

Commissioners discuss bridge number 11 repair

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners held a special meeting last night, Tuesday, December 1 to discuss employees' health insurance and work being done on bridge 11 on Indian Springs Road. They held a closed door meeting starting at 5 p.m.

to hear insurance proposals. The open meeting was scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. however the proposals lasted an hour and a half, causing the open meeting to start a little after 6:30 p.m.

The commissioners ended up tabling the decision on which insurance to go with until their meeting next Tuesday night. Commissioner George said they still have numbers to crunch. "We want to make the right decision," he said.

In regard to bridge 11, the highway department is currently welding the rusted out

beams. Highway Superintendent Leo Padgett said they hoped to have the bridge back opened today, Wednesday. With the welding work, they plan to be able to raise the weight limit on the bridge back to 15 ton. It was reduced to six tons back on November 25. The low weight limit prevents fire trucks and school buses from crossing,

UPDATE

As of Wednesday afternoon: The load limit on bridge #11 in Mitcheltree Township has been increased back to the normal limit of 15 tons effective immediately.

something the commissioners wanted to rectify.

The commissioners discussed a Ford F550 truck that the highway department is interested in purchasing.

Commissioner George asked why truck drivers from the Indian Creek

Quarry are using the back county roads instead of the main roads to the quarry. He said that there is no weight limit on the roads they are using however they are causing quite a bit of wear and tear on them. It was suggested that someone call the quarry and ask.



-File photo by Courtney Hughett

Shown above is the Loogootee High School Marching Band at last year's Christmas Parade in downtown Loogootee.

Christmas festivities to be held in downtown Loogootee this weekend

The City of Loogootee's 2nd Annual Festival of Lights Christmas Parade will be held this Sunday, December 6 along with the downtown stores being open for Christmas shoppers as the Christmas Stroll will start at 5 p.m.

The parade will proceed through downtown at 6 p.m. Norma Woods and Shirley Jeffers were chosen this year to serve as the parade's grand marshals.

The theme for the parade is "The First Christmas".

Santa will again pay a visit during the parade and candy will be passed out to the young ones in attendance.

There will be lighted floats for you to enjoy along with marching bands and Christmas carolers.

In addition to the parade and stroll, the Loogootee High School Band concert will be held at 3 p.m. in the auditorium of the high school and the Loogootee High School Chorus will perform on the square downtown at 7 p.m.

Theft investigation leads to arrest in Shoals

The Martin County Sheriff's Office investigated an auto theft in Shoals that resulted in an arrest on Monday.

On Monday, November 23, at approximately 1:20 p.m., Sheriff Travis Roush was following up on a lead on several theft cases the sheriff's office is investigating. Sheriff Roush went to 13279 West River Road in an attempt to question a possible suspect in the cases. Sheriff Roush knocked on the door of the residence several times, but no one came to the door. Sheriff Roush did hear movement inside the residence.

Sheriff Roush went to the next door neighbor's residence to confirm that the subject he was looking for did in fact live there. The neighbor stated that the subject did. As Sheriff Roush returned to original residence, he observed a white, small size pickup in the woods. As Sheriff Roush got closer to the vehicle, he confirmed that it was the stolen Ford Ranger from the case he was investigating.

As Sheriff Roush was entering the woods,

a female came out the front door of the residence. Sheriff Roush asked if the subject he was looking for was in the residence. She stated that he was not in the residence. After being asked a second time, the female stated that he was in the residence.

A short time later, Justin R. Truelove arrived outside of the residence. Sheriff Roush then arrested Truelove and transported him to the Martin County Security Center. Captain Tony Dant secured the scene as Chief Deputy Josh Greene applied for a search warrant.

Chief Deputy Greene, Loogootee Police Department Captain Jason Hennette and K9 Roxy arrived at the residence to execute a search warrant. K9 Roxy indicated that the presence of narcotics were in the residence. Chief Deputy Greene located a Sprite can in a bedroom that had a substance on it that field tested positive for methamphetamine.

Truelove was charged with auto theft, a Level 6 Felony and possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony.



Christmas Toy Store collection

-Photos provided

Old National Bank along with other businesses in the county have collection boxes for the Annual Martin County Toy Store that will be held on Saturday, December 12 at the Loogootee United Methodist Church. Please drop off your toys for collection by December 11. Shown above are employees at Old National Bank in Loogootee with their donation box. From left to right, are Tiffani Sergent, Katherine Swartzentruber, Susan Arthur and Jonell Sutton. More photos on page two.

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Red-Tailed Hawk -Photo by Bill Whorrall, www.billwhorrall.com

The young Red-tailed Hawk shown above was seen on East River Road in Martin County. The Red-tailed Hawk has a thrilling, raspy scream that sounds exactly like a raptor should sound. At least, that's what Hollywood directors seem to think. Whenever a hawk or eagle appears onscreen, no matter what species, the shrill cry on the soundtrack is almost always a Red-tailed Hawk.

WAYNE Ferguson agency

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More Toy Store Drop-offs

-Photos provided

In the photo on the top left are employees of Family Dollar in Loogootee, April Wisner and Norma Collis. In the photo above is Derek Wolfe, Branch Manager at Crane Credit Union. Both locations also have drop boxes available for donations to the Martin County Toy Store. Toys can be dropped off until December 11.

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Enroll now for 2016 4-H Program

It's time to enroll in 4-H for 2016. The final deadline to sign up is January 15, 2016. 4-H is a source of enjoyable, educational programs that help today's young people reach their full potential. It is open to any youth in grades 3-12, plus, there is also a program for those that plan to be in 4-H in the future that are in kindergarten through the second grade. It is easy to enroll with the new 4-H online enrollment system at <https://in.4honline.com>. 4-H is Indiana's largest youth development program for students and reaches more than 200,000 youth annually.

young people specific skills through hands-on, experiential learning. Youth also develop leadership and citizenship skills by participating in an organized 4-H club. Subjects include Science Technology, Engineering, Math, Agriculture, Citizenship, Healthy Living, Art, Consumer and Family Science and much, much more.

All events are coordinated by the Martin County Youth Development Educator, Martin County Extension Office and approved adult volunteers. The adult volunteers teach

A 2014 Tufts University study showed that 4-H members are four time more likely to contribute to their communities, two times more likely to make healthier food choices, two times more likely to be civically active and two times more likely to participate in STEM programs.

Please, go online and enroll today or if you have trouble, call the Martin County Extension Office at 812-295-2412.

A THANK YOU FROM BRIAN & CAROLYN HOWELL

We would like to say a heartfelt Thank You to all who volunteered, who donated items and money and to all those who came out to support the Hope for Happy benefit. Thank you to the band Hired Guns for volunteering their time entertaining for this benefit. The benefit was a huge help for our family. Having people in the community like you makes me proud to have come from this town. God bless you all.

