 p.m. - Caller reported debris in the road near McDonalds.

7:19 p.m. - Officer Nolan checked on a broken down vehicle on Broadway Street.

10:04 p.m. - Female caller reported a hit-and-run accident that had occurred the day before.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

1:14 a.m. - Officer Nolan assisted a motorist on Hwy 50.

9:40 a.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

1:15 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a bank alarm.

4:42 p.m. - After a report of a domestic dispute, Loogootee Police filed charges on a male juvenile for possession of marijuana and criminal mischief. Officer Nolan was the arresting officer.

8:47 p.m. - Officer Nolan checked on a broken down vehicle near the city park.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

8:45 a.m. - Caller reported a lost dog. Dog is a black Akita.

11:35 a.m. - Captain Akles assisted with a funeral procession.

1:19 p.m. - Captain Akles assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a suicidal subject.

8:17 p.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

11:16 a.m. - Caller reported that he was conducting a controlled burn.

12:45 p.m. - Caller reported a lost dog.

8:14 p.m. - Caller reported a disturbance on East Broadway Street.

10:19 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious persons on Wood Street.

Jail bookings

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

5:16 a.m. - Sonya Lagle, 35, of Bedford, was arrested on a hold for court. Lagle is being held without bond. Lagle was arrested by Sheriff Roush.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

1:15 p.m. - Cody Flinn, 19, of Dubois, was arrested for child molestation. Flinn is being held on \$100,000 or 10% bond and was arrested by ISP Trooper Starr.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

3:00 p.m. - Robert Robbins, 45, of Shoals, was arrested for a failure to appear warrant. Robbins is being on \$250 cash bond and was arrested by Chief Deputy Greene.

3:02 p.m. - Rejan K. Allen, 39, of Loogootee, was arrested for operating while intoxicated. Allen is being held on \$20,000 or 10% bond and was arrested by Loogootee Police Chief Rayhill.

4:05 p.m. - Jason Weaver, 38, of Mitchell, is being held for Washington County. Weaver is being held without bond and was arrested by Major Burkhardt.

6:55 p.m. - Jason Moffitt, 41, of Shoals, was arrested for possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. Moffitt is being held without bond and was arrested by Deputy Baker.

7:25 p.m. - Jessica Bates, 30, of Kokomo, was arrested for possession of synthetic marijuana. Bates is being held without bond and was arrested by Deputy Baker.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

5:47 p.m. - Trinity Benton, 39, of Loogootee, was arrested for a failure to appear warrant. Benton is being held on \$500 bond and was arrested by Major Burkhardt.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

2:51 a.m. - David Sorrells, 51, of Shoals, was arrested for operating while intoxicated. Sorrells is being held on \$10,000 or 10% bond and was arrested by Loogootee Officer Nolan.

ACCIDENT REPORT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

12:01 p.m. - Captain Akles had traffic stopped on US 231 due to a funeral procession. At this time, Marie Yoder, of Elnora, operating a 2006 Dodge failed to see that she needed to stop and struck a 2007 Chrysler operated by Curtis Anderson.

Two Indiana Organizations donate to ICO K-9 Team

Indiana Conservation Officers have received donated funds from two Indiana organizations to support their K-9 team. Safari Club International (SCI) and Central Indiana Ethanol (CIE) have each donated \$5,000.

"These funds will be used to completely equip an officer and a dog to begin service for our agency", said Law Enforcement Director Danny L. East. "We appreciate these two organizations for understanding and supporting our mission."

Indiana Conservation Officers K-9 team, established in 1997, uses sporting breeds for man tracking, wildlife detection, evidence detection and educational programs. Indiana has increased their K-9 team from seven officers to 11 officers within the past year.

"Our K-9 program is nationally recog-

nized and five other states (Kentucky, Kansas, Virginia, Idaho, Maryland) have come to Indiana for training", said Master Officer Jeff Milner, ICO K-9 team coordinator.

"Giving back to programs which benefit the communities of our state is one of our missions at CIE", said Jason Droom, Vice President of Emerging Business. "It is an honor for our company to support the ICO K-9 program and their work to protect our natural resources and our citizens."

ICO K-9 team has logged 1329 arrests, 826 successful man-tracks, 1,770 public appearances and 422 evidence recoveries since 1997 and has become a vital part of conservation law enforcement and a very useful tool to conventional law enforcement agencies in our state.



-Photos provided

Shown above is Safari Club International presenting a \$5,000 check to Indiana DN for the K-9 program. Below is Indiana Ethanol also presenting their donation check of \$5,000 to the K-9 program.



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| Jasonville (812) 665-3969 | Bicknell (812) 735-3545 | | |

Loogootee Fire Department

3rd Annual Chili Soup Dinner



Sunday, January 25
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Loogootee United Methodist Church

Serving chili, vegetable, and potato soup. Meal also includes a sandwich, dessert and drink.



Free Will Donation!



-Photo provided

Great Kindness Challenge

Students in Mrs. Nicole Wade's 6th grade class at Loogootee Intermediate will be participating in the Great Kindness Challenge, January 26-30. Students in the class are working together three different projects to promote kindness at Loogootee Intermediate School. In addition, they are asking for help from local businesses. To help promote kindness, students are asking businesses to put the following on their signs: "Join the Great Kindness Challenge Jan. 26-30 - Do something nice for another." How many businesses will support this request? To learn more about the Great Kindness Challenge, check out www.thegreatkindnesschallenge.org. Shown are sixth grade students Aaron Dant and Trenton Clark working together on their project for the Great Kindness Challenge.

