

Martin County JOURNAL

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13 Pages



Awesome sky

-Photo by Alex Hughett

The sky on Tuesday night almost looked eerie with the deep purple and dark blue colored clouds hanging overhead. With the threat of possible snow and ice this afternoon, many Martin Countians are getting a taste of the commonplace winter weather a bit early in the season and highway crews are preparing for the unknown.

Commissioners work out health insurance for county employees

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

At the Martin County Commissioners' meeting Tuesday night, December 14, it was reported that the county employees' health insurance was worked out. According to Commissioner Dan Gregory the insurance was not reduced or changed and neither were the employees' health savings accounts. The commissioners voted to go with Anthem Insurance through the county's agent Thompson Insurance out of Washington. The county had quotes from two different companies. Gregory noted that this may be the last year they can offer this good of a plan without increasing revenues in some way.

On a side note Commissioner Paul George commended the council on the good job getting the budget worked out Monday morning. "It was a fine job, had to be done, and nobody lost their job, we figured out the

insurance, it was a pretty good day we had," he said.

Council member Warren Albright, who was in the audience, thanked the commissioners for all being present at the meeting and working with them. "I appreciate everyone working together to make it happen because it's not fun when you have to do what we thought we were going to have to do."

Rhonda Rumble with SIDC held a public meeting for the debris removal or log jams from Lost River. The purpose of the public hearing was to hear any public input on the project. One log jam is a level three in Mitcheltree Township in Indian Creek near Williams and the other is a level four jam located in Lost River Township.

The estimated cost of the project is \$572,400 and the grant being applied for is \$566,900 with a local match of \$5,500. There will be no displacement of residents as a result of the project.

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Loogootee Mayor publicizes \$10,000 anonymous donation to humane society

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Humane Society took another step further in their quest to build an animal shelter when it was announced at Monday night's Loogootee City Council meeting that an anonymous donor is giving \$10,000 to the cause. The donor is a former Loogootee resident. "I'm sure that is the biggest bequest the humane society has ever got," said Mayor Bowling. He credited the local media for getting the word out about the humane society and its need for a shelter.

"I'm glad he has a soft spot for Loogootee and for the animals," said Council member Phyllis Parker.

Mayor Don Bowling said that he has spo-

ken to the Indiana Department of Transportation about the railroad crossing at JFK because it is located on state Highway 231. He said that they have inspected it and agreed that it is in a state of disrepair. INDOT sent a copy of a letter to Mayor Bowling that was sent from them to CSX Railroad ordering that the crossing be fixed. The mayor said he is unsure if CSX will respond in a timely manner however he is still in correspondence with them regarding the safety issue with the crossing.

Clerk-Treasurer Nancy Jones reported on the budget. She said that according to a notice she received from the DLGF the only fund that needs to be cut is the CCD. The city requested \$28,000 but it needs to be cut back

(**'LOOGOOTE'** continued on page 3)

County council sifts through budget line by line, dollar by dollar

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council had a daunting task before them at their meeting Monday morning, December 13. What initially began as \$450,000 in cuts to the 2011 budget turned into talks of around \$600,000 by the start of the meeting. According to the council increases in the county's health insurance policy for next year warranted an additional \$150,000 in needed revenue. The council judiciously went through the budget line by line slashing anywhere and everywhere they could from \$100 and up from each department. Many department heads were present to help by offering their own decreases in funding and those who were not present didn't get a say in their cuts.

Prosecutor Mike Steiner started things off by giving back \$8,000 from his budget which included money for office supplies, depositions, equipment repairs, and law books. He also said he could give \$20,000 back for his secretary's pay which he would be reimbursed for from other funds and the two-thirds paid back by the state.

Commissioner Dan Gregory was next and he presented the council with a suggestion. The new insurance premiums for the county

for 2011 are \$558,500 up from \$491,000 for 2010. Gregory suggested deleting the insurance costs for 2011 from the budget and paying for them with EDIT and Rainy Day funds for the year. He then suggested that the local option income tax be raised to then bring in additional income for the county to start paying insurance premiums as normal for 2012. "It would give us a little breathing room, a little time," he said. The local option income tax is currently one percent and Gregory suggested raising it to 1.5 percent. He said that Martin County is fairly low in comparison to peer counties. "We can't sustain our operations on our incomes, that's just a fact," he said. The increase would raise the county's revenue by \$840,000 a year and Gregory noted that it doesn't affect property taxes at all. "If you don't have income or you're at poverty level, you don't pay anything anyway," he said referring to the income tax. Council member Randy Winger stated that the council was to meet in close-door session regarding health insurance that evening and said, "I see it totally changing, HSA (health savings accounts) could be gone and we're gonna get through it but hey, we've got to deal with this today."

