

## Howard publishes next book in Lost River Saga

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
Martin County Journal Publisher

Local author Carolyn Howard has just published her third book, "Liza, Ever Always", the second in a series about families living in Lost River in Martin County. The books are based on actual events. "Liza, Ever Always" was written so that it could be read on its own without reading the first book, however.

Howard made a name for herself locally when she published her first book, "Blood of My Ancestor", in 2012, a story of the Lyon and Goldsberry families of Martin County and the tragic death of one of the story's main characters, Adaline Cannon. Adaline was Howard's great aunt which is what compelled her to write the story.

Then last year, Howard published the first

in the Lost River Series, "Faith Healer's Daughter". Howard is not related to the families in the Lost River Saga but became intrigued by their story.



The Lost River Saga tells the story of four people, their lives, and how those lives intertwined. Those four people were Liza Stanfield, Albey Quackenbush, John Ritter, and Dr. William Bowles.

Growing up in pioneer Indiana was hard work, but Liza Stanfield and Albey Quackenbush made it look easy. They lived with their parents on the farm, worked hard and loved life. They tapped maple trees for syrup, went mushroom hunting and square dancing,

and sometimes even ran across a bootlegger or two.

John Ritter's life as a pioneer was a little different. He was a medical doctor with the

genuine goal of making his world a better place through teaching and healing. He took care of his family and mentored his young brother-in-law in the practice of medicine. He treated his patients using herbs as well as the sulfur water later bottled as "Pluto Water." He also used the purgative Brandreth's Pills that the traveling medicine peddler, John Lane, sold from the back of his wagon.

Contrast the lives of these pioneers and their peaceful worlds with the dilettante, William Bowles. Bowles was the founder of the town of French Lick and built the first luxury spa and hotel there. Originally from Paoli, Bowles, who was also a medical doctor, was a genius who had amassed a great fortune. Even so, what Bowles wanted more than anything was political power. He felt that by serving in the Mexican-American

War, he would have a better chance of winning Indiana's Lieutenant Governor, especially if he came home a hero. In a rigged election, Bowles, who had no military training whatsoever, won the colonelcy of the Second Indiana regiment. He would lead his regiment through the Battle of Buena Vista, but would he come home a hero?

"Faith Healer's Daughter", the first book in the series, covers the years 1830-1843. The second installment, "Liza, Ever Always", covers events from 1844-1847. The entire saga, once all the books are published, will cover the years 1830-1922.

"Liza, Ever Always" is available for e-download and paperback at all major online retailers, including Amazon (www.amazon.com) and Barnes & Noble (www.bn.com).

(See 'HOWARD' continued on page 2)

## Martin County Health Department releases their 2014 annual report

The Martin County Health Officer for 2014 was Larry Sutton, D.O. The board of health was composed of James Poirier, M.D., chairman; Cameron Wolf, EMA Director, vice-chairman; Theresa Holt, R.N., member; Victor Wallace, D.V.M., member; Benoni W. Asdell, D.D.S., member; James Lauck, Forrester, member; and Judy Walker, R.N., member. The board of health met on March 4, June 3, August 26, and December 2, 2014.

Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation contracted with the Martin County for the 2014 year to manage services of the Martin County Health Department. Hoosier Uplands employees who provide services for the health department include: Julia Albright, R.N., public health nurse; Kevin Sutton, environmental specialist; and Carol Baker, registrar/office manager.

Public Health Nurse Report:  
-759 patients were immunized during weekly clinics and special vaccine clinics conducted throughout the year (excludes flu shots).

-A total of 1,505 were given.  
-123 flu vaccines were administered.  
-69 B12 shots were given  
-61 TB Skin Tests were administered.  
-\$4,070 was received for immunization fees, which included Vaxcare income and fees for B12 injections.

-84 lead screenings were collected and sent to the Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, for testing. Any abnormal values received follow-up services.

-56 food establishments were inspected and permits were issued.  
-15 animal bite reports were received and follow-up was conducted.

-32 communicable disease reports were received and investigated.

-97 free blood pressure checks were taken during weekly clinics.

-During the year, Julia attended several health-related seminars and workshops, and attended community related meetings. She also met with various representatives of the Indiana State Department of Health. Addi-

tionally, she provided counseling on health-related procedures and made referrals to other agencies as required.

Registrar Report:

-349 death certificates and 48 birth certificates were issued in 2014

(See 'REPORT' continued on page 2)



### City election filings to date

The 2015 Municipal Primary Election for the City of Loogootee will be May 5, 2015.

Candidates may file for candidacy for the following offices: mayor, city clerk/treasurer, city council member districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and at-large.

Last day to file for candidacy is February 6, 2015 by noon.

The following are current filings to date:

- Mayor  
Noel D. Harty (D)
- Clerk/Treasurer  
Ronald "Ron" Gilbert (D)
- Gianna M. Armstrong (D)
- Nancy (McAtee) Jones (D)
- City Council District 1:  
James Richard Taylor (D)
- City Council District 2:  
Ruth Smith (D)
- City Council District 3:  
Carroll Rayhill (D)
- City Council District 4:  
Tim "Biggin" Lawrence (D)
- Bettye Norris (D)
- City Council At-Large:  
Fred Dupps (D)  
Roger Downey (D)  
Marty Tarrh (R)



-Photo provided

Crane Federal Credit Union and WestGate@Crane Technology Park Officials celebrate the grand opening of the new WestGate branch.

## Crane Federal Credit Union holds grand opening of new WestGate branch

The Friday afternoon scramble to get checks deposited has become a little less frantic for Crane Federal Credit Union members, thanks to its newest, full-service branch at the WestGate@Crane Technology Park.

The WestGate branch will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Members can access a full range of financial services, including basic transactions and loan applications.

Located in the credit union's main headquarters, the branch strengthens the presence of the Tech Park's original tenant. Crane Federal Credit Union was the first company to open its doors within the tech park in May of 2007.

Gary Gray, Chairman of the Board at Crane FCU noted the increased activity at the Academy in the credit union's choice to open a new branch.

"The WestGate@Crane Tech Park and the surrounding area have developed to the

point and size where it was clear it needed some financial services, so we opened a full service branch. We look forward to serving the companies and employees in the tech park, as well as adding new members. We have seen the increased activity at the WestGate Academy and we felt it was appropriate to open the branch. This is a big opportunity."

Vice President of Lending and Sales, Bryan Myers, noted that the branch has been very active since it started serving members last month. With branches in several communities that supply Crane's large workforce, Myers sees the new WestGate branch as an important service for members working both on and off of Naval Support Activity (NSA) Crane. He added that they hope to attract new members through the new branch as well.

To learn more about Crane Federal Credit Union, including how to become a member, visit their website at www.cranecu.org.

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# HOWARD

(Continued from page one)

Howard is planning a book signing in March at The Candy Mill in Loogootee. More details will be published later.

For more information and to read a sample chapter of "Liza, Ever Always", visit <http://authorhoward.blogspot.com>. Howard also has a facebook page for each book.

## REPORT

(Continued from page one)

-21 free death certificates were issued for veteran benefits

-3 home births were recorded, and 53 deaths were recorded.

-213 genealogy searches were conducted with 91 reports being issued.

Environmental Report:

-There were 10 residential sewage disposal system permits issued, 10 pre-installation contractor meetings were conducted, 11 soil scientist reports were received for evaluation, and 6 septic systems were installed.

-12 homeowner meetings were requested for various septic related issues.

### Generations providing tax counseling for the elderly

Generations is once again providing Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) in Martin County. This program provides free assistance to low income, elderly and special needs taxpayers in filling out both the federal and state tax forms.

Volunteers have completed their certification with the Internal Revenue Service and beginning February 2, they will be available to complete tax forms at Loogootee Senior Center, 406 N.W. First Street. Appointments can be made on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays between noon and 3 p.m. by calling 812-247-2525. The Martin County TCE Coordinator is Kenny Woods.

# Former NSWC Crane Commander dies

The Crane community is saddened by news of the recent death of a former commanding officer, Retired US Navy Captain Charles LaSota. The Bloomfield resident, who led Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane) from July of 2008 to Oct. of 2011, passed away Monday, January 26 after struggling with pancreatic cancer.

NSWC Crane Commanding Officer Captain Jeffrey Elder said LaSota was a man of integrity who set the bar high for future commanders. "When I took command last year, I was fortunate to follow in the footsteps of strong past leaders such as Charles LaSota. He was an asset to Crane, the Warfighter and the nation," Elder stated.

LaSota's time as commanding officer of NSWC Crane was his second assignment at the base—during his first he served as the deputy director of ordnance engineering. NSWC Crane Technical Director Dr. Adam Razavian noted that his love of Crane was both obvious and commendable. "Captain LaSota was a dedicated naval officer who was very devoted to Crane," Dr. Razavian explained. "He specifically requested to return here as commanding officer, and every day of his command was characterized by a high level of concern and attention to detail, whether he was focusing on people, ideas, or technology."

Department Director of the Global Deterrence and Defense Department Ben Harkness praised LaSota's brilliant engineering mind and zeal for being in the middle of the toughest technical problems. "He had that unique ability to very quickly grasp a technical problem and then provide the technical leadership as solutions were developed and implemented," Harkness explained. "He was often assigned to programs and commands that were working on some of the nation's most critical defense systems



CAPTAIN CHARLES LASOTA

and programs. His success made him well suited to lead NSWC Crane, and he helped propel Crane into many national leadership roles in Strategic Missions, Special Missions, and Electronic Warfare."

Shortly after passing leadership of Crane to Colonel Alan Pratt, LaSota became president of Crane's Career Learning and Employment Center (CLEC) Board of Directors and helped match the nation's wounded warriors with new careers. He was also the president of the Hoosier Trails Council for Boy Scouts of America and a strong supporter of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program. Harkness noted that he personally mentored many high school and college students pursuing technical degrees. "Captain LaSota believed strongly in 'paying it forward'", he recalled. "He often told me 'one starfish at a time' when it comes to instilling a passion for the sciences in our younger generation."

