

# Martin County JOURNAL

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Ten pages

## Recycling board continues discussion on selling Shoals building

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Solid Waste Board discussed the plans for the sale of the recycling center building in Shoals at their meeting last Wednesday morning, March 20.

Board Member Brian Ader said they received an appraisal on the building from McAtee Appraisal for \$92,500. It was learned that the appraisal only included the building and the grass lot behind it, not the entire lot, including the parking area. Auditor Michelle Norris, who was tasked with getting the appraisal, said she understood they only wanted the appraisal on the building and grass lot. She said since the recycling center wanted to retain the garage currently housing the veterans' van, so they could still provide recycling services in Shoals, she didn't think they wanted to include that area.

Board Member Paul George, who serves as a commissioner, said the county is interested in purchasing the property but only wants to offer \$80,000. He said the county is still paying for the recycling center employees' insurance premiums as well so they would want that money taken off the price also. The county has

paid three months of recycling center employees' insurance so far this year totaling \$11,072. The commissioners forgave \$11,000 in premiums paid last year and doesn't expect repayment for that.

Board Member Cody Roush, who also serves as a commissioner, said they would have to add up the health insurance costs for the whole year and take that off the purchase price as well because they can't guarantee they are ever going to get that money back from the recycling center. He suggested the recycling center put the building up for sale to the public because the county cannot pay the appraisal price and would want it for much less.

Board Member Ader said he understands the county wants their money but taking that much off the appraised price is cutting the throat of the recycling center even more. He said he also understands the county has helped the recycling center, but the center is trying to dig their way out of a hole. He said they can't take that much away from the sale price. "It's unrealistic," he said. He added that with things looking up in the recycling center, they could be able to pay for their own insurance soon and if they pay the county in advance for the year, that's pulling more money away from them.

Solid Waste Director Janell Freeman agreed saying cardboard is selling at \$150 a ton right now and she has \$17,000 worth of cardboard leaving this week.

"We've shelled out quite a bit of money," said Board Member Roush. "I just want to protect the taxpayers."

Ader replied that the recycling center has given a lot of money to the county in the past as well. "It's a two-way street here," said Ader.

"It's only been a one-way street for the past four years," replied Roush.

Ader said that is because of management and a lack of the solid waste board working together. He said since he and Mike Engleman have been on the solid waste board they have made some positive changes by all working together.

Jenny Dearwester, who was in the audience, agreed with Board Member Roush saying the county has given a lot of money to keep the recycling center afloat. She asked why the insurance can't be paid if the center is doing so much better. Board Member Ader replied that the semi-truck that hauls cardboard went down a few weeks ago and that is a new expense they are going to have to figure out.

Dearwester asked what would have happened if the county hadn't paid the recycling center employees' insurance.

Several board members replied that the employees wouldn't have insurance right now. "As a taxpayer, it seems they keep asking and asking," said Dearwester.

Director Freeman said there have been a lot of purchases made in the past that should have been financed which has led to the problems with the budget. She said she found someone to haul the cardboard for \$300 per load and she has done four loads in the last seven days so it's not sustainable.

Dearwester said major expenses can pop up all the time and there is no predicting it but that's the price of doing business. She said she thinks Freeman is doing a wonderful job, but the center just keeps relying on the taxpayers to get by. Board Member Ader again said that previous management was the problem because they were buying things that were not needed. He said Freeman is doing what she can to bring on new businesses and to change things.

Freeman said they only lost one customer when they increased the out-of-county fee from \$10 per pick up to \$25. She said some businesses changed from one pick up a week to a pick up every two weeks but in the end they will get the same amount of product to sell. She said  
(See 'RECYCLING' on page 2)

## Martin County's jobless rate at 3.5 percent in February

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
Martin County Journal Publisher

Martin County's unemployment rate moved from 3.3 percent in January to 3.5 percent in February. The county had the 15<sup>th</sup> lowest unemployment in the state for February, tied with LaGrange and Steuben counties.

In February, the county had 5,203 residents in the workforce and 182 of them were without work. In January, there were 5,211 residents able to work and 174 of them were unemployed. In February of 2023, Martin County's jobless rate was 3.2 percent with 5,232 residents in the workforce and 167 of them without jobs.

Daviess County's unemployment rate bumped up to 3.1 percent in February, from 2.8 percent the month before. They had the second lowest jobless rate in the state for February.

In February, the county had 16,850 residents in the workforce and 521 of them were unemployed. In January, there were 16,764 residents able to work and 475 of them were without jobs. In February of

last year, Daviess County's unemployment rate was 2.7 percent with 16,712 residents in the workforce and 457 of them without work.

Dubois County also saw an increase in their unemployment rate, moving from 3 percent in January to 3.3 percent in February. The county had the fourth lowest jobless rate in the state for February, tied with four other counties.

In February, the county had 21,522 residents in the workforce and 720 of them were unemployed. In January, there were 21,536 residents able to work and 653 of them were without jobs. In February of 2023, Dubois County's jobless rate was 2.9 percent with 21,569 residents in the workforce and 626 of them without work.

Greene County's jobless rate bumped up to 5 percent in February, from 4.8 percent the month before. The county had the 10<sup>th</sup> highest jobless rate in the state for February, tied with Vigo County.

In February, the county had 13,407 residents in the workforce and 677 of them were without work. In January, there were  
(See 'RATE' on page 2)

## Martin County sex offender sentenced to serve a decade in federal prison

Ryan Watkins, 47, of Loogootee, has been sentenced to ten years in federal prison after pleading guilty to possession of sexually explicit material involving minors.

According to court documents, on multiple occasions between January and April of 2023, Ryan Watkins viewed and downloaded images of child sexual abuse material to his cell phone linked to an internet cloud-based data storage platform.

Investigators examined the files and found more than 600 images depicting minors under twelve years old engaged

in sexually explicit conduct. Images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct were also located by investigators in a Google Chrome cache folder and download folders on Watkins' cellphone.

In May of 2010, Watkins was convicted of felony Child Molestation, in Daviess County, Indiana and was a registered sex offender at the time he was viewing the sexually explicit material involving minors.

"This previously convicted child mo-  
(See 'OFFENDER' on page 2)



-Photo provided

Jeff Doyle, left, and Chris Bateman, right, will compete in the 2024 Minto US OPEN Pickleball Championships in Florida on April 19 and 20.

## Bateman, Doyle to compete in pickleball championships in Florida

A record 3,000-plus amateur and professional pickleball players of all ages and skill levels from all 50 states and nearly 30 different countries will once again gather in Naples, Florida from April 13-20 to compete in the largest and most prestigious pickleball tournament in the world -- the 2024 Minto US OPEN Pickleball Championships powered by Margaritaville.

Among these players are Chris Bateman, of Loogootee and Jeff Doyle of Montgomery. They will be competing in the men's aged 50-54, 4.5 skill level.

The most prestigious event in pickleball since 2016 is back in beautiful Naples, Florida with a \$150,000 pro prize purse, and a record number of players. Known as the "Biggest Pickleball Party

in the World™," the 40,000 spectators create an electric atmosphere at East Naples Community Park -- the largest permanent pickleball facility in the world.

The event will be streamed daily on Pickleball Channel with the women's and men's pro action broadcast live on CBS Sports Network on Friday, April 19 from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, April 20 from 5-9 p.m. ET.

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the country. A recent study indicated that more than 36 million people had played the sport. Information on the Minto US OPEN Pickleball Championships is available at [www.USOPENPickleball.com](http://www.USOPENPickleball.com).

You can follow the event on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

# RECYCLING

(Continued from page one)

raising the fees in the recycling center for public drop off has helped as well.

Board Member George said the amount offered for the Shoals building is where the county is comfortable. Ader asked if they can take the insurance premium payments by the county off the \$92,500 instead of the \$80,000 offer. Roush said no, especially since the parking lot was not included in the appraisal.

