

Plans underway for solar field in Burns City

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

NSWC Commander Timothy Caddock; Todd Woods, community liaison for Crane; Jeff Nagan, NSWC Crane Public Relations; and Bruce Callaway government and community relations representative for Duke Energy went before the Martin County Commissioners at their meeting Tuesday night, December 8 to discuss a solar field project that is being planned for the Burns City area.

It was explained that in 2009, Congress mandated that a quarter of government energy consumption come from renewable energy sources by 2025. Then in 2012, President Obama mandated that government establish at least three gigawatts of power, enough for three million homes.

A year ago, plans began to build a solar energy field on 200 acres on the western edge of the Crane base, south of the Burns City gate near the Eagle View Golf Course. This would require the golf course to decrease from 18 holes to nine.

The property would be owned by the base but leased to Duke Energy however the lease agreement is still being worked out. The renewable solar energy would be used

to power the base.

Callaway explained that there will be some residents of the Burns City area that are visually impacted by the solar field and will also be impacted during the construction, with trucks moving in and out of the location. The Burns City gate will remain open and there will be little impact to the base operations. The field would generate around 13 megawatts of power and construction could start as early as May of 2016, if things go as planned. More information will be provided as details are finalized.

In other business the commissioners approved going with Federated Insurance over Thompson Insurance for next year's employee health insurance. According to Auditor January Roush, the plan with Federated is an improvement over what employees had last year. The county will pay 90 percent of the premiums and there will be no contributions to health savings accounts but the co-pays for the employees reduced by more than half and the deductibles reduced from \$3,000/\$6,000 for singles and \$5,000/\$10,000 for families to everyone having a \$2,000/\$4,000 deductible. One difference in this year's policy is that it is age (See 'SOLAR' continued on page 2)



-Photo provided

Shown above is the map of the proposed solar field location in Burns City, near the Crane gate.

Food service establishments inspected by health department

The following restaurant inspections were done by Julia Albright, of the Martin County Health Department. The information listed is verbatim from the inspection report and all were routine inspections, unless otherwise noted. Violations that were seen again from one inspection to the next are noted with "(Repeat violation)" after the entry.

- November 24
Wendy's #364, 701 W. Broadway Street, Loogootee
- Five non-critical violations:
 - Boxes of lettuce sitting on floor of walk-in cooler
 - Master Built freezer has build-up of food particles in bottom
 - Coke machine fountain nozzle in dining room has build-up of black substance (Repeat violation)
 - No self-closing device on toilet room doors

-Physical facilities not cleaned at frequency to prevent build-up of dried food on or around equipment in kitchen area and in walk-in cooler.

American Legion Post #120, 112 Church Street, Loogootee

- One non-critical violation:
 - Storage containers used for utensils and grip mat used under glasses have build-up of dust/dirt
- The Lodge of Loogootee, 302 W. Williams Street, Loogootee
- One critical violation:
 - Temperature of cottage cheese on salad bar at 46.2 degrees (Repeat violation)
- One non-critical violation:
 - Storage containers for flour and utensils have build-up of dust and dried food particles. Exhaust hood vents above deep fryers have build-up of dust/grease.

(See INSPECTED' continued on page 2)

Council approves money requests

The Martin County Council met Monday night, December 7. Most of the agenda items concerned additional appropriations and transfers for various departments.

The council approved \$1,860 for community corrections road crew from the riverboat fund. Community Corrections Director Kathy Collins explained that \$11,000 was budgeted for the year but they ran shy. She said road crew is running Saturday, Sunday and sometimes one day during the week and depending on the level of charges, some offenders could have 300 hours of community service that is required. She said this is the reason for the extra road crew days and extra expenses. The council approved the addi-

tional money request.

The council also approved \$3,500 for Mark Franklin; \$1,000 for autopsies and a \$2,500 to upgrade his radio required to communicate with departments.

The council also approved \$1,000 for supplies for the prosecutor.

At last meeting, Council Member Lonnie Hawkins had requested that Sheriff Travis Roush provide information on the cost of meals for the jail inmates. Roush said at Monday night's meeting the cost is \$1.28 per meal. Roush said they have spent around \$60,000 of the estimated \$90,000 that would be needed if the jail an average inmate pop- (See COUNCIL' continued on page 2)



It's beginning to look a lot like . . . -Photos by Bill Whorrall

Christmas season is upon us and both Loogootee and Shoals have decorated their downtown areas to reflect the holidays. Above is Loogootee's square and below is Main Street in Shoals.



GET OUTDOORS

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OCRA awards \$2M for Workforce Development Programming to eight Indiana communities

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) last Wednesday announced \$2 million will be awarded to 8 communities through the Work Force Development Program (WDP).

Grant, Howard, Knox, Martin, Starke, Steuben, Perry (Tell City) and Whitley Counties will each receive \$250,000 in grant funding for the implementation of new training programs to address the skills needs of the local workforce within the community or region.

"WDP encourages continued economic growth by equipping our cities and towns with the resources needed to develop and maintain a high quality workforce both now and in the future," said Bill Konyha, OCRA Executive Director. "We look forward to the partnership with communities across Indiana as we work together to ensure there is a skilled workforce; a key element in ensuring our communities are relevant and thriving in the 21st century."

The WDP program is funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) with the goal of bolstering workforce development as a long-term economic development strategy. Eligible activities range from sector based strategies that focus on specific industry needs (i.e. welding, heavy equipment operator, etc.) to problem-focused strategies (i.e. life skills, interviewing, basic math, etc.) to implementation measures.

In late July, OCRA hosted a workshop to introduce the new program, which outlined goals, anticipated outcomes and the importance of partnerships in the process, as well as eligibility requirements and detailed application information. Local economic development organizations, chamber of commerce members, school corporations, community foundations and businesses interested in advancing the skills of local citizens were present at the workshop.

Below is a summary of this year's WDP recipients:

Grant County has been awarded \$250,000 for incumbent worker training. The program will expand the Grant's Got Talent program by adding industrial maintenance skills training. This program includes seven other partners in the program.

Howard County has been awarded a \$250,000 for incumbent worker training. The program will provide basic skills education, machining skills training and maintenance skills training. This program includes eight other partners in the program.

Knox County, in partnership with Sullivan County and the City of Princeton, has been awarded \$250,000 for a workforce development program. The training in-

cludes heavy equipment operation and industrial maintenance and will be conducted in conjunction with Vincennes University.

Martin County in partnership with Lawrence, Greene, and Daviess counties has been awarded \$250,000 to assist with a workforce development program. The program includes training for unemployed and underemployed workers into the fields of CNC machining, electronics, and information/security technology. The training supports the workforce of the Base of Crane, defense industry contractors, and regional manufacturers with skilled workers.

Starke County has been awarded \$250,000 in funds to purchase the equipment necessary to provide training in manufacturing equipment maintenance and automation technology. The training will be offered by and at the Starke County Initiative for Lifelong Learning (SCILL) for entering and incumbent workers from four counties.

Steuben County has been awarded \$250,000 to provide training to address skill gaps and improve technical skills in the areas of welding and CNC operations. Steuben County is leveraging \$305,000 as local match for this training development program.

The City of Tell City, in Perry County, along with the Perry County Business and Industrial Development Corporation has been awarded \$250,000 for a workforce development program. The SWIM-Plus training program will be offered throughout the region of Perry, Spencer, Dubois and Crawford Counties.

Whitley County has successfully partnered with Noble County for a \$250,000 grant to develop a workforce development program. The training program will be focused on incumbent and underemployed workers in the areas of machining, industrial maintenance and welding. The training will be offered through IVY Tech and the Freedom Academy.

For more information about the Workforce Development Program, contact your regional Community Liaison with questions and visit OCRA's Workforce Development Program webpage.

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs' (OCRA) mission is to work with local, state, and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to assist communities in shaping and achieving their vision for community and economic development.

For updates from Lt. Governor Ellspermann and the agencies she oversees, go to www.lg.in.gov.

LHS Volleyball Awards



-Photo provided

The Loogootee Junior Varsity Volleyball award winners, from left to right, are Sydney Davis, Katie Sims, Savannah McAtee, and Kashten Burch.



-Photo provided

LHS Varsity Volleyball award winners from left to right are Emily Brookshire, Jordan Mann, Mya Hedrick, Breigh LaMar, Kylie Hall, and Julianne Bell.



-Photo provided

Shown above are 2015 LHS Volleyball Seniors Jordan Mann, and Emily Bateman.

INSPECTED

(Continued from page one)

(Operator response to inspection filed 12/2/15: "A. We are taking temp on cottage cheese every 1 1/2 and putting it over the ice. B. If cottage cheese doesn't stay at temp it will be removed from salad bar.")

Aunt B's Brew Ha Ha, 112 E. Broadway Street, Loogootee
No violations noted.

Knights of Columbus, 102 E. Main Street, Loogootee
No violations noted.

Loogootee Marathon, 113 Broadway Street, Loogootee
One critical violation:

-Raw bacon packages stored over ready-to-eat sandwiches and milk bottles in display cooler

One non-critical violation:
-Wiping cloths stored in buckets that did not have sanitizer water in them

Subway #18904, 208 Mill Street, Loogootee
No violations noted.