WIN WIN WIN

American Girl Doll • iPod Mini • \$200 Cash

Stop by Rosie's Shirts & Gifts during the Loogootee Christmas Stroll to buy tickets for a chance to win the three prizes mentioned above!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

6-7:30 p.m.

Rosie's Shirts & Gifts
215 N JFK Avenue, Loogootee

Tickets: \$1 for 1 chance or \$5 for 6 chances

Winners to be drawn at 7:30 p.m. Need not be present to win!

All proceeds to benefit the Martin County Humane Society Animal Shelter
To purchase tickets before the Stroll, call the shelter at 812-295-5900.



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FRIDAY NIGHT IS RIB NIGHT!



THE SMOKER WILL BE FIRED UP AND WE WILL BE SERVING OUR SMOKED BABY BACK RIBS FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL THEY ARE GONE!

Hours: Mon.-Closed • Tues., Wed., Thurs.-7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat.-7 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m.-11 a.m. for breakfast and serving lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

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CARRIE TROUTMAN

Carrie Troutman, formerly of Loogootee, passed away at 4:13 p.m. Thursday, November 26, 2015 at Hosparus in Louisville, Kentucky. A resident of Louisville, she was 88.

She was born April 28, 1927 in Shoals; daughter of the late Thurman and Pearl (Songer) Jones.

She was employed at NSWC Crane for 28 years. She loved sewing, reading and trav-

eling.

She is survived by her daughter, Connie Troutman of Louisville, Kentucky; sister, Rose Queen of Bloomington and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Winston Troutman; parents, Thurman and Pearl (Songer) Jones and sister, Alberta Dillman.

Graveside services were conducted Monday, November 30 at Hindostain United

Methodist Church Cemetery in Shoals.

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee was in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be made online at blakefuneralhomes.com.

GEORGIA KLEISER

Georgia A. Kleiser passed away at 2:45 p.m. Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at Northwood Retirement Community in Jasper. A resident of Jasper, she was 86.

She was born in Evansville on May 25, 1929; daughter of George C. and Theresa A. (Lents) Cresgy. She married Harold Kleiser on July 16, 1957 in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jasper.

She was a 1947 graduate of Washington High School in Washington and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jasper.

She was a supervisor for Uniroyal in Washington where she retired after over 40 years of service. She often shared her wonderful memories of her "group of gals" that were her team at Uniroyal.

She enjoyed the time spent relaxing at their family get away spot at White River for many years.

She enjoyed cooking, spending time with

friends and family and traveling. Her wonderful smile and laugh were enjoyed by many, and will remain a memory. While they were not blessed with biological children, Harold and Georgia were a second set of parents to many nieces and nephews, and friends.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Harold V. Kleiser of Jasper; one brother, Richard Cresgy and wife, Linda, of Shoals, and nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death was one brother, William (Billy) Cresgy, and one sister, Dixie June Cresgy that died in childhood.

Funeral services were held at Saturday, November 28 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, with burial following in Truelove Cemetery in Loogootee.

Many thanks to her caregivers over the years, Tammy, Tina and Vera, we will forever be thankful for all that you did. Most recently to the staff of Garden Ridge at Northwood Retirement Community and the staff of Heart to Heart Hospice, especially Sarah. Thank you for loving her and showing respect always.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, the Alzheimer's Association, or Northwood Retirement Community.

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

Faculty artists to speak at VU Gallery of Art

Beyond the classroom, faculty members of Vincennes University's Department of Art and Design are active artists and scholars who make significant contributions to the arts. The annual VU Art and Design Faculty Exhibition continues through December 12 at VU's Shircliff Gallery of Art and features a range of two-dimensional and three-dimensional works.

The artists will discuss their works at a special "Gallery Talk" on December 10, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (EST), in the Gallery. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.

Faculty members whose works are on exhibit include Stephen Black, Arthur Fields, Bernard Hagedorn, Debora Hutchinson-Hagedorn, Anders M. Johnson, Emily Loehle, Bill Meyer, Alexis Rusch, and Pravin Sevak.

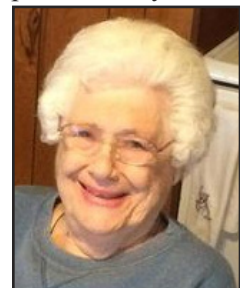
"In addition to displaying the talent of the

VU Art and Design Faculty, this exhibit allows students to see their mentors putting theory into practice," said Arthur Fields, director of Shircliff Gallery. "It provides students with the unique opportunity to perceive and be inspired by the ingenuity of those whose very responsibility it is to reveal a sense of aesthetic awareness and creative vision."

Regular Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (EST); Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday noon to 3 p.m.

Shircliff Gallery of Art is located at the corner of First and Harrison streets inside the Shircliff Humanities Center.

For more information contact Fields at 812-888-4316, afields@vinu.edu. For information about upcoming shows and events visit www.vinu.edu/content/shircliff-gallery-art.



GEORGIA KLEISER



-Photo provided

Mike Gehrich, director of Aviation at Vincennes University's Aviation Technology Center, shakes hands with Jody Scott, director of Talent Acquisition for Republic Airways Holdings, Inc. Also pictured are Lauren McNamara, college relations consultant, and Scott Sendelweck, senior manager of talent acquisition for Republic Airways, and Vincennes University flight students.

VU Aviation Technology Center announces new agreement

Vincennes University's Aviation Technology Center announced today a partnership with Republic Airways Holdings, Inc., to increase employment opportunities for VU flight and maintenance graduates.

A ceremonial signing event was held at the ATC where students majoring in aviation flight were in attendance.

"We are committed to assisting our graduates with placement upon graduation and are thrilled and excited about this guaranteed interview opportunity for our students with Republic Airways," said Michael Gehrich, director of Aviation at the ATC.

The agreement stipulates that VU flight and maintenance students who graduate with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and complete their FAA requirements through Vincennes University will be guaranteed an interview with Republic Airways.

"It is great to know that VU cares about what happens to me, not only while I'm a student here, but even beyond that," said first-year flight student Kameron Vonderwell. "This is an amazing opportunity for me and certainly an added incentive to do well in my coursework."

AVIATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Located at the Indianapolis International Airport, the Aviation Technology Center (ATC) is a vital part of Indiana's first col-

lege, Vincennes University, a state-supported college founded in 1801.

Since 1993 the ATC has been the home to VU's Aviation Maintenance Technology program that provides hands-on training for a number of careers in the aviation industry.

The 92,000-square-foot facility includes classrooms and fully equipped laboratories located a short distance from major aviation employers.