LaSota enlisted in the Navy in 1976, beginning as a nuclear reactor operator on board a submarine during the Cold War and serving for 35 years. He gained his commission after being selected to participate in the Navy's Enlisted Commissioning Program and earning a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Later, he completed Masters' degrees in Electrical Engineering/Computer Science and Nuclear Engineering and obtained a Technology MBA. His final naval tour was as the 25th commanding officer of NSWC Crane.

LaSota's most recent position was president of the Battery Innovation Center (BIC) located at the WestGate Technology Park. The BIC is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together world-class resources from industry, academia, and government agencies to accelerate the development and commercialization of advanced battery solutions.

He is survived by his widow, Teresa (Overton) LaSota of Bloomfield; his stepson, Jason (Toby) Pridemore of Bloomfield; his stepdaughter, Audra (Nelson) Stoll of Loogootee; and his son, Matthew (Melissa) LaSota of Plainfield, Illinois. His grandchildren include Aiden, Braylen and Caitlyn Pridemore, Parker, Addison and Cole Stoll, Matthew and Ava LaSota and Nicole and Allison McCoy. His father, Dennis LaSota of Volo, Illinois, and mother-in-law, Winona Overton of Odon, also survive, along with brothers Richard and Peter and sisters Carol and Suzi. His mother Margie and father-in-law Kenny preceded him in death.

No services will be held, but a memorial fund has been established with the Boy Scouts and contributions may be made in LaSota's memory at: Hoosier Trails BSA, LaSota Memorial Fund 5625 E. State Road 46, Bloomington, IN 47401.

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# OBITUARIES

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

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## LARRY ALBRIGHT

Larry Dee Albright passed away unexpectedly at 2:59 a.m. January 22, 2015 at



LARRY ALBRIGHT

Memorial Hospital and Healthcare in Jasper. A resident of Shoals, he was 84.

He was born November 27, 1930 in Loogootee; the son of Orville and Ruby (Grindstaff) Albright. He married his wife of 64 years, Mary Ellen Stewart, on June 10, 1950 in Shoals.

He graduated with the Shoals High School Class of 1948, and then served his country in the United States Army. He owned and operated an insurance agency and was a realtor with RE/MAX. He was a civic minded individual, who spent many years in service to his community. He was most active as a volunteer of the Shoals Volunteer Fire Department, and held memberships in the Shoals Lions Club, Martin County Historical Society, and White River Masonic Lodge F. & A.M #332, formerly serving as Worshipful Master. A faithful and active member of the Shoals United Methodist Church, he served in many capacities of church leadership.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen of Shoals; one daughter, Connie and her husband, John Clements, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; two sons, Doug and his wife, Cathy Albright, of Corydon and Brad Albright and Lee Clark of San Diego, California; grandchildren, Whitney and husband, Jon Muscutt; Allison and husband, Brad Spine; Jill and husband, Kwame James; and Cassie Clements; four great-grandchildren, Amare James, Jasmine James, Brooklyn James and Nash Muscutt; sister-in-law, Dorothy Albright of Shoals; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bill and Gerry Stewart of Shoals.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Gary Albright.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, January 27 at the Shoals United Methodist Church. A masonic service was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday. Burial followed in Spring Hill Cemetery. Shoals American Legion Post #61 accorded military graveside rites.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Shoals United Methodist Church and may be mailed to the church at PO Box 27 Shoals, Indiana 47581.

Queen-Lee Funeral Home in Shoals was in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be made to the family online at [www.queenlee.com](http://www.queenlee.com).

## TRACY HILLENBURG

Tracy Lee Hillenburg, 70, of Shoals passed away at 7:40 a.m. Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at his home. A resident of Shoals, he was 70.



TRACY HILLENBURG

He was born August 16, 1944 in Lawrence County; the son of Earl and Rhea Dawn (Tims) Hillenburg.

He enjoyed country music and singing. He loved to travel and made several trips to Texas and Alaska. He was a retired self-employed contractor and a veteran of the United States Army.

Survivors include his wife, Wanda Sue (Hovis) Hillenburg of Shoals; one sister, Kelly Reed of Mitchell; daughters, Tina Marie and Joe Nichols of Bloomfield and Athena Ann and Wade Caudill of Bedford; sons, Triston and Tammy Baker of Silverville; and Tracy and Susan Hillenburg of Oolitic; two step-sons, William R Hamblin and Steve R. Hamblin of Shoals; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Rhea Dawn Hillenburg; brother, Kevin Hillenburg; and two sisters, Peggy Bundy and Marsha Horton.

A funeral service was held Saturday, January 24 at the Hickory Ridge Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Queen-Lee Funeral Home in Shoals was

in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be made online to the family at [www.queenlee.com](http://www.queenlee.com).

## BERNARD HARKER

Bernard William Harker died in the presence of family at 5:20 a.m. Monday, January 26, 2015 at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper. A resident of Shoals, he was 93.



BERNARD HARKER

He was born at home in South Center Township in Martin County on November 24, 1921; son of the late John David and Elizabeth (Kreitzer) Harker.

He attended Davis School and then graduated from Shoals High School in 1939. He took a short course in how to wire a house and then wired their home for electrical service when REMC supplied power to the rural community later that year. Later he served for 39 years as a director for Daviess-Martin REMC where he held positions as secretary, treasurer and president. He also served as a statewide director for REMC.

He was a lifelong farmer in Center Township of Martin County where he grew corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, rye and hay. He also raised cattle, hogs and chickens. Conservation was very important to him, so he worked closely with Fred Woods to implement conservation practices on the family farm such as terraces, drop spillways, grass waterways and no-till. He served over 25 years on the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation Board and with the Farm Service Agency and the Four Rivers RC&D.

He was a lifetime member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Loogootee where he served on the church council at various times as secretary, treasurer and president. He also served there as Sunday School Superintendent.

He was a former Shoals School Board member and was a founding member of the West Boggs Park Board. From his teen years, Bernard enjoyed being a Cincinnati Red's fan and attended many games over the years.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Melba (Walton) Harker, of Shoals; six children, Mike Harker and wife, Kathy, of Shoals; Debbie Hawkins and husband, Bill, of Shoals; Juanita Cox and husband, Jim, of West Baden; Karl Harker and wife, Kathy, of Auburn, Alabama; Karla Wyrostek and husband, Ed, of Flagstaff, Arizona; and Tom Harker and wife, Lynette, of Shoals; one sister, Glendy Wilmoth of Parma, Ohio; two sister-in-laws, Barbara Harker of Shoals and Olive Pruett and husband, Russell, of Shoals; 17 grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; one great great grandchild; nine step-great grandchildren; and two step-great great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by two brothers, Dewey and Herman Harker; three sisters, Ella Boegeman, Alberta Harker and Ann Schilling; two brothers-in-law, Albert Boegeman and Robert Wilmoth; one sister-in-law, Ruth Harker, and one step-grandchild.

Visitation will be held Thursday, January 29 from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Loogootee. Brocksmith-Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee is handling the arrangements.

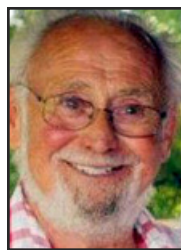
A funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday, January 30 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Loogootee with Pastor Timothy Fleace officiating the service. Burial will be made in the Goodwill Cemetery at Loogootee. After services are complete, lunch will be served by the ladies group in the church basement.

The family suggests that memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, Loogootee, Indiana 47553.

Condolences may be made online at [brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com](http://brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com).

## EDWARD EUBANK

Edward A. Eubank, formerly of Mooresville, passed away suddenly on the evening of Wednesday, January 21, 2015. A resident of Shoals, he was 79.



EDWARD EUBANK

He was born September 19, 1935 in Indianapolis; the son of the late Mitchell and Lena Rose (Fraker) Eubank.

In 1955, Ed established Eubank Heating and Air Conditioning in Mooresville, proudly serving his community for many years, he retired in 1987. In June of 1980 Ed was married to Joyce A. (Harper) Eubank and she survives.

Other survivors include his five daughters, Darleah M. (Greg) Winsted of Plainfield, Madonna E. Dare of Avon, Tamara J. (Tony) Allison of Quincy, Melanie A. (James) Fornoff of Eminence and Melinda R. (Jeremy Grimes) Eubank of Indianapolis; two step sons, Gary O. (Nellie) Phillips of Martinsville and Danny L. Phillips of Owen County; 20 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

Along with his parents, Ed is also preceded in death by two sisters, Barbara Hohlt and Thelma Elsbury; son-in-law, Troy Dare; grandson, Tyler Dare and his step-daughter, Vickie D. Peed.

A celebration of Ed's life was held Sunday, January 25 at Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) or Wheeler Mission, envelopes will be provided at the funeral home. You are invited to visit [www.CarlisleBranson.com](http://www.CarlisleBranson.com) where you may sign the online guest registry, share a favorite memory with Ed's family or view Ed's Life Tribute video.

## JUNE HART

June Hart passed away Monday, January 27, 2015 at her home. A resident of Cannelburg, she was 78.

She was born June 17, 1936; daughter of the late Warner and Sadie (Spaulding) Mullen. On June 26, 1954 she married Pius Hart and he preceded her in death on May 26, 2014.

She was a 1954 graduate of St. John High School. She was a teacher's assistant at Barr-Reeve Elementary School for over 30 years and co-managed the family farm with her husband, Pius. Her passion in life was teaching and raising her children. She was a member of All Saints Catholic Church in Cannelburg, All Saints Alter Society and was a Eucharistic Minister.