COUNCIL

(Continued from page one)

ulation of 51.

Hawkins also requested that the sheriff not advertise for a new deputy until the budget is approved by the state. Auditor January Roush said next year's budget is in the review process and she expects to hear something at the end of the month. Roush said he took applications for the new position but the hiring process takes six weeks.

Auditor Roush also said that the reassessment budget for next year was reduced by \$340,000 to get the county's budget approved. The reduction will not affect the assessor's budget due to encumbrances from this year.

SOLAR

(Continued from page one)

based, with premiums depending on the age of the policy holder.

Commissioner Dan Gregory said employees will still receive the same money to opt out of the plan as they did last year. As of this year 31 of the 90+ employees chose to take the opt out money instead of the insurance. Enrollment for 2016 will be held next week for county employees.



-Photo provided

Spell bowl second place

The Loogootee Middle School Spell Bowl team recently participated in the area competition, held at North Daviess School. The team placed second, competing against Griffith Elementary, Veale Elementary and Lena Dunn Elementary. Team members included Lacie Arthur, Kyndal Braun, Mathew Coleman, Madie Fisher, Euan Graves, Rachel Lents, Kage Lyon, Kaylynn Sims, Reece Tippery, Rory Tippery and Brenna Wade. Leading the team was Rachel Lents, who received a ribbon for a near perfect round spelling six of seven words correctly. The Spell Bowl team is coached by Nicole Bays.

OBITUARIES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

LOIS AULTZ

Lois Jean Denny Aultz passed away Monday, November 30, 2015, at home. A resident of Miamisburg, Ohio, she was 75.

She was born July 27, 1940; the daughter of Evelyn and Jesse K. Denny.

She graduated from Fairmont High School in 1958 and Indiana University in

1963 with a bachelor's in music education and music, piano and bassoon performance. She was a member of Sigma Alpha Iota National Music Honorary. She taught elementary music in Kettering City Schools, Farmersville City Schools, and Dayton City Schools. She retired in 1996. She taught private bassoon and piano lessons for many years.

She served as the youth choir director at Oak Creek United Church of Christ. She was also the Carol Choir director at Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church for 16 years, retiring in 2007. She was an active member at Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church as an elder, an accompanist for Vacation Bible School, and a member of the Congregational Fellowship Committee.

She found joy in spending time with her children and grandchildren and playing piano and bassoon duets with Stanley.

She is survived by her loving husband of

45 years, Stanley; daughter, Carrie Tolman (Jason) of Hilliard, Ohio; their sons, JD and Jackson; son, Nicholas Aultz (Heather) of Las Vegas, Nevada; and son, Mason Aultz (Amanda) and their daughter, Autumn, of Fairborn, Ohio; sister-in-law, Susanne Aultz of Long Beach, California; cousin, Beth Powell of Kettering; cousin, Father Gary Aultz of Kettering; cousin, Marie Hawkins (Rodney) of Shoals; and cousin, Susie Burch of Wilmington, North Carolina.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Evelyn Gottschall Denny, and father Jesse K. Denny.

A celebration of life service was held Friday, December 4 at Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church, in Kettering, Ohio. Interment followed at Beavertown Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church. Online condolences may be made to www.tobias-funeralhome.com.

Generations seeking community's support for Meals on Wheels program

This holiday season, Generations, Area 13 Agency on Aging & Disability, is asking for help from the community to continue offering its signature Meals on Wheels program for homebound individuals.

Meals on Wheels has acted as a safety net for over 40 years providing basic nutrition and care checks that enable older adults and individuals with disabilities to remain independent and in their own homes. But nutrition funding through the Older Americans Act has been cut drastically at the same time that the elderly population is the largest in history, many living below the poverty level.

"As the holidays approach, we look forward to sharing meals and time with our family and friends," said Laura Holscher, Generations Executive Director. "The holidays, though, can be difficult and lonely for many frail, isolated seniors."

That is why Generations is asking for the public's help this holiday season.

"You can make a difference, right here, where you live, for your neighbors," Holscher said. "Any amount is appreciated and your gift stays here and helps to ensure



-Photo provided

Roger Junkin, U.S. Air Force veteran and Meals on Wheels driver, delivers a meal to Cyrilla Hammers.

that no homebound senior has to go on a wait list for meals."

Individuals wishing to help Meals on Wheels can send their tax-deductible donation to Generations, P.O. Box 314, Vincennes, IN 47591.

Generations is a program of Vincennes University's Community Services Division. It is the Area Agency on Aging serving residents of Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Knox, Martin and Pike counties.

A Noel Celebration at Loogootee UMC

Christmas is a season of joyous sounds. Familiar Christmas music fills our churches, our school, our homes, our radios, and TV specials galore. It is also the season of special family gatherings and parties. Most importantly, Christmas is the season to revisit and celebrate Christ's story; the prophecies which pointed to His coming, His birth, and His life. It is the incarnation story of God coming to earth to live among us.

On Sunday night, December 20, at 6 p.m., Loogootee United Methodist Church, at 208 West Main Street, invites you to their Christmas cantata entitled A Noel Celebration - Sounds and Stories of Christmas. The cantata looks at the story through the eyes of first-hand witnesses who share their unique perspectives on the miraculous birth of Jesus. Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, a shepherd, a wise man, and the aged saint Simeon all share their stories through dramatic monologues and familiar Christmas carols.

Before the Cantata you are invited to a soup, sandwich and dessert fundraiser from 4:30-6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This fundraiser will benefit LHS band students from the church who are raising funds for their Florida band trip over spring break. A freewill donation will be taken for the meal.



Hour of Code

In Indiana, computer science graduates are in high demand. The students at Loogootee Middle School are starting early in working toward meeting this demand. Students in Ms. Nicole Bays' sixth grade class participated in Hour of Code. This program teaches students how to write code for computers. Using online tutorials, students can create art projects and write the code for their own computer games. This engaging activity also helps student learn about algorithms, how the internet works and how to write an app. By 2022, there will be more than one million computer science based jobs available in the United States. Ms. Bays' students had an unique experience that help them develop a better understanding of how computer programming can change the world. Shown above is student Nick Keller working on a program for Minecraft.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30

7:30 a.m. - Received a call of a tree down on US Hwy 150. Chief Deputy Greene removed the tree.

10:26 a.m. - Loogootee Chief Rayhill assisted with a funeral detail in Loogootee.

12:34 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic disturbance in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

3:18 p.m. - Sergeant Keller assisted child protective services with a home visit near Loogootee.

4:37 p.m. - Sergeant Keller responded to a car-deer accident south of Loogootee.

6:41 p.m. - Received a report of vandalism to a car in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

8:54 p.m. - Received a report of shots fired near Shoals. Sergeant Keller, Corporal Baker, ISP Trooper Beaver, Conservation Officer Mann, and Sheriff Roush responded. Determined it was raccoon hunters.

9:25 p.m. - Received a report of an alarm north of Loogootee. Daviess County Deputy Harmon responded.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1

5:07 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down east of Shoals. The Lost River Fire Department and Martin County Highway were notified.

6:45 a.m. - Received a report of mailbox vandalism in Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded.

8:00 a.m. - Received a report of an accident near Shoals. Sheriff Roush worked the accident.

9:10 a.m. - Sheriff Roush and Captain Dant took five inmates to court.

10:45 a.m. - Captain Dant took two inmates to court.

11:37 a.m. - Sheriff Roush took three inmates to court.

12:45 p.m. - Sheriff Roush took one inmate to court.

1:30 p.m. - Sheriff Roush took two inmates to court.

1:50 p.m. - Sheriff Roush took three inmates to court.

2:05 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

3:20 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

9:11 p.m. - Received a report of threatening behavior in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded and all was okay.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2

1:18 a.m. - Received a report of a fire north of Shoals. Williams Fire Department, Martin County Civil Defense, and Martin County Ambulance responded.

4:45 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:03 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:10 p.m. - Received a request for assistance near Shoals. Captain Dant responded.

1:20 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:25 p.m. - Captain Dant took one inmate to court.

4:25 p.m. - Received a report of a pole on power lines east of Shoals. Daviess Martin REMC was notified.

9:45 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Shoals. Corporal Baker, Indiana State Police Trooper Beaver, and Town Marshal Eckert responded. The subject was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 3

1:09 a.m. - Received a report of an alarm

north of Loogootee. Corporal Baker checked the area and all was okay.

1:36 a.m. - Received several reports of the slick roads near Shoals. The state highway department was notified.

3:31 a.m. - Received a report of horses out on SR 150, east of Shoals. Corporal Baker responded and located the animals.

5:30 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident on SR 150, east of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Baker responded.

8:00 a.m. - Received a report of a car-coyote accident south of Loogootee on US 231. Captain Dant worked the accident.

1:00 p.m. - Captain Dant took two inmates to court.

3:06 p.m. - Received an alarm call in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4

7:45 a.m. - Received report of an alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Akles responded.

8:00 a.m. - Major Burkhardt performed a speaking engagement at the Shoals School.

8:00 a.m. - Received an alarm call north of Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Akles responded.

8:25 a.m. - Sheriff Roush assisted a motorist north of Shoals

10:55 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene assisted a motorist in Loogootee.