Council member Lonnie Hawkins said that

(**'COUNCIL'** continued on page 2)

Parent talks to Shoals School Board about math concerns

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Melissa Moffatt, parent of sophomore Kayla Butler came before the Shoals School Board last Thursday, December 9 to express her concerns, and the concerns of other parents she has spoken to, about the school's math program, particularly Algebra II but also Geometry and Pre-Calculus. Moffatt explained that although her daughter is an A student in her other classes, she has an F in Algebra II. She said that along with her worries she also offered the point that Shoals Schools can be very successful. "I'm not here tonight to brow beat or tar and feather, or anything like that, anyone here tonight but really just to, in a respectful manner, open some discussion about the concerns that I have," she said. Moffatt explained that she graduated from Shoals High School the top girl in her class and went on to become a registered nurse.

Her first point of concern was the fact that she cannot monitor her daughter's progress in math because the grades are not being updated on the Harmony website on a weekly basis.

Her next point of concern was whether teachers are able to convey the curriculum in a way that the students can understand through their teaching methods. "I am questioning whether that situation is happening in the Algebra II course," she said.

Moffatt was also concerned about the grading scale. She said that it is her under-

standing that everything graded is worth ten points whether it is a regular homework assignment, quiz, or test. "To me, 10 points is not enough to give for tests, assignments and quizzes because it allows little margin for error," she said. She added that if students miss one they are already down to 90 and when they miss two they are down to 80. "In a situation where you aren't understanding well you're really losing out quickly." She said she felt that the grading system needed to be revised to correct the problem.

Moffatt's next point was teacher assessments. She said that she spoke to Superintendent Dr. Tony Nonte who told her that teacher's success is based on whether the students are being successful and whether teachers are able to maintain control of their classroom.

"When we have only 48 percent of our kids who were able to pass that ECA test that is required for graduation we as a school system have failed, the students have failed, the teachers have failed because 48 percent is not okay," Moffatt said. She suggested that the school offer anonymous surveys to the parents and students to see how they felt about the successfulness of the teachers. "Students have told me that they feel like they are not learning what they need to be learning to go out into the world to register for college and be successful," she said. She added that Steve Gonzales, former director of the learning center, told her that Shoals students continually have poor scores in math placement

(**'SHOALS'** continued on page 2)

SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

tests. She suggested yearly evaluations and assessments of teachers. She said that it may not be a teacher issue, it may be a curriculum issue; she's not sure but it needs to be evaluated.

Moffatt said that her daughter enrolled herself in after school tutoring when at the three-week mark in the grading period she had a D in Algebra II. When the tutoring was not successful Moffatt said she began looking at some online options to help her daughter. "I thought, I am not going to let my daughter fail when she is trying so very hard," she said. She found an Algebra II course through Ashworth online which is a nationally and regionally accredited. She said she spoke with Mr. Sherfick at the school about the possibility of withdrawing Kayla from the Algebra II course if she indeed failed after the six week grading period and putting her in the online course. Mr. Sherfick recommended that she speak to Principal Springer. Moffatt said after speaking to Mr. Springer he asked her if she wanted to drop Kayla from the math course that day. She said no, she didn't want to drop her until everything was in order. She then said she received a phone call from Mr. Springer telling her that after meeting with Dr. Nonte and Mr. Sherfick they were denying her the ability to withdraw Kayla from the Algebra II course due to school policy that states that no courses can be dropped after five days of the course beginning. If she withdrew, she would be given an F in the course which would go on her GPA. Moffatt said she then called the Indiana Department of Education to receive some guidance. They suggested she look into an online program called ALEKS. She said the ALEKS program can be utilized in the classroom or at home. She explained that it cost her \$170 to enroll both of her children and it is a self-paced program in line with the state's curriculum. She said that Kayla is doing very well in the program which doesn't line up with why she is failing in the class at Shoals. She said she forwarded Kayla's scores on to Mr. Springer and suggested that the school possibly look into investing in the program for the students during their Star/study hall period.

Moffatt then apologized for speaking so much but she said that she wanted to cover everything that she and other parents have had concerns about. She said that other parents are afraid to "make waves" because they were afraid their child would be singled out in the classroom because their parent complained or their child would not get the attention they deserve as she has been told has happened in the past — one particular instance being a parent bringing up issues with Chemistry. "My thoughts are if that situation were to occur we'll address it then which would mean a removal of my child from the school that I graduated from, that my siblings graduated from," she said. With that she added that the school has lost a lot of students lately who are moving on to Barr-Reeve and other schools. "Guys, when the hometowners are bailing out on their hometown to jump on the boat where there's already good success, that's just going to create an avalanche of more bad things for our own community," she said. She went on to say that she and her husband feel that they should stay in Shoals to show that Shoals can produce successful people. "That's what we would like to do but if the school system is not going to allow some of these other things to take place then we have to, as parents, look at other options that are out there."

As a final note, Moffatt said she felt that a 5 p.m. board meeting time limited the amount of parents who were able to attend the meetings due to their work schedules. She felt that it should be moved to a later time to more accommodate parents. She also read some statistics regarding Shoals Schools including the fact that the corporation has an 18.6 percent drop out rate which is quite a bit higher than comparable schools. She also noted that the state average graduation rate is 81.5 percent and Shoals' graduation rate is 71.7 percent based on 2008 statistics.