She was first a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. June loved being with her family and friends, playing cards, shopping, traveling, walking, cooking, dancing and collecting angels.

She is survived by sons, Raymond Hart and Dennis Hart both of Cannelburg; daughters, Kathy Hart of Fishers and Sharon (Bill) Gates of Bloomington; grandchildren, Emma, Luke and Maggie Gates; great-grandchild, Kaleb Idewu; sis-

ters, Virginia (the late Bill) Cooper of Loogootee, Ann McAtee (John) of Loogootee, Rita McAtee (Joe) of Plainfield; and brother, Patrick (Linda) Mullen of Jasper.

She is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Pius Hart.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, January 30 at All Saints Catholic Church in Cannelburg. Burial will follow in St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery in Montgomery, Indiana.

Visitation will be from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday, January 29 at Brocksmith-Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

Online condolences may be made at [www.brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com).

## EVALYN BRIDGEWATER

Evalyn Rose Bridgewater passed peacefully in the arms of her loving parents on January 25, 2015.

She was born Sunday, January 25, 2015, at 7:04 a.m. at the Daviess County Community Hospital. During her short time here on Earth she touched many lives and was loved deeply by family and friends. Her life was a brief gift to us that was cut short by a heart defect.

Evalyn is the daughter of Julie Moffitt and Trevor Bridgewater of Shoals. She is deeply loved by her mommy and daddy; uncles, Jarred (Amy) Arthur of Oglesby, Illinois; Jody Arthur (Jessica) of Bedford, Jesse (Cortney) Moffitt of Shoals, and Cruse Bridgewater of Loogootee; aunt, Mariah Bridgewater of Loogootee; grandparents, Paul and Darlene Moffitt and Sonja and Brian Bridgewater, both of Loogootee.

Our angel is preceded in death by her grandmother, Bonnie Moffitt.

Evalyn will always remain her parent's precious baby and will hold her in heaven one day.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2015 at Brocksmith-Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee. Burial will follow in Goodwill Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 29 at Brocksmith-Blake Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made online at [brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com](http://brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com).

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# COPS & COURT

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

4

## Martin County Sheriff's Department log

### MONDAY, JANUARY 19

10:29 a.m. - Received a report of a property dispute north of Shoals. Deputy Dant responded.

11:18 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded. Martin County EMS transported to Daviess Community Hospital, Washington.

3:05 p.m. - Received a report of a property dispute north of Shoals. Deputy Dant responded.

3:35 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

4:25 p.m. - Received a report of a civil dispute in Crane Village. Sergeant Keller spoke with the complainant.

4:42 p.m. - Received a report of a property dispute north of Shoals. Sergeant Keller spoke to the complainant.

7:43 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash leaving the scene on US 231 just north of 200 S. Sergeant Keller responded.

10:06 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS responded.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

12:00 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County EMS and the Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

12:11 a.m. - Received a report of a residential burglar alarm north of Loogootee. Deputy Baker, Deputy Harmon, and ISP Trooper Sexton responded.

10:27 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County EMS transported to St. Vincent Dunn Hospital, Bedford.

12:20 p.m. - Deputy Dant transported an inmate to Branchville Correctional Facility.

1:07 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS transported to Daviess Community Hospital, Washington.

2:30 p.m. - Major Burkhardt transported two inmates to court.

2:54 p.m. - Sheriff Roush transported three inmates to court.

4:38 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

5:50 p.m. - Received a report of a house fire in Loogootee. The Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County EMS responded.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

10:31 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County EMS transported to Daviess Community Hospital, Washington.

10:38 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

1:47 p.m. - Received a report of a subject shooting a firearm at their dog. Deputy Dant responded.

3:45 p.m. - Received a report of theft south of Shoals. Major Burkhardt responded.

3:48 p.m. - Received a report of an intoxicated subject on Sherfick School Road. Major Burkhardt responded.

5:13 p.m. - Received a request to assist

the department of child services. Major Burkhardt responded.

5:38 p.m. - Received a report of a trespasser north of Loogootee. Major Burkhardt and Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

6:50 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County EMS responded.

9:00 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash involving a deer on US 231 near Raglesville Road. Major Burkhardt responded.

9:24 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Trinity Springs. Martin County EMS and the Williams Fire Department responded.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

1:42 a.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.

6:08 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver southbound on US 231 from Bramble. All on-duty officer were advised.

11:06 a.m. - Received a report of mailbox vandalism north of Shoals. Deputy Dant responded.

1:00 p.m. - Two inmates were transported to court.

1:51 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.

2:58 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS and the Shoals Fire Department responded.

4:17 p.m. - Received a report of a theft in Padanaram. Major Burkhardt responded.

5:44 p.m. - Received a report of a dog bite south of Loogootee. Major Burkhardt responded.

5:44 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County EMS responded.

9:37 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS transported to Daviess Community Hospital, Washington.

9:38 p.m. - Received a report of a theft in Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

6:15 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver northbound on US 231 from Bramble. All on-duty officers were advised.

9:46 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County EMS and the Shoals Fire Department responded.

9:55 a.m. - Received a report of harassing phone calls. Major Burkhardt spoke with the complainant.

10:04 a.m. - Received a report of a residential burglar alarm in Shoals. Major Burkhardt responded.

12:14 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on Lynwood Street in Shoals. Major Burkhardt was advised.

1:40 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Dover Hill. Martin County EMS and the Shoals Fire Department responded.

1:58 p.m. - Received a complaint on ditch work on Butler Bridge Road. Major Burkhardt responded.

3:26 p.m. - Received a report of a leaky

load on US 50 entering Loogootee. All on-duty officer were advised.

4:41 p.m. - Received a report of livestock on someone's private property south of Whitfield. Major Burkhardt responded.

5:06 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

5:48 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash with possible injury on US 50 near Albright Lane. Major Burkhardt, Martin County EMS, the Shoals Fire Department, and G&M Wrecker Service responded.

9:02 p.m. - Received a report of a chimney fire on State Road 450 north of Trinity Springs. Martin County Civil Defense and the Williams Fire Department responded.

11:20 p.m. - Received a report of livestock on the roadway on US 231 near State Road 645. Deputy Harmon responded.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

3:05 a.m. - Received a report of a possible missing person from Crane Village. Deputy Harmon responded. At 9:15 a.m., the missing person was located.

9:21 a.m. - Received a report of a residential burglary alarm north of Loogootee. Sergeant Keller responded.

1:24 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Whitfield. Martin County EMS transported to Daviess Community Hospital, Washington.

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

4:44 p.m. - Received a request for information on registering a small four wheeler. Sergeant Keller spoke with the subject.

5:58 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS responded.

6:00 p.m. - Received a report of a theft of a cell phone in Shoals. Deputy Harmon responded.

6:07 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County EMS and the Shoals Fire Department responded.

10:31 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver northbound on US 231 from Haysville. All on-duty officers were advised.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

1:16 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash with no injury on US 150 between Shoals and French Lick. Deputy Harmon, Shoals Town Marshal Eckert, ISP Trooper Sexton, and G&M Wrecker Service responded.

9:18 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver eastbound on US 50 from Shoals. Sergeant Keller and Lawrence County were advised.

9:18 a.m. - Received a report of telephone harassment. Sergeant Keller was advised and spoke with the complainant.

11:46 a.m. - Received a report of possible animal neglect in Crane Village. Sergeant Keller responded.

3:53 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock east of Shoals. Sergeant Keller completed the detail.

4:50 p.m. - Received a report of a custody issue in Loogootee. Sergeant Keller spoke with the complainant.

10:25 p.m. - Received a report of vandalism to a sign in Shoals. Deputy Harmon responded.



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# Loogootee Police log Commissioners discuss employee handbook, roads, wheel tax

## MONDAY, JANUARY 19

8:00 a.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint on US 231. Chief Rayhill checked on the dog and notified the owner.

11:10 a.m. - Captain Hennette assisted child protective services.

11:20 a.m. - Caller reported he was suicidal. He was later transported to Good Samaritan Hospital.

5:59 p.m. - Caller reported smoke in a field on US 231. Loogootee Fire was paged out.

6:53 p.m. - Caller reported kids on bikes and skateboards playing near the highway.

8:03 p.m. - Caller reported a possible theft.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

4:39 p.m. - First responders were requested on Crane Street for a subject with chest pains.

5:49 p.m. - Loogootee Fire responded to a house fire at 200 Dewey Street.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

7:55 a.m. - Female caller reported harassment.

9:15 a.m. - Caller reported possible drug activity.

1:05 a.m. - Captain Hennette responded to a possible suicidal subject.

2:03 p.m. - Caller reported a theft of a cell phone. Chief Rayhill will file charges on a male juvenile.

2:10 p.m. - Captain Hennette assisted child protective services.

4:01 p.m. - Female caller reported harassment.

4:03 p.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

6:08 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless

driver on US 231.

4:40 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on Broadway Street.

5:36 p.m. - Caller reported a theft of medication.

5:46 p.m. - First responders were requested for a medical alarm on State Road 550.

8:38 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious person on Sycamore Street.

9:33 p.m. - Officer Nolan assisted Martin County Ambulance Service in Sunset Trailer Court.

11:32 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious vehicle on North Line Street.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

5:10 a.m. - Caller reported a speeding vehicle on Hwy 50.

2:05 p.m. - Caller requested a welfare check on a male.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

12:43 a.m. - Caller reported a suspicious vehicle near Subway. Officer Nolan spoke with the driver.

12:48 a.m. - Caller reported a disturbance at McDonalds.

11:35 a.m. - Female caller reported a theft from her vehicle.

2:10 p.m. - Caller reported an animal complaint.

2:59 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless vehicle on Broadway Street.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

12:50 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless vehicle on Park Street.

1:10 a.m. - Caller reported an intoxicated person at Chuckles.

4:08 p.m. - Caller reported a possible burglary on NE 3rd Street.