Students can earn a Federal Aviation Administration Airframe and Powerplant Certificate along with either an Associate of Applied Science or Associate of Science in Aviation Maintenance Technology in just 20 months. More information is available at www.aviationtechcenter.com or by calling 317-381-6000.

REPUBLIC AIRWAYS

Republic Airways Holdings is an airline holding company and owner of Republic Airlines and Shuttle America and is headquartered in Indianapolis.

Republic operates a combined fleet of more than 250 aircraft, offering scheduled passenger service on over 1,300 flights daily to more than 110 cities in the U.S., Canada and the Bahamas through fixed-fee flights operated under airline partner brands, including American Eagle, Delta Connection, and United Express.

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COPS & COURT

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

7:13 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident west of Shoals. Captain Dant responded.

1:13 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded.

1:43 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer to assist a civil dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill assisted.

2:44 p.m. - Received a call reporting a 10-50 deer.

6:30 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

10:22 p.m. - Received a report of reckless driver on Hwy 231, north of Loogootee. Deputy Salmon responded.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

12:58 p.m. - Received a call of an alarm going off in Shoals. Corporal Baker and Martin County Ambulance responded and transported patient to IU Health Bedford.

8:55 a.m. - Received a request for funeral escort through Loogootee. Chief Rayhill responded.

9:45 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene received a call about an elderly male laying in a ditch in Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. No transport was needed.

9:52 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Chief Rayhill responded.

10:14 a.m. - Received a report of an IRS scam.

12:00 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver in Loogootee. Captain Hennessee responded.

12:50 p.m. - Captain Dant transported inmates to court.

1:59 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene transported inmates to court.

5:15 p.m. - Sheriff Roush gave Boy Scout Troop 491 a tour of the security center.

5:20 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on Hwy 50, west of Shoals.

6:07 p.m. - Received a report that someone not authorized is at the Duke Energy tower. Sergeant Keller responded.

6:49 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded.

7:19 p.m. - Received a report of a stolen four-wheeler in Shoals. Shoals Town Marshal Eckert responded.

7:25 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. Captain Hennessee responded.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

4:35 a.m. - Received a call reporting two subjects trying to break into vehicles in Loogootee. Sergeant Norris responded.

9:00 a.m. - Received a call reporting a door open in Loogootee. Chief Rayhill responded.

10:30 a.m. - Sergeant Keller assisted department of child services with a home visit.

1:40 p.m. - Received a report of an unattended fire in Loogootee. Chief Rayhill responded.

2:48 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:16 p.m. - Received a report of subjects being abusive to a dog in Loogootee. Captain Hennessee responded.

3:32 p.m. - Received a report of debris in the eastbound lane of Hwy 50, west of Shoals. Major Burkhardt responded.

3:34 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. G&M responded.

5:15 p.m. - Received a report of a property damage accident in Shoals. Major Burkhardt responded.

5:40 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver in Loogootee.

8:26 p.m. - Received a report of an intoxicated subject east of Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded.

9:11 p.m. - Received a request to escort an unwanted individual off the property. Corporal Baker and ISP Officer Beaver responded.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

12:09 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Nolan, Corporal Baker, Sheriff Roush, Reserve Deputy Wright and ISP Trooper Beaver and Martin County Ambulance responded. No transport was needed.

12:12 a.m. - Received a report of someone beating on windows and doors at a Shoals residence. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

12:03 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. No transport was needed.

3:11 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on 231. Captain Hennessee responded.

5:56 p.m. - Received a report that someone was trespassing on Duke Energy property. Major Burkhardt and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

7:02 p.m. - Received a report of an open door at a business in Shoals. Major Burkhardt and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

12:02 a.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver northbound on 231 South. Loogootee Officer Nolan and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

12:11 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on Hwy 550.

9:16 a.m. - Received a call about someone may have been in a residence in Loogootee. Captain Akles responded.

9:29 a.m. - Received a report of a property damage accident in Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

2:33 p.m. - Received a call reporting an accident with injury on Hwy 150. Major Burkhardt, Chief Deputy Greene, Sheriff Roush, Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. G&M towed the vehicle.

5:21 p.m. - Received a report of a dog complaint in Crane. Major Burkhardt responded.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

11:46 a.m. - Received a report of an accident east of Shoals. Major Burkhardt, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. G&M towed the vehicle.

1:42 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle over an embankment on Hwy 150. Major Burkhardt responded. G&M towed the vehicle.

2:18 p.m. - Received a call of an accident in the IGA parking lot. Captain Akles responded. G&M towed the vehicle.

3:05 p.m. - Received a request for an officer for a child custody matter. Major Burkhardt responded.

4:14 p.m. - Received a request for an officer in Loogootee.

5:35 p.m. - Received a request in Shoals for an officer. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

6:25 p.m. - Received a request for an officer north of Shoals for harassment. Deputy Salmon responded.

11:10 p.m. - Received a report of a possible suicidal subject in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Norris responded.

11:19 p.m. - Received a report of a missing person. Deputy Salmon was notified.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

1:45 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle spotlighting a vehicle south of Loogootee. Deputy Salmon and Loogootee Officer Norris were notified.

1:47 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on 231 South. Deputy Salmon and Loogootee Officer Norris responded.

4:02 a.m. - Deputy Salmon advised they have found the missing person. Subject checks out ok.

6:16 a.m. - Received a report of an alarm at CVS in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Norris responded.

6:18 a.m. - Received a report of another alarm going off at German American Bank in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Norris responded.

8:20 a.m. - Received a report of a one-vehicle accident on Hwy 50, east of Loogootee. Sergeant Keller and Martin County Ambulance responded.

9:20 a.m. - Received a call about trees on power lines on 231 South. REMC was notified.

5:18 p.m. - Received a call reporting trespasser on caller's property. Caller has pictures.

5:58 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident on Hwy 150. Deputy Salmon responded.

8:20 p.m. - Received a call about car-deer accident on Hwy 150. Deputy Salmon responded.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

1:20 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Deputy Salmon and Officer Norris responded.

1:31 a.m. - Received a call reporting a break-in in Loogootee. Officer Norris responded.

2:16 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident on 231 South. Deputy Salmon responded.

JAIL BOOKINGS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

3:02 p.m. - Justin Truelove, 28, of Shoals, was arrested by Sheriff Roush on charges of auto theft and possession of meth. His bond is set at \$25,000 10%.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

1:50 a.m. - Joseph Turano, 60, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Salmon and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated. Bond set at \$25,000 10%.

10:55 a.m. - Jill Lake, 39, of Loogootee, was arrested by Captain Dant on two warrants for a probation violation and maintaining a common nuisance and possession of marijuana. No bond.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Accident reports

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9:52 a.m. - Patricia J. Parsons, of Loogootee, was backing her 2013 Mazda from a private drive when she failed to see a 1998 Ford operated by Billy D. Howell, of Loogootee. Chief Rayhill investigated.