In the end, the board decided to reach out to Joe McAtee to have him clarify the appraisal provided to see what it included. Two appraisals are required if the recycling center wants to put the land up for sale to the public. Since only one appraisal has been received the board discussed the need to reach out to another appraisal company.

Attorney Lett said the cost of a commercial appraisal is \$2,000. Board Member Jim Hamby, who had made a motion to get the second appraisal, rescinded his motion because the center doesn't have \$2,000 in the bank currently to pay it. Board Member Ader said he believes they can get another appraisal done for less than \$2,000. He asked for the board's approval to move forward if they can get it done for much less. The board approved. Attorney Lett said he would contact Brooks Gallaway.

Board Member Roush said they need to figure out how to separate the small garage on the property so the recycling center can still provide services to Shoals. Lett asked what would be done with the veterans' van if that garage is used by the recycling center. It was discussed that it can be parked under the canopy at the sheriff's department or kept under the drive-thru of the courthouse.

Freeman was asked about the repayment of the center's \$65,000 loan balance that is due in August of this year. The recycling center will receive their lump sum payment from the tax levy in June. Freeman said she spoke with German American, and they said the loan could probably be extended if the recycling center pays \$5,000-\$10,000 on the balance.

The board discussed the need to find another semi to haul cardboard. The board debated whether they should try to find a used transmission to get the semi running for now while they look for one to buy. Freeman said she was told the repairs on the semi would be \$8,000 to \$10,000 and the semi had over a million miles on it when it was originally purchased. She said the semi is only worth around \$5,000. She said she cannot keep paying \$300 per semi load to send out cardboard, however. The board decided to see if they could find a used semi for \$15,000 to \$18,000.

Freeman updated the board on possibly changing the recycling center's book-keeping software. She said she has been advised not to change software companies mid-year or before an audit. She said an audit is expected sometime this year. She said it was suggested the center move next year to Quickbooks Online instead of purchasing Quickbooks software and they could save money.

Board Member Ader presented a quote from Duke Energy to replace or repair lighting inside the recycling center. The cost would be \$1,994.09 after project

incentives. Ader said upgraded lights would save the center \$116.13 per month in energy costs. It was noted that the recycling center doesn't currently have the money to accept Duke's quote. Freeman said she can apply for a boost grant from the Martin County Community Foundation, and it was suggested she apply for a grant through Daviess-Martin REMC. The board went ahead and approved the work for when money is available.

Freeman said she also plans to apply for a grant to install heat in the back area of the center. She said she was told the community foundation offers emergency grants as well.

Freeman reported the recycling center will be picking up all of Orange County's recyclables. She said they are requesting a trailer be left at their facility. Orange

# RATE

(Continued from page one)

13,265 residents able to work and 633 of them were without jobs. In February of last year, Greene County's unemployment rate was 4.7 percent with 13,615 residents in the workforce and 644 of them without jobs.

The top ten spots in the state for lowest unemployment rate for February were Gibson County at 3 percent, Daviess County at 3.1 percent, Hamilton County at 3.2 percent, Posey, Hendricks, Dubois, Clinton and Boone counties at 3.3 percent, and White, Union, Johnson, Jackson and Benton counties at 3.4 percent.

The top ten spots in the state for highest jobless rate for February were Lake County at 6 percent, Howard County at 5.8 percent, Starke County at 5.5 percent, Fayette County at 5.4 percent, LaPorte, Sullivan and Vermillion counties at 5.2 percent; Crawford and Delaware counties at 5.1 percent and Greene and Vigo counties at 5 percent.

The unemployment rate of the State of Indiana in February stood at 3.5 percent, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. By comparison, the national unemployment rate for February stood at 3.9 percent.

In addition, Indiana's labor force participation rate stood at 62.8 percent for February, remaining above the national rate of 62.5 percent. This rate is the percentage of Hoosiers 16 and older that are either working or actively looking for work. Those not in the labor force include, primarily, students, retirees and other non-working populations, such as individuals unable to work due to a disability or illness, or adults responsible for their family's childcare needs.

Indiana's total labor force stands at 3,389,372 - a decrease of 8,675 from the previous month.

"Indiana's overall economic footing and outlook remain solid with near historically low unemployment," said DWD Commissioner Richard Paulk. "Peak private sector employment - 2,845,200 jobs - is driven by robust labor force participation in the key 25-54 demographic."

Private sector employment in Indiana increased by 2,800 jobs over the last month, resulting in a gain of 32,200 jobs from this time last year. Indiana's February private employment stands at 2,845,200.

Industries that experienced job increases in February included:

County will bale their own paper and cardboard which Freeman said will be a huge benefit. She said her employees will still have to bale cans and plastic. Orange County is also going to start collecting clothing which has become a source of extra funding for the Martin County Center.

The board approved setting spring clean-up at the recycling center for May 24-25. Freeman suggested raising the fees to \$20 for a small pick-up load, \$30 for larger-size pick-up loads and \$40 for a trailer. She said residents are overloading their trucks and trailers and wanting to pay for the price of a small load. The board approved the increases.

Board Members Roger Abel and Aaron Summers were not present for the meeting.

Private Educational and Health Services (+1,300);  
 Manufacturing (+1,300);  
 Leisure and Hospitality (+400);  
 Professional and Business Services (+300); and  
 Construction (+100).

As of March 18, 2024, there were 101,325 open job postings throughout the state. As of the week ending on March 2, 2024, Indiana had 25,154 continued unemployment insurance claims filed.

Individuals looking for work, training or career information are encouraged to visit [in.gov/dwd/job-seekers](http://in.gov/dwd/job-seekers).

# OFFENDER

(Continued from page one)

lester chose to continue seeking gratification from the sexual abuse of children," said Zachary A. Myers, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, Zachary A. Myers. "He didn't care about the trauma that was inflicted on these victims, so long as he could enjoy this heinous material. Thanks to the U.S. Secret Service, Indiana State Police, and our federal prosecutor, our children are safer, and this dangerous offender is back behind bars where he belongs."

The United States Secret Service and the Indiana State Police investigated this case. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge Richard L. Young. Judge Young also ordered that Watkins be supervised by the U.S. Probation Office for fifteen years following his release from federal prison and that he must pay \$6,000 in restitution.

U.S. Attorney Myers thanked Assistant United States Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who prosecuted this case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.



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Sunday (Breakfast Only!) 7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

# OBITUARIES

## SYLVIA JONES

Sylvia Jane (Brassine) Jones passed away Monday, March 25, 2024, at Sycamore Care Strategies, Loogootee. A resident of Shoals, she was 85.

She was born November 1, 1938; the youngest daughter of Severn Dale and Angela Lucille (Sipes) Brassine.

Sylvia graduated from Williams High School with the class of 1957.

She worked at Crane as a seamstress during the Vietnam War and was a waitress for many years.

Sylvia enjoyed making candy and passing out candies during the holidays; baking; gardening; and crocheting. She lived a very simple life and will be dearly missed.

Surviving are her children, Carl DeWayne (Martie) Brassine, Clint Anthony Jones, Kenneth Ray Jones, Angela Marie Jones, and Charles Christopher Jones; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sister, Saraphine C. Doane; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in by her parents; the father of her children, Kenneth R. Jones; and 11 brothers and sisters.

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 28 at the Queen-Lee Chapel of George Funeral Care. Burial will follow in Mt. Olive Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until the service hour on Thursday at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.queenlee.com](http://www.queenlee.com).

## STEVE LUNDY

Roy Stephen "Steve" Lundy, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and brother, passed away peacefully on March 21, 2024, in Evansville. He was 71.

He was born September 4, 1952, in Dover Hill; son of the late Martha Westhaver Lundy and Woodrow Lundy, Steve's life was a testament to the enduring power of love, family, and hard work.