The Martin County Commissioners met Tuesday, January 20.

Sheriff Travis Roush submitted to the commissioners a grant request. The grant is a seatbelt enforcement project designed to increase seatbelt usage in rural areas. The enforcement period is April 5, 2015 through April 25, 2015. Commissioner Gregory made a motion to approve the Rural Seat Belt Enforcement Grant. Commissioner Boyd made the second. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Andy Ringwald, civil defense/EMA, updated the commissioners on recent happenings. There will be an EBOLA meeting in Jasper on February 2, 2015 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Judge Lynne Ellis updated the commissioners on the upgrade to the fire alarm system soon to be installed by Felts Lock and Alarm.

Kathy Collins, community corrections director, thanked Sheriff Roush and his department for responding so quickly to a road crew situation. Department of corrections requested the board of commissioners submit a letter stating the approval of her grant application and budget. The commissioners agreed to sign the letter.

Jonathan Stevens, extension educator, updated the commissioners on 4-H enrollment. There are approximately 250 kids registered. Project LEAD will be starting soon. This will be the 20th year the program has been in county schools. There will be a Manure Conference on Monday, February 2 at the community building from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. A representative from the Indiana Rural Health Association will be at the learning center on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. to assist individuals in obtaining a government health care plan.

Leo Padgett, highway superintendent, submitted his two-week work schedule. A discussion on the condition of the county roads followed. A decision on whether to put a weight limit on county roads will be decided at the first of next week. He updated the commissioners on an issue with the dump truck license plates and a sewer on Mill Road.

The commissioners tabled the appointment to the Lost River Advisory Board.

Director Collins explained the appointments for the community corrections advisory board. She will report back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Boyd made a motion to appoint Kathy Collins to the Samaritan Board. Commissioner Gregory made the second. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Auditor January Roush presented the compensation hours for 2014. There were 3,536.04 compensation hours recorded in various departments. The commissioners are in the process of creating an updated compensation hour policy for the new employee handbook.

Auditor Roush submitted the annual health department report for 2014. Attorney Lett suggested the health department publicize it.

Maximus, Inc. has completed the 2013 Central Services Cost Allocation Plan for Martin County. They estimate that Martin County will receive \$32,673 for reimbursement of Child Support IV-D Administration.

The commissioners held an executive session recently concerning a new employee handbook. The objective is to have the handbook effective April 1, 2015.

Attorney Lett advised the commissioners American Legal Publishing had questions concerning the new ordinances that were passed in 2014. They will update the county code book with these ordinances. Attorney Lett will meet with Auditor Roush to discuss.

Councilman Stiles thanked Superintendent Padgett for his work at the highway department. He inquired about a long-range plan for paving the county roads. It costs roughly \$100,000 to pave one mile of road. In the past, the highway department relied on Crane timber funds for such projects but with the declining revenue it has become harder to pave. A three-year plan was submitted to the council in 2010 to enact a wheel tax to increase revenue for the maintenance and repair of county roads. The council voted against the plan. A discussion on the wheel tax transpired.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned 6:49 p.m. with a motion by Commissioner Boyd and seconded by Commissioner Gregory. All were in favor and the motion passed. The next commissioners' meeting will be Tuesday, February 3 at 6 p.m.

## Martin County real estate transfers

**David R. Arvin and Aimee D. Arvin**, of Warrick County, Indiana to **Michael J. Breeden and Bobbie Jo Breeden**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana containing 5.519 acres, more or less.

**Magnum Farms, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Kevin S. Sermersheim and Cindy L. Sermersheim**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Rutherford Civil Township, Martin County, Indiana containing 3.984 acres.

**Amy Baesel and Tony W. Stone and Mary S. Stone**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Terry L. McCrary and Lynette K. McCrary**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of fractional Section 2, Township 2 North, Range 4 West of the second principal meridian and being in Center Township, Martin County, Indiana containing 5.75 acres except 4.06 acres, more or less.

**Doris J. Sanders** to the **Doris J. Sanders Revocable Trust**, the west half of Lot Number 149 and the west half of Lot Number 150 in the original plat of Memphis, now Shoals, Indiana.

**Mary E. Lankford**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Cari A. Jenkins**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 10 in Belair Village, in the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

**Ohio Investments, LLC**, of Clark County, Ohio to **Jeremy W. Braun and Allison L. Braun**, of Martin County, Indiana, part of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana containing 0.81 acres, more or less. Said tract is Lot 14 in Bellgrade.

## Jail booking

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

4:30 p.m. - Robert Taylor, Sr., 47, of Loogootee, was arrested for habitual traffic violator. Taylor, Sr. is being held on \$50,000 or 10% bond and was arrested by ISP Trooper Sexton.

## Court News

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

### CIVIL COURT

#### New Suits Filed

January 14

Central Mortgage Company vs. Carrie A. Spears, Mortgage Electronic Reg. Systems, Inc.; Discovery Bank and Peoples Bank, mortgage foreclosure.

January 15

Anna M. Vaught vs. Jerrod E. Vaught, petition for dissolution of marriage.

### SMALL CLAIMS COURT

#### New Suits Filed

January 15

Melton's Tree Service vs. John Mason, complaint.

January 20

Byron Stevenson vs. Aaron McPike, complaint.

### SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

January 26

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Kevin R. Boyd and against the defendants Jeremiah and Jessica Jackson in the amount of \$1,789.

### MARRIAGE LICENSES

January 23

Joby Lee Jeffers of Loogootee and Blythe Gabriel Downey of Loogootee.

January 26

Timothy Joe Cox of Loogootee and Shea Lynn Harris of Loogootee.

Larry Jason Jones of Loogootee and Melanie Fraley Stepanek of Loogootee.

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## Hands on Science!

-Photos provided

One fun way to learn about the Earth's orbit around the Sun is to make your own sundial and study the changing shadows. Students in Ms. Nicole Wade's fifth grade Science class took advantage of the recent sunny days to build and experiment with their own sundials. Shown in the photos are students, Haylie Mathias, Lauren Holt, Hannah Harshaw and Grace Gingerich building and experimenting with their sundials.



## December top honors

-Photo provided

The students of the month for December at Loogootee Elementary have been chosen. They are Dawson Potts, kindergarten; Hailey Osborne, first grade; Donna Yang, second grade; Brock Kain, third grade; and Lucas Brittain, fourth grade. These students have been chosen by their teachers because they possess positive character qualities of respect, caring, integrity, responsibility, and self-discipline as well as their perfect or outstanding attendance for the month of December, no detentions or loss of recess for behavior issues, they exhibit good effort daily, and they also work well with classmates with a cooperative attitude. The staff member of the month is nominated by the school staff. The December staff member of the month was Mrs. Krista Truelove. Krista is married to Cameron Truelove, of Loogootee, and they are expecting their first child this summer. She is a 2006 graduate of Loogootee High School and 2009 graduate of Southern Indiana University. In addition to teaching third grade at Loogootee Elementary, she also is the co-coordinator for the junior class prom. Her favorite quote is "Whisper words of wisdom. Let it be." This line from a Beatles song is inspiration to take the bad with the good in life, while sharing kindness and inspiration to others you encounter along your path. She thinks these are words that we can all learn from. Her favorite part of the day is when she gets to run with her group of close friends. Running is a time that she can clear my head, solve the day's problems, test my limits and recharge for what is ahead. She says, "A run never ends in a bad mood, no matter how it began."



## Essay winners

-Photo provided

Each year, Loogootee Middle School 6th grade students participate in the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. This contest asks students to examine American history, then write a 300-400 word essay about their views of American patriotism. The contest winners were recently announced. Makenzie VanHoy (above, left) daughter of Leslie and Bob VanHoy, won second place. Sarah Street (above, right), daughter of Dee Dee and Rob Street won first place. Their essays were chosen from essays written by all 6th grade students at Loogootee Middle School. Congratulations to Sarah and Makenzie!

## Loogootee and Shoals SCHOOL MENUS

### LOOGOOTEE ELEMENTARY

#### Breakfast

Thursday, January 29

Breakfast pizza, pears

Friday, January 30

Cereal, cheese stick, applesauce

Monday, February 2

Mini pancakes, mixed fruit

Tuesday, February 3

Whole grain biscuits and gravy, pears

Wednesday, February 4

Cereal, cheese stick, pineapple

#### Lunch

Thursday, January 29

Soft taco, salad, corn, applesauce, milk

Friday, January 30

BBQ pork, baked beans, chips, mixed fruit, milk

Monday, February 2

Breaded chicken, French fries, mixed fruit, vegetables, milk

Tuesday, February 3

Turkey Manhattan, green beans, pineapple, milk

Wednesday, February 4

Grilled chicken, baked potato, broccoli and cheese, applesauce, milk

Friday, January 30

BBQ pork, pizza or chef salad; baked beans, chips, pears, milk

Monday, February 2

Breaded chicken, pizza or chef salad; French fries, mixed fruit, vegetables, milk

Tuesday, February 3

Turkey Manhattan, pizza or chef salad; green beans, pineapple, milk

Wednesday, February 4

Grilled chicken, pizza or chef salad; baked potato, broccoli and cheese, applesauce, milk

### SHOALS SCHOOLS

#### Breakfast

Thursday, January 29

Sausage patty, biscuit, fruit, juice, milk

Friday, January 30

Cereal, muffin, fruit, juice, milk

#### Lunch

Thursday, January 29

Soft shell taco, corn, pineapple, milk

Friday, January 30

Pepperoni pizza, green beans, peaches, milk

### Loogootee Little League Sign-Ups

Loogootee Little League will be having signups on the following dates and times: February 8, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; February 11, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and February 15, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sign-ups will be held at the Loogootee High School Cafeteria.