7:28 p.m. - Alysia M. Potts, of Shoals, was operating a 2013 Toyota and stopped at a traffic signal when her vehicle was struck in the rear by a 1997 Chevy operated by Cindy Cunningham, of Loogootee. Captain Hennessee investigated.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

9:57 p.m. - Alicia Wildman, of Loogootee, was operating a 2004 Pontiac on North Street when she cut the corner to sharp and stuck a boulder. Sgt. Norris investigated.

8:40 p.m. - Brandon Pendley, 19, of Shoals, was arrested by Sheriff Roush and charged with minor consuming. His bond is set at \$10,000 10%.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

1:30 a.m. - Gary Rasico, 57, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Nolan and charged with two counts of battery in the presence of a minor.

8:37 p.m. - David Stover, 60, of Seymour, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Nolan and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated and habitual traffic violator for life. He has no bond. Officer Nolan was assisted by Corporal Baker and K9 Virka. G&M towed the vehicle.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

12:32 a.m. - Pamela Gammon, 41, of Shoals, was arrested by ISP Trooper Beaver and charged with operating while intoxicated-refusal, endangerment, resisting law enforcement, and neglect of a dependant. Her bond is set at \$25,000 10%.

10:13 a.m. - Jerry Williams, 45, of Mitchell, was arrested by ISP Trooper Lents and charged with operating a vehicle with controlled substance and possession of marijuana. Bond is set at \$20,000 10%.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

3:09 p.m. - Rebecca Doyle-Rush, 34, of Loogootee, was arrested by Captain Akles and charged with theft and possession of marijuana. No bond was set.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

3:19 a.m. - Matthew C. Shultz, 31, of Loogootee, was arrested by Officer Norris and charged with domestic battery. His bond is set at \$20,000.

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Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23
 12:20 a.m. - Caller reported a suspicious vehicle on US 231.
 5:01 a.m. - Sgt. Norris assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a car-deer accident.
 11:15 a.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted with a funeral procession.
 11:30 a.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.
 2:40 p.m. - Male caller requested an officer regarding a civil issue.
 4:02 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on SW 3rd Street.
 4:53 p.m. - Captain Hennette and K-9 Roxy assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a search warrant.
 7:28 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on Walker Street.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
 10:20 a.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted Deputy Dant in serving an arrest warrant.
 11:50 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on Hwy 50.
 2:00 p.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint on Bloomfield Road.
 6:01 p.m. - Caller reported a possible violation of a protective order.
 6:31 p.m. - Captain Hennette assisted Sgt.

Keith Keller on a trespassing complaint north on US 231.
 6:45 p.m. - First responders were requested in Sunset Trailer Court for a medical call.
 7:56 p.m. - Received a report of a missing juvenile. Subject was later located.
 8:54 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious vehicle on Indiana Avenue.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
 9:00 a.m. - Caller requested a security check at a residence on Acton Street.
 3:16 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles being abusive to a dog.
 5:45 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on US 231.
 9:01 p.m. - Caller reported a possible intoxicated driver on Hwy 50. Officer Nolan followed the vehicle and was unable to observe any traffic violations.
 10:50 p.m. - Caller reported a disturbance in Redwing Trailer Court.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
 2:07 a.m. - Caller reported someone kicking his front door.
 8:10 p.m. - Officer Nolan assisted Trooper Beaver with a vehicle accident north of town.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
 9:16 a.m. - Caller reported someone had been in his home.
 5:56 p.m. - Caller reported a theft of a cell phone at Wendy's

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
 4:17 p.m. - Caller reported another male was threatening him.
 4:40 p.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.
 5:05 p.m. - Caller reported a male was throwing things at his trailer in Redwing Trailer Court.
 6:49 p.m. - Caller reported a vehicle without headlights.
 11:10 p.m. - Caller reported a female was threatening to harm herself. Sgt. Norris responded and checked on the female.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
 1:45 a.m. - Caller reported passing a vehicle and a spotlight was shined in his face. Sgt. Norris stopped the vehicle and didn't locate a spotlight.
 4:02 a.m. - Sgt. Norris assisted the Daviess County Sheriff's Department with a domestic dispute.

Indiana Conservation Officers are hiring

Indiana Conservation Officers (ICO's) are seeking qualified applicants. Any person who is interested in a career as an ICO should visit the website www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2760.htm and complete the pre-screening test to be entered into the hiring process. The deadline for successful completion is December 15, 2015 to be considered for the 2016 hiring process beginning in January.

ICO's are employed with the Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Natural Resources. Primary duties of an ICO include enforcement of fish and wildlife laws, natural, historical and cultural resource laws, boating laws and outdoor recreation laws. ICO's enforce all laws of the state of Indiana and are fully empowered law enforcement officers.

To be qualified to pass the pre-screening test a person must be a U.S. citizen, be 21 by November 2016, have an Associate's Degree from an accredited college or university or 60 credit hours toward a Bachelor's Degree or 4 years active concurrent military service with an honorable discharge. The person must also be able to pass minimum Indiana Law Enforcement Academy physical fitness requirements.

Interested persons may visit the website and complete the "stay in touch" form to be contacted by a local recruiting officer to learn more about this profession. All 10 ICO districts maintain a facebook page that may be followed for further information at Indiana DNR Law District 1 through 10. A district map may be found at www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2755.htm

Martin County Court News

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

CRIMINAL COURT New Charges Filed

November 4
 Darrin M. Boyd, domestic battery, a Class A Misdemeanor; criminal mischief, a Class B Misdemeanor.
 Gina R. Grafton, battery on a person less than 14 years old, a Class 5 Felony.
 Dakota L. Simmerman, domestic battery, a Class 6 Felony.

November 6
 Glen S. Roll, operating a motor vehicle after forfeiture of license for life, a Class 5 Felony; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 9
 Joshua A. Phillips, theft, a Class A Misdemeanor; invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor; battery resulting in bodily injury, a Class A Misdemeanor; criminal mischief, a Class B Misdemeanor; theft, a Class 6 Felony.

Dylan J. Day, neglect of a dependent, a Class 6 Felony; unlawful possession or use of a legend drug, a Class 6 Felony; possession of a narcotic drug, a Class 6 Felony; operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor; driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 13
 Jason W. Greene, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 16
 Joshua R. Hedrick, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Andrew S. Qualkenbush, public intoxication, a Class B Misdemeanor; illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Amber D. Noble, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 18
 Caleb H. Truelove, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Jennifer A. Cusick, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 19
 Cameron E. Brown, possession of methamphetamine, a Class 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Lester J. Brummett, possession of methamphetamine, a Class 6 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance, a Class 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its

metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 20
 Jill M. Lake, maintaining a common nuisance, a Class 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

November 23
 Jeremy T. Graber, illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with at least .02 ACE but less than .08 ACE, a Class C Infraction.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & SENTENCING

November 19
 Myra L. Winkle, convicted of operating while intoxicated, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days in the Martin County Security Center with 361 days suspended and credit for two actual days previously served plus two good time credit days. Defendant received 11 months of probation.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

November 19
 Myra L. Winkle, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT New Suits Filed

November 19
 Portfolio Recovery Associates vs. Rheta L. Chastain, civil collection.