Loogootee High School Honor Roll

TERM TWO

Ninth grade

High honors: Ross Adams, Carson Rayhill, Elizabeth Stoll, and Emily Whitworth

Honor roll: Dylan Arthur, Shalyn Bruner, Monica Cowin, Cora Hedrick, Lane Keller, Marina Lents, Kristin Norris, Logan Randolph, Jody Seals, and Cade Wilcoxon

Tenth grade

High honors: Sara Bailey, Tristan Jones, Nolan Lottes, Kaleb Lyon, Meghan Mathies, Mayson Riley, Kirsten Spears, Shania Swigler, Justin Wagler and Xiao Yang

Honor roll: Breanna Hollaway, Eden Jenkins, Matty Jones, Tyler Lythgoe, Jacob Simmons, Clayton Thomas, and Abbie Williams

Eleventh grade

High honors: Kendall Burch, Axel Caderoth, Jorge Aura Camarena, Grant Carrico, Jonathan Krzesniak, Kendall Riley, and Renee Whitman

Honor roll: Nicole Ader, Macey Baxter, Jacob Blackwell, Trysten Booker, Kimberly Bough, Renee Burch, Logan Carrico, Bailey Davis, Katelyn Dickens, Jess Divine, Deedra Fields, Reilly Graber, Taylor Hardwick, Justin Horney, Christina Hovis, Corey Jacobs, Jordan Mann, Tara Pennington, Brett Robinson, Shayna Stuffle, Paige Walton, Alexis Willis, Robert Wilson, and Landon Wittmer.

Twelfth grade

High honors: Adelyn Arvin, Connor Bailey, Ashley Jones, Ashley Lindauer, and Waylee Wagoner

Honor roll: Addyson Aiman, Lauren Bowling, Jon Bratton, Chassidy Bridges, Moriah Bussinger, Kayetlyn Carter, Julie Coleman, Eli Fleace, Tyra Fuhs, Emily Gillick, Taylor Kaiser, Marissa Koontz, Erin Nelson, Ashleigh Powell, Dylan Street, Jayce Wagoner, Allie Walker

SEMESTER ONE

Register now for VU non-credit classes

Registration is now underway for a variety of non-credit courses that will be offered during the spring semester at Vincennes University. To register, or to obtain a complete listing of available non-credit classes, go to www.vinu.edu/noncredit.

All classes will meet on the Vincennes campus.

Tai Chi begins January 27 and will meet on Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m., through May 5. The instructor is Dr. Richard Walter and the fee is \$99. Participants will learn the slow, relaxed movements of Tai Chi for total self-development. For the body, it is an excellent exercise; for the mind, it enhances concentration and visualization; and for the soul, it is a system of spiritual meditation.

Simple & Sweat-Free Tips for a Healthier You begins February 2 and will meet on Mondays, 5-6 p.m., through March 2. The instructor is Robert Cullen and the fee is \$15. This class will offer tips and techniques for stretching, strengthening, and caring for your bones and muscles. A lunch-time class will begin February 6 and meet on Fridays, 12:10-1 p.m., through March 6.

Zumba begins February 4 and will meet on Wednesdays, noon to 1 p.m., through April 22. The instructor is Dawn Brewer and the fee is \$30. This class mixes low-intensity and high-intensity moves for an interval-style, calorie-burning dance fitness party. Zumba® Fitness classes are often called exercise in disguise.

STEP UP: Workplace Readiness begins February 4 and will meet on Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., through April 8. The fee is \$50. This course will offer employees an opportunity to improve their abilities and to develop and apply the most relevant skills and strategies in the workplace. Mandatory textbook for course: From Master Student to Master Employee

Dog Obedience begins April 6 and will meet on Mondays and Thursdays, 6-7 a.m., through April 23. The instructor is Pam Kershner and the fee is \$25. The course will cover basic obedience where the instructor

Ninth grade

High honors: Ross Adams, Dylan Arthur, Lane Keller, Carson Rayhill, Elizabeth Stoll, and Emily Whitworth

Honor roll: Shalyn Bruner, Haley Burch, Anaya Carrico, Monica Cowin, Cora Hedrick, Marina Lents, Logan Randolph, Jody Seals, Kaitlin Seals, and Cade Wilcoxon

Tenth grade

High honors: Sara Bailey, Tristan Jones, Kaleb Lyon, Meghan Mathies, Mayson Riley, Kirsten Spears, Shania Swigler, and Justin Wagler

Honor roll: Colin Bowling, Breanna Hollaway, Eden Jenkins, Nolan Lottes, Clayton Thomas, Kaitlyn Wagoner, Abbie Williams, and Xiao Yang

Eleventh grade

High honors: Nicole Ader, Kendall Burch, Renee Burch, Axel Caderoth, Jorge Aura Camarena, Grant Carrico, Logan Carrico, Christina Hovis, Jonathan Krzesniak, Kendall Riley, Paige Walton, and Renee Whitman

Honor roll: Macey Baxter, Jacob Blackwell, Trysten Booker, Kimberly Bough, Katelyn Dickens, Jess Divine, Frank Duvall, Reilly Graber, Taylor Hardwick, Justin Horney, Ian Huelsman, Corey Jacobs, Jordan Mann, Kayla Nicholson, Tara Pennington, Shayna Stuffle, Emma Walters, Alexis Willis, Gavin Wittmer, and Brittany Woody

Twelfth grade

High honors: Conner Bailey, Ashley Jones, Ashley Lindauer, and Waylee Wagoner

Honor roll: Addyson Aiman, Adalyn Arvin, Jordan Berry, Lauren Bowling, Jon Bratton, Moriah Bussinger, Kayetlyn Carter, Julie Coleman, Eli Fleace, Emily Gillick, Taylor Kaiser, Marissa Koontz, Brandon Lindsey, Ashleigh Powell, Dylan Street, and Allie Walker