11:05 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene performed a welfare check in Loogootee.

1:50 p.m. - Sheriff Roush took one inmate to the hospital.

7:45 a.m. - Received a report of an alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Akles responded.

8:00 a.m. - Major Burkhardt spoke to students at Shoals School.

8:20 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded.

10:55 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

5:56 p.m. - Received a report of a speeding vehicle in Loogootee. Notified the Loogootee Police Department.

6:03 p.m. - Received a report of a red corvette driving recklessly on 231 North towards Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Police Dispatch.

6:05 p.m. - Received a report of a dog being shot in its yard. Major Burkhardt responded.

8:04 p.m. - Received a report of a male trespassing in Shoals. Deputy Salmon and ISP Trooper Sexton responded.

8:10 p.m. - Received a call about suspicious drug activity in Crane. Deputy Salmon responded.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5

3:38 a.m. - Received a report of an alarm at Stoll's Lakeview. Deputy Salmon responded.

7:24 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle on Hwy. 50, east of Shoals. Major Burkhardt responded.

8:48 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:28 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:40 p.m. - Received a call for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 6

5:57 a.m. - Received a report of debris in the road in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Akles responded.

9:15 a.m. - Received a report of debris in the road in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Akles responded

11:27 a.m. - Received a call reporting an alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Akles responded.

2:04 p.m. - Received a call reporting drug activity in Loogootee. Advised Captain Akles.

3:17 p.m. - Received a call reporting a property damage accident in Loogootee.

Martin County needs your help

Have you ever gone to bed hungry? Have you ever had to tell your kids no, when they are hungry and ask for something to eat? Have you ever wondered where your next meal would come from? For most of us, the answer is "NO", but did you know that there a lot of people right here in our own community who deal with these issues on a regular basis?

As most people run around consumed with their own lives and problems, there are several individuals and organizations in Martin County who are volunteering their time and resources to help out the less fortunate in the community. Did you know that there are several food banks in the county that are making sure that people in need of food get the necessary items to provide nutritious meals for themselves and their children? In Martin County, those in need of food rely on the Loogootee Methodist Church, St. Vincent DePaul, and The River Church in Shoals. These food banks rely on local food donations as well as food provided by larger food pantries outside of the county to cover the needs of the community. Together, these three food banks are providing food for more

Loogootee Captain Akles responded.

6:04 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

than 1,000 people each month.

Are you shocked to learn that over 1,000 people in Martin County are served monthly by local food banks? With a population of just over 10,000 people, this means that ten percent of our friends and neighbors who live in Martin County need help. It may be an elderly person with a limited income and high medical bills or it could be a father of three who lost his job just before Christmas. Hunger does not discriminate and people sometimes need help from others. How can you help?

On January 16, our food banks are teaming up with local law enforcement officers for the first ever "Martin County Safe Community Campaign", which will be held at the Martin County Community Building. This event will serve as a community food drive as well as a chance to hang out with the local police officers in the county. Event planners are asking that you please bring non-perishable food items on the 16th. Whether it is a couple of cans of fruit or a truck load of food, they are asking that the good people of our community come together to provide for those in need.

"Choice Barbeque for Indiana Athletics" opens first brick-and-mortar restaurant in WestGate@Crane community

Mobile restaurant Great White Smoke BBQ, LLC opens first physical restaurant at the historic fire station in Scotland, Indiana. Great White Smoke is the choice barbeque for Indiana University athletics including football, basketball, and the Little 500 bike race.

Great White Smoke Founder and Pitmaster David White says he is delighted to open his first brick-and-mortar restaurant after having success serving authentic barbeque throughout the Bloomington region. He says Scotland, located in the WestGate@Crane Technology Park community, is the perfect place to establish an address for his business.

"With Scotland being founded in 1837 (Platted in 1835)...it has such rich heritage. The tech park [represents] the future. For me, I'm sitting at the past and the future, super excited to be a business owner. I have the heritage to fall back on, this story, and the tech park to help launch us into the future."

White originally created his mobile food cabin to raise money for his son, Graison, who was hospitalized at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. The fundraiser-turned-successful business was officially

founded in October 2013.

GWS has won several awards from The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce's Prime Time BBQ Competition including Grand Champion 2015, 1st Place Brisket 2015, and Peoples' Choice Award 2014 and 2015. It is located in Scotland, Indiana off of Exit 87 on I-69. GWS also provides catering services and is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, you can call them at (812) 322-5738.

JAIL BOOKINGS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

12:34 a.m. - Rocky Morton, 28, of Loogootee, was arrested by Corporal Baker, assisted by K9 Virka, for possession of meth, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, and maintaining a common nuisance. He is being held on a \$25,000 10% bond.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

11:19 p.m. - Jessica Neal, 29, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Salmon and charged with driving while suspended prior. Her bond has been set at \$20,000 10%.

The LODGE
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 www.thelodgeofloogootee.com
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WEEKEND SPECIALS
FRIDAY NIGHT: Steak & Lobster Tail
SATURDAY NIGHT: Smoky Mountain Chicken
SUNDAY LUNCH: Salisbury Steak

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.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30
 8:40 a.m. - A male came on station to request a vehicle identification check.
 12:30 p.m. - Male caller reported harassment.
 12:45 p.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted with a funeral procession.
 7:00 p.m. - Male caller reported property damage.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1
 12:55 p.m. - Caller requested extra patrol.
 3:20 p.m. - Caller reported a vehicle had drove past the school bus stop arm. Chief Rayhill located the vehicle and spoke with the driver.
 8:31 p.m. - Caller reported a salesman at his home that refused to leave the property.
 9:11 p.m. - Caller reported a disturbance in Redwing Trailer Court.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
 1:03 a.m. - Caller requested a security check at a local business.
 6:32 p.m. - Caller reported a possible theft of a cell phone.
 8:19 p.m. - Caller reported harassment.
 8:28 p.m. - Caller reported someone banging on his windows.
 9:48 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious ac-

tivity on West Washington Street.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
 8:10 a.m. - Caller reported a suspicious vehicle parked near Cedar Street.
 7:52 p.m. - Caller requested a welfare check on a male.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
 7:45 a.m. - Captain Akles responded to a business alarm.
 7:30 p.m. - Caller reported harassment.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
 8:48 a.m. - First responders were requested on Day Road for a medical call.
 10:06 a.m. - Captain Akles responded to a 911 hang-up on East Main Street.
 4:49 p.m. - Loogootee Fire was paged out for an electrical outlet on fire in Burns City.
 7:49 p.m. - Caller reported a theft of fuel from Circle K.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
 5:57 a.m. - Caller reported debris in the road on Church Street.
 11:27 a.m. - Captain Akles responded to a business alarm.
 2:04 p.m. - Caller reported possible drug activity.
 7:25 p.m. - Caller reported two missing juveniles. They were later located.

Martin County Court News

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

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & SENTENCING
November 24
 Jacqueline Davis, convicted of maintaining a common nuisance, a Class 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 545 days at the Indiana Department of Corrections with 0 days suspended and credit for 103 actual days previously served plus 103 good time credit days.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED
November 24
 Jacqueline Davis, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of methamphetamine, a Class 6 Felony, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT
New Suits Filed
November 30
 Synchrony Bank vs. Edwina Walton, civil collection.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT
New Suits Filed
December 1

Martin County Credit Union vs. Jeanette A. Wade, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS
November 25
 Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Marie Truelove and against the defendant Jasmine Jones in the amount of \$1,453.43.

December 3
 Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Kimberly Blackwell in the amount of \$6,121.
 Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Amy L. Denniston in the amount of \$1,560.43.
 Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Tyler K. Cooper in the amount of \$1,305.68.
 Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Glenn Houchins in the amount of \$330.87.
 Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Debbie S. Long in the amount of \$4,148.95.

Real estate transfers

James C. Burch and Sandra L. Burch, of Martin County, Indiana to **Michael L. Winger and Jill M. Winger**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: A portion of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter Section 18, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, in Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.77 acre. Tract II: A part of the southwest quarter Section 18, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, in Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.569 acres, more or less.

Michael L. Winger and Jill M. Winger, of Martin County, Indiana to **James C. Burch and Sandra L. Burch**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the

northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in the City of Loogootee, Indiana, being Lot No. 21, Country Court II.

Richard A. Buechler and Teresa K. Buechler, of Lawrence County, Indiana to **Richard L. Dicks**, of Lawrence County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of Section 19, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing .24 acres, more or less.

Mary June Maxwell, of Martin County, Indiana to **Mark W. Butcher**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: A portion of the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, Rutherford Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 2.52 acres, more or less. Tract II: A part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, and a part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 1 North, Range 4 West of the Second Principal Meridian, Rutherford Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.610 acres, more or less.

Jeffrey L. Krodel, of Monroe County, Indiana to **Joshua D. Kollmeyer**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, containing 0.24 acres, more or less.

Beware of the IRS and bank credit card scams

A reminder about two scams that are becoming prevalent again during the holiday season; the IRS scam alleging back taxes are owed and threatening immediate arrest if funds are not wired as directed, and the bank credit card scam alleging your credit card has been suspended and asking for the credit card number to be key stroked over the phone to reactivate the card.