Seneca One, LLC vs. Sean Mudd, Zoe Mudd, Eric A Koch, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and Metlife Tower Resources Company, civil penalty.

November 20
 Midland Funding, LLC vs. Donna Williams, civil collection.

November 23
 Faylynn G. Himes vs. Christopher S. Himes, petition for dissolution of marriage.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

November 20
 Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Bank of America and against the defendant Phyllis G. Waddle in the amount of \$10,039.46.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT New Suits Filed

November 18
 Blanton, Branstetter & Pierce vs. James Brim, complaint.

November 20
 Warren Atkison vs. Rory Browder, complaint.

Warren Atkison vs. Tyrie Thomas, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

November 23
 Judgment in favor of the plaintiff White River Co-Op and against the defendant Daniel Blackburn in the amount of \$350.62.

November 24
 Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Renewing Management, Inc. and against the defendant Emily Smoot in the amount of \$1,599.50.

Real estate transfers

David L. Brown and Carolyn Jane Brown, of Martin County, Indiana to **Charles David Milligan and Beth Ann Milligan**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the north half of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 12, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.067 acres, more or less.

Richard F. Lemmon and Phyllis A. Lemmon, of Martin County, Indiana to **Charles David Milligan and Beth Ann Milligan**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the north half of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 12, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.158 acres, more or less.

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The Amish Community in Daviess County, Indiana A Photodocumentation
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 Bill Whorrall
\$39

To see Bill's website for books and art go to 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.

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In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser
Purdue University Master Gardener

Dear Santa,

I have tried very hard to get on the “nice” list this year, but I’m not sure I made it. Still, I want to get my list to you early. If I am not getting anything but coal, at least you may use this list when choosing gifts for other gardeners.

As always, I would like some rocks. I need more flat rocks to complete the patio that finally got started this year. I would also like to build some short garden walls from fieldstones. I would like to pave some of the pathways in the gardens with stepping stones, decorative gravel and decomposed granite. Another particular rock I would like is from the National Wildlife Federation. Sandhill Gardens is a certified wildlife habitat. I have a sign, but they offer a rock sign that would really look nice in the garden. They also have a metal address sign that would help people to find the garden. The address number is 3061.

I love books and with the Indiana bi-centennial coming up next year, I would like some books about native plants. I would especially like a field guide to edible native plants. I would also like a field guide of native trees and shrubs and one for wild mushrooms. Field guides with good pictures help me to identify specimens when I come across something with which I am not familiar. I would also like some more historical garden catalogues, magazines and gardening guides for my collection.

Speaking of that collection, I sure could use more antique gardening tools, watering cans and other gardening items. I also would like some vintage seed packets and seed display boxes. My dream is to have a gardening museum right here at Sandhill Gardens.

Statuary is also high on my wish list. I

would like to have a large eagle to place at the top of the cliff. Animal statuary would look right at home in the wooded areas and I have a special place picked out for a large angel.

I love garden benches and I do not suppose I would ever have too many. I like to create spots throughout the property to encourage visitors to stop and take in the beauty. A locally-crafted limestone bench would make a wonderful addition.

Gardens should stimulate all of the senses and I would like more sound in the garden. I have some wind chimes, but a set of the large bass chimes would be nice. I would like to add music to the garden, so I need outdoor, wireless speakers that would allow music from my home stereo system to be carried throughout the garden.

I usually do not like to give or receive gift certificates. They just are not personable. Still, a gift card to a nursery would allow me to buy some of the trees and shrubs I would like to have. I hope to add more evergreens to Sandhill Gardens. I especially want a weeping specimen and some with gold and frosted foliage. I would also like to have some of the new razzleberry specimens to add to the gardens next spring. I love to try new things, and I am sure spring will bring some new developments in the horticulture world.

If you cannot bring me the things on my list, perhaps you could just send some elves to help me in the garden for a few days. Many chores are easier when you have someone to help. Christmas is not about things. Sharing the gardens with friends and family is the best gift. It is a place where beauty echoes the perfect gift God gave the world on the very first Christmas.

Ralph

View the Geminids meteor shower at Paynetown SRA

Monroe Lake will host a viewing event for the Geminids meteor shower at Paynetown State Recreation Area on Sunday, December 13.

The event will take place near Deer Run Shelter from 6:30 to 8 p.m. A directional sign will be posted at the entrance gatehouse.

Usually one of the strongest showers each year, the Geminids often produce bright and intensely colored meteors.

Monroe Lake naturalist Jill Vance will explain the science behind the meteor shower and provide a fire for warmth and hot

chocolate. Visitors should bring folding chairs or blankets to recline on for more comfortable sky viewing.

The program requires clear or mostly clear skies and will be canceled if there is too much cloud cover.

If sky conditions look questionable on Dec. 13, check the program status any time after 4 p.m. by calling (812) 837-9967 or going to facebook.com/monroelake.

Paynetown SRA on Monroe Lake (stateparks.IN.gov/2954.htm) is at 4850 South State Road 446, Bloomington, 47401.

Nominations sought for Trails Advisory Board

The DNR is seeking nominations for five openings on the state’s Trails Advisory Board (TAB).

The openings are for representatives of the following trail-user groups: all-terrain vehicles, equestrians, four-wheel drive users, pedestrians and snowmobile users. Nominees should be involved with a local or statewide trails-oriented organization in one of those user groups.

Board members are expected to serve a three-year term starting March 1 and attend quarterly meetings. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of March, September and December, and the last Thursday in June. All meetings start at 3 p.m., and locations vary throughout the state.

The 15-member voluntary TAB advises DNR director Cameron F. Clark on trails-related issues. Members are also encouraged to report any news from their user groups to

the board and share pertinent trail information with their constituents.

Nominations will be accepted by the DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation from Nov. 30 through Dec. 31.

Having a TAB is required for Indiana to receive funding from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration. The state distributes \$1.2 million in RTP funding to acquire and develop multi-use trails for both motorized and non-motorized use.

More information about the Indiana Trails Advisory Board and nomination instructions are at dnr.IN.gov/outdoor/4094.htm.

For more information, contact Amy Marisavljevic at amarisavljevic@dnr.IN.gov, or (317) 232-4067; or mail to DNR Outdoor Recreation, 402 W. Washington St. Room W271, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2782.