### LOOGOOTEE INTERMEDIATE AND JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

#### Lunch

Thursday, January 29

Soft taco, pizza or chef salad; lettuce and tomatoes, corn, applesauce, milk

**CAROLYN HOWARD, AUTHOR**

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## In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser  
Purdue University Master Gardener

Each day that passes brings us a little closer to spring. Gardeners often wish to jump the gun, itching to get back into the garden to plant and cultivate. I suppose that is the reason that so many garden shows have sprung up to bridge the gap from winter to spring. I have been privileged to attend several of the great garden shows and I would recommend the experience to anyone who is suffering from spring fever. It is time now to make plans to attend a show this year.

The Indiana Home and Garden Show will be held February 13-15 at the Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis. This show focuses more on the home end of things than the gardens, but it is an early opportunity to see some new landscaping ideas.

The Indiana Flower and Patio Show will be held at the State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis March 14-22. More than 450 exhibitors will be on hand. Nurseries and landscape companies will force flowers into bloom for their booths, some of which are quite elaborate. There will also be vendors of garden furniture, tools and other accessories and many other booths of interest to gardeners. This show has been an annual affair since 1958 and is always fun. Be forewarned that the vendors may be a little rough on the wallet. They will have many tools, accessories and plants to tempt you.

The Louisville Home, Garden and Remodeling Show is slated for February 27-March 1 at the Kentucky State Fairgrounds. I have attended this show many times, but I caution that in recent years there have been more booths for mortgage companies and real estate brokers than for anything related to gardening and landscaping.

The Cincinnati Home and Garden Show

will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center February 28-March 1 and March 4-8. While I have been to the Cincinnati Flower Show held in the summer many times, I have never visited this winter-time show. They have been having it since 1969, so I assume it continues to attract crowds.

If you would like to head south, Nashville has a couple of shows in coming weeks. The Antiques and Garden Show will be held in the Music City Center January 30-February 1. They boast that some elaborate landscapes will be set up indoors for the show. The Horticulture Association of Tennessee will host a show at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds March 5-8. They expect 150 vendors for that event. By that time, daffodils and other spring flowers should be out in the Nashville area, so one could add a visit to one of the ante-bellum plantations in the Nashville area to see the spring flowers.

The Chicago Flower and Garden Show will be held March 14-22 at Navy Pier. This show's roots go back to 1847, making it one of the oldest and largest shows in the Midwest. Expect hundreds of displays and vendors. If you go to this one, take comfortable walking shoes. It seems to stretch on forever. It is all inside, so do not worry that the pier is likely to still be pretty wintery, despite the fact that spring officially arrives during the show.

The granddaddy of all garden shows in the United States is the Philadelphia Flower Show, scheduled for February 28-March 8 at the Philadelphia Convention Center. The Philadelphia Horticultural Society began in 1827 and the flower show started just two years later. Gardeners come from all over the world for this show. I personally have not yet made it to Philadelphia for the show, but I have attended the Chelsea Flower Show in England and I have been told by people who have attended both that the Philadelphia show is superior.

All of the shows mentioned have websites where you may order tickets and find additional information. If you do not have internet access, go to your local library, where they will be glad to help you find this information.

If it is not in your budget or schedule to attend one of these shows, there is a local alternative. The Hoosier Hillside Master Gardeners will host their eighth annual Spring Tonic on March 7 at the Orange County Fairgrounds Community Center. The day begins at 8 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast and will conclude at 3 p.m. Five speakers are scheduled. Ray Weatherholt, an advanced master gardener and master naturalist, will present "Bluebirding with Sunnyside Master Gardeners". Tami Hagemier, the CEO of Lanthier Winery in Madison, will talk about "Lily and Her Many Faces". If you yearn for low-maintenance landscaping, you will appreciate the presentation by Mary Ellen Meyers Sharp. Vanderburgh County Extension Educator and horticulture specialist Larry Caplan will present "Stupid Human Disease in the Garden" and the day will wrap up with "Continuity of Bloom" with Moya Andrews, a retired IU professor and author. A lunch is included and there will be vendors offering a variety of items of interest to gardeners. There will also be door prizes awarded throughout the day. Master gardeners attending this event receive five hours of continuing education credit.

Advanced registration is suggested. Registrations received by February 16 will be \$35, with the cost thereafter being \$40. For more information or to receive a registration form, call 812-278-6794 or contact the extension office in either Orange or Crawford county.

I hope to see you there.

## NRC approves limited river otter trapping season

The Indiana Natural Resources Commission last Tuesday approved rules that include a limited river otter trapping season beginning this fall.

River otters, a native Indiana species, are one of several successful management projects of the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, along with the restoration of white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons.

By the early 1900s, the loss of habitat and unregulated trapping led to a declining population of river otters, prompting the Department of Conservation, DNR's predecessor, to ban the taking of river otters in 1921. It is believed the species was gone from the state by the 1940s.

The DNR began reintroducing otters to state waterways in 1995. Over a five-year period, 303 river otters were captured in Louisiana and released in northern and southern Indiana. Their populations increased enough through natural reproduction that river otters were removed from the state endangered species list in 2005. Presently, river otters have expanded their range to include over 80 percent of Indiana's counties and their numbers continue to increase.

The rules passed Tuesday by the NRC followed DNR recommendations to allow river otter trapping in 66 counties that are within watersheds where river otters were released during the 1990s. Trappers will not be allowed to take river otters in 26 central Indiana counties where river otters were not reintroduced and where otters have not become established.

In addition to the county restrictions, a licensed trapper can take no more than two otters per season with a statewide quota of 600 otters. The trapping season will be November 15 to March 15, unless the statewide quota is reached sooner.

The proposed trapping season will not adversely affect the river otter population. Currently, regulated trapping is used to manage river otters in at least 33 states, many of which reintroduced river otter. The conservative bag limit and statewide quota are designed to allow otters the opportunity to

continue to expand their range and population densities in central Indiana.

The rules also allow for the sale of hides from legally taken river otters and squirrels.

The rules still need approval from the Attorney General's Office and Governor's office before taking effect. Details will be included in the 2015-16 Indiana Hunting & Trapping Guide that will be available in August.

In other actions Tuesday, the NRC approved nature preserve status for two sites, bringing to 264 the number of state-designated sites protected by the Nature Preserves Act. The newest additions are Meyer Nature Preserve in Morgan County and Sally Reahard Woods in Harrison County.

The Meyer Nature Preserve is just over 68 acres in northeast Morgan County, about five miles south of Mooresville. The forested site's topography features steep slopes, ridges and valleys and is home to breeding populations of four species of special concern - hooded, worm-eating and cerulean warbler, and Eastern box turtle. Central Indiana Land Trust owns and manages the site.

Sally Reahard Woods is a 658-acre property that is adjacent to the Mosquito Creek Nature Preserve. It contains sandstone capped hills, limestone bedrock cliffs along the west branch of Mosquito Creek and upland forests. Red-shouldered hawks, hooded warblers, and sharp-shinned hawks are species of special concern found at the site, along with a state-endangered insect, the Earwig Scorpionfly.

The NRC is an autonomous board that addresses topics pertaining to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

NRC members include the DNR director, heads of three other state agencies (Environmental Management, Tourism Development, and Transportation), six citizens appointed by the governor on a bipartisan basis, the chair of the NRC's advisory council, and the president of the Indiana Academy of Science. The Academy of Science president and the agency heads, other than the DNR director, may appoint proxies to serve the commission in their absences.

## Indiana farmers produce record popcorn crop

BY KEITH ROBINSON  
Purdue University News Service

Indiana farmers last year planted more acres in popcorn than ever before and produced a record crop despite abnormally wet conditions, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmers planted 91,000 acres of corn used to make popcorn, up 10,000 acres from 2013, according to a National Agricultural Statistics Service report produced for Purdue University. They harvested 90,000 acres, also up 10,000 acres from the previous year.

Although the amount of Indiana acres harvested in popcorn was small compared with the 5.77 million acres in corn grown for grain, Indiana is regarded as the second-largest popcorn producer in the nation behind Nebraska.

The NASS said total Indiana production was a record 4.32 million hundredweight, or cwt, equal to 432 million pounds. That was up 16 percent from the 3.72 million cwt in 2013.

The average yield of 48 cwt per acre, up 2 cwt from 2013, also was a record.

Greg Matli, Indiana state statistician for NASS, noted that while some farmers initially were concerned that planting delays caused by wet conditions would affect production and yield, the weather seemed to have had little effect in the long run.

"Although some producers lost a percentage of their crop due to scattered, severe weather in the early spring, many fields handled the storms well," he said. "Producers were able to harvest the majority of the crop,

which led to the highest production in the state on record."

The average price that farmers received for their crop, however, was down \$2.80 per cwt from a year earlier, at \$18.90 cwt, compared with \$21.70 in 2013. The crop value was \$81.65 million, up nearly 1 percent from the previous year.

The NASS report is available free for download at Purdue Extension's The Education Store at [www.edustore.purdue.edu](http://www.edustore.purdue.edu). The report can be obtained by entering the product code, D-463-W, in the search box.

## Spring Turkey Seminar to feature Harold Knight

The Dubois County Sportsmen's Club will host their Spring Turkey Seminar on Friday, February 20 at Reflections in Huntingburg. World renowned turkey hunter Harold Knight from Cadiz, Kentucky will be the guest speaker. Harold plans to talk about getting started in the beginning. He and his life-long friend David Hale started making turkey calls in their basement to fund an out of state turkey hunt to Missouri. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and Knight will give his presentation at 7 p.m. The event will also include gun raffles and a display of the club's programs. Tickets price includes entry and dinner adults (\$10) and youth (\$5). Youth is defined as 17 years old and under. Tickets are available at Great Outdoors in Jasper 812-482-4867 or from John Toy 812-630-9573.

The seminar is open to the general public and children are welcome to attend.