About the IRS Scam:
 As with past warnings, Hoosiers should be suspect of any person calling that purports to be with the IRS and is trying to coerce payment of delinquent taxes over the phone. The caller usually threatens immediate jailing of the citizen for not cooperating with the demand for immediate payment.

NEVER give any of personal information to the scam caller, such as:
 Bank Account Numbers
 Social Security Number
 Birth Date
 Credit Card Numbers

For more details on IRS scams, visit this website: www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Warns-of-Pervasive-Telephone-Scam

About the Credit Card Scam:
 The typical credit card scam starts with a phone call to your home or cell phone number with a computerized voice stating your credit card has been suspended. The computer voice will reference a major issuer of credit cards and instruct you to keystroke your credit card number to have the card reactivated. If you follow this instruction you end up giving the scammer YOUR credit card number and are now susceptible to future fraudulent charges.

NEVER key in your credit card number based on a computerized and unsolicited phone call. And if the call is from a live person making similar claims of fraudulent activity on your credit card, simply tell them you will call back using the 800 customer service phone number that is listed on the backside of your credit card. That is the most secure way to determine if the call was legitimate.

To learn more about other credit card scams click this link: www.creditcards.com/credit-card-news/8-hot-scams-1282.php

Things to Remember:
 Whenever you receive a call, be it computerized or from a live person, claiming legal action is pending, or asking for your credit card number, or any of the hundreds of various scams that have the common thread of trying to get people to part with large sums of money; the call is most likely fraudulent.

A quick check citizens can make to confirm if a phone number is associated with a scam it to type the phone number into your favorite search engine. You'll typically see the number has been reported as being associated to scam activity.

Regrettably, these scams nearly always trace back to a foreign country and it is virtually impossible to successfully prosecute the persons responsible for these criminal acts. Unfortunately these scams will continue as long as a percentage of the population responds by sending money to the scammers.

When an unsolicited call comes to your home, business or cell phone, and has the common factors of being threatening and demanding money, be assured that 99.9 percent of the time it is a scam. Just hang-up. They won't call back. They will just move on to the next number looking for someone to victimize.

GET THESE 3 BOOKS WHILE THEY LAST!

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

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

The Amish Community in Daviess County, Indiana
 A Photodocumentation
 This book covers Amish life in Daviess County, Indiana to a depth never captured before. 358 pages of photos, interviews, and explanatory text.
 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.

Available by mail (add \$5 S/H)
 Bill Whorrall 13669 Rama Dye Rd.
 Shoals IN 47581.
 Also, G&R Variety and the Martin County Historical Society Museum in Shoals

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LPD provides info on handgun permits

The Loogootee Police Department would like to share information on how to obtain a permit to carry a handgun. Applicants apply via a link provided on the Indiana State Police website. www.in.gov/isp. Follow instructions on the site. It is strongly encouraged to enroll in the L1 fingerprinting program. Upon completion of the application, applicants must visit the local law enforcement agency they reside in.

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

Celebrate the New Year with a First Day Hike on January 1

Usher in 2016 with other outdoor lovers at one of the many First Day Hikes, and one First Day Horse Ride, offered January 1 at Indiana's state parks.

First Day Hikes are a healthy way to start 2016 and a chance to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature and connect with friends.

DNR's Division of State Parks is hosting 32 First Day events throughout the state, including a trail run/walk at Monroe Lake, and a First Day Horse Ride at Tippecanoe River State Park.

Information on First Day events in Indiana is at dnr.IN.gov/dnr/parklake/2420.htm.

First Day events at Indiana State Park properties are (all times are local):

Brookville Lake, 6 p.m.: Meet at the Mounds State Recreation Area campground shelter house for an easy, 0.7-mile luminary hike. Learn about nocturnal animals and test your nighttime senses.

Brown County State Park, 10 a.m.: Meet at nature center parking lot for a ¾-mile, one-hour hike through the woods. Hot drinks will be available after the hike. For more information, call (812) 988-5240.

Chain O'Lakes State Park, 2 p.m.: Meet at the Stanley Schoolhouse for a "Good Ole Days Walk to School." The 4-mile, two-hour hike will demonstrate how far students once walked to school. Hot cocoa and coffee will be available.

Charlestown State Park, 10 a.m.: Meet at the Rose Island trailhead for a 1.8-mile, leisurely hike to the remains of an amusement park and the new exhibits interpreting it. Transportation up a steep hill will be provided for those who need it. The hike will last two hours.

Clifty Falls State Park, 10 a.m.: Meet in the lobby of Clifty Inn for a 90-minute, moderately rugged hike. Return to the inn for a bonfire on the hill, s'mores and hot chocolate or coffee.

Falls of the Ohio State Park, 1 p.m.: Meet in the interpretive center for a ½-mile fossil hike. The hike will last about an hour. Refreshments will be available.

Fort Harrison State Park, 1 p.m.: Meet at the Lawrence Creek trailhead for a 3.6-mile, moderate-to-rugged hike on narrow trails. The event is not recommended for strollers. Leashed pets are welcome.

Hardy Lake, 11 a.m.: Meet at the main trailhead across from the beach access road for a hike to "The Island." The hike is 3 miles long and moderately rugged.

Harmonie State Park, 10 a.m.: Meet at the pool parking lot to walk 2 miles on a paved trail with slight hills. Afterward, enjoy cookies and hot cocoa. Strollers and wheelchairs are welcome.

Indiana Dunes State Park, 10 a.m.: Meet at the nature center for a three-dunes-challenge hike. The hour-long, 1.5-mile hike ends with a fire and snacks.

Lieber State Recreation Area, 10 a.m.: Meet at the Hilltop Shelter for the "March to the Marsh Hike" with the park staff. The hike includes a steep hill. Smokey Bear will give bear hugs and paw print face painting afterward.

Lincoln State Park, noon: Meet at the nature center for a hike around Lake Lincoln. The hike is moderate and 2 miles long. It should last about two hours.

McCormick's Creek State Park, 2 p.m.: Meet at the Canyon Inn lobby for a photo safari. Bring your camera to capture the canyon in its winter beauty. The trail is easy-to-moderate and about ¾-mile long. Refreshments will be served at the end.

Mississinewa Lake, 7:30 p.m.: Meet at Bostwick Pond in Miami State Recreation Area for a 1-mile owl hike that will last about 45 minutes. Afterward, eat s'mores and drink hot drinks around a campfire.

Monroe Lake, 3:30 p.m.: Meet at Fairfax State Recreation Area for the First Day Trail Run/Walk, a non-competitive (un-

timed) trail run/walk through forest and field. Participants can choose from a 4- or a 1.5-mile course. More information is at mag7raceseries.com.

Mounds State Park, 6 p.m.: The park will offer a 45-minute, 1/2-mile Luminary First Day Hike on an easy, illuminated trail from the nature center to the Great Mound. Hot drinks will be provided.

O'Bannon Woods State Park, 1 p.m.: Meet at the nature center for a 1-mile walk on a road with two oxen and two donkeys. Enjoy refreshments at the nature center afterward. The hike is contingent on weather.

Ouabache State Park, 11 a.m.: Meet at the Bison Pen Shelter for an easy, 40-minute stroll around the bison pen on a mile-long trail.

Patoka Lake, 1 p.m.: Meet at the nature center for "Hike 'n Hot Chocolate." Join park staff for a ¾-mile hike along the scenic Garden Rock Loop trail while sipping a cup of hot chocolate.

Pokagon State Park, 1 p.m.: Meet at Potawatomi Inn's Lonidaw Lounge. The hike, which is less than a mile long, ends at the toboggan run fire ring. Roast marshmallows and enjoy a fire from 2 to 3 p.m.

Potato Creek State Park, 7 p.m.: Meet at the nature center auditorium for a 1-mile hike in search of owls and other birds. The hike will last about an hour.

Prophetstown State Park 1 p.m.: Meet at the Prairie View Picnic Area for a 1.5-mile, 90-minute hike to a wetland. Bring binoculars if you have them. The hike will end with a campfire, s'mores and warm drinks.

Raccoon Lake, 1 p.m.: Meet at the Camp Store porch for a hike on the newly paved Trail 2.

Salamonie Lake (Salamonie River State Forest), 2 p.m.: Meet at Salamonie River State Forest, Hominy Ridge parking lot, for a 1-mile hike that shares Civilian Conservation Corps history.

Shades State Park, 1:30 p.m.: Meet at the Hickory Shelter parking lot for a two-hour, moderate hike. Bring binoculars to look for eagles and other birds. Snacks and water provided.

Shakamak State Park, 1 p.m.: Meet at the log cabin for a 1.5-mile hike on paved roads. There will be a fire, popcorn and cocoa at the log cabin.

Spring Mill State Park, 1 p.m.: Meet in front of the Spring Mill in for a "Day with Donaldson" hike. During the 2- to 2.5-mile hike, visitors will learn about pioneer George Donaldson, who preserved much of the forest land that became the state park. Hot chocolate and coffee will be served at the Inn.

Summit Lake State Park, 9 a.m.: Meet at the trailhead next to the beach parking lot to hike Trail 3 with the property manager.