Steve's journey through life was shared with his beloved wife of nearly 36 years, Lori A. Bender Lundy, whom he married on March 25, 1988, in Newberry. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and lasting memories. Steve was a devoted father to Stephanie Killion (Justin) and Adam Lundy (Claire Roberts). His role as a grandfather was one he cherished deeply, and he leaves behind a legacy of joy and wisdom for his grandchildren, Allie Jones (Jason), Kassie Peach (Alan), Tylie Walton, Hunter Killion, and Genevieve Lundy. The recent addition of his great-granddaughter, Kinsley Mae Peach, brought him immense pride and happiness. Steve is also survived by his sister, Sue Baker, and sister-in-law Janette Lundy, who will



STEVE LUNDY

miss him dearly.

Preceding him in death were his parents and siblings, Virgil Lundy, Dwight Lundy, Leland Lundy, and Joyce Riggins. Steve's family was the cornerstone of

his life, and he often said that his greatest accomplishments were not his alone, but those he achieved with and for his family.

Steve's professional life was marked by dedication and entrepreneurship. After retiring from Jefferson Trucking, he became a co-owner of Lundy Transport. His business acumen was also evident in his successful management of multiple rental properties. Steve was not only a savvy businessman but also a master carpenter, a skill that he took great pride in, and which was reflected in the beautiful work he created.

An active member of Teamsters Local Union 135, Steve was well-respected by his peers and colleagues. His commitment to his work and his fellow workers was unwavering, and he was always ready to lend a helping hand or share a word of advice.

Steve's interests were as colorful and vibrant as his personality. He had a passion for vintage automobiles, the color choice, red, which he collected and cared for with great enthusiasm. His love for yellow houses and beautifully stained patios was evident in the warm and welcoming home he created for his family. Steve's home was not just a place of residence but a reflection of his heart – bright, inviting, and full of life.

The most important part of Steve's life was undoubtedly his family. He found his greatest joy in the time spent with his grandchildren, whether it was sharing stories, imparting life lessons, or simply enjoying their company. Steve's love for his family was his guiding light, and it shone brightly in every aspect of his life.

Steve also enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, such as camping and taking long drives. These activities provided him with a sense of freedom and adventure, and he often used these moments to bond with his loved ones and to reflect on the beauty of the world around him.

Roy Stephen Lundy's life was a beautiful tapestry woven with love, dedication, and joy. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his spirit will live on in the hearts of his family and friends. Steve's legacy is one of love, hard work, and the importance of cherishing every moment with those we hold dear. As we say goodbye to this remarkable man, we

take comfort in knowing that his journey was full of purpose and that he was loved beyond measure.

The family welcomes condolences and fond memories to be shared at [www.gillsince1872.com](http://www.gillsince1872.com). Fredrick and Son-Gill Funeral Home is honored to assist the family of Steve Lundy with arrangements. Services will be held privately.

## ALICE PECKRON

Alice Margaret (Hess) Peckron passed away Sunday, March 24, 2024, at Prairie Village Nursing Facility in Washington. A resident of Loogootee, she was 78.

She was born August 4, 1945, in Minnesota.

Alice will be dearly loved, missed, and remembered forever.

She married Frank Peckron and he preceded her in death.

Surviving are her children, Ricky Rost, Roger (Donna) Hess, Robert Wetzel, and James (Heather) Wetzel; grandchildren, Crystal McIntire, Roger Hess Jr., Nevaeh Russell, Xavier Hess, Harper Hess, and Dylan Ross; great-grandchildren, Bryar Davis and Birdie Denny; sister, Rosemary Hess; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Frank.

Cremation was chosen with no services per Alice's wishes.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.queenlee.com](http://www.queenlee.com).

## GERALD SCHMIDT JR.

Gerald L. Schmidt Jr. passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at his home. A resident of Shoals, he was 60.

He was born November 24, 1963, in Fairfax, Virginia; son of Gerald L and Margaret (Smith) Schmidt.

He graduated from Greenfield High School and served in the United States Army.

Gerald married Donna Adams on July 6, 1998, and she survives.

He worked at Perdue Farms for many years. Gerald enjoyed farming and raising

cattle. He enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, which he and Donna had ridden to every state except for New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

Surviving are his wife, Donna; sister, Lara LaMontagne; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral service will be at noon on Tuesday, April 2 at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the hour of service on Tuesday, April 2 at the Queen-Lee Chapel of George Funeral Care. Military rites will be conducted by members of the Shoals American Legion Post #61. Cremation will follow.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital in Memory of Gerald Schmidt Jr.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.queenlee.com](http://www.queenlee.com).

## CARRIE CRAMER

Carrie Lynn Cramer passed away Tuesday March 26, 2024, at Memorial Hospital and Rehabilitation in Jasper. A resident of Loogootee, she was 38.

She was born October 21, 1985, in Jasper; daughter of Gregory and Vicki (Gillick) Cramer.

Carrie loved to be outdoors planting flowers and gardening. When her father was alive, they loved to spend time hunting and fishing together. Carrie loved listening to music and spending time with her family. She will be missed by all that knew her.

She is preceded in death by her infant son, Cayden Crisp; her father, Gregory Cramer; her uncle, Mark Gillick; her grandparents, Shirley and Victor Gillick; and her grandfather Henry Cramer.

Carrie is survived by her son, Lucas Cramer; her mother, Vicki Cramer; her brother, Dustin Cramer; her niece Anna Cramer; her uncle Kevin Gillick; her grandmother, Patricia Pruetz; her aunt Teresa Beasley-Begley; and many cousins and friends.

Cremation was chosen according to Carrie's wishes. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee is honored to serve the family of Carrie L. Cramer.

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SAFETY & TRAVEL INFO

## Martin County Sheriff's Department activity log

### MONDAY, MARCH 18

7:18 a.m. - Received a call from Area 1 Protection advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

7:37 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Deputy Branham responded.

8:47 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance northeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Indian Creek Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Bedford.

9:56 a.m. - Deputy Erwin transported one inmate to court.

10:03 a.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn in Orange County.

11:35 a.m. - Received a 911 call advising of a disabled vehicle south of Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

11:46 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded but did not transport.

12:47 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

2:16 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting assistance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

3:20 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check in Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

3:37 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn northeast of Loogootee.

3:37 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check in Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

4:45 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer's assistance south of Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

4:06 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn southeast of Shoals.

7:28 p.m. - Received a call reporting a disabled vehicle in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

8:08 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

10:59 p.m. - Received a call from Lawrence County requesting assistance. Major Reed, Deputy Doane, Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner and LPD Reserve Officer Shaw responded.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 19

4:34 a.m. - Received a call advising of a possible traffic hazard south of Shoals. Major Reed responded.

8:01 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

8:20 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt responded.

9:44 a.m. - Deputy Erwin transported one inmate to court.

12:50 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Medic 3, Loogootee Fire Department, Loogootee Chief Hunt, Loogootee Assistant Chief Long and Sergeant Wells responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:58 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

2:02 p.m. - Deputy Erwin transported two inmates to court.

3:42 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle east of Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

3:44 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

4:47 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:18 p.m. - Received 911 call reporting suspicious individuals in Shoals. Captain

Gibson and Deputy Doane responded.

8:12 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Deputy Doane responded.

8:40 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check on a boat south of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells responded.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

2:17 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:10 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

9:41 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

10:12 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 traveling east. Notified Lawrence County.

11:45 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:40 p.m. - Deputy Erwin transported one inmate to court.

1:26 p.m. - Deputy Erwin transported two inmates to court.

1:51 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree in the roadway northeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

2:11 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

3:10 p.m. - Received a request for extra patrol east of Shoals. Captain Gibson and Deputy Doane responded.

3:35 p.m. - Received a call advising Poplar Care Nursing Center will be doing a fire alarm test today.

3:45 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a domestic dispute south of Loogootee. Captain Gibson and Deputy Doane responded.

4:18 p.m. - Received a 911 call from a Greene County address. Transferred call to Greene County 911.