## GET THESE 3 BOOKS WHILE THEY LAST!

**Goodbye, Mom and Pop**  
Hundreds of photos and interviews covering the last Mom and Pop stores in 35 southern Indiana counties, 222 Pages depict a vanishing way of life.  
By Bill Whorrall  
**\$28**

**This Martin County book has over 800 luscious color photographs of the natural beauty in Martin County, Indiana.**  
349 pages  
**\$39**

**The Amish Community**  
Davies County, Indiana  
A Photodocumentation  
This book covers Amish life in Davies County, Indiana to a depth never captured before. 358 pages of photos, interviews, and explanatory text.  
By Bill Whorrall  
**\$39**

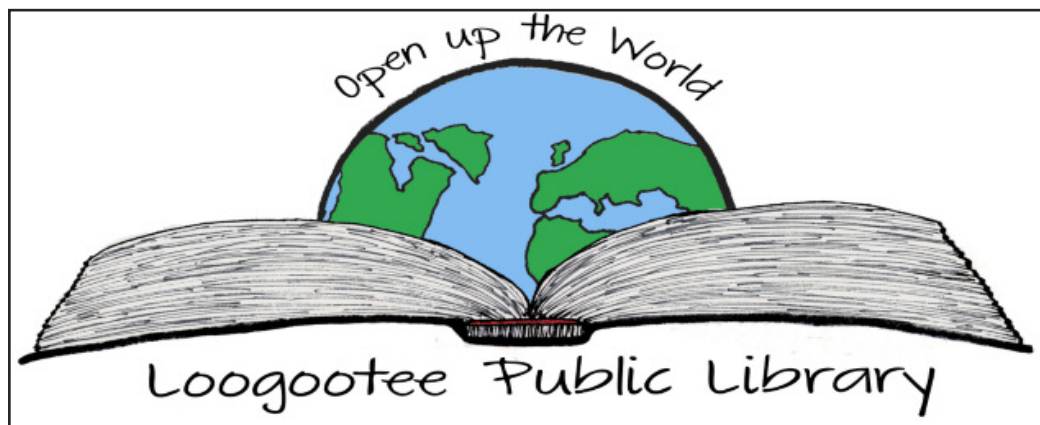
To see Bill's website for books and art go to [www.billwhorrall.com](http://www.billwhorrall.com)

Bill Whorrall's photos and text go beyond the surface, he has spent the time and energy to produce in-depth documentations of Indiana life.

Available by mail (add \$5 S/H)  
Bill Whorrall 13669 Rama Dye Rd.  
Shoals IN 47581.

Also, G&R Variety and the Martin County Historical Society Museum in Shoals





**BY DARLA WAGLER**  
*Librarian, Loogootee Public Library*

The Indiana State Library is sponsoring a bookmark competition for kids that attend Indiana schools in grades K-3. The theme is "Where Do Books Take You In Indiana" and bookmark entries will be judged on artistic quality, use of color and use of theme. The first place prize is the student's bookmark will be printed for his/her school and for libraries throughout Indiana, and the school will win INFO EXPRESS Delivery for a year starting June-1-2015.

In addition, there will be four Honorable Mentions that will be chosen too and their bookmarks will be printed for schools and libraries across the state. Here is the link to submit your bookmark entry [www.in.gov/li](http://www.in.gov/li)

## Purdue professor offers suggestions on keeping illness out of workplace

**BY JUDITH BARRA AUSTIN**  
*Purdue University News Service*

With an especially harsh flu season underway, Purdue University Professor Ellen Kossek says employers need to be proactive in dealing with ill workers.

Kossek, a specialist in work-life issues, says the United States has a large number of workers who aren't paid if they stay home because of illness.

"This can lead to something called presenteeism," Kossek says. "That means an ill worker shows up on the job but isn't really working. And that person can easily be spreading the illness."

Kossek says that in addition to providing sick time, employers also can help avoid having sick workers on the job and spreading illness by developing some useful policies. Among them:

- \* Provide cross-training so you don't have a case where only one worker knows

### The Texas Tenors to perform at Skelton Center

Rapidly becoming the most popular vocal group in America, The Texas Tenors will bring their unique mixture of country, Broadway, and classical styles to Vincennes University's Red Skelton Performing Arts Center on May 15 at 7:30 p.m. (EDT).

Tickets are available now at VU's Dayson Foundation & Alumni Center located at 3rd and College. Tickets are \$40 each and can also be purchased by calling 812-888-4354 or 800-945-ALUM.

As a Top Four finalist on the 2009 America's Got Talent, The Texas Tenors became the highest ranking vocal group in the show's history. With breathtaking vocals, humor, and cowboy charm The Texas Tenors have grown their fan base to incredible numbers, having performed more than 600 shows in over 20 countries including the UK and China. Named Billboard's Classical Crossover Group of the Year, The Texas Tenors provide a quality show perfect for all ages.

Each member of The Texas Tenors brings a different musical background and style to the group, with JC Fisher's country music roots, Marcus Collins' pop vocal expertise, and John Hagen's operatic voice. The Texas Tenors are a breath of fresh air in the field of classical music. The group filmed a PBS special in November 2013 in which they performed a number of songs from their album, "You Should Dream".

When not touring internationally The

brary/files/ShareBookmarkFlyer3.pdf.

The author of "Blood of My Ancestor", Carolyn Howard has written a new series titled Lost River Saga. These second book is "Liza, Ever Always" and is available to be checked out.

New Books:

Mystery Fiction: "Vegas" by James Patterson and "Breaking Creed" by Alex Kava.

Fiction: "Christopher's Diary" by V.C. Andrews and "Liza, Ever Always" by Carolyn Howard.

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](http://www.loogootee.lib.in.us) or like us on Facebook.

how to do a certain job. "Make sure each employee has a backup who knows how to do the same job," Kossek says.

- \* If it's technologically possible, let an employee who is not feeling well but not stay-in-bed sick work from home. "Perhaps the employee works a lighter load that day and catches up later in the week," Kossek said. "The employer gets some work done, and the employee doesn't infect other workers. The worker doesn't get behind and has time to sleep and recuperate."

"We need to rethink work to have weekly or monthly hours and include some paid sick time for workers."

A video of Kossek talking about work and illness is available at <http://youtu.be/IDxZ5DvMjoo>.

Kossek is the Basil S. Turner Professor of Management and Research and director of the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership in the Krannert School of Management.

### Third Coast Percussion free concert is Friday

Texas Tenors continue to perform at the Starlite Theater in Branson, Missouri. Proudly self-produced and managed, The Texas Tenors also dedicate a great deal of their time to working with charities.

A leading professional percussion ensemble, Third Coast Percussion, will perform a free public concert on January 30, 7 p.m. (EST) at Vincennes University's Red Skelton Performing Arts Center.

Founded in 2005, Third Coast Percussion has performed hundreds of concerts across the country, presents an annual concert season at home in Chicago, teaches musicians of all ages and experience levels, and has commissioned dozens of new works by composers. Third Coast Percussion is the Ensemble-in-Residence at the University of Notre Dame. The free concert is the culmination of an interactive, hands-on residency that began Tuesday and will continue through Friday.

"This is a great opportunity for the public to enjoy this very talented professional percussion ensemble that has impressed audiences across the United States," said Anne Pratt, director of Marketing and Development for the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy.

For more information call 812-888-4354.

# Calendar of Events

### Talk To A Lawyer on February 5

The next monthly telephone clinic that provides free legal advice and counsel is scheduled for Thursday, February 5. Talk To A Lawyer is a free monthly telephone clinic that allows the general public to call and ask general legal questions and receive general legal advice and counsel. Sponsored by the Volunteer Lawyer Program of SW Indiana, Indiana Bar Foundation and Evansville Bar Foundation, this program provides an opportunity the first Thursday of every month for anyone with a legal question concerning Indiana law, to call in and actually talk to an attorney. To access the clinic, the telephone numbers are: (812) 618-4845 and 888-594-3449. The hours for those individuals on Central time are 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and for those in the Eastern time zone are 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### 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.

## Reverse transfer agreement between Purdue and VU to benefit students

Thanks to a reverse transfer agreement, students who transfer from Vincennes University to Purdue University will now have the opportunity to earn a VU associate degree, even if they did not complete it prior to transfer.

"For many years the students who transfer from Vincennes to Purdue have been valued by our faculty. They are well prepared for the rigors of many of our academic programs. But in some cases, it is to their advantage to transfer before the associate degree is earned. Now we are so pleased that these students can easily earn the associate degree they deserve at no cost to them, and with just a simple request of a transcript," said Pamela T. Home, associate vice provost for Enrollment Management and dean of Admissions for Purdue University.

Under the agreement, Purdue will send an email to identified students that explains the reverse transfer opportunity and provide a dedicated email address ([Purdue2VU@vinu.edu](mailto:Purdue2VU@vinu.edu)) to which a free electronic Purdue transcript can be sent to VU for evaluation for the associate degree.

VU will in turn publicize the availability of reverse transfer with Purdue to enrolled VU students, evaluate all Purdue transcripts received for degree audit, award associate degrees as appropriate, and notify students when the requirements of the associate degree have been met or identify courses that are needed to complete the degree.

"It is good to be part of this cooperative venture. Both Vincennes University and Purdue University benefit when we have a process like reverse transfer in place to serve students," said Rebecca Little, registrar at VU.

VU President Dick Helton said the agree-

### 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 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](mailto: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](http://www.martinswcd.com) or call at 295-3149.

## Humane Society featured pet



Kylee is a female boxer mix, around a year old. She is very sweet and gets along well with other dogs. She is scheduled to be spayed next Thursday. Her adoption fee is \$60. If interested in adopting her, stop by the animal shelter 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.





-Photo provided

Col. David Augustine is shown above at the NDIA Lunch and Learn at the WestGate Academy discussing nuclear deterrence..