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| <p>Relaxation (Spa) Massage Relaxation Massage includes using Swedish massage and other techniques to help you relax and de-stress. Typically lighter and with less physical pressure than medical massage, this type of massage is often experienced at spas and resorts. If you're looking for that "not a care in the world" feeling, this might be just the massage you're after!</p> | <p>\$50</p> |
| <p>Pregnancy Massage Pregnancy Massage is a great way to cope with the special struggles that often accompany pregnancy. We do pregnancy massage for second- and third-trimester expectant mothers, and special care is taken for the comfort and safety of your growing baby.</p> | <p>\$50</p> |
| <p>Geriatric Massage Geriatric Massage includes using a variety of gentle, low-pressure techniques that promote relaxation, improved circulation, and relief from the aches and pains that come with advancing age. Geriatric Massage sessions are shorter (only 30 minutes) and are perfect for your loved ones who may be confined to nursing homes or struggle with frailness and limited mobility.</p> | <p>\$30</p> |
| <p>Hospice Massage Thinking about end-of-life care isn't the most pleasant topic, but massage therapy can greatly improve comfort and quality of life for you or your loved one. Talk to your hospice provider, and tell them you would like your hospice care to include massage therapy from Bowling Massage.</p> | |

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teaches hands-on with both the owner and his/her dog. Commands will include sit, stay, down, come, recall, and stand.

VU Dean's List for fall semester 2014

The Vincennes University Dean's List for Fall 2014 includes students from the Vincennes campus, Jasper campus, Aviation Technology Center in Indianapolis, military bases, and other extended sites. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete at least 12 credit hours and achieve a grade point index of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Loogootee: Paul C. Crew; Scott R. Duzan; Jesse L. Horney; Caitlin C. Ryan; Connor J. Ryan; Cody P. Smith; Janelle D. Stoll; and Merlin C. Wagler

Shoals: Christian V. Bauer and Dillon K. Cornett

Lady Lions Soup Supper

The Loogootee Girls' Basketball Teams will be hosting a goodwill soup supper on Friday, January 23 prior to the boys' game against Bloomfield at Jack Butcher Arena. The soup supper will be in the high school cafeteria starting at 5 p.m., with the girls' basketball team serving your choice of chili or chicken noodle soup with cheese, crackers, a drink and choice of dessert. Donations will be accepted and are appreciated.

Let's pretend it's Spring

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In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser
Purdue University Master Gardener

A warm period in January has made for a little early-onset spring fever. While it is far too early for most gardening chores, there are some tasks that one may do in the garden on such days.

The first job one should tackle is to take a walk around the garden to check for frost heave, especially on perennials and shrubs that were planted in the fall. If the plants appear to be coming out of the ground, simply take your foot and press it back down. Applying some new mulch may help prevent a recurrence of the heave.

In my walk around Sandhill Gardens early this week, I noticed some signs that spring is indeed on its way. There are buds on hellebores and witch hazel. If temperatures stay warm for a few more days, I would not be surprised to see blooms. These are some of the first plants to bloom and often the blooms come by the end of January. Do not worry if it turns cold again. I have often enjoyed these blooms sticking out of snowbanks.

Pretty days in winter also give opportunities for some clean-up in the garden. It is a good time to remove honeysuckle vines that may have invaded shrubs. The honeysuckle will be easy to spot in deciduous shrubs and it is easier to get to the base of the plant than it will be later when the leaves have come back on the shrubs.

I do caution you about getting into the garden when the soils are soft. Try to stay off the soil of garden beds. Stick to the

pathways as much as possible. Stepping on the soil while it is wet may result in compaction.

If you do not want to risk compacting your soil, there are still some chores that you may do. It is a good time to get tools ready for the spring. Use a file to sharpen the edge of hoes and shovels. You may also want to sharpen the blades on pruners and saws. Applying a light horticultural oil to tools is also a good idea at this time of the year.

You may also want to use this time to clean your pots and planters. Use a stiff brush to remove any soil clinging to the side of the pots. You may use either a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water or a solution of rubbing alcohol to disinfect the pots. This is especially essential if you had fungal diseases in your garden last summer.

Of course, even if the weather returns to normal January fare, it is a great time to look at the numerous seed and plant catalogues, watch gardening programs on television or read books and magazines. It seems I never have time during the growing season to read the periodicals I receive. I give them a quick glance and stockpile them for reading on winter days. I was also blessed recently with a gift of several gardening books that have occupied many hours over the past few weeks. Sitting in the rocking chair by the fireplace may be some of the best gardening work I ever do.

Southern Indiana Pork Conference set for Jasper

Purdue Extension and the trade group Indiana Pork are teaming up to present the fifth annual Southern Indiana Pork Conference on January 30 in Jasper.

The conference runs from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant, 393 Third Ave.

Kenneth Eck, Extension educator in Dubois County, said the conference will focus on key issues in the pork industry, such as livestock regulations, swine production and animal health, including the latest information on the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus.

Topics and speakers are:

* "Health Concerns - Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea," presented by John Baker, a graduate of the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine and founder of the Warrick Vet Clinic.

* "Lower Cost, Higher Fiber By-Product Diets," presented by Allan Schinckel, Purdue Extension breeding and genetics specialist.

* "State Regulatory and Legislative Issues and How They'll Affect You," presented by Josh Trenary, executive director of Indiana Pork, and Ben Wicker, director of producer outreach for Indiana Pork.

* "On-Farm Semen Storage," presented by Kara Stewart, Purdue Extension reproductive physiologist.

* "Understanding Piglet Gut Immune Responses Due to Weaning Stress and Soybean Meals," presented by Brian Richert, Purdue Extension swine specialist.

* "Pork Quality Assurance-Plus Certification," presented by Eck. Producers seeking certification need only attend this portion of conference.