6:19 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

8:38 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

9:01 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Medic 3 and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded. No one was transported.

9:01 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

11:06 p.m. - Received a call from ADT advising of a residential burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 21

9:27 a.m. - Deputy Erwin transported one inmate to court.

10:12 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

10:13 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

11:12 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

11:37 a.m. - Received a call from Knox County reporting a 911 call north of Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller and Sergeant Wells responded.

11:50 p.m. - Received a call reporting possible harassment south of Loogootee. Sheriff Greene responded.

12:05 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

12:07 p.m. - Received a 911 call from Crane base. Transferred call to Crane 911.

2:01 p.m. - Received a call from ADT advising of a residential burglar alarm in Crane Village. Sergeant Wells responded.

3:16 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

3:36 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Deputy Branham responded.

4:35 p.m. - Received a call from Alarm Co advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Crane. Keyholder was notified.

8:57 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a disabled vehicle south of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

8:59 p.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 22

1:09 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible prowler south of Loogootee. Deputy Baumgart responded.

7:00 a.m. - Received a call from Daviess County requesting assistance at an accident. Martin County Medic 1, Medic 3 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

9:20 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt responded.

9:21 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check on a boat trailer south of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

9:30 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn southwest of Shoals.

10:08 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:48 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

11:23 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn northeast of Shoals.

11:42 a.m. - Received a call requesting assistance in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt responded.

1:12 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible trespasser north of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

3:54 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Deputy Branham responded.

4:20 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

5:00 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious male in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

6:53 p.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Called Daviess County with information.

7:15 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver south of Shoals. Deputy Baumgart responded.

7:19 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible theft east of Shoals. Deputy Baumgart responded.

9:50 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Baumgart responded.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 23

12:09 a.m. - Received a call from Lawrence County requesting an officer's assistance. Deputy Baumgart responded.

9:27 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231 South, traveling north. Loogootee Reserve Captain Harmon responded.

10:24 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

1:07 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Shoals.

3:18 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a field fire south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

5:24 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Shoals.

5:44 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible threat north of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

5:50 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:15 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Shoals.

6:35 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:17 p.m. - Received a report of reckless driver south of Shoals. Deputy Baumgart responded.

8:24 p.m. - Received a report of a neighbor dispute southeast of Shoals. Deputy Baumgart responded.

9:20 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver on US 231 South, traveling north. Deputy Baumgart responded.

10:09 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:19 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a suspicious male north of Shoals. Deputy Baumgart responded.

10:20 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible theft in Loogootee. Deputy Baumgart responded.

11:19 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance east of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 and Deputy Baumgart responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 24

6:35 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Officer Stivers, Loogootee Fire Department and Deputy Baumgart responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:21 a.m. - Received multiple 911 calls reporting an accident with no injuries east of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells, Loogootee Officer Stivers and Big John's Towing responded.

9:49 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn in Shoals.

12:21 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious person in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Stivers responded.

12:33 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a verbal dispute south of Shoals. Captain Gibson and Sergeant Wells responded.

1:07 p.m. - Received a call reporting a neighbor dispute southeast of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

1:22 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn northeast of Loogootee.

3:30 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Sergeant Wells responded.

4:30 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting officers in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt, Captain Gibson and Sergeant Wells responded.

7:56 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a tree down southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department responded.

8:07 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver east of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

8:59 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

9:27 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

### ISP reminds Hoosiers to put away distractions while behind the wheel

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is launching a national high-visibility enforcement effort this April to deter distracted driving.

"Distractions behind the wheel can have devastating consequences," said Devon McDonald, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Executive Director. "We urge all motorists to focus on the road and avoid any activity that takes their attention away from driving safely."

Law enforcement officers nationwide will work together to enforce texting and distracted-driving laws and remind people to put away distractions while on the road. This effort comes during National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

"People know using their phone while driving is dangerous and often illegal, but they do it anyway, and put themselves and others at risk," said Lieutenant Jason Allen. Drivers will see increased law enforcement efforts, as officers will be stopping and ticketing anyone who is caught texting and driving."

Violating Indiana's distracted driving laws can be costly. Violators of Indiana's hands-free law could face a Class C infraction with fines of up to \$500 and have points added to their license. Cell phone use while driving is dangerous and illegal. Break the cycle. For more information, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/distracted-driving](http://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/distracted-driving).

## COURT NEWS

### CIVIL COURT New Suits Filed March 19

Reuben Raber vs. Taylor A. Kavanaugh, civil plenary.

### SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS March 18

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Paul J. Moffitt in the amount of \$5,387.37.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Thomas C. Bledsoe in the amount of \$1,328.06.

### MARRIAGE LICENSES March 15

Courtney Leann Chandler of Shoals and Joshua Alex Cave of Shoals.

## ARRESTS

### FRIDAY, MARCH 22

3:42 a.m. - Kathy Welborn, 48, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Baumgart and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-refusal. She is being held on \$3,000 10% bond.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 24

1:53 a.m. - Tracy Taylor, 32, of Bloomfield, was arrested by Deputy Baumgart and charged with driving while suspended-prior. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

## Loogootee Police Department log

### MONDAY, MARCH 18

3:17 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Cedar Street.

7:26 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Southeast First Street.

10:59 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call at the Marathon.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 19

12:50 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department, Chief Hunt and Assistant Chief Long responded to a medical call on Broadway Street.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

9:41 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Assistant Chief long responded to a medical call on Southeast Third Street.

10:11 a.m. - Chief Hunt and Assistant Chief Long responded to a call on Washington Street.

10:52 a.m. - Assistant Chief Long responded to a call at the IGA store.

11:06 a.m. - Chief Hunt and Assistant Chief Long responded to a call on Lomar Street in Crane.

9:01 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Oak Street.

11:06 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Clark Road.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 21

12:43 p.m. - Assistant Chief Long responded to a vehicle unlock at the Dollar General.

1:11 p.m. - Chief Hunt, Assistant Chief Long and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Bloomfield Road.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 22

No calls to report.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 22

No calls to report

### SUNDAY, MARCH 24

6:35 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Stivers responded to a medical call on Cedar Street.

9:23 a.m. - Officer Stivers responded to a call on US Highway 50.

12:22 p.m. - Officer Stivers responded to a call near Dollar General.

2:34 p.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call on Cooper Street.

4:20 p.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call on Green Street.

## Martin County real estate transfers

**Stewart E. Blake and Mary Ellen Blake**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Shaded Lane Estates, LLC**, of Allen County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter and a part of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, both in Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 14.253 acres, more or less.

**Steven D. Archer**, of Johnson County, Indiana; **David Archer**, of Monroe County, Indiana, and **Angela K. Naue**, of Morgan County, Indiana to **Graber Acres, LLC**, of Daviess County, Indiana, the east half of the west half and the east half of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 3 West.

**Neil Strange and Emily Strange**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Emily R. Bell**, of Dubois County, Indiana, Lot Number 13 in Block E in the Loogootee Land Company Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

**Jennifer Lukens and William Bruce**

**Lukens**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Calvin L. Meisenheimer and Angela D. Meisenheimer**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 10 in J.P. Arvin's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Martin County, Indiana.