Extension webinar offers guidance on farm rents

BY DARRIN PACK
Purdue University News Service

Experts from the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture will lead a webinar December 8 to help farmers determine how to balance the costs of long-term cash rents with declining operating revenue.

The webinar will be 1-2 p.m. EST.

“Indiana corn and soybean farmers have seen a sharp decline in gross revenue in 2014 and 2015,” said Jenna Nees, Purdue Extension educator in Putnam County and webinar coordinator. “Unfortunately, the decline in revenues is not being matched by a decline in costs, and this is causing farmers to ask if they should continue to rent land if they are expecting to lose money.”

Webinar hosts are Jim Mintert, director of the Center for Commercial Agriculture, and

Michael Langemeier, associate director. They will discuss the implications of farming a property at a loss when income falls short of expenses.

Participants will learn how to make budgeting decisions using the Long-term Cash Rent Tool, available on the Center for Commercial Agriculture website at <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/Pages/Resources/Farmland/Cash-Rents/Evaluating-Farmland-Rental.aspx>.

The webinar is sponsored by the Extension Women in Agriculture team and is open to everyone. There is no cost to view the webinar, but registration is required.

To sign up, go to <https://goo.gl/Rn4ltH>.

For more information, contact Nees at 765-653-8411 or Amanda Veenhuizen, Extension educator in Fayette County, at 765-825-8502.

Website offers resources to help operators manage farm risk

BY JENNIFER STEWART-BURTON
Purdue University News Service

A new website from Purdue University’s Center for Commercial Agriculture and the Indiana Soybean Alliance is available to help farm operators manage risk.

Farm Risk Resources (www.farmriskresources.com) is designed to help farmers understand, identify, evaluate and manage risk, which is an inherent part of agriculture. The goal is to offer basic risk management concepts and principles critical to thinking through the decisions farmers make on a daily basis.

“Managing risk is pivotal to a farm’s success,” said Jim Mintert, director of the Center for Commercial Agriculture. “As production agriculture has become more complex, so, too, have the risks. They expand beyond price and require an integrated management approach.”

The site includes a 15-question assessment for farmers to identify which types of risks apply to their specific operations - business, financial or strategic. Once identified, the site provides links to more information about managing the type of risk specific to each farm.

Also available are case studies farmers can

Snowmobile season began December 1

The four state snowmobile trails are awaiting snow and ready for the 2015-2016 snowmobile season, which began December 1.

The trails will be open, when there is adequate snow, through March 30. Snowmobilers are only permitted on trails when they are posted as “open.”

There is no trail pass in Indiana; however, all snowmobiles must be registered. Registration is \$30 for three years and can be completed through the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Completion of a snowmobile safety course is encouraged, but not required. The official DNR online safety course is at snowmobile-ed.com/indiana.

The state snowmobile trails are the 68-mile Buffalo Run Trail in western St. Joseph County, the 61-mile Miami Trail in Elkhart County, the 34-mile Heritage Trail in southeastern Allen County, and the 40-mile Salamonie Trail at Salamonie Lake in Wabash and Huntington counties.

The trails are a cooperative effort between the DNR and local not-for-profit snowmobile trail clubs. The trails are funded by snowmobile registration fees. Those interested in helping with the trails should join their local snowmobile club. In addition to maintaining trails, clubs also organize group rides.

For more information on snowmobiling in

use to walk through the risk evaluation and management process, as well as a list of risk management workshops, tools and videos. Information is provided for a variety of operation types and sources of risk, including specialty crops, new market expansion, food safety, labor, input suppliers, production issues, farmland values and crop outlooks.

“The site is full of expert-driven, research-based advice and operational tools,” Mintert said. “It’s all about helping farmers take a holistic approach to risk management.”

Some of those tools include audits, spreadsheets and checklists.

In addition to the website, the Indiana Soybean Alliance and Indiana Corn Growers Association will offer a series of three free workshops titled “Managing Risk in a Challenging Farm Economy.” Presenters include Mintert and Purdue Extension agricultural economists Michael Langemeier and Michael Boehlje.

Dates and locations:

* December 7: Beck Agricultural Center, West Lafayette.

* January 11: Indiana Grand, Shelbyville.

* January 14: Fort Wayne Farm Show, Fort Wayne.

For more information and to register, visit www.indianasoybean.com/forum.

Hunter education class

An Indiana Hunter Education Course will be offered January 16 and 23 at the Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Participants must attend both days to complete the course. Class will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 16 and from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on January 23.

The course is free and open to all Indiana residents. Successful completion of an Indiana Hunter Education Course is required for anyone born after December 31, 1986, who wishes to buy an Indiana hunting license.

All instruction will be provided by Indiana conservation officers and certified Indiana volunteer hunter education instructors. The course will cover ethics, safety, laws, survival and safe handling practices for archery, black powder and firearms.

Lunch will be available for participants and attending family members on both days for \$5 per person.

Register at www.passitonindiana.com.

The course is limited to 150 students, and advance registration is required. The course is sponsored by the Dubois County Shooting Sports Instructor Council. For more information, call (812) 685-2447.

Stuff a stocking with a State Park Holiday Gift Pack

Give the outdoor lovers on your list the gift of Indiana's state parks and state forest recreation areas, state park inns and Outdoor Indiana magazine, all in one bargain package, without ever leaving your home.

The \$99 State Park Holiday Gift Pack includes a 2016 resident Annual Entrance Permit, an Indiana State Park Inns gift card worth \$65, a one-year subscription to Outdoor Indiana magazine, and a 2016 Outdoor Indiana full-color calendar. New this year is an option for those 65 years and older, which costs \$89. A non-resident option is also available for \$119.

The buyer of the standard \$99 deal saves \$31 over the regular price of the items purchased separately.

Choosing the upgrade option of a \$134 State Park Holiday Gift Pack upgrades your \$99 State Park Holiday Gift Pack to include a \$100 Indiana State Park Inns gift certificate. The option for those age 65 and older costs \$124.

Inns gift certificates can be used for lodging, dining and souvenirs.

Order at InnsGifts.com. Orders ship within three to five business days. Orders received by December 9 will ship by December 16 or earlier. The offer is available through December 31.

Indiana has 32 state park properties

throughout the state. The entrance permit grants gate entrance for one carload to all of 2016 for all state parks and reservoirs operated by the DNR Division of State Parks. The DNR annual entrance pass is also honored at the three state forest recreation areas that have gates (Deam Lake, Starve Hollow and Ferdinand State Forest).

The gift card can be used at any of seven state park inns lodging facilities, as well as the award-winning Pete Dye-designed golf course at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis.