To register for the conference, go to

www.indianapork.org and click on the pork conference banner or call Indiana Pork at 317-396-9352.

Indiana Pork will provide a free lunch. Reservations for the lunch must be made by January 23.

For more information visit www.extension.purdue.edu/dubois or contact the Purdue Extension Dubois County office at 812-482-1782 or duboisces@purdue.edu.

Spring Mill State Park to host spinning workshop, February 9

A February 9 workshop at Spring Mill State Park will teach participants to spin yarn using a drop spindle.

Participants also will have the chance to use spinning wheels from the park's Pioneer Village.

All supplies are provided. The drop spindle and roving you use in the class will be yours to take home.

The workshop runs from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Spring Mill Inn in the Elm room. The workshop includes a buffet lunch at the inn's Millstone dining room.

Twelve spots are available, and advance registration is required by February 7. Register by calling (812) 849-4081. Cost is \$45 per person.

For more information, contact Coletta Prewitt at (812) 849-3534 or springmill-stateparks@dnr.IN.gov.

Spring Mill State Park (stateparks.IN.gov/2968.htm) is at 3333 State Road 60 East, Mitchell, 47446.

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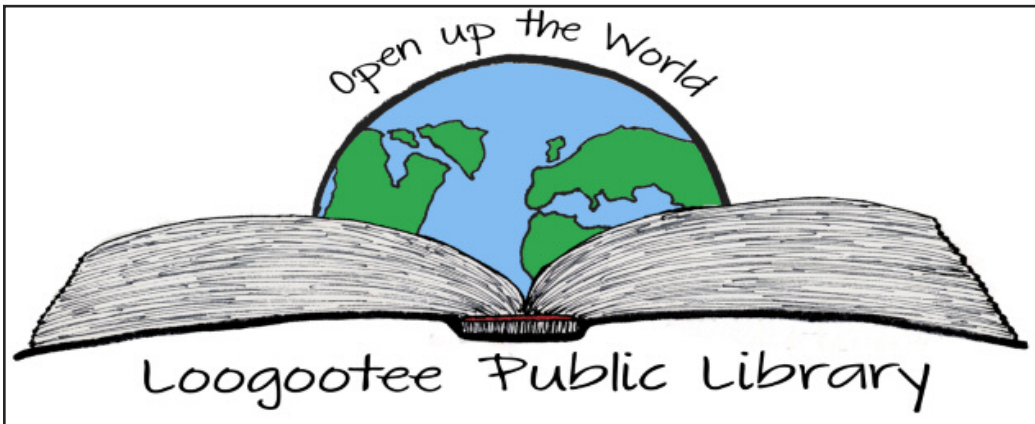
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BY DARLA WAGLER
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

The library has purchased a 2015 World Book Encyclopedia set to replace the 2004 Compton's Encyclopedias for patron in-house use. We have been busy updating many nonfiction subjects that reflect current events such as medical marijuana, violence in the media, vaccinations, bullying and privacy issues. There are several technology related books that deal with cell phones in schools, cloud computing, internet safety, and the latest computer software self-help guides. These books can be checked out with your Evergreen Indiana library card. If you live in Rutherford or Perry Township, you qualify for a free library card. Your local library offers many new services to the community. Did you know you can get free DVD rental-two movies per family for

seven days-access to HeritageQuest and Ancestry.com databases, and eBooks and ePeriodicals free with your library card? I invite you to stop in and ask our friendly staff about all the new services that are available.

New Books:
Inspirational Fiction: "Where Trust Lies" by Janette Oke.

Non-Fiction: and "The Civil War" A Visual History" by DK Publishing.

Young Adult Books: "Thirst Series" by Christopher Pike and "Double Date" by Melody Carlson.

New DVDs: "Escape from Alcatraz".

The library hours are Monday and Tuesday 10-7, Wednesday closed, Thursday and Friday 10-5 and Saturday 9-1. The phone number is 812-295-3713. Check out the website www.loogootee.lib.in.us or like us on Facebook.



-Photo provided

Shown above are a few participants of preschool-age Monday Story Time held at the Loogootee Public Library. Children hear stories and rhymes plus work on a craft. This past Monday was a "snowman" theme.

Calendar of Events

Sons of the American Revolution meeting

The first quarterly meeting of the Daniel Guthrie Chapter, Indiana Society Sons of the American Revolution will be held on February 17 at the Free Methodist Church on R Street in Bedford. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and the cost is \$13 each. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. This will be the annual Awards Night where they will be presenting the Law Enforcement and Firefighter Commendation Medals and Certificates. Hero of the year Medal and Certificate will be presented. They will also be presenting the Bronze Good Citizenship and Outstanding Citizenship awards. Three Edgewood High School girls will receive certificates from the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. A Eagle Scout Medal, patch and certificate will be presented to an Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts

Boys interested in Boy Scouts, call 295-6652 or 854-7837 for information on joining.

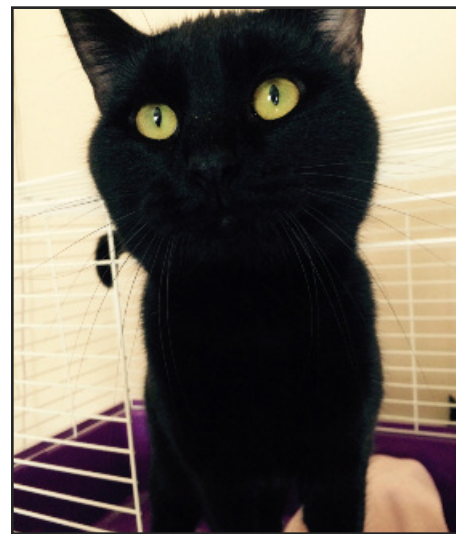
Cub Scout meetings

Cub scout meetings are held at Loogootee United Methodist Church on the first, third, and fourth Monday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Bryan Adams at 812-854-7837.