**SLATE CREEK BEEF**

Nolan Lottes

Local beef by the 1/4, 1/2, or whole Hogs by the 1/2 and whole Individual beef orders available

(812)-787-2186

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Loogootee, Indiana

## TOY'S AUTO PARTS, INC.

<b>Loogootee</b> (812) 295-2312	<b>Shoals</b> (812) 247-3321	<b>Jasper</b> (812) 634-2222	<b>Washington</b> (812) 254-2540
<b>Sullivan</b> (812) 268-5252	<b>Martinsville</b> (765) 342-6623	<b>Linton</b> (812) 847-4494	
<b>Jasonville</b> (812) 665-3969	<b>Bicknell</b> (812) 735-3545	<b>Bloomfield</b> (812) 384-4453	

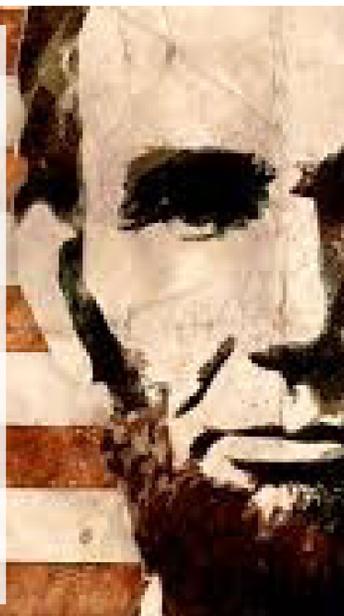
### MARTIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE LINCOLN DAY DINNER

Featured Speaker: Indiana State Senator 48th District Mark Messmer, candidate for U.S. Representative 8th District

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 • Doors open at 5 p.m., Dinner at 6:29 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S CENTER, LOWER LEVEL, LOOGOOTE, INDIANA  
409 Church Street

COME MEET YOUR COUNTY & STATE GOP CANDIDATES  
A SILENT AUCTION IS BEING PLANNED.  
\$25 per person.  
Call 812-639-7733 for more info or tickets.




**The Town of Shoals Park Board is accepting names for the ballpark cleaning contract for the 2024 season.**

Cleaning Season is set as: April 1 thru October 31, 2024

**Contracted terms:**  
\$275.00 per month for the season. A bonus check for the week of Catfish Festival will be issued. Duties as listed in the contract.

Interested individuals can pick up a copy of the contract with expected duties and details and a name submittal form at the Shoals Town Hall located at 221 Low Street. Interested individuals will need to submit their name for consideration using the provided form to the Clerk-Treasurer's office at the Shoals Town Hall by Friday, April 12, 2024.

Any questions can be directed to the Clerk-Treasurer's office at 812-247-2110.



## FILL A BUCKET SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> - SATURDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

Buy a 5-gallon bucket for \$1 and get **20% OFF** all regular priced items you can fit inside!\*



**True Value. WELL DONE**

\*See store for details and restrictions. Excludes all Power Tool and Outdoor Power Equipment products. Limit 1 bucket per household.

**STOLL Bros. Lumber, Inc.**  
509 South East Street, Odon, Indiana 47562 • (812) 636-4053  
710 Industrial Ave, Loogootee, Indiana 47553 • (812) 295-2400

# COMMUNITY & EVENTS

## More Neat Stuff

By Ann Ackerman



### DOG STUFF

Just a dog.

From time to time people tell me “chill out, it’s just a dog” or “it’s a lot of money just for a dog.” They don’t understand the distance traveled, the time invested, or the costs incurred by “just a dog”.

Some of my proudest moments have occurred with “just a dog.”

Many hours have passed being my only company “just a dog”, but not for one moment did I feel despised.

Some of my saddest moments have been because of “just a dog,” and on those gray days, the gentle touch of “just a dog” gave me comfort and the reason to get through the day.

If you also think “it’s just a dog”, then you’ll probably understand phrases like “just a friend”, “just a sunrise” or “just a promise.” “Just a dog” brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust and pure unbridled joy. “Just a dog” brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person.

For “just a dog” I will get up early, take long walks and look forward to the future. So, for me and people like me, it’s not “just a dog,” but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the memories of the past, and the absolute joy of the moment. “Just a dog” brings out the good in me and takes my thoughts away from myself and daily worries.

I hope one day they can understand that it’s not “just a dog”, but the one that gives me humanity and keeps me from being “just a human.” So, the next time you hear the phrase “just a dog”, just smile because they “just don’t get it”.

“Just A Dog,” by Richard A. Animals.

### THOUGHTS

\*Starbucks is planning on selling beer and wine. Apparently, it’s getting difficult to sell sober people a \$12 cup of coffee.

\*Childhood injuries: fell off my bike, fell out of a tree, twisted my ankle.

Adult injuries: slept wrong, sat down too long, sneezed too hard.

\*I got gas today for \$1.39. Unfortunately, it was a Taco Bell.

\*Sober or not, if a cop stops me and tells me to recite the alphabet backwards, I’m just going to put myself into the back seat of his car.

\*Do you ever go out, and while you’re out, you think, “This is exactly why I don’t go out?”

\*My Saturday was going pretty well until I realized it was Sunday.

\*I’m watching a 3-year-old pull up apps on a cell phone. Me, I just figured out how to turn mine off without taking the battery out.

\*People are excited about the new iPhone, but no one has caught up with the awesome technology of using your turn signal when you drive.

\*Tip for a successful marriage: don’t ask your wife when dinner will be ready when she’s mowing the lawn.

\*If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would’ve put them on my knees.

Wife texts husband on a winter morning: “Windows frozen, won’t open.

Husband texts back: “Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and then gently tap edges with hammer.

Wife texts back 10 minutes later: “Computer really messed up now.”

Make someone smile today!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Election public test

A public test of Martin County election equipment will be held Monday, April 1 at 11 a.m. in the commissioners’ room of the Martin County Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals. The public is invited to attend.

### Free community meal

The Loogootee Christian Church, at 206 Sherman Street, is having their monthly free meal for the community on Thursday, April 4 from 6-8 p.m. This month they will have pulled pork (sandwiches or nachos), hot and cold sides, desserts and drinks. All members of the community are invited to attend.

### Annual banquet

First Choice Solutions will hold their Gift of Life annual fundraising banquet as they celebrate 25 years of incorporation. Participants can choose two dates: dinner Friday evening, April 12, at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Or brunch Saturday, April 13, at 10 a.m. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. The keynote speaker is Mike Fichter, President and CEO of Indiana Right to Life. The event will be held at Bethany Christian Church, 1139 S St Rd IN-57, Washington. To reserve a seat, call 812-257-1041.

### Cancer Patient Services fundraisers

Martin County Cancer Patient Services will hold an online Facebook auction starting Friday, March 29 through Wednesday, April 3. More information can be found on their Facebook page. The group will also hold a Tea Party on Saturday, April 27 from 1-3 p.m. at the Loogootee United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$25 each. To purchase, contact Linda Knight at 812-583-3692 or Robin Hart at 812-295-6739.

### Dates set for US 50 Yard Sale

The Great U.S.50 Yard Sale will celebrate 25 years this May 17, 18, and 19. The sale began in 2000 as a way to promote local tourism, encourage re-use, provide participants with additional income, and to provide savings and adventure for buyers. From its origins in North Vernon, Indiana, it has expanded across several states as an anticipated annual event. There are no fees associated with the sale, nor any central clearing house. Sellers are invited to set-up along U.S. 50, subject to local zoning or other rules. Permissions required to set-up on private property and sellers should be safety conscious about parking, ingress, and egress. Community organizations are welcome to use the sale as a way to raise funds. For further information, contact

Tom Taylor totaylor@seidata.com.

### Celebrate Recovery meetings

Celebrate Recovery meetings will be held every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at The River Church in Shoals. This is a Christ-centered recovery program and anyone is welcome to attend.

### Dog/cat Wellness Clinic

The Martin County Humane Society hosts a wellness clinic on the third Friday of each month from 5-6 p.m. The clinic offers low-cost vaccines, testing, nail trims, etc. No appointment needed.

### St. Vincent Food Pantry

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, on Park Street in Loogootee, is open the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December when they are open the third Thursday. The hours are 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m.

### Free lunch for kids

New Beginnings Community Church will be offering a free lunch to all school age children every Saturday. Lunches can be picked up at the fellowship hall of the church, located at 105 Wood St, Loogootee no later than 10:30 a.m. Deliveries will begin between 10:30 and 11 a.m. Saturdays.