## NDIA Lunch and Learn discusses how to avoid World War III

Scenes from Top Gun and Dr. Strangelove greeted the crowd at the National Defense Industrial Association's (NDIA) January Lunch and Learn held last week. Filling a large classroom at the WestGate Academy Conferencing and Training Center, business, government, and military leaders gathered to hear from Col. David Augustine (Ret.), formerly of the Indiana Air National Guard and now Chairman of the Northeast Indiana Defense Industry Association (NIDIA) and Senior Vice President of Business Development for Stryke Industries.



Col. David L. Augustine (Ret.)

Augustine titled his remarks, "World War III: Avoiding the Unthinkable," a topic that played well with clips from the famous films, showing the U.S. nuclear capabilities. That capability, Augustine said, is the key to preventing large-scale war.

Recent social media hacks have brought international war into the spotlight. Twitter feeds from United Press International and New York Post were used to claim a Chinese attack on the USS George Washington in the South China Sea. No attack occurred, but the incident brought scenes of fresh, widespread, international conflict to the forefront.

Calling the defense industry the "arsenal

of democracy," a moniker from the second world war, adding that the country must remain prepared and not be dull to the threats posed by an increasingly active Russia and a powerful China, not to mention protecting interests on the European front. Nuclear deterrents are the creative legacy of the defense industry, Augustine said, and they are the key to preventing another world war.

After spending the previous day learning about the capabilities of Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane, Augustine remarked he was impressed not only by the base's rich history of service to the country, but also by the clear Hoosier pride and commitment to service members he saw on display.

"I can't say enough how impressed I am by NSWC Crane," said Augustine. "Our warfighters are only as good as the equipment we put in their hands, and Crane and its industry partners are providing the best."

NDIA regularly features speakers like Col. Augustine, providing an opportunity for networking that is a key function of the WestGate Academy. To stay informed about other networking, social, and educational opportunities, visit [www.westgatecrane.com](http://www.westgatecrane.com) and sign up for the official newsletter.

## Indiana wins approval of plan to cover 350,000 uninsured

Governor Mike Pence announced yesterday that the state has received approval from the federal government to use an updated version of the consumer-driven Healthy Indiana Plan known as HIP 2.0 instead of Medicaid to offer access to quality health care to 350,000 uninsured Hoosiers. The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) will begin taking applications immediately, and coverage will begin February 1.

"Since the beginning of my administration, we have worked hard to ensure that low-income Hoosiers have access to a health care plan that empowers them to take charge of their health and prepares them to move to private insurance as they improve their lives," said Governor Pence. "This has been a long process, but real reform takes work."

HIP 2.0 participants are required to contribute to a POWER account, which they manage like a health savings account and are rewarded for using preventive care. Consequences for non-payment range from mandatory co-pays for services to loss of coverage. In addition, the plan includes a co-pay for emergency room use, designed to encourage appropriate use of the emergency room.

The plan also offers low-income Hoosiers an option to receive assistance in purchasing private-market insurance through their em-

ployers, called HIP Link. The use of a health savings account as part of a premium assistance program is the first of its kind in the nation. The plan also refers applicants to job training and job search programs offered by the State of Indiana.

With this approval, Indiana will end traditional Medicaid for all non-disabled Hoosiers between 19 and 64 and will continue to offer the first-ever consumer-driven health care plan for a low-income population. In addition, the state will reform its traditional Medicaid program by increasing reimbursement for healthcare providers, which will improve access to care. The state negotiated the rate increase as part of its agreement with the Indiana Hospitals Association, which will help fund the Healthy Indiana Plan so it can be offered at no additional cost to taxpayers.

"The expanded and updated HIP 2.0 is based on a program that has been serving 60,000 low-income Hoosiers in our state for seven years," said Governor Pence. "It is a proven model for Medicaid reform across the nation."

For information on how to enroll in the Healthy Indiana Plan, visit [www.HIP.IN.gov](http://www.HIP.IN.gov) or call 1-877-GET-HIP-9. The state submitted its formal waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) on July 1, 2014.

## Department of revenue offers free online filing for Hoosier taxpayers

Nearly two million Hoosier taxpayers could qualify to file their federal and state taxes online for free using Indiana freefile (INfreefile).

If a taxpayer has an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$60,000 or less for 2014, they may be eligible for INfreefile. Taxpayers should visit [www.freefile.dor.in.gov](http://www.freefile.dor.in.gov) to see if they qualify for the program based on the vendors' options. If they qualify, taxpayers simply click the vendor of their choice and complete their tax returns online using a sophisticated question and answer style format.

"Last year nearly 120,000 Hoosier taxpayers used INfreefile. Many more qualify for the free service. I encourage anyone who meets the basic criteria to investigate this option," said Mike Alley, Department of Revenue Commissioner.

This year, six vendors provide a fast, easy, and secure way to file taxes electronically. Vendors participating in INfreefile include 1040NOW, H&R Block, OLT Online Taxes, TaxACT, Tax Slayer, and Turbo Tax. Tax-

payers must access these vendors via the IRS or state Free File website to use the free service.

Advantages to filing taxes electronically include:

Faster refunds – e-filed returns are processed in 10 to 14 days, while a paper return can take up to 12 weeks.

More secure – fewer people see your personal information.

Get more or pay less – e-filing software may suggest credits or deductions you might not have known about

More accurate – e-filed returns have a two percent error rate versus 20 percent for paper returns.

The Free File Alliance is a cooperative effort of the IRS, the states, and tax preparation software vendors. Indiana is one of 20 states that offer this service.

If taxpayers have questions about their tax return, they should contact the department online at [www.in.gov/dor/3392.htm](http://www.in.gov/dor/3392.htm) or call 317-232-2240.

## Extension publication can help communities stem Indiana's meth problem

BY KEITH ROBINSON  
Purdue University News Service

A new Purdue Extension publication gives community leaders insight into the methamphetamine scourge so they can work to solve the problems it causes in Indiana, which leads the nation in meth lab raids.

The authors of Methamphetamine Use in Rural Indiana explain the effects of meth use, describe trends in the illegal drug's use in rural areas and suggest possible ways local leaders can combat the problem.

"While nationwide methamphetamine use has followed a decreasing trend in recent years, meth use in Indiana has shown an increasing pattern," write authors Janet Ayres, a Purdue University agricultural economist whose work focuses on leadership and economic development in rural Indiana, and graduate research assistant Danielle Carriere.

There were 1,797 meth lab seizures in Indiana in 2013, the highest number of any state in the nation, according to the researchers.

"The implications behind this number are twofold - both positive and negative," the researchers write. "On one hand, it suggests that law enforcement officials are success-

fully finding and shutting down meth labs. On the other, it represents an increasing number of labs in the state."

The number of meth lab seizures in Indiana began to rise starting in 2007 after a couple of years of decline and since has surpassed its peak in 2004.

The publication is the latest in a series, begun in 2013, to help state and local leaders better tackle the many quality-of-life issues facing people in the most rural counties in Indiana, such as those involving business development, unemployment, education, availability of health care and healthy food, and access to broadband Internet services.

The authors say the meth lab problem in Indiana presents unique challenges.

Besides the drug being extremely addictive, they note, users can easily make it themselves. That is especially the case in rural Indiana where a key ingredient, anhydrous ammonia, is readily available because it is used in fertilizer.

The authors say the effects of meth use and production go beyond the obvious health problems, which include an increase in admissions to substance abuse treatment facilities for meth addictions from 2003 to 2013. Buildings such as houses where meth is pro-

duced must be decontaminated before they are considered safe to occupy, and the cost is so high that it is sometimes cheaper to demolish a building than clean it.

"Among those affected in rural communities, children often suffer most, due to exposure to chemicals used to make meth, or a parent or guardian's inability to provide care while on meth," the authors write.

The publication includes a table ranking each rural county's total meth lab seizures from 2011 to 2013 and its average seizure rate per 10,000 people. The authors favor the seizure rates for comparisons among counties because of the wide disparities in populations.

Starke County had the highest seizure rate (10.30) followed closely by Jennings County (10.28). Ohio County had the lowest rate (0.55). Harrison County had the most seizures (92) but was fifth in seizure rate (8.55).

The authors say people in rural communities should become more aware of the seriousness of the meth problem and get involved to help to solve it. They say leaders might want to request a program on topics covered by the state police's Methamphetamine Suppression Section and implement

programs such as The Meth Project, which has been credited with Montana's drop from fifth to 39th in the nation for meth abuse.

Each publication in the rural Indiana series is available free for download at Purdue Extension's The Education store at [www.edustore.purdue.edu](http://www.edustore.purdue.edu). The publications can be found by entering "rural Indiana" in the search box.

Let's pretend it's Spring

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## SCOUTING MATTERS

By Mike Leighty - Odon Troop 481 Scoutmaster

### SCOUTING AND THE SINGLE MOM

A few months ago the Pew Research Center released updated information about the American family. Continuing a trend, the surveys showed that 41 percent of American children are being raised by single mothers. Among African-Americans the figure is 72 percent; and among Hispanics, the figure is 53 percent. Pew also revealed that 44 percent of today's single moms have never been married. These are alarming statistics and this national condition is impacting us all in a negative way as the 'family unit' continues to degrade.

So what does this mean for scouting? Clearly there are households, boys and young men in need. In need of male role models, mentoring, structure and values scouting provides. And many single mothers are reaching out to the BSA to make sure their boys get those life-enhancing benefits.

Trust me, I understand how hard it can be for two parents to raise kids on top of careers and other activities. I can only imagine how difficult it is for a single parent to do that alone, especially if they live in an area where they don't have a lot of family support. The good news, scouting can help fill that vacuum in single parent homes. During the year, scouting provides a broad activity structure to keep young men active, engaged and focused on constructive things. The annual scouting program provides what local school systems or sports programs cannot – individual participation and one-on-one mentoring, year round. Long-term participation may also help to provide vocational opportunities or at least an exposure to them.