SOAR Tutoring

Need Skills? SOAR tutors can help! Free and confidential. Call or text Beverly at 812-709-1618 to learn more. Located in the

Humane Society featured pet



Percy is a new arrival at the shelter. He is a male, 2 year old, all black cat. He is very loving and gets along with other cats. Adoption fee is \$40. The shelter's next spay and neuter transport is February 5. The special is \$20 to have female cats spayed. For information, visit the shelter during open hours. Limited spots available on the transport. The shelter is located at 507 N. Oak Street in Loogootee. Shelter hours are Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appt.

Martin County Community Learning Center Improve Your Skills, Improve Your Life!

Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the recycling center located at 500 Industrial Park Drive in Loogootee. The meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

Humane society meetings

The Martin County Humane Society meets on the third Friday of the month at the animal shelter at 507 N Oak Street in Loogootee, at 7 p.m. Members of the humane society are invited to attend. To find out how to become a member, call the shelter at 812-295-5900 or email mchs@frontier.com.

Tourism meetings

The MCCC Tourism Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Martin County Community Learning Center on the fairgrounds.

Soil and Water meetings

The Martin County SWCD meets the third Monday of the month at the SWCD office located at Martin County Learning Center. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays except Thursdays when it is closed. Visit www.martinswcd.com or call at 295-3149.



The Martin County Veteran Service Officer has an office in the Martin County Courthouse. The hours are Monday through Thursday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. An appointment isn't required but suggested as there are times I am out of the office meeting with or visiting veterans in the community.

DRIVERS NEEDED for the veterans' van. I am aware that we all have very busy lives and very little free time which is why I am looking for drivers to add to my call list. I am looking for VOLUNTEERS that are willing to transport a veteran possibly one trip a week to medical appointments in the surrounding area. This is not a paid position but I am able to provide \$10 a trip as long as there is money in the "Thank the Driver Fund". You must have an Indiana license and a clean driving record. If interested, please contact me.

The county no longer provides compensation to veteran's that drive their own vehicle to medical appointments. As the veterans' van is financed by the county and available to all veterans, I believe the funds are better used for the expense and maintenance of the van the county so graciously provide.

Office/contact information is 812-247-2210 or e-mail maartincountyvs2013@yahoo.com. For transportation needs please call 812-247-2450.

VU Theatre to present "A Raisin in the Sun"

The Vincennes University Theatre Department will present three performances of "A Raisin in the Sun," by Lorraine Hansberry. Shows will take place at VU's Red Skelton Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. (EST) on February 13 and 14 and 2 p.m. on February 15. The show is rated PG and is limited to those over the age of 5.

Tickets are on sale and cost \$7 for adults and seniors, \$5 for non-VU students. To purchase online go to www.vinu.edu/redskelton. Tickets may also be purchased at the Skelton Center Box Office, 812-888-4039. Box Office hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and 12-5 p.m. on Sundays,

as well as one hour before performances.

The all-student cast is under the direction of Jane R. Frazier, assistant professor of communication, and includes Indianapolis residents Dachele Banks as Ruth, Marque Forte as George, Destiny Dossett as Beneatha, Quentin Toetz as Lindner, and Nytica Jones and Allen Sledge-Lyons; Noblesville residents Nia Hughes as Mama and Avery Howard as Bobo; Will Akins from Merrillville as Walter; Shaquille Towns from Jeffersonville as Asagai; Jorin Nolan from Washington; and Jalen Knight from Gary. The cast also includes 10-year-old Elijah Young, Vincennes, as Travis, appearing in his first on stage role.

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8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EST

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For more information or to register by phone, call the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District at (812) 295-3149.

Location

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PARP credits will be available.

CCA CEUs (1.0 SW, 1.0 NM) have been requested.



-Photo provided

Shown above WestGate@Crane Authority members Natalie Smith and John Mensch (President) talk after the Authority's first meeting of 2015.

Daviess County native the first woman to serve on WestGate Authority

Another piece of the glass ceiling shattered Tuesday, January 13, when the WestGate@Crane Authority convened for its first regular board meeting of 2015. In addition to electing officers, new board member Natalie Smith (Daviess County) was recognized. Smith is the first woman to serve on the Authority since its inception in 2006.

Smith replaces Richard Cottrell, and will serve on the body's governance committee, where she says her background in law, insurance, and accounting will be put to good use.

"WestGate is such a unique area," said Smith. "I have watched this place grow, and now I'm proud to be part of it." Smith is an alumna of Indiana University, where she majored in accounting. She has been a life-long resident of Daviess County, where she supported local businesses, including Hastings-Williams Insurance and Destination Yachts, as well as working alongside her husband, Daviess County Circuit Court Judge Gregory Smith, in his law practice. She earned an electronics degree from Vincennes Univer-

Indiana launches campaign to reduce infant deaths

Last Wednesday, First Lady Karen Pence and the Indiana State Department of Health announced the launch of a new infant mortality public awareness campaign called Labor of Love—Helping Indiana Reduce Infant Death. Indiana consistently ranks in the bottom states nationally for infant mortality, which is defined as the death of a baby before his or her first birthday.

"It is a privilege to be able to partner with the Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana hospitals, and health care workers all over our state to promote the new initiative, Labor of Love," said Mrs. Pence. "Labor of Love gives all pregnant women in Indiana the support they need to give birth to healthy babies. The initiative also focuses on education to insure more Hoosier babies survive their first year of life by promoting simple measures such as safe sleep and calling the help line by dialing 211. Together we can make a real difference in reducing infant mortality in Indiana."