Tippecanoe River State Park, lunch at noon, horse ride at 1 p.m.: Meet at site #1 in the horse campground for a horse ride. Lunch will be available at noon, and the ride will begin at 1 p.m. Lunch will be hot dogs over the fire. Bring a side to share if you wish to participate in lunch.

Turkey Run State Park, 11 a.m.: Gather at the nature center for a rugged, one-hour, 1-mile hike to look for ice formations and eagles.

Versailles State Park, 1:45 p.m.: Meet at the pool parking lot for a 4-mile, two-hour hike on Shadow Run trail. Leashed dogs are welcome. Sturdy hiking boots, water and hiking sticks are a plus.

Whitewater Memorial State Park, 11 a.m.: Meet at the Silver Creek Shelter to hike the moderate Veterans Vista trail for 2 miles.

Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton

NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

It is really starting to look more and more like winter. This is generally the time of year when things ought to slow down a little bit, but that never seems to happen much anymore. Winter is the time of year I like to catch up on reading. My reading time really gets whittled down during the growing season. So far this fall, I've continued to race the sun and not slow down much in risk of "burning daylight." I admit to multitasking occasionally when I really shouldn't be. For example, while cutting kraut on a mandoline, I started thinking about a couple other things that I needed to be doing and removed the tip of a finger. Thank goodness it was the last of the last cabbage and only a small chunk to throw away. My wife had problems just bringing me some gauze to stop the bleeding and almost had to lay down on the floor before she fainted. She is normally better help than that!

Part of the problem this fall has been way too much good weather. Is that really a problem? I'll never complain about a good day to work outside. I find this a good time of year to build or repair fences, trim back tree limbs where needed and get everything lined up for any adverse weather that might show up with little warning. Feeding pads should be cleaned off by now and topped with some new lime if needed. It certainly doesn't hurt to even go ahead and have at least a bale or two sitting out ready to go whether to be fed on a feed pad (Heavy Use Area Protection – rock pad) or positioned where it can be unrolled out in a pasture where nutrients and or organic matter are needed.

I would much rather feed a bale unrolled out in the field where the nutrients from the hay and manure from the grazing livestock can be used to grow more grass and not have to be hauled. If you aim to unroll hay, it is not a bad idea to have it already stored close to that site. You can also just position bales where you want to feed them and not unroll them. If I'm thinking about doing this, I will try and wait until the either the ground is frozen or dry and as late in the season as possible. Those bales are best fed then on end, and preferably in bale rings to reduce waste. Sitting them out early on their end may promote more loss from the hay unless you want to take the time to cover them with plastic or something to shed the rain and snow until used. I've seen old round hog feeder lids used.

Those bales that are positioned out ahead of time will need to be fenced off with some temporary fence. Poly-wire on a reel or reels and step-in posts are ideal for allocating out these bales. When you lay them out, think about where nutrients are needed and then also how you will allocate them out. Somewhat straight lines with adequate spacing between bales is needed. Generally, you want at least 16 feet between bales. Double rows can be set the same way where you want, or need to allocate out two bales at a time. Feeding hay this way is also referred to as "bale grazing."

Hay costs money. I don't care where it came from or how you obtained it. It took time and fuel to move it there and nutrients to grow it...which have to be replaced. Hay feeding needs to be as efficient as possible for the whole time frame that you are needing to feed it. Hopefully, you are working to cut that time frame down more and more. I'd much rather move a temporary fence in some stockpiled forage than get a tractor out on a cold winter day.

It is easier to put out several bales or allocate several at a time, but the efficiency increases the shorter the time frame you are feeding for. When you used to only feed cattle small bales of hay, it was fed daily,

sometimes twice a day providing only what they needed at the time. That was super-efficient. The cows pretty well cleaned up most of the hay fed between feedings. When the use of large round bales took hold, mainly to save hand labor, we lost a fair amount of efficiency. This loss came from storing more hay outside, storing it on bare ground, and then more wastage when fed. The less hay put out at a time, the more competition for that bite. Less time to be picky and more time concentrating on beating that other cow to the next bite. If you set a large buffet in front of them, they will pick out what they want and waste more. If you allocate the feed out in shorter time frames, then it will be like that one fried chicken served for Sunday dinner for a whole family...you're going to get your piece before someone else does or risk doing without.

The fall rains did help grow a little more forage. Not as much as I would have liked, the rain came just a little too late. If you have paid any attention to the drought map, the area was reduced a lot in the last month. I'm pleased and thankful for the growth that I received and grateful that it should last several more weeks yet.

Getting water out to everywhere you want it can be a little more challenging this time of year. Certainly all-weather type tanks (heated, ball, well insulated, and spring tanks) are pretty simple, but they are often not where you want them. I use hydrants and quick couplers as long as possible, even with some runs of above ground lines. The more the water is used on a cold night, the more likely it will not freeze up. If there is not enough animal pressure on the tank, then it is more likely to start freezing up from not enough use. When temperatures get down to the mid 20's, it's time to stop using hydrants and quick couplers or risk busting something.

You can certainly use a permanent all-weather tank with strip grazing. Just start your strip grazing at the water source and keep moving your temporary fence farther away. You will normally not get too much back grazing. The animals are more interested in that new allocation of forage. If the tank is in the middle of the field, then you work one way and then the other.

I hope everyone is blessed with some stockpiled forage, fall planted annuals and or crop residue to extend that grazing season. Livestock are very content grazing this time of year, probably as much so as about any time of the year. I will also be more content when I can start finding more time to read in the near future and paying more attention to the job at hand.

Keep on grazing!

Reminders & Opportunities

National Grazing Conference – Grapevine, TX, December 13–16, 2015 www.grazinglands.org/grazing-conference/
American Forage & Grassland Council Conference – January 10-13, 2016, Baton Rouge, LA http://www.afgc.org/annual_conference.php

Heart of America Grazing Conference – January 25-26, 2016, Lexington, KY. More information is available at: www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/2016%20HOA%20Brochure.pdf

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference – March 2, 2016, Crane – Speakers include Allan Nation (Stockman Grass Farmer Magazine), Wesley Tucker, and Doug Peterson. For more information contact the Daviess County Soil and Water Conservation office at 812-254-4780, Ext 3, email Toni.Allison.dc.swcd@daviess.org, or visit www.daviesscoswcd.org/index.php/sigc or www.facebook.com/SouthernIndianaGrazingConference

Indiana State Parks to launch centennial celebrations

On December 16, Indiana State Parks will host events titled "Countdown to 100: Centennial Celebration Launch" at McCormick's Creek and Turkey Run state parks, and in the South Atrium of the Indiana Statehouse.

The events mark the beginning of a year-long celebration leading up to the 100th anniversary of Indiana State Parks. On Dec. 16, 1916, Indiana's first state park, McCormick's Creek, and second state park, Turkey Run, were presented to the people of Indiana.

The day's activities start at 7 a.m. at McCormick's Creek with a traditional 1916-era breakfast. After breakfast, representatives of Indiana State Parks and the Indiana Bicentennial Commission will discuss the State Parks centennial and how it relates to the state's bicentennial. A hike at McCormick's Creek will lead visitors to the park's famous waterfall and Civilian Conservation Corps Rec Hall. After the hike, everyone is invited to the Canyon Inn for hot chocolate and snacks.

Activities at the Statehouse start at noon and run until 1:30 p.m. First Lady Karen Pence will talk about the State Parks centennial and how it relates to the state's bicentennial. Interpretive naturalists from state parks and traditional artists in partner-

ship with the Indiana Arts Commission and Traditional Arts Indiana will present hands-on activities. They include a live raptors on display, Indiana snakes, Indiana State Park history, and demonstrations of Native American lifeways, fiber arts and limestone carving.

Activities at Turkey Run begin at 4 p.m. Representatives of Indiana State Parks and the Indiana Bicentennial Commission will talk about the State Parks centennial and how it relates to the state's bicentennial. At 4:30 p.m., participants will walk from the Turkey Run Inn to the Lieber Memorial, which honors Indiana State Parks founding leader, Col. Richard Lieber. Lieber's great-grandson, Fritz Lieber, will lead a toast at Sunset Point. The day ends with a 1916-era dinner at Turkey Run Inn, starting at 5:30 p.m.

At each location, a local student will share thoughts about Indiana State Parks.

All activities are free, but RSVPs are encouraged to ensure plenty of food and materials are available. RSVP to gmurphy@dnr.IN.gov and indicate which of the three events (or more than one) you plan to attend.

A list of our centennial celebration events for 2016 and centennial-related projects is at INStateParks100.com.

Give the gift of camping this year

Give the gift of a camping or cabin stay to your outdoor-enthusiast friends and family members by purchasing a DNR camp gift card today.

This card may be used to make advance reservations or walk-in registrations for Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs, and can also be used at Covered Bridge, Deam Lake, Greene-Sullivan and Starve Hollow DNR Forestry properties. The card may be used for family cabins (excluding inns-operated cabins), campsites,

cottages, group camps, recreation buildings, rent-a-camp cabins, picnic shelters and youth and rally camps.