### SOAR Tutoring

Need Skills? SOAR tutors can help! Free and confidential. Call or text Karen at 812-709-1618 to learn more. Located in the Martin County Community Learning Center Improve Your Skills, Improve Your Life!

### LUMC Food Pantry

The Loogootee United Methodist Church Food Pantry is open every Thursday (except the fourth Thursday) from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.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.

### Soil and Water meetings

The Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) meets the third Tuesday of the month at the SWCD office located at 404 JFK Avenue in Loogootee. The meetings are at 7:30 p.m. (April-October) and at 6:30 p.m. (November-March). Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Please call 812-295-3149 for assistance.

## H&H HOMETOWN HARDWARE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30**  
8AM-6PM

### Spring SHOWCASE

**Grill Giveaway (\$569 Value!)**  
Enter in store by 6PM. Winner will be announced April 1st!  
Weber Spirit II E-310 3-Burner Liquid Propane Gas Grill

Flowers available for purchase brought to you by Eichmiller Landscaping!

Birdhouse kits available for purchase!  
\$20 for pre-cut wood and screws.  
(Don't forget to enter it into the Town Hall's Birdhouse Contest!)

**20% OFF** Lawn & Garden Products (some items excluded- ask in store)

Last day of our BEST LOOK Paint BOGO Sale and the last day for March sale items!

**April** Get a jump start on April Savings and our Items of the Month:  
**Wood Handle Round or Square Point, Shovel, Garden Rake, Hoe, and Pro-Grade White Caulk.**

Spend \$50, get a new FREE H & H T-Shirt

*Easter Bunny Pictures*  
**In-store from 2:30PM- 4:00PM**

## 5TH ANNUAL SHOALS

# Town Wide

# YARD SALE

## & MAIN STREET MARKET

**Friday, May 17th & Saturday, May 18th, 2024**  
(Rain or Shine at seller's discretion)

**All Sellers:** Please contact the Shoals Town Hall by **May 9th** to be included in any advertisement/lists that will be provided for the event. Locations will be listed in the order they are received.

Main Street Market will be any Main Street business who chooses to have a sidewalk sale on these dates.

Questions: Shoals Town Hall (812) 247-2110

# FARMING & OUTDOORS

## In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser,  
Purdue University Master Gardener

Spring has finally arrived!!! The cool temperatures are helping spring flowers to last longer, so the landscape is stunning right now. In a well-planned garden, spring perennials provide a lot of color and food for early pollinators without a lot of work. At Sandhill Gardens, the heliobores and daffodils continue to dominate the scene, but there are a lot of plants playing supporting roles. The first of the flowering trees are in bloom. The vivid pink of American plum and the delicate pink of the flowering cherries supply great contrast in a single color. Various colors of crabapple and serviceberry are in tight bud and will soon open. The first azaleas have bloomed in a vivid magenta. Bloodroot's bright white flowers have graced the shade garden, while purple and white windflowers fill in throughout the garden. Lungworts continue to supply blue, pink and white accents, and the first of the bluebells have brought the sky to the ground. Epimediums in red, pink and yellow give some airy quality to the shady areas. Pink and blue muscari dot the lawn areas and hyacinths of white, purple and pink perfume the air. It is really a magical time in the garden, and the work was done in prior years.

That does not mean there is nothing to do in the garden. It is time to clear out the debris left from last year's garden. Where possible, cut stalks to about a foot tall, leaving the short stalk as a home for bees and other insects. Those stalks will also provide some support for the young plants that will be growing in and hiding the stalks.

In the vegetable patch, it is tradition to plant potatoes on Good Friday. It is also time to plant peas, which I prefer to plant along a fence or some type of trellis. You may now safely plant cabbage and other cole crops and most leafy greens actually prefer the cool growing conditions of early spring. Onion sets may also be planted any time now. There is also still plenty of

time for seeding tomatoes, peppers and other warm season crops indoors. Most seed packets recommend starting seeds six to eight weeks before the last frost date, but you may plant transplants in the garden as late as the end of June and still expect a harvest. Of course, the harvest will be later, but that may be a good thing. You may disrupt the timing of some pests.

I have received some questions concerning potting mixes that do not seem to be able to absorb water. That is normal. Many of the mixes are based on coir fibers or peat moss, both of which may dry out. The dry mixes will be lighter, and that saves shipping costs for suppliers. If you have mixes that do not seem to absorb water, you will need to stir in water before planting seeds. I use an old fork and add water slowly. When the mix is moist, but not soggy, it is ready for planting. If you have a bag of soil, you may pour water into the bag and let it sit for a day or so. It will absorb the water and be more hospitable to plants and seeds. It is also important to keep soils moist to get good germination. Check the planters every day. Keep a close eye on anything you have on a heating mat, as the heat will cause soils to dry out more quickly. If you have seeds already planted in dry mixes, you may be able to salvage them by placing the tray in a larger tray with some water. The soil will absorb the water from the bottom. Once the seeds have germinated, you will need to discontinue letting the tray sit in water, though you may water from the bottom and pour off what does not get absorbed in an hour or so.

Do not let the work keep you from enjoying the beauty of the spring garden. As the poet, Robert Frost, noted, nothing gold can stay. The garden changes daily in spring. Take time to walk around and enjoy what changes each day. If you do not have a garden to enjoy, come and visit me at Sandhill Gardens.

## PURE COUNTRY Throwback

By Dan Gregory

Originally published March 21, 2011  
I am going to do a little advertising this week for a few events scheduled for the upcoming weekend.

Ag-Day is this Saturday, March 26 and it is being held at the Fairgrounds Community Building. I am not up on all the times and events associated with the celebration of Ag-Day in Martin County, but you will find that elsewhere in this newspaper. Ag-Day is a fairly seasoned event around the United States. It is simply a celebration of all things agriculture. If you traveled around America for the various events each would be different and likely reflect what type of agriculture is prevalent in that particular area. For example, Martin County does not have a citrus industry, our climate doesn't allow it. But we do have corn and soybeans as well as a highly developed livestock and poultry industry. So, at Martin County Ag-Day you are likely to see or hear about those commodities.

Ag-Day was started and promoted by Farm Bureau and still is. The idea was to bring farmers and consumers together to better explain food production and do it at a time of year when the farmers were not too busy. Martin County has a well-diversified agricultural industry, and I will include forestry as much of the forested land is privately held. Most farmers own at least some woodlands in addition to more traditional crop land.

There is also a petting zoo of sorts. There will be baby calves, lambs, pigs and turkeys for sure, and you never know what other baby animals may show up. The little kids particularly enjoy seeing and touching the animals that most only see from the car windows as they drive through the countryside.

I always enjoy Ag-Day as it has a nice approach to the topic at hand. There will be vendors present that serve the agricultural community to talk with. There are

numerous door prizes that will be given away just for registering. And breakfast will be served for a nominal charge. Beyond all that, there is the chance to mingle and talk to bona-fide crop and livestock producers who play a huge role in the local economy, as well as provide the food and fiber we all depend on.

This Saturday, March 26 the Martin County Humane Society will host a benefit auction to raise funds for a much-needed animal shelter for Martin County. The auction will be held at the Loogootee United Methodist Church at 208 West Main Street in Loogootee starting at 7 p.m. They will also be serving soup and sandwiches.

Martin County does not presently have anywhere to house the stray and unwanted dogs and cats that often are found roaming the streets and county. This is a common problem throughout the country and most communities have addressed this problem in some fashion or another. Local folks have been doing this thankless job for years, hauling the animals home in their own vehicles and feeding them and seeing to their healthcare needs, mostly out of their own pockets. It is time for this method of animal control in Martin County to change. I think we all owe a debt of gratitude and support to the few people who have found it in their hearts to try and address this problem. Their dedication is admirable and borders on the heroic.

By attending the auction, you will be showing support and also have the opportunity to thank the humane society volunteers for their service. Maybe more importantly this is an opportunity to ask more questions about how you can help the Martin County Humane Society build the animal shelter it so badly needs.