In 2011, Indiana ranked 46th nationally for infant mortality with a rate of 7.7 infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. The national infant mortality rate for the same year was 6.1. In 2012, the state ranked 39th, with an infant mortality rate of 6.7. From 2003 through 2012, an average of 654 infants died each year in Indiana.

The top causes of infant mortality are perinatal complications, congenital malformations (birth defects) and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID).

"There are many factors that contribute to infant mortality and equally, there are many ways to help prevent infant death," said State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams, M.D.,

and worked as a technician before joining the Daviess County Economic Development Foundation, where she says she has been able to use all the skills she has acquired in her career.

Authority President John Mensch recognized Smith also noting that Daviess County Treasurer Elaine Wellman has also supported the Authority, though not in a voting capacity. The Daviess County Treasurer's official duties include serving as treasurer to the Authority, a role Wellman took over when she assumed office in April 2013. Wellman was quick to recognize Smith as the first woman to serve as a full-fledged member of the Authority.

The Authority also elected its 2015 slate of officers. John Mensch (Greene County) will again serve as president, and Don Bowling (Martin County) will continue to serve as vice president. Bowling is the only original member of the Authority who is still serving. Phil O'Hayer (Daviess County) will replace Richard Cottrell as secretary.

M.P.H. "For example, we know that mothers who seek prenatal care as soon as they find out they are pregnant, are five times more likely to deliver healthy babies. Our goal with the Labor of Love campaign is to connect women and new parents with the resources they need to give their babies the best chance at life."

The Labor of Love campaign will focus on the importance of:

- Early and regular prenatal care;
- Safe sleep practices;
- Avoiding tobacco, drugs and alcohol before, during and after pregnancy; and,
- Breastfeeding.

The messages encourage women who are pregnant or planning to get pregnant, and all expectant parents, to call 2-1-1 or visit www.LaborofLove.in.gov to find resources, including tips for a health pregnancy, a physician search, breastfeeding resources and more. The \$1.385 million campaign will run statewide on television, radio, transit, billboards and online. It will begin on January 19, and run through December 31.

The Labor of Love campaign was developed by the Indiana State Department of Health with the support of Riley Hospital at IU Health, March of Dimes Indiana Chapter, Help2Connect 2-1-1, Hirons & Company and others.

To learn more about Labor of Love, visit www.LaborofLove.in.gov and follow on Twitter at @INLaborofLove.

Visit the Indiana State Department of Health at www.StateHealth.in.gov for important health and safety information or follow us on Twitter at @StateHealthIN and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/isdh1.

Indiana tax season now open

Yesterday, the Indiana Department of Revenue (and the IRS) opened the 2015 individual income tax filing season and began processing individual income tax returns.

Taxpayers are reminded that the department is available to help. Last year, taxpayers waited an average of only two minutes and 45 seconds to have their individual income tax questions answered from the department call center.

Taxpayers can contact the department in the following ways:

The customer call center is available from Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 317-232-2240. This phone line also supports Spanish speaking taxpayers.

The department has 12 district offices across the state where taxpayers can ask individual income tax questions, pay tax bills and submit paper tax returns. Locations of each of the district offices are at www.in.gov/dor/3390.htm. However, the department cannot prepare individual income tax returns.

Taxpayers also can submit general questions through the department's Facebook or Twitter account private message features. Note that taxpayers should never send personal information such as a Social Security number through social media.

Resources

The department provides many resources to help taxpayers file their income taxes easily:

Taxpayers can check the status of their tax refunds online 24/7 at <https://secure.in.gov/apps/dor/tax/refund/>.

Those who owe income tax can pay online easily or set up an online payment plan through the department's e-Pay system at www.in.gov/dor/4340.htm.

Nearly two million Indiana taxpayers will qualify to file their federal and state income taxes for free through the department's Indiana Freefile program. Those with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$60,000 or less can visit www.freefile.dor.in.gov to see if they qualify for INfreefile.

Indiana flu season proving to be severe

State health officials are urging Hoosiers to take steps to protect themselves and loved ones from influenza in light of a flu season that appears to be particularly severe so far. Eighty-five deaths associated with flu have now been reported in the state. That's higher than the total deaths in each of the previous 10 years—and flu season is only halfway through.

"Indiana, like most of the country, is continuing to experience high flu activity," said State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams, M.D., MPH. "This is clearly a severe flu season. Because of that, it's especially important to see a health care provider right away if you have flu symptoms. If it is flu, starting early on antiviral medications can help reduce the severity and length of illness."

Influenza or the "flu" is a viral infection of the respiratory tract. Influenza is spread by respiratory droplets from close contact with infected persons or contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. Infection can occur when influenza viruses contact the eyes, mouth or nose, and possibly through inhaling droplets from a sneeze or cough. Sometimes people may become infected by touching surfaces or objects contaminated with influenza viruses and then touching their eyes, mouth or nose.

Symptoms of the flu include:

- Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Cough
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat

Although anyone can get the flu, some people are at higher risk of complications related to the flu, sometimes leading to hos-

State stops \$88 million in attempted identity theft

Identity theft criminals attempted to steal more than \$88 million from Hoosier taxpayers and the state of Indiana via ID theft and fraudulent tax returns in 2014. To protect Hoosier refunds and state revenues, the Indiana Department of Revenue initiated increased security measures. These efforts will be used again to protect Hoosiers in 2015.

Hoosiers can expect to see similar security measures during the 2015 tax season (which began January 20), including the Identity Confirmation Quiz, a two-minute quiz asking some taxpayers to verify their identities.