Gift cards can be purchased in \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$150 and \$200 increments at any state park property office, by phone at (866) 622-6746, or online at innsgifts.com. Camping reservations are now being accepted for 2016 at 1-866-622-6746 or Camp.IN.gov. You can reserve up to six months in advance of your desired arrival date.

Apply now to be campground host at Paynetown SRA

Monroe Lake is accepting applications for a new campground host volunteer program at Paynetown State Recreation Area in 2016.

Campground hosts will be provided with a 50-amp campsite at no charge, in exchange for at least 24 hours per week of volunteer work. The minimum commitment period is one month, between April and October.

To apply, or for more information, contact Corey Rieman, Monroe Lake assistant manager, at crieman@dnr.IN.gov or (812) 837-9546.

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

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More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



As the stores have been reminding us since September, Christmas is just around the corner, so I thought I would share some Christmas thoughts with you.

Dear Santa,
I've been good all year.
Okay, most of the time.
Once in a while.
Never mind, I'll buy my own stuff.

Don't blame the holidays. You were fat in August.

Why can't the stores let us enjoy each holiday like we used to? They've turned it into one big "MerryHallowThanksMas,"

When you stop believing in Santa, you get underwear.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer, however, retain their antlers until after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen . . . had to be female. We should have known this . . . Only women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night, and not get lost.

One night a Norseman named Rudolph the Red was looking out the window when he said, "It's going to rain."

His wife asked, "How do you know?"
He replied, "Because Rudolph the Red

knows rain, dear."

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good. God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice-cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my son asked.

"Cross my heart," the man replied.

Then in a theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her,

"Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already."

Make someone smile today!

Tri Kappa holds monthly meeting

On November 24 a meeting of the Delta Tau Chapter of Tri Kappa was held at the Loogootee United Methodist Church. Hostesses for the evening were Judy Kluesner, Judy Treffinger, Maggie Schnarr and Beth Lett. The theme for the meeting was "Philadelphia". The little kindness for the month was "Gift wrap supplies for the Toy Store".

The meeting was called to order by President Barb McFeaters. They had special guests, Karen Wilson, Life Skills Program teacher at Loogootee Jr/Sr High and part-time life skills and resource teacher, Traci LeTourneau. Also, in attendance were two students, Cam Callison and Sarah Hollis. Karen and Traci explained the Life Skills Program and presented the SCOPE Gifts fundraiser. Cam and Sarah showed some of their products made by the students that are for sell. SCOPE Gifts is a transition program developed for students in life skills programs. It provides hands on educational & vocational training skills.

Roll call was read with members responding with "Favorite American History Event".

Corresponding Secretary Britney Lyons read the following: a thank you from Marcella Hardwick of the food pantry for Tri Kappa's generous donations; Martin County Community Foundation newsletter;

Loogootee Elementary asked for help on funding for a recycled bench; and Mrs. Misty Mosby, director of the Loogootee Choir Department, asking for monetary donations to buy costumes for the high school and elementary.

October minutes were read and approved.
ART: Brenda Strange brought in some

books she enjoyed reading and recommended them to the group.

BY-LAWS: The proposed by-law changes were approved.

PARADE: December 6 at 6 p.m. Katie Milligan will be Mrs. Claus. Karla Eckerle will drive.

SCHOLARSHIP: Audrey Robinson put articles in the papers for the state scholarship.

75th ANNIVERSARY: Next year is Delta Tau's 75th Anniversary. Kristi Ausbrooks is working on this.

TECHNOLOGY: Megan Richer is working on a Facebook page for publicity.

PECANS: Judy Kluesner reported that sales are going great. If you need nuts, contact her.

REMEMBRANCE:

Kristi Ausbrooks and her kids handed out Thanksgiving cards at the Loogootee Nursing Center.

Dena Lyon mailed one birthday card to a resident at ResCare.

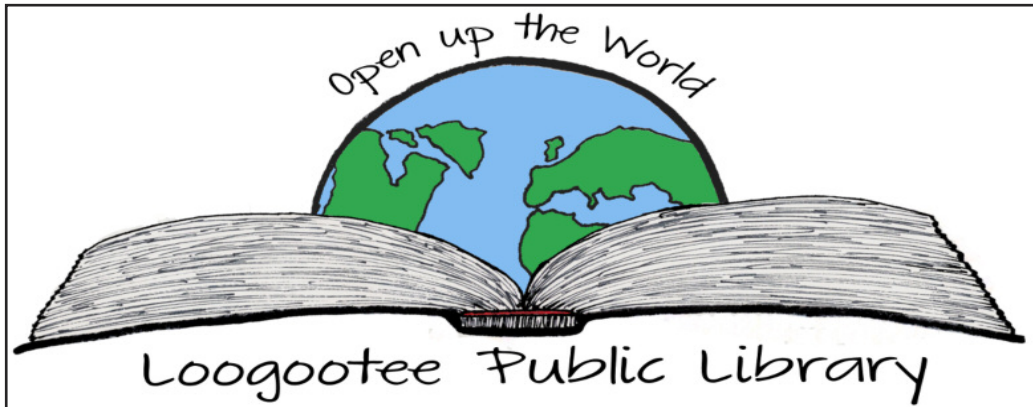
TOP 10 DINNER: Audrey Robinson announced that Sunday, April 24, 2016 is the Top 10 Dinner.

NEW BUSINESS: Loogootee Choir Director Misty Mosby is asking for monetary support.

Fourth grade teacher Megan Nolan is requesting \$55 towards one recycled bench for one classroom.

Before closing, Pam Summers, wanted to commend Karen Wilson for all she does in her classroom and for coming this evening.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Loogootee United Methodist Church. Each member is to bring a dish. The meeting was adjourned.



BY DARLA WAGLER
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

The December calendar is available and there are several festive programs for the month of December. The week of Christmas we will have fun activities and crafts available for the kids. The MMR (Music, Movement, and Rhythm) class for 2 year olds will be held at 11:00 every other Friday. The other Fridays will be the Just 2s and 3s children's programming. Tuesday evenings at 6 is story time for kids with fun hands-on activities.

On Monday evenings, the adult (18 years and older) coloring program has begun and we have moved the time up an hour. We meet every Monday (we are open) from 5-6:45. We will supply the adult coloring

sheets, crayons, art quality colored pencils, markers plus coffee or tea.

New Materials:

Fiction: "Precious Gifts" by Danielle Steel, "Ashely Bell" by Dean Koontz, "Secret Sisters" by Jayne Ann Krentz, and "House of the Rising Sun" by James Lee Burke.

Inspirational Fiction: "Another Way Home" by Deborah Raney.

DVDs: "90 Minutes In Heaven", "Shaun the Sheep", and "Paper Towns".

The library hours are Monday and Tuesday 10-7, Wednesday closed, Thursday and Friday 10-5 and Saturday 9-1. The phone number is 812-295-3713 or check out the website www.loogootee.lib.in.us or like us on Facebook. The library has free Wi-Fi service available for patrons.

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.

Health department holiday schedule

The Martin County Health Department Immunization Clinic will be CLOSED on Wednesday, December 23. The Hoosier Uplands, Martin County Health Department and Martin County WIC offices will be CLOSED December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, December 28.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Loogootee United Methodist Church at 208 West Main Street invites you to join them for a special night of worship on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. Throughout Advent, they have been looking forward to Christmas through the series entitled, Our Coming Savior. On this special night they complete this series with a candlelight Communion Service in the sanctuary.

Loogootee School Board meeting

The Loogootee School Board will meet Tuesday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the meeting room off the superintendent's office. Some items on the agenda include end-of-the-year financials, the 2016-17 school calendar, performance pay for teachers and facility needs. 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

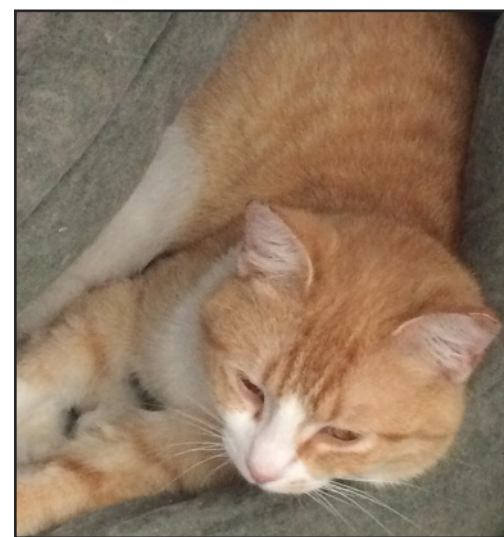
The MCCC Tourism Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7

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.

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.



Lt. Governor and OCRA host 2015 awards ceremony and 10th Anniversary Celebration

On Monday at the Indiana Statehouse, Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann joined the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) to recognize over 100 rural communities who partnered with the agency throughout 2015 to cooperatively shape and execute their vision for local community and economic development opportunities.

"It is important to determine where we want our state to be in the future," said Lt. Governor Ellspermann in her address to the crowd. "Part of that vision must be a renewal of rural Indiana communities as great places for businesses to locate and Hoosiers to live, work and raise a family. OCRA has the unique opportunity and tools to impact rural Indiana and assure that our great success stories reach the small towns and rural communities throughout the state."