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Indiana recognized at trails conference

The B-Line Trail in Bloomington and the Fort Wayne greenways manager were both honored recently by a Midwestern trails organization.

The B-Line was given the Outstanding Project Award by the Mid America Trails and Greenways (MATAG) conference. MATAG is a biannual conference of trail managers, developers, advocates and users from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Dawn Ritchie, greenways manager for the city of Fort Wayne, was given MATAG's Outstanding Person Award.

The conference was in Des Moines, Iowa, October 25-28.

The Outstanding Project Award is given to projects that demonstrate exceptional planning, design or implementation and enhance the overall trails movement.

The 3.1-mile B-Line is open round-the-clock and is equipped with a lighted path. The trail is frequently used for fitness and running, so the B-Line Trail also includes a series of fitness stations.

The downtown portion of the B-Line Trail is in the heart of the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District. The trail features murals, sculptures and plazas and provides spaces for theatre, music,

speeches and other forms of expression. The B-Line Trail is funded by federal grants and state environmental grants. Much of the funding went to land acquisition, construction and cleanup.

The Outstanding Person Award is presented to a person who demonstrates significant and exemplary service to trails planning, implementation and recreation.

Under Ritchie's leadership, Fort Wayne's trail network has grown from 21 to 66 miles in 10 years.

Ritchie also works with neighborhoods and nearby communities to connect the Fort Wayne network to the larger, regional trail system. She serves on the statewide Indiana Greenways Foundation, where she is an active trail advocate at both the state and regional levels.

Ritchie oversees multiple federal and state trail grants, walks potential trail sights, and works closely with the local non-profit for greenway advocacy, Fort Wayne Trails Inc.

The DNR helped Bloomington secure state and federal funds to develop the B-Line trail. The agency also worked with the City of Fort Wayne and Ritchie to fund multiple trail projects with both state and federal funds.

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Watermelon Drop on New Year's to kick-off Indiana's Bicentennial

Excitement is growing in anticipation of Indiana's FIRST Bicentennial legacy event—the 8th Annual Watermelon Drop on New Year's Eve in Vincennes.

"We are delighted that the Watermelon Drop will be the first official legacy event of Indiana's Bicentennial celebration. It's only fitting that the place where Indiana history started will be the kickoff to this exciting year of statewide celebration," said Mark Hill, chair of the Knox County Bicentennial Committee.

The wildly wacky celebration will feature the introduction of a Night Time Air Show and music by the band Hot Rod Lincoln, prior to the traditional fireworks and 16 watermelons dropping to a "splatform" at midnight. It is an event that continues to grow, attracting national attention since it began in 2008. Two years ago, the Watermelon Drop attracted a CNN's live coverage during its New Year's Eve show that attracted more than 2 million viewers.

In fact, last year Smithsonian magazine choose a photo of Vincennes' Watermelon Drop to illustrate its feature story, "From Possums to 200 Pounds of Bologna: Weird Things Cities Drop on New Year's Eve."

The article noted that "crystal balls aren't the only things used to mark the New Year—in many places across the United States, cities drop objects that reflect local flavor and culture," such as watermelons.

(www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/possums-200-pounds-bologna-weird-things-cities-drop-new-years-eve-180953755/#Ce6Ft8e6kQildXu1.99).

Past Watermelon Drops have been featured on the CBS Sunday Morning Show and Country Living's "7 Wacky Ways to Ring in the New Year." The editors of the world's largest travel site, TripAdvisor, Inc., listed the event among its 2011 "Top Ten Quirkiest New Year's Eve Celebrations in America"—a list that also included North Carolina's Possum Drop and Alabama's Moon Pie Drop.

Adding to this year's festivities is the event's official designation as the first Legacy event during Indiana's year-long Bicentennial celebration.

Both state and Knox County Bicentennial committees approve the honoring the Watermelon Drop since it's celebrated in Indiana's first city and promotes one of the state's signature agriculture products.

"Where else but Vincennes can you watch a 500-pound watermelon rise high in the sky as midnight approaches, culminating in 16 Knox County watermelons dropped on our splatform at the stroke of midnight—including fireworks? There really is no better way to ring in the New Year," said Rick Linenburg, one of the founding members of the National Watermelon Drop Committee.

Linenburg said the committee is also proud that the Watermelon Drop was selected the #1 Festival in the Vincennes Sun-Commercial's 2015 Reader's Choice Awards, as well as among the top two community events. He said the awards reflect the community's growing pride in the event as well as the watermelons that Knox County has become known for.

Always looking for ways to make the event bigger and better, Linenburg said this year the committee will kick-off the evening with a 5:45 p.m. Night Time Air Show featuring 10+ airplanes over the Wabash River, compliments of Team Aero-Dynamix. The performance is sponsored by the National Watermelon Association.

"The air show promises to be a spectacular addition to the festivities. We are also delighted to welcome back Master Chef Joseph Poon, thanks to the sponsorship of the National Watermelon Promotion Board. Chef Poon has been featured on many TV shows, such as "Late Night" and "Ellen DeGeneres Show," where he has demonstrated the phenomenal watermelon carving skills

that he will bring to Vincennes," Linenburg said.

Other attractions this year include National Watermelon Queen Emily Brown and Illiana Watermelon Queen Lindsey Hampton, music, food and merchandise vendors, a wine and beer garden, and the 2015 American computer-animated family comedy film, "Minions II," shown in our heated movie tent.

Since its creation in 2008, the 18-foot watermelon has become a star attraction in Vincennes, including being featured in the town's July 4th and Christmas parades, as well as its summer Watermelon Festival. People also enjoy sharing photographs and videos of themselves standing next to the 18-foot-long watermelon throughout the evening on New Year's Eve.

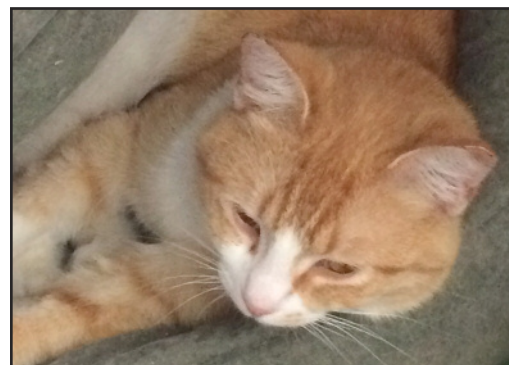
Tent space is available for private family, company, or organization's New Year's Eve parties. For more information about reserving tent space, contact the Vincennes/Knox County Visitors and Tourism Bureau at 812-886-0400.

In honor of the event, a poem parody has been created, that captures the building excitement in the community. "'Twas the night before New Year's, when all through the town, all the people were stirring and riverfront bound. The watermelons were shined and stacked with care, in hopes to be selected for a launch through the air. The revelers in Vincennes were all snug and well fed, while visions of smashing watermelons danced in their head."