The extent of 2014's stopped identity theft includes:

- \$88 million in stolen or manufactured identity theft tax refunds stopped (out of \$800 million in total requested refunds);
- 74,000 fraudulent returns identified (out of 2.2 million total returns requesting refunds);
- 3.5 percent of all tax returns were fraudulent.

pitalization and even death. High risk individuals include pregnant women, young children (especially those younger than two years), people older than 65, and people with chronic illnesses and/or compromised immune systems.

"Our older population is being hit hard this year by flu," said Dr. Adams. "We've seen the most deaths in Hoosiers 65 and older. Tragically, we must also report that there has been a pediatric flu-related death this week. We each have a responsibility to do our part to keep ourselves, our loved ones and our communities healthy—get vaccinated, wash your hands frequently, cover your cough and stay home and call your doctor if you're sick."

Every year, multiple strains of influenza circulate during flu season. Health officials stress that the current vaccine available is still the best defense against flu this season, even though it is not perfectly matched to all of the flu strains going around. In any case, the flu vaccine may reduce the severity and length of illness for those who do get the flu. Everyone over 6 months of age can get the flu vaccine.

Practice the "Three Cs" to help prevent spread of flu and other infectious diseases:

- Clean: Properly wash your hands frequently with warm, soapy water.
- Cover: Cover your cough and sneeze.
- Contain: Stay home from school/work when you are sick to keep your germs from spreading.

To find a flu vaccine location near you or to learn more about the flu, visit the Indiana State Department of Health at www.StateHealth.in.gov. Follow the Indiana State Department of Health on Twitter at @StateHealthIN and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/isdh1.

In thousands of cases, the increased security features helped taxpayers from Indiana and other states realize their identities had been stolen and used to file for an Indiana tax refund.

The numbers illustrate the magnitude of tax-related identity theft. Hoosiers are reminded to be cautious when managing their and their families' personal information. As W-2 forms, bank account summaries and other tax-related documents are gathered in preparation for the upcoming tax season, taxpayers should take care in storing these documents in secure locations.

Hoosiers with questions about protecting their identities can visit the department's Stop ID Theft website at www.in.gov/dor/4794.htm for answers to frequently asked questions, identity protection tips, a video and additional resources. Hoosiers can also sign up for the Attorney General's ID Theft Protection Tool Kit at www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2853.htm.

GUEST COLUMN: Senate Bill 309 protects affordability of electricity for all Hoosiers

BY KEN FRYE, *General Manager,
Daviess-Martin County REMC*

Indiana is fortunate to have three strong electric suppliers serving our state: investor-owned utilities (IOU), municipal electric utilities and electric cooperatives. Electric cooperatives are independent, democratically-governed non-profit businesses owned and led by a local board of directors elected by the members they serve. The state's 38 cooperatives are anchored in the communities we serve, providing economic benefits to our neighbors and local communities.

Each of the state's electric suppliers operates within service boundaries that were established over 30 years ago. For the most part, these boundaries have worked well. But there is a growing problem we are addressing in the 2015 Indiana General Assembly. Senate Bill 309 addresses the impact of municipal annexation on electric cooperatives.

Under current law, a city or town with an electric utility can take over the customers and service area of an electric cooperative or IOU through annexation. This is unfair for a number of reasons.

First, it's one-sided. A local government can take the customer base of a neighboring electric utility, but electric cooperatives or IOUs cannot do the same. In other words, state law allows for a public entity – a municipal electric utility in this case – to take from a privately-owned entity. Why should state law provide municipal electric utilities preferential treatment over private investment? Service territory changes should be mutually-agreed upon, rather than the systematic outcome of an annexation.

Preserving electric service territories encourages utility providers, municipalities and community partners to work together to reach outcomes that promote fairness and affordability for all Hoosiers.

More importantly, it's not necessary. In most areas outside cities and towns, growth is dependent on access to water and sewer services. The areas being taken under this law already have access to electric service through their local electric cooperative or IOU. Therefore, it is not necessary for the electric service territory boundaries to

change following an annexation.

The municipal utilities are also selectively taking service areas with larger users of power – such as industry and large retailers – and leaving behind smaller users such as homeowners. This has a negative impact on the electric rates of those who are left behind because they are now picking up a larger share of the costs.

This is especially damaging to the electric cooperatives who proudly serve the electric needs of the harder to serve customers. While electric cooperatives serve approximately 80 percent of Indiana's geographic area, they serve less than 20 percent of the population – an average of 7.5 members per mile of line (Daviess-Martin County REMC has 5.8 members per mile of line). Municipal electric utilities average nationally 48 customers per mile of line.

The reason this has become such a problem is because municipal annexations have progressed to “cherry-picking” the most populated, commercial or economically-viable areas. The municipalities have not annexed remote stretches of road to serve three homes that were without electricity until the local electric cooperative first provided them power more than 75 years ago. The larger commercial properties and neighborhoods help balance an electric cooperative's costs so it can keep rates as affordable as possible for all members.

Any growth experienced by the electric cooperatives is a testament to the wise economic development work in their own service areas – not because they have selectively taken territory once it was primed for growth.

We want all of our utilities to thrive and have the ability to provide safe, affordable and reliable electric service to their consumers – but not at the expense of each other. Senate Bill 309 won't impede a city or town's ability to grow, but it will protect the affordability of electricity for all Hoosiers by having all three electricity suppliers operating by the same set of rules when service territory is transferred. Please encourage your local state legislator to support service territory preservation.

Visit IndianaEC.org for more information about service territory preservation.

~ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ~

‘As the Director of DCS, I am committed to making sure all staff have the resources they need to support the mission, vision and values of the agency.’

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

Arguably one of the toughest jobs in this country is a child welfare case worker, in Indiana it is our family case manager (FCM). Fortunately, for Hoosier families, Indiana has some of the most committed workers on the front lines to protect children from abuse and neglect. As the Director of the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS), I lead an agency where very critical decisions are made daily, which have long-term impacts on children and families. Although we have a staff of professionals trained to make informed decisions that will best protect children, I take each decision made by our agency personally.