The 2015 awards ceremony marks OCRA's 10th anniversary since the agency's creation in 2005 under the leadership of former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. A highlight of this afternoon's ceremony was Skillman recalling OCRA's early years and sharing stories about the decade of successes that have helped trans-

form the agency and ultimately rural communities throughout Indiana. State legislators, mayors, local elected officials, grant administrators, community development organizations, community partners and businesses were present at the awards ceremony and anniversary celebration.

"As we celebrate our current successes and look forward to the future, it's also important to celebrate OCRA's past 10 years that have led us here today," said OCRA Executive Director Bill Konyha. "I'm grateful to both Lt. Governor Ellspermann and former Lt. Governor Skillman for being champions of our rural communities to ensure our hometowns are thriving and relevant in the 21st century."

Those honored locally included the Town of Crane for the stormwater improvement program, Martin County for the workforce development program, Orange County for the hometown collaboration initiative, City of Washington for the place based investment fund, and Daviess County for the public facilities program.

To view a full listing of the communities recognized at the event, go to www.in.gov/ocra.

Three more people test positive following HIV retesting blitz in Southeastern Indiana

State health officials announced last Friday that three additional people have tested positive for HIV in the southeastern Indiana HIV outbreak, bringing the total to 184.

The additional cases were identified through a two-week retesting blitz conducted in November. Disease Intervention Specialists from the Indiana State Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention attempted to contact 476 high-risk individuals who had not had a repeat HIV test within the last 30 days. A total of 181 people were tested.

Those who tested negative but remain at high risk of infection were provided education about preventive treatment.

"While we hope to see no additional cases of HIV tied to this outbreak, we understand that we may continue to diagnose individuals with HIV infection who weren't previously tested, or those who haven't started preventive treatment and continue to engage in high-risk behaviors," said State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams, M.D., M.P.H. "We feel fortunate that so many people tested negative and that the individuals who did test positive can now be connected with treatment that can help keep them healthy and prevent the spread of HIV."

HIV can take up to three months to diagnose, depending on the test that is used and how long it takes the virus to multiply in a person's body. Individuals who have engaged in high-risk behavior such as needle sharing and unprotected sex are advised to

get tested and then retested every two to three months as long as they are engaging in those behaviors.

Retesting is still available. For HIV testing locations and information about HIV Care Coordination, individuals are encouraged to call the HIV Services Hotline at (866) 588-4948.

To prevent HIV infection, avoid:
-injection drug use;
-sharing or re-using needles or works;
-engaging in unprotected sex or sex with commercial sex workers.

Individuals seeking help with substance abuse should call the national 24-hour addiction hotline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357). This hotline provides confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year information service, in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental health and/or substance use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups and community-based organizations. Callers can also order free publications and other information.

To learn more about the link between HIV infection and drug abuse, visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse at <http://hiv.drugabuse.gov/index.html>. Hoosiers who do not have health care coverage or access to a doctor are encouraged to check availability for the new Healthy Indiana Plan—HIP 2.0—by visiting www.HIP.IN.gov or calling 1-877-GET-HIP-9.

National unemployment stays at 5 percent for November

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 211,000 in November, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week.

Job gains occurred in construction, professional and technical services, and health care. Mining and information lost jobs.

Household Survey Data

In November, the unemployment rate held at 5.0 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, at 7.9 million, was essentially unchanged. Over the past 12 months, the unemployment rate and the number of unemployed persons are down by 0.8 percentage point and 1.1 million, respectively.

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (4.7 percent), adult women (4.6 percent), teenagers (15.7 percent), whites (4.3 percent), blacks (9.4 percent), Asians (3.9 percent), and Hispanics (6.4 percent) showed little or no change in November.

The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was little changed at 2.1 million in November and has shown little movement since June. In November, these individuals accounted for 25.7 percent of the unemployed.

The civilian labor force participation rate, at 62.5 percent, changed little in November. The employment-population ratio was unchanged at 59.3 percent and has shown little movement since October 2014.

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons (sometimes referred to as involuntary part-time workers) increased by 319,000 to 6.1 million in November, following declines in September and October. These individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find a full-time job. Over the past 12 months, the number of persons employed part time for economic reasons is down by 765,000.

In November, 1.7 million persons were marginally attached to the labor force, down by 392,000 from a year earlier. (The data are not seasonally adjusted.) These individuals were not in the labor force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey.

Among the marginally attached, there were 594,000 discouraged workers in November, little changed from a year earlier. (The data are not seasonally adjusted.)

Discouraged workers are persons not currently looking for work because they believe no jobs are available for them. The remaining 1.1 million persons marginally attached to the labor force in November had not searched for work for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities.

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 211,000 in November, about in line with the average monthly gain of 237,000 over the prior 12 months. In November, job growth occurred in construction, professional and technical services, and health care. Employment in mining and information declined over the month.

Employment in construction rose by 46,000 in November, with much of the increase occurring in residential specialty trade contractors (+26,000). Over the past year, construction employment has grown by 259,000.

In November, professional and technical services added 28,000 jobs. Job gains occurred in accounting and bookkeeping services (+11,000), and employment in computer systems design and related services continued to trend up (+5,000). Over the year, professional and technical services

has added 298,000 jobs.

Health care employment increased by 24,000 over the month, following a large gain in October (+51,000). In November, hospitals added 13,000 jobs. Health care employment has grown by 470,000 over the year.

Employment in food services and drinking places continued to trend up in November (+32,000) and has risen by 374,000 over the year.

Retail trade employment continued to trend up in November (+31,000) and has increased by 284,000 over the year. In November, job gains occurred in general merchandise stores (+12,000) and motor vehicle and parts dealers (+9,000). Over the past 12 months, these industries have added 85,000 jobs and 71,000 jobs, respectively.

Employment in mining continued to decline in November (-11,000), with losses concentrated in support activities for mining (-7,000). Since a recent peak in December 2014, employment in mining has declined by 123,000.

Information lost 12,000 jobs over the month. Within the industry, employment in motion pictures and sound recording decreased by 13,000 in November but has shown little net change over the year.

Employment in other major industries, including manufacturing, wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, financial activities, and government, changed little over the month.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour to 34.5 hours in November. Both the manufacturing workweek and factory overtime were unchanged in November, at 40.7 hours and 3.2 hours, respectively.

The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls was also unchanged at 33.7 hours.

In November, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 4 cents to \$25.25, following a 9-cent gain in October. Over the year, average hourly earnings have risen by 2.3 percent. In November, average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees, at \$21.19, changed little.

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for September was revised from +137,000 to +145,000, and the change from October was revised from +271,000 to +298,000. With these revisions, employment gains in September and October combined were 35,000 more than previously reported. Over the past 3 months, job gains have averaged 218,000 per month.

Anti-nepotism statute successfully defended from legal challenge

The Indiana Attorney General's Office has successfully defended the state's anti-nepotism statute from a legal challenge. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana granted the state's motion to dismiss the plaintiffs' lawsuit, meaning the statute remains intact.

Earlier this year, five plaintiffs who held full-time municipal government jobs and also were elected to the city or town councils of those same municipalities had filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the 2012 state statute which prohibits that practice starting in 2016. The Attorney General's Office represented the Governor, State Board of Accounts and its board members in the lawsuit. The U.S. District Court heard oral arguments in the case, *Claussen et al. v. Pence et al.*, on November 19, and Judge Philip P. Simon ruled Wednesday in favor of the state and against the plaintiffs on all counts.

Prescription drug abuse impacts 80 percent of Indiana workplaces, says National Safety Council poll

Eighty percent of Indiana employers have been impacted by prescription drug misuse and abuse, including opioid painkillers, in their workplaces, according to a survey released by the National Safety Council and the Indiana Attorney General's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force. The survey, the first of its kind in the nation, found nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of employers believe prescription drugs such as Vicodin, OxyContin and Percocet are bigger problems than illegal drugs.

The findings come in the midst of the state's prescription drug abuse epidemic. Drug poisonings, largely from opioid painkillers, have increased fivefold in Indiana since 1999 and now eclipse car crashes as the leading cause of injury death among adults.

"It is important for employers to understand that the most fatally abused drug today may be sitting in their employees' medicine cabinets," said Deborah A.P. Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council. "Ensuring employees are as safe and healthy as possible should be every employer's highest priority. It is our hope that employers take the lead on this emerging safety threat so our workplaces can be safer than ever before."

Other key findings from the survey include:

76 percent of employers say misusing prescription drugs is a justifiable reason for termination

Only 53 percent of employers have a written policy on using prescription drugs at work, despite 80 percent reporting they have had experienced an issue

87 percent of employers conduct drug testing, but only 52 percent test for synthetic opioids

More than 60 percent of employers are not confident that their staff can recognize the signs and symptoms of prescription drug misuse or abuse

Less than 30 percent of employers offer training around workplace usage of prescription drugs

"We've seen how the public health crisis of prescription drug abuse is taking a toll on families and communities in Indiana, and this survey shows that it has infiltrated our workplaces, just as it has with so many other facets of our society," said Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller, creator and co-chair of the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force. "Beyond the loss of productivity, prescription abuse can cause impairment, injury and may lead employees to bad choices such as theft or embezzlement from the employer. I challenge all Hoosier businesses to recognize the risks and start this conversation in their workplaces to elevate the issue, deter abuse and create avenues for people to seek help before it's too late."