As you can see this upcoming weekend offers opportunities to learn more about the people who live, work, and volunteer in our beautiful Martin County.

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# ~LETTER TO THE EDITOR~

*'It will take less than 50 percent of us to just say no'*

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

I am not a political reporter, nor do I want to express political views, other than my opposition to the Mid-States Corridor. That being said I feel compelled to comment, briefly, on Eric Doden's visit to Loogootee on Friday March 22. Mr. Doden presented himself well and spoke compellingly about rural communities throughout the state. It was apparent that small towns are where his heart is. He understands our frustrations and plans to act on behalf of our communities as the governor. I was disheartened that more people were not at the Loogootee City Hall to meet him; but that may have been due to the lack of notice, not even the press was there. Maybe it was a busy news day elsewhere.

The law that allows the creation of Regional Development Authorities (RDA) was enacted in good faith by our legislature. Its intent was to give local communities a stake in big ticket local projects;

and, in some areas of the state, mostly up north, they have been very successful. However, here in our area the RDA for the Mid-States Corridor is what it was never meant to be. Here it's controlled, not by the people of the communities; but, by a group of local politicians and businessmen, led by Sen. Braun, for their own self-serving interests. This is readily apparent if you were to go to the RDA's website and read the letters and articles. The commentary is overwhelmingly negative, which indicates almost universal local opposition. If this were to be brought to a vote, it would not pass.

Remember, we can stop the corridor with one simple word "No". Those of us in the path of the Mid-States Corridor must be steadfast in our opposition. Don't be bullied by people offering to buy your land or sign any contracts. It will take less than 50 percent of us to just say no. We can stop the Mid-States Corridor as long as we stay united in our opposition.

Jim Arvin  
Rutherford Township  
Martin County

## NOTICE FROM GOODWILL CEMETERY

Spring Clean Up and Work Day is April 6th at Goodwill Cemetery. Please start removing all Christmas arrangements, weather worn flowers, ground blankets and ceramic decorations that will interfere with mowing and weedeating. Volunteers will go through on April 6th removing all still remaining, especially broken ceramic pieces that could be hazardous to our mowing crews.



**WHO? :** *Town of Shoals Residents*

**WHAT? :** *Any old or unwanted items that have been sitting around taking up space in your home or yard*

**WHEN?:** *May 10th -May 12th 2024*

All items are to be placed inside of the dumpster.  
Do not place items on the ground around the dumpster.  
Once the dumpster is full please do not leave your unwanted items.

*Please do not dispose of the following items in the dumpster: tires, construction waste, paint, batteries, or any other chemical, hazardous or harmful material.*



**Annual Community EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Date: March 30, 2024**  
**Time: 11:30 am**

**Place: American Legion Country Club**

Grand Prize: New Children's Bike  
\*\*one per age group  
Runner-Up: Easter Basket  
\*\*one per age group

Come & join the fun!  
Group #1 - Ages 2-4  
Group #2 - Ages 5-7  
Group #3 - Ages 8-10

Sponsored by:  
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# MCCF awards over \$70,000 in the first 2024 grant cycle

The Martin County Community Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$70,889 in Impact and Boost Grants to seven local organizations in the first quarterly grant cycle of 2024.

“It was great, once again, to see active community members doing great work in Martin County”, shared Megan Hawkins, the 2024 MCCF Grants Chairperson. “The MCCF Board is thankful for all the donors who made it possible to fund these projects in our communities, and we look forward to seeing these projects implemented.”

- Grant Recipients:
- Martin County Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels Equipment
  - Behind the Wire Ministries, Sprinkler System
  - City of Loogootee, Loogootee Comprehensive Planning
  - Hoosier Trails Council, Inc. #145, Boy Scouts of America, STEM Afterschool Program Expansion in Martin County
  - Loogootee Pickleball, Inc, Pickleball Complex Nets & Posts
  - Patoka Valley Aids Comm. Action Group, Inc., Loogootee PrideFest, 2024
  - Shoals Community School Corp., Play Ball Phase III

If you are interested in helping support projects in Martin County, now is a great time to make a gift to an unrestricted endowment held by MCCF. These endowments finance grants such as these. The Martin County Community Foundation has applied for a \$750,000 Matching Fund Grant through Lilly Endowment Inc.’s GIFT VIII. Lilly Endowment’s Matching Fund Grant will provide a \$2 for \$1 match for contributions to MCCF’s unrestricted endowments during GIFT VIII’s matching period (10/1/23 through 12/31/25), while funds remain. During the match period, your gift to an unrestricted fund will have triple the benefit to our community. To learn more about the match program, visit [www.cfpartner.org/news](http://www.cfpartner.org/news). To see a list of unrestricted funds held by MCCF, visit [www.cfpartner.org/funds](http://www.cfpartner.org/funds).

The Martin County Community Foundation is a charitable, non-profit whose mission is to be proactive in creating and growing a permanent source of charitable assets and to identify and respond to the needs of Martin County. For more information on leaving your legacy in Martin County contact Curt Johnson, MCCF Development Director, at (812) 295-1022 or [mccf@cfpartner.org](mailto:mccf@cfpartner.org).



-Photos provided

The Martin County Council on Aging received a \$1,989.33 grant for equipment for the Meals on Wheels Program. Shown are Paula Ringwald, Megan Hawkins, Kristi Ausbrooks, Judith Montgomery, Dee Tedrow, Abby and Matthew Montgomery, Janie Johnson, Liz Chattin, and Greg Bateman.



Behind the Wire Ministries received \$15,000 for a sprinkler system. Shown are Angie Risacher, Megan Hawkins, Paula Ringwald, James Raber, Scott and Dannielle Highberger, Janie Johnson, Joshua Jackson, Kristi Ausbrooks, Liz Chattin, and Greg Bateman.



The Hoosier Trails Council Boys Scouts of America received \$3,000 to go toward their Afterschool STEM Program in Martin County. Shown are Kristi Ausbrooks, Paula Ringwald, Greg Bateman, Amalia Shifriss, Liz Chattin, Janie Johnson, Angie Risacher, and Megan Hawkins.



Loogootee Pickleball received a \$3,399.87 grant to purchase the posts and nets for their pickleball courts. Shown, from left to right, are Paula Ringwald and Angie Risacher. In the back row are Kristi Ausbrooks, Greg Bateman, Karen Jones, Marina Bouvy, Shannon Graber, Liz Chattin, Janie Johnson, and Megan Hawkins.



The City of Loogootee received a \$20,000 grant to help with Loogootee Comprehensive Planning and subsequent plan. Shown, from left to right, are Angie Risacher, Paula Ringwald, Kristi Ausbrooks, and Janie Johnson. In the back row are Megan Hawkins, Michael Leverett, David Smith, Mayor Brian Ader, Mike Engleman, Joe Lannan, and Greg Bateman.



The Patoka Valley Aids Community Action Group received a \$2,500 grant for Pridefest 2024. Shown in the front row, from left to right, are Macy Gentry Shelton, John Day, Jennifer Moreno, and Lyn Knies. In the back row, from left to right, are Greg Bateman, Angie Risacher, Kristi Ausbrooks, Tim and Tracy Brown-Salsman, Katie Doyle, Janie Johnson, and Liz Chattin.



The Shoals Community School Corporation received \$25,000 to help with the lighting at the softball field. Shown, from left to right, are Abby Johnson, Kensie Perry, Sarah Albright, and Krisha Villanueva. In the back row are Greg Bateman, Angie Risacher, Paula Ringwald, Liz Chattin, and Janie Johnson.

## FISH SALE

### Martin County SWCD

404 JFK Avenue, Loogootee, IN 47553  
812-295-3149 [martinswcd@yahoo.com](mailto:martinswcd@yahoo.com)

Please contact the Martin County SWCD to place your order.