I am aware that our FCMs are carrying higher caseloads, and there are several factors that contributed to this issue. Among them is the increased number of child abuse and neglect reports to our Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline. For example, in 2009, we received 109,489 reports to the hotline compared to 198,633 in 2014. This increase resulted in a corresponding, but smaller, increase in assessments and ongoing cases.

There has been much discussion about the

12/17 regional average caseload standard. Indiana adopted this standard in 2007 as a best practice; however, FCM duties are very different today, compared to 2007. For instance, many ancillary (yet still critical) duties were shifted from FCMs in the field, as DCS created specialized case worker roles; such as relative care specialists, foster care specialists, and hotline intake specialists.

In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013, DCS received funding from the legislature for an additional 136 field FCMs and 75 FCM supervisor positions. In SFY 2014, DCS added 110 FCM positions. At the close of SFY 2014 there remained a need for 77 more FCMs to meet the current caseload standard. That would translate to nearly 400 new staff for DCS in the last two years alone. Given the changes that DCS has experienced over the past few years, it was prudent for us to evaluate how those changes have impacted FCM workloads. Let me be clear; I would never sacrifice child safety for financial savings.

Our team decided to have a workload analysis conducted, to assess the time demands of all FCM duties. It will include not only tasks directly related to working on cases, but also time spent on non-case-related activities. For instance, a case involving a child with complex medical needs may require different time demands than other cases on a worker's caseload. Moreover, the study will evaluate worker differences; like years of experience, and determine what, if any impact they have on



An old man was going for a walk when he noticed a little boy feeding a thin, shaggy looking dog with bits of bread. He went up to the boy and asked him why he was sharing his bread with dogs.

The little boy answered, “Because they have nothing. No home, no family, and if I don't feed them, they will die.”

“But there are homeless dogs everywhere,” the old man replied. “So your efforts don't really make a difference.”

The little boy looked at the dog and stroked him, “But for this little dog, it makes all the difference in the world.”

A dog walks into a bar, goes up to the bartender, and asks for a drink. The bartender says, “Sorry, we don't serve dogs here. You're going to have to leave.”

The dog doesn't move and so the bartender tells him again to leave.

This time the dog starts getting ruff with the bartender, so he takes a gun from under the bar and shoots the dog. The dog limps away, yelping.

A few weeks later the bar the doors fly open and there's the dog standing there with two six shooters. The dog looks around and says, “I'm looking for the man who shot my paw.”

I know I'm a mean coach:

1. I'm very sorry.
2. I'll try to be nice.
3. #1 and #2 are lies.
4. Go practice.

SERIOUS THOUGHTS

1. One day someone is going to hug you so tight that all of your broken pieces will stick back together.

2. Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its whole life believing that it is stupid.

3. Be selective with your battles. Sometimes peace is better than being right.

4. Forgive others, not because they deserve forgiveness, but because you deserve peace.

5. When they discover the center of the universe, a lot of people will be disappointed they are not it.

6. What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family.” - Mother Teresa.

7. Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently. - Henry Ford

8. Stop blaming others. You are as happy or miserable as you choose to be.

9. A child who reads will be an adult who thinks.

10. Sometimes you cry even when someone you love has been gone a long time.

11. Be kind to unkind people. They need it the most.

12. Do not let anyone become a vacuum and suck the happiness out of you. Pull the plug.

13. Do not regret getting older. It's a privilege denied to many.

14. Sometimes it's not the song that makes you emotional . . . it's the people and things that come to mind when you hear it.

15. You are confined only by the walls you build for yourself.

NOT-SO-SERIOUS THOUGHTS

1. A good friend says, “OMG, I can't believe you did that!” A best friend says, “We'll make it look like an accident!”

2. I could be a morning person, if mornings happened around noon.

3. I hate brushing my teeth at night because that signifies that you can't have any more food . . . and I'm just not ready for that kind of commitment.

4. A good night's rest can make you feel energized, motivated, and ready to take on the world . . . Oh, sorry, that's coffee, , , , coffee does that.

5. My “get up and go” got up, looked around, said “Seriously?” and sat right back down.

6. A giraffe's coffee would be cold by the time it reached the bottom of its throat. Ever think about that? No. you only think about yourself.

7. As it's National Siblings Day, I just wanted to let you know, Skip and Joe, you are really lucky to have me as a sister.

8. I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes it 5 years in a row.

9. Sometimes my greatest accomplishment is keeping my mouth shut.

10. If you walk a mile in my shoes, you'll end up at the mall.

Make someone smile today!

him or her.” Was that true or a lie and who said it?

“If you like your health plan, you can keep it.” Was that true or a lie and who said it?

“You will save \$2,500 each year with Obamacare.” Was that true or a lie and who said it?

“The Benghazi attack was caused by an anti-Muslim video.” Was that true or a lie and who said it?

“The southern border of the United States is secure.” Was that true or a lie and who said it?

“There is not a smidgen of corruption in the IRS.” Was that true or a lie and who said it?

“Radical Islamic terrorism is not Islamic.” Was that true or a lie and who said it?

“I will fundamentally transform the United States of America.” Was that true or a lie and who said it?

Elections have consequences. It would seem that the objective of the current administration in Washington is to dismantle the Republic. The president has admitted that, as his time is short, he intends to speed up the agenda. How many lawless acts and outrages will he perpetrate on us in the remaining days of his rule? Have we now entered an era in which whoever wins the presidency is the one that tells the biggest lies?

Dennis Jones
Shoals, Indiana

Truth – my take

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

Who said the following? (paraphrased), and can you pick out which of the following is a true statement?

“If you like your doctor, you can keep