To help protect workers, the Council recommends employers expand drug testing to include detection of opioid painkillers, train employees and supervisors how to spot signs of misuse and leverage Employee Assistance Programs to help employees return to work following treatment for addiction. Employers are also encouraged to download the free Prescription Drug Employer Kit for help developing policies and managing opioid use at work. Companies of all sizes, including Indiana-based Cummins, Inc., have established prescription drug policies.

"At Cummins, we demand that everything we do leads to a cleaner, healthier, safer environment," said Dexter Shurney, Chief Medical Director at Cummins, Inc. "We make every effort to avoid workplace injuries, particularly in our manufacturing environments. We do this by providing education and support to help employees take better care of themselves at work and at home. We find that identifying the issues employees are facing is the first step toward developing appropriate resources for them. We applaud these efforts to raise awareness of these important issues."

The National Safety Council poll was conducted in first in Indiana, and it will be used as a model for other states interested in addressing prescription drug abuse in the workplace. The poll surveyed more than 200 employers from May through August 2015.

For resources and information about prescription drug abuse in Indiana, visit BitterPill.IN.gov.

About the National Safety Council

Founded in 1913 and chartered by Congress, the National Safety Council, nsc.org, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to save lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the road through leadership, research, education and advocacy. NSC advances this mission by partnering with businesses, government agencies, elected officials and the public in areas where we can make the most impact – distracted driving, teen driving, workplace safety, prescription drug overdoses and Safe Communities.

About the Indiana Attorney General's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force

Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller created the Task Force in 2012 to bring stakeholders across the state together to address the rising opioid abuse and overdose rates in Indiana. The mission of the Task Force is to significantly reduce the abuse of controlled prescription drugs and to decrease the number of deaths associated with these drugs in Indiana. The Task Force is made up of 100 members including state legislators, law enforcement, health and medical professionals, pharmacists, federal, state and local government agencies, educators, advocates and treatment providers.

More information and resources for the public can be found at www.BitterPill.IN.gov.

Christmas double-feature opens Friday

One of the highlights of the holiday season is spending time with family and loved ones. Old Town Players will host a family-friendly Christmas double-feature beginning Friday at the OTP Theatre & Arts Center, 432 Broadway St., Vincennes. Presented with support from Vincennes University, "The Gift of the Magi" and "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will be presented for six performances, December 11-12-13 and 18-19-20.

The cast of "Gift of the Magi" features two newcomers, Aubrey Anderson and Ian Bruce.

The large cast of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" includes several newcomers as well as OTP veterans: Maryssa Joy Anderson, Darcie Bahr, Mary Bahr, Allyson Beckort, Ian Bruce, Jude Clark, Juleanne Clark, Leo Geheb, Shelby Haag, Tessa Haag, Emily Hinkle, Malea Jillian Hobson, Alison Keller, JT Kent, Lukas Lang, Carter Like, Coni Like, Caroline Marley, Nathaniel Marley, Jayda Millsbaugh, Catena Minnich, Kami Minnich, Philip O'Dell, Leslie Root, Mason Trent, Kenzie Vermillion, Zoe Weber, April Ann Wofford, Glory Catherine Wofford, Josiah Blue Wofford, and Providence Hope Wofford. The directing team includes artistic director Steve Gray and assistant director Kristi Deetz.

Show times for Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7 p.m. (EST). Sunday shows begin at 3 p.m. Tickets sold at the door cost \$12 for adults, \$10 for students (age 13+), \$10 for seniors (age 60+), and \$4 for children (under age 13). A discount of \$2 is available on adult tickets purchased in advance at Save-A-Lot, Eyeworks, First Vincennes Savings Bank, and the Vincennes University Bookstore.

Group rates and advance reservations are available by contacting Shari Phillips at 812-882-8269 or emailing oldtownplayers@gmail.com. Details about all OTP shows are available through the group's Facebook pages.

State board creates expert panel to avoid future ISTEP+ problems

The Indiana State Board of Education unanimously voted last week during its monthly business meeting to create a new permanent committee of national experts to guide the state in the development of the ISTEP+ assessment and avoid issues that have impacted the test in the past.

The new standing Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of national independent assessment experts, will monitor the development of the ISTEP+ test in the hopes of avoiding issues such as excessive testing length, scoring problems, and comparability issues between online and paper/pencil tests. Many other states utilize a standing TAC. Indiana currently uses national experts during transition years and to help resolve problems. The creation of this standing TAC was a recommendation of national experts as a best practice moving forward.

"This committee of national experts will help the state avoid the ISTEP+ issues of the past," said Sarah O'Brien, Vice Chair of the State Board of Education. "Many of the current ISTEP+ issues could have been avoided had the experts been engaged at the beginning of the process. This should improve the testing experience for students, parents and teachers in the future."

The board also received updates from Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) and Charter Schools USA concerning the operation

of the state's turnaround academies. IPS reported significant improvement in the past month in the culture and environment at Arlington High School since IPS reconfigured operation of the building. Board members expressed concern about behavioral issues reported earlier in the year, but recognized the positive steps currently taking place.

"It is good to see recent changes starting to make a positive impact at Arlington," said B.J. Watts, State Board Member representing the 8th Congressional District. "It is my expectation that IPS continues to fast track its plans to improve Arlington for the students who attend the school."

Charter Schools USA provided an update to the board on its efforts to improve Howe and Manual High Schools and Emma Donnan Middle School. Charter Schools USA spoke to the board about the ability of its new K-6 elementary schools at Emma Donnan, operated in partnership with IPS, to help students arrive at middle school prepared for those grades.

In other business, the board voted to give graduation credit to students who pass either the 10th Grade ISTEP+ test or College and Career Readiness Assessment. It also approved awarding of grants to schools for purchasing formative tests in grades K-2 and approved funding for the state's turnaround academies in Gary and Indianapolis.

House clears 10 committee energy bills and provisions

The House of Representatives this week said #Yes2Energy and passed a number of Energy and Commerce Committee energy bills that keep electricity affordable and reliable, modernize our dated energy laws, and boost drinking water for rural America. Additionally, the House passed a long-term highway bill that contained committee priorities to improve #Safety4Drivers and bolster America's energy security.

The energy-related bills that cleared the House this week are detailed below:

S. 611, the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act Companion legislation to H.R. 2853, a bill introduced by Environment and the Economy Subcommittee Vice Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) and Ranking Minority member Paul Tonko (D-NY). S. 611 aims to help maintain safe drinking water in rural America.

PASSED MONDAY by voice vote

S.J. Res. 23, A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units." The resolution is identical to H.J. Res. 71, introduced by Subcommittee on Energy and Power Chairman Ed Whitfield (R-KY). The resolution would keep electricity affordable and reliable for ratepayers across the country.

PASSED TUESDAY by a vote of 235 to 188

S.J. Res. 24, A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units." The resolution is identical to H.J. Res. 72, also introduced by Subcommittee Chairman Whitfield. The measure would keep electricity affordable and reliable for ratepayers across the country.

PASSED TUESDAY by a vote of 242 to 180

H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act. The landmark legislation, sponsored by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI), culminates a multi-year, multi-Congress effort to modernize our outdated energy laws for the 21st century to maximize America's energy potential.

PASSED THURSDAY by a vote of 249 to 174

The House on Thursday also considered the "Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act," a long-term highway bill that included important proposals from the Energy and Commerce Committee to improve auto safety and strengthen American energy security. The legislation included the following committee energy-related provisions:

H.R. 1558, the Resolving Environmental and Grid Reliability Conflicts Act of 2015 Authored by Reps. Pete Olson (R-TX), Gene Green (D-TX), and Mike Doyle (D-PA), H.R. 1558 would provide certainty to electric utilities and protect grid reliability across the country.

H.R. 2244, To establish a Strategic Transformer Reserve program, and for other purposes

Authored by Reps. Renee Ellmers (R-NC) and Jerry McNerney (D-CA), this legislation would ask the Department of Energy to submit a plan to Congress outlining the feasibility of establishing a Strategic Transformer Reserve in an effort to increase the United States' capability to deal with 21st century threats to electric grid reliability.

H.R. 2271, Critical Electric Infrastructure Protection Act

Authored by Reps. Bob Latta (R-OH), Renee Ellmers and Jerry McNerney, H.R. 2271 protects our critical electric infrastructure by providing private entities and the federal government the tools they need to better respond and alleviate grid security emergencies.

H.R. 3923, To provide for a report that develops United States energy security valuation methods

Authored by Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC), the bill would strengthen our energy security by establishing U.S. energy security valuation methods to ensure that energy-related actions don't negatively impact the supply, distribution, and use of energy throughout the United States.

H.R. 3941, To provide for emergency preparedness for energy supply disruptions Recent natural disasters have underscored the importance of having resilient and reliable energy infrastructure. This legislation, authored by Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ), strengthens communication and coordination between DOE and first responders to speed up emergency response and recovery.

An amendment from Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) to provide regulatory parity for natural gas vehicles.

PASSED THURSDAY by a vote of 359 to 65