So after reading the Pew Research Center study I felt it appropriate to go beyond the statistics and find out more about scouting's impact on boys raised in single-parent homes. So I engaged three single moms about their experience and the benefits the BSA has had on their sons and household.

Tara, is a mother of an 18-year-old Eagle Scout named Daniel. Daniel's older brother had some limited experience in scouting before the divorce but otherwise this household had no prior experience with scouting. Tara told me, "As a single mom I will be the first to say a boy needs a male role model. It's a guy thing. They have to go and get muddy and bloody and whatever else it is they do on campouts. They need to be around testosterone, and not just estrogen. Men's brains are wired differently from women's and a boy needs both perspectives."

"People who know Daniel know that scouting had a tremendous positive impact on him. He tried school sports but just couldn't match

other boy's skills and sat on the bench. Scouting made a difference. He may not be the perfect example of the stereotypical 'perfect' Eagle, but I shudder to think where he would be if he hadn't had scouts and a scoutmaster to influence him. It was what he needed, it kept him on track and his future is bright."

Rachel, mother of nine-year-old Michael who is a Cub Scout. Rachel actually grew up in a scouting family, so it was a natural thing to involve her son in the program. Rachel told me, "Michael's father left when he was four, so he's learned things from the male leaders that I couldn't teach him. He's learned respect for men and how to see men in a positive light – not just like someone who will leave. He really attaches himself to the male leaders. When he sees them, he will just run up to them and give him a big hug and say, 'How you doing?'"

"Michael has ADHD, but at meetings he's always listening, very attentive, does everything he should. He's calm, cool and collected at activities and has said he can't wait to get into Boy Scouts. He's made two great friends, and the three of them say they're going to become Eagle Scouts together. The program and this kind of goal setting has filled a big hole in our household."

Finally, Karen, mother of a 21-year-old Eagle Scout named Jake. Karen had no prior experience with scouting before her son became involved. Karen was very transparent and told me, "Jake's father passed away six years ago. He was an alcoholic, so there were lots of issues at home. But Jake had started in scouting at age 8, stayed with it and moved through the ranks. Scouting gave him a chance to see what different men do in positive ways to be involved in young men's lives."

"Jake has recently gone to work as a licensed emergency medical technician, and I'm convinced that without Boy Scouts, he would not have been interested in that. When he learned lifesaving and survival skills, he really liked it. Scouting provided an easy transition to the role of first responder and someone who takes leadership in tense situations. I just wish everyone could experience the value of the Boy Scout program. I'm so glad Jake loved it and stayed with it."

I have little I can add to these three real life examples except... "Scouting Matters." If you would like to learn more about the scouting opportunities in your local area, drop me an email at [mike.leighty@centurytel.net](mailto:mike.leighty@centurytel.net) ... place Scouting Matters in the subject line. I will help you make contact with a local scouting unit.

Yours in scouting, Scoutmaster Mike

## More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



### THE NEXT SURVIVOR SERIES

Six married men will be dropped on an island with one car and three kids each for six weeks. Each kid will play two sports and either take music or dance classes. There is no fast food.

Each man must take care of his three kids; keep his assigned house clean, correct all homework, complete science projects, cook, do laundry, and pay a list of 'pretend' bills with not enough money. In addition, each man will have to budget in money for groceries each week.

Each man must remember the birthdays of all their friends and relatives, and send cards out on time.

Each man must also take each child to a doctor's appointment, a dentist appointment and a haircut appointment. He must make one unscheduled and inconvenient visit per child to the Urgent Care (weekend, evening, on a holiday or right when they're about to leave for vacation). He must also make cookies or cupcakes for a social function.

Each man will be responsible for decorating his own assigned house, planting flowers outside and keeping it presentable at all times. The men will only have access to television when the kids are asleep and all chores are done.

Each father will be required to know all of the words to every stupid song that comes on TV and the name of each and every character on cartoons. Each man will have to make an Indian hut model with six toothpicks, a tortilla and one marker; and get a four year old to eat a serving of peas.

Each man must adorn himself with jewelry, wear uncomfortable yet stylish shoes, keep their nails polished and eyebrows groomed. The men must try to get through each day without snot, spit-up or barf on their clothing.

During one of the six weeks, the men will have to endure severe abdominal cramps, back aches, and have extreme, unexplained mood swings but never once complain or slow down from other duties. They must try to explain what a tampon is for when the 6-year-old boy finds it in the purse.

They must attend weekly school meetings, church, and find time at least once to spend the afternoon at the park or a similar setting. He will need to read a book to the children each night without falling asleep, and then feed them, dress them, brush their teeth and comb their hair each morning by 7. They must leave the home with no food on their

face or clothes.

A test will be given at the end of the six weeks, and each father will be required to know all of the following information: each child's birthday, height, weight, shoe size, clothes size and doctor's name. Also the child's weight at birth, length, time of birth, and length of labor, each child's favorite color, middle name, favorite snack, favorite song, favorite drink, favorite toy, biggest fear and what they want to be when they grow up.

They must clean up after their sick children at 2 a.m. And then spend the remainder of the day tending to that child and waiting on them hand and foot until they are better. They must have a loving, age appropriate reply to, 'You're not the boss of me'.

The kids vote them off the island based on performance. The last man wins only if...he still has enough energy to be intimate with his spouse at a moment's notice.

After you get done laughing, send this to as many females as you think will get a kick out of it and as many men as you think can handle it.

### THINGS TO PONDER

1. Not everyone likes me, but not everyone matters.
2. I pledge to drink a bucket of wine to raise awareness for the earthquake that affected Napa wine country.
3. This one's for Flicker: There is no reason to tailgate someone in the slow lane, especially since I'm going over the speed limit. And those flashing lights on top of your car look ridiculous.
4. Sometimes when I say "I'm okay," what I really want is for someone to hold my hand, look me in the eyes and say, "You're not okay, here is \$1,000."
5. The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember that."
6. If you haven't grown up by age 50, you don't have to.
7. On the internet you can be anything you want. It's strange that so many people choose to be stupid.
8. If you eat and sleep good, exercise and always drink water, you will die anyway.
9. Host an OCD support group. Someone is bound to start cleaning.
10. Folger's got it wrong. The best part of waking up is going back to bed after you pee.

Make someone smile today!

## Indiana and Texas square off in a Civic Hackathon Challenge

Yesterday, Indiana and Texas announced the Indiana Texas Challenge, a battle for bragging rights for the best government application to serve citizens.

The #hackINvTX Challenge is a contest for the residents of both states to create applications that support and inspire entrepreneurship and digital government innovation, encourage government transparency and open data and promote interstate collaboration and competition. Each state is presenting two challenges, four in total, with the winner from each state earning \$4,000. A grand prize champion, that determines which state wins, will be selected by a national panel from the two challenge winners. The grand prize winner receives an additional \$4,000. The competition will start on January 31 and conclude on February 23.

Civic hacking is an opportunity for citizens, software developers, and entrepreneurs to collaborate and create, build, and invent new solutions using code, technology and publicly-released data to solve challenges relevant to neighborhoods, cities, states or the country.

"This is a chance to encourage our citi-

zens to use their skills to improve government services," said Indiana State Chief Information Officer (CIO) Paul Baltzell. "I believe that the intelligence and skill of Hoosiers and Texans will shine through and they will develop innovative solutions to these problems and potentially turn them into full-blown products. My hope is that some of these teams that form will eventually turn into businesses and bolster the burgeoning tech-scene in Indiana."

Todd Kimbriel, Interim CIO for Texas, said "We appreciate this Texas/Indiana challenge and welcome the opportunity to promote Open Data and Texas government transparency. We thank the Texas civic developer community for helping us provide citizen access to government information and services anytime, anywhere. Texans are known for their inventiveness and creating opportunities from challenges. I am confident the Texas team will bring forth ideas that are both innovative and useful."

Challenge Entries:

Indiana Department of Environmental Management: Create a centralized, streamlined, and secure platform for receiving, tracking, and collaborating on permit appli-

cations. Significant time in creating permits is lost in the hand offs between the agency and its stakeholders. Any system that assists in streamlining the processes and is transparent for users will benefit all.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security: Develop a method to register and create a checklist of available/needed services for Hoosiers visiting a One-Stop-Shop after a disaster.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services: Provide map-based results and associated information for child-care operations when using different search criteria.

Texas Department of Transportation: Develop a mobile application based on the www.my35.org approach that enables commuters to plan their travel more effectively along with the portability that comes with an ever-expanding mobile device market.

About NIC:

NIC Inc. is the nation's leading provider of official government websites, online services, and secure payment processing solutions. The company's innovative eGovernment services help reduce costs and increase efficiencies for government agen-

cies, citizens, and businesses across the country. Our popular self-funded solution allows government to put in-demand services online without using taxpayer funds. The NIC family of companies currently provides cost-effective eGovernment solutions for more than 3,500 federal, state, and local agencies in the United States. Additional information is available at [www.egov.com](http://www.egov.com).

Event information:

The #hackINvTX Challenge will have a launch event on Saturday, January 31 beginning at 10 a.m. The main launch event will be on the campus of IUPUI, with satellite events across the state.

The event at IUPUI will be in the Informatics and Communications Technology Complex, 535 West Michigan Street; Room 152.

A complete schedule of events in Indiana, including locations of satellite launch events, can be found at [www.TechPoint.org/Hack-Indiana-Series](http://www.TechPoint.org/Hack-Indiana-Series)

Details of the hackathon, including rules and full descriptions of the challenges can be found at [www.hackerleague.org/hackathons/texas-vs-indiana-challenge](http://www.hackerleague.org/hackathons/texas-vs-indiana-challenge).