Deadline to order is April 18, 2024  
Fish will be delivered on April 25, 2024

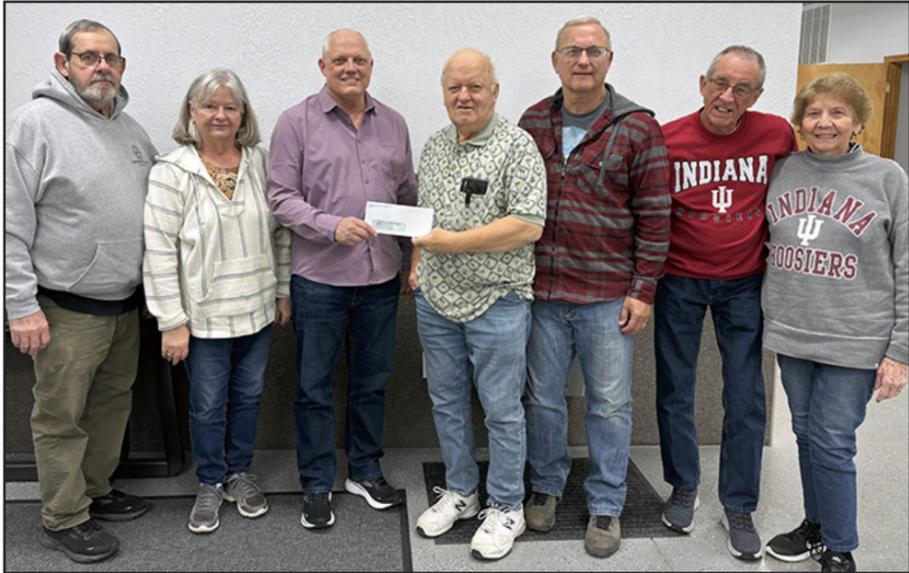
Pick up will be at Redemption Church parking lot in Loogootee, junction of Hwy 231 and Hwy 50.



Type of Fish	Price	Quantity	Total
6-8" Channel Catfish	\$0.90		
2-4" Hybrid Bluegill	\$0.85		
2-4" Regular Bluegill	\$0.85		
1-3" Redear Shellcrackers	\$0.60		
3-4" Largemouth Bass	\$1.50		
*8-11" Grass Carp	\$17.00		
Fathead Minnows	\$11.00 per lb		
6-8" Koi	\$15.00		

\* Minimum 5 on Grass Carp.  
State Law requires us to deliver the Grass Carp.

Subtotal	
Tax	
Total	



## Endowment funds

-Photos provided

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church recently received \$11,574 in grants from various Martin County Community Foundation endowment funds. For operations and maintenance of the churches, \$2,299 was received from the Spirit of St. Martin's Church Fund, \$4,418 from the St. John's Perpetual Fund, and \$368 from the Bill & Pat Daily Fund (this is the first distribution from the Daily fund). Grants for the preservation and maintenance of church cemeteries included \$1,719 from the Rosemay Arvin Whitfield Cemetery Fund and \$2,770 from the St. John's Cemetery Fund. Shown, from left to right, are MCCF Board member Greg Bateman, Father Kenneth Walker, MCCF Board member Paula Ringwald, and MCCF Director Curt Johnson.



The Goodwill Cemetery Association received its yearly distribution from the George and Barbara Cropp Fund for the Goodwill Cemetery. This year's grant is \$16,554. This fund is a "field of interest" fund held with the Martin County Community Foundation to support the operations and maintenance costs of the cemetery. Grants like these are made possible through donations from people passionate about the churches, cemeteries and services they provide; contact MCCF Director Curt Johnson at 812-295-1022 or [mccf@cfpartner.org](mailto:mccf@cfpartner.org) if you want to find out how you can help too. Shown, from left to right, are Goodwill Cemetery Board members Mike Kirk and Joy Ausbrooks, MCCF Director Curt Johnson, and Goodwill Cemetery Board members Ken Woods, Ralph Ausbrooks, Richard Barber, and Beth Lett.

## Voter registration ends April 9

All registered voters in the county will be eligible to vote in the May 7 Martin County Primary Election. If you are unsure of your voting status, you may contact the Martin County Clerk's office. You have until April 9, 2024, due to the courthouse being closed on April 8 for the Solar Eclipse, to update or register to vote in order to vote in the Primary Election.

In-office absentee voting starts at the clerk's office on April 9, 2024. In-person voting hours in the clerk's office will be Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the last day being May 6, at noon. The clerk's office will also be open for in-person voting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, April 27 and May 4.

Absentee ballot by mail applications can be requested any time before April 25 by calling the clerk's office at 812-247-3651.

Independent candidates have until noon on July 1 to file in order to be on the November 5 ballot.

School board offices will be on the November General Election ballot only. School board candidate filing period has changed. Filing period will run from Tuesday, May 21 to Thursday, June 20 at

noon. All forms will be available in the Martin County Clerk's Office located at 129 Main Street, Shoals.

For more information call the clerk at 812-247-3651.

## Notes from the Martin County WIC Nutritionist

BY ELIZABETH WHITE  
Martin County WIC Nutritionist

On April 8 there will be a Total Solar Eclipse and Martin County is in the path of totality. This is a very exciting and rare event. Most, if not all of us, will never see a total solar eclipse again. What a great thing to experience with your family.

Just like any outside event please remember to drink plenty of water and practice sun safety for your skin. For this specific event, eye safety is very important.

Never look directly at the sun without proper eye protection even during a total solar eclipse.

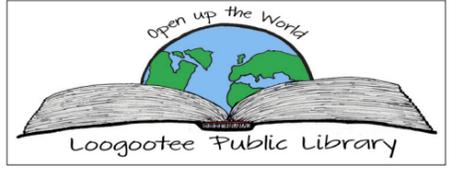
Parents, please take extra precautions with your young children as they may not understand the danger to their eyes. The Indiana Department of Health has great resources for eye safety during a solar eclipse. [www.in.gov/dhs/solar-eclipse-2024/viewing-safety/#Do\\_s\\_and\\_Don\\_ts](http://www.in.gov/dhs/solar-eclipse-2024/viewing-safety/#Do_s_and_Don_ts)

Martin County WIC will be closed Total Eclipse Day, April 8, 2024.

Reminder Martin County WIC has moved to the Martin County Community Learning Center on the Martin County 4-H Fair Grounds, 2666 Hwy. US-50, Loogootee.

The WIC program provides supplemental nutritional foods, referrals, breastfeeding support, and nutrition education for pregnant women, nursing women, infants, and children 1-5 years. The Martin Co WIC clinic is open Monday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and Thursday 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Please call 812-407-4282 to make an appointment. Breastfeeding line: 812-226-9820

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



BY DARLA WAGLER  
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

The library will be closed Friday, March 29 for Good Friday and Saturday, March 30 for Easter. Even though the building is closed, patrons can still access eMaterials via the Libby app.

April 7-13 is National Library Week. Friends of Loogootee Library (FOLL) will have a huge book sale on Saturday, April 13 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Mary Lett Community Room.

New Books:

Mystery: "The #1 Lawyer" by James Patterson, "The Truth about the Devlins" by Lisa Scottoline, and "The Butcher and the Wren" by Alaina Urquhart.

Inspirational Fiction: "Double Take" by Lynette Eason.

DVDs: "Pain & Gain".

Library hours: Monday 10-6, Tuesday 10-5, Closed on Wednesday, Thursday 10-6, Friday 10-5, and Saturday 9-1. The library phone number is 812-295-3713 and check out the website [www.loogootee.lib.in.us](http://www.loogootee.lib.in.us) or like us on Facebook. The library has free Wi-Fi service available for patrons.

## ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



AMORA is a female FIV+ adult kitty, 2 years old. She needs to be the only cat in the home. She is very sweet. She is spayed, up to date on shots and litter box trained. Adoption fee is \$45. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit [www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org](http://www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org).

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