WHY IS THE WATERMELON DROP IN VINCENNES?

According to the Illiana Watermelon Association, one of the sponsors of the Watermelon Drop, the credit for the wide popularity of Knox County's great-tasting watermelons is ideal soil deposited by the great glaciers of the Ice-Age. The result is thousands of acres of melon fields in and around Knox County that produce over 7,000 semi truckloads of watermelons every summer. As the county seat of Knox County, Vincennes is proud to feature locally grown watermelons for its New Year's Eve celebration.

ANIMAL SHELTER Pets of the Week



Shown in the top photo is Rex, a male hound. His adoption fee has been reduced to just \$20! He is neutered and had all his shots. Below Rex is Ernie, a male orange and white cat, around 2 years old. Ernie's adoption fee is reduced to \$10! The shelter hours are Wednesday 5-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment another day. The regular adoption fee for kittens/cats is \$40 and includes spay/neuter, vaccinations and a free bag of Hill's Science Diet food.



Students, staff of the month

-Photo provided

Shown above are the Loogootee Elementary Students and Staff Member of the Month for November. In the front row, from left to right, are Toni Browder, Xander Sheetz, and Lauren Nolan. In the second row, from left to right, are Makenzie Mauder, Hannah Venters, Jocelynn Sims, Madison Nail, and Lilly Lottes. In the back row, from left to right, are Tommy Wagler, Emmett Graber, Judith Park, Hailey Osborne, Ashlynn Gilbert, John Hart, and Mrs. Patti Byrd. Not pictured was Abbi Nonte.

Calendar of Events

Chamber of commerce meeting

The Martin County Chamber of Commerce will hold their monthly meeting Wednesday, December 16 at noon at Stoll's Lakeview Restaurant. Anyone wishing to work with the Chamber is invited to attend.

Loogootee School Board meeting

The Loogootee School Board will meet Monday, December 7 in executive session. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9). The meeting is closed to the public.

Talk to a lawyer clinic

The December session of talk to a lawyer telephone clinic is Thursday, December 3 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. DST. For those in the Eastern time zone, the hours are 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Volunteer attorneys will be available to answer general legal questions and give general legal guidance regarding Indiana law. To contact the telephone clinic, the numbers are 812-618-4845 and 888-594-3449. January will include 2 telephone clinic sessions. The first will be on January 7 and a special one will take place on January 18, in honor of Martin Luther King Day. More information on these two dates will come at a later time. Talk to a Lawyer telephone clinic is staffed by volunteer attorneys and paralegals and is co-sponsored by Indiana Bar Foundation, Evansville Bar Foundation and Volunteer Lawyer Program of Southwestern Indiana, Inc.

Crays Celebration of Life

There will be a Celebration of Life and benefit in memory of Sheila Crays on Saturday, December 5 at the Loogootee VFW from 3-8:30 p.m. Food served will be ham green beans, corn, mashed potatoes, roll, and beverage for \$8 a plate. Chili will be available by bowl for \$3 or gallon for \$12. Donations can be made to Crane Credit Union (Sheila Crays benefit fund)

Loogootee Council special meeting

There will be a special Loogootee City Council meeting on Wednesday, December 2 at 5 p.m. in the council meeting room of the Loogootee Municipal Building. The West Boggs Sewer District will the topic of discussion. The meeting is open to the public.

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.

Tourism meetings

The MCCC Tourism Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Shoals Public Library. The public is invited to attend.

Soil and Water meetings

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

Nominations sought for VU Davis Citation award

Nominations are now being sought for Vincennes University's 2016 Walter A. Davis Memorial Citation. Nominations will be accepted through January 8, 2016.

The Citation has been presented since 1952 and recognizes individuals who have given outstanding service to their community. Recipients must be either a VU graduate or a resident of the greater Vincennes area (approximately a 45-mile radius). Recipients are selected by a committee representing the VU Alumni Association, VU Board of Trustees, VU Foundation, Vincennes community, and a past recipient of the Davis Citation.

A detailed biographical profile and letters of support are required.

Nomination materials may be sent to Jennifer Gilmore, Director, VU Alumni Association, Vincennes University, 1002 N. First St., Vincennes IN 47591.

More information is available by calling the VU Alumni Office at 812-888-4354 or 800-945-ALUM.

Shoals athletes recognized with awards



-Photo provided

Shoals Varsity High School Volleyball players receiving awards are shown above. From left to right are Dawn Wright- Mental Attitude Award, Megan Hawkins- Highest Serving Percentage, Taylor Atkison- Blocks Award and Spiker Award, Emilee Wagler- Aces Award and Setter Award and Macey Way- Digs Award.



-Photo provided

Shoals Varsity High School Varsity Soccer players receiving awards are shown above. From left to right are Tyler Lythgoe- Most Valuable Offensive Player, Ryan Hawkins- Most Valuable Defensive Player, Kenyon Sorrells- Midfielder Award, Reva Troutman- Mental Attitude Award, Caleb Belcher- Leading Goal Scorer, and Logan Harker- Mental Attitude Award.



-Photo provided

Shoals Varsity Cross Country runners receiving awards are shown above. From left to right are Allison Albright- Most Valuable Runner and Mental Attitude Award, David Qualkenbush- Mental Attitude Award, and Colin Hoffman- Most Valuable Runner.



-Photo provided

Shoals Junior Varsity Volleyball players receiving awards are shown above. From left to right are Amber Fields- Most Kills and Kendra Howard- Most Sets. Not pictured was Ruth Wright- High Point Award and Highest Serving Percentage Award.



-Photo provided

Shoals 8th Grade Volleyball players receiving awards are shown above. From left to right are Chloe Spencer- Best Attacking Percentage, Maggie Shaw- Mental Attitude Award, and Zetta Gore- High Point Award and Highest Serving Percentage.



-Photo provided

Shoals Junior High Soccer players receiving awards are shown above. From left to right are Austin Gilbert- Mental Attitude Award, Isiah Baylis- Most Valuable Offensive Player, and Max Fischer- Most Valuable Defensive Player.



-Photo provided

Shoals 7th Grade Volleyball players receiving awards are shown above. From left to right are Abbi Sorrells- Mental Attitude, Faith Doane- Best Attacking Percentage, Olivia Alcorn- Best Serving Percentage, and Kaydence Sutton- High Point Award.



-Photo provided

Shoals Junior High Boys' Cross Country runners receiving awards are shown above. From left to right are Aaron Greene- Most Valuable Runner and Nicholas Spurgeon- Mental Attitude Award



-Photo provided

Shoals Junior High Girls' Cross Country runners receiving awards are shown above. From left to right are Mya Miller- Mental Attitude Award and Alyssa Howell- Most Valuable Player Runner.