After Moffatt was finished speaking, board member Mary Lou Billings said, "I would like to thank you and I would like to commend you for coming before the board and sharing these thoughts and ideas with the board."

Another parent addressed the board about the possibility of the school putting in place a policy regarding teachers texting students after the recent situation where this was happening. "It was supposed to start out as a counseling deal to where it led to inappropriate text messages," she said. She added that she would like to see the school bring back a counselor for the students to speak to when they have problems rather than having to pursue a teacher for that reason. She said that in the recent teacher-student texting situation the parent was not informed that the teacher was attempting to counsel the student.

In other business the board approved the following school bus route contracts for school years 2011-12 through 2014-15 as follows pending receipt of all paperwork:

Route # 1 Kimberly Albright \$150.35 per day

Route # 2 Gerald Montgomery \$168.37 per day

Route # 3 Paul George \$165 per day

Route # 4 John Gore \$165 per day

Route # 5 Keith Emmons \$185 per day

Route # 6 Ted Emmons \$180 per day

Route # 7 Jeremy Albright \$154.70 per day

Route # 8 Keith Gibson/Warren Albright \$155 per day

Route # 9 Warren Albright \$144.49 per day

Route # 10 Dale Albright \$141 per day

Route # 11 Bethann Hovis \$140.12 per day

Route # 12 Miranda Albright \$154.70

Route # 13 Gerald Montgomery \$167.99

Route # 14 Todd Winger \$147.73 per day

Route # 15 Cecil Ragsdale \$120 per day

Route # 16 Eva Neeley \$190 per day

Dr. Nonte notified the board that the fuel base price to be used in the fuel escalator/descalator provision of the four-year school bus route contract would be as follows: gasoline \$2.844 per gallon and diesel \$2.979 per gallon.

The board approved the resignation of Lois Payne from the position of pre-school bus driver and Dennis Dahlen from the position of girls' varsity track coach.

The board approved Marcy Holt to serve as a substitute teacher during the 2010-11 school year, Dana George as elementary girls' basketball attendant for the 2010-11 school year and Ashley Taylor, Danielle Turpin, and Aimee Farhar to share the position of high school girls' basketball attendant. Board member Christy Farhar abstained from voting for the Taylor, Turpin, and Farhar recommendation due to Aimee Farhar being her daughter. Scott Wade was also approved as boys JBL volunteer for the 2010-11 school year and Brian Self as girls' 6th grade basketball coach for the 2010-11 school year. Randy Winger and Scott Fishback were approved as CDL/ECA and substitute school bus drivers during the 2010-11 school year pending receipt of all necessary paperwork. Dana George, Julia Sanders, and Cindy Clymer were approved to serve as pre-school bus monitors on a rotating basis for the p.m. route, Patty Harding to serve as pre-school bus monitor for the a.m. route, and Kelly Springer as driver for the 2B pre-school bus route.

The board approved Ms. Hickman's 2nd grade students to take a field trip to Loo-gootee Nursing Center on December 21.

The board approved Jeff Cooper to use the multi-purpose room for softball league practice on Sunday evenings during January, February, and March of 2011.

At the end of the meeting, board member Christy Farhar stated that she feels the student numbers are currently high enough in the third grade classrooms to need to employ a classroom teaching assistant. The board discussed the issue and instructed Dr. Nonte to look into hiring someone to fill this capacity.

The next meeting of the board will be a regular session on January 13, 2011 at 5 p.m.

COUNCIL

(Continued from page one)

with the Rainy Day fund sitting at \$462,000 and the EDIT fund at \$216,000, Gregory's suggestion would allow the council to satisfy the cuts needed to get the budget approved by the state. Other council members asked about what would be done next year. Hawkins said that it was a roll of the dice not cutting the full \$1 million recommended by the state back in August, so the council should have known that they would probably be back to make the additional cuts.

"If you make drastic changes to insurance you've affected the county employees' life more than about any one thing you can do to it," said council member Warren Albright.

"I agree," said Hawkins.

"You'll lose a lot of employees," said council member Lynn Gee.

"What I'm saying is to not take the insurance, it's to pay for it with a different fund," said Hawkins.

"Yeah, but we mentioned that it might even have to go and if you do that you've seriously affected lives," said Albright.

"Cause they're not getting rich per se anyway," added council member Rich Summers.

Dan Gregory then chimed in saying he agreed one hundred percent which is why long-term revenue would have to be increased so that losing insurance would not be an option down the road.

"But I'm not sure that very many people are interested in raising the tax rate on the voters either," said Albright.

"If we're going to be here in a couple years we're going to have to start providing for ourselves," commented Commissioner Paul George about Martin County as a whole.

The council then decided to take half of the Rainy Day and EDIT funds to add back into the budget which put the total amount of cuts so far to \$367,000 with the prosecutor's contributions.

Council member Gee suggested taking \$41,000 from the employees' health savings accounts by cutting a single employee from \$1,500 to \$1,000 and decreasing the family amount from \$3,000 to \$2,250. "That would still give them some in their health savings to help them but it would also help us too," she said.

"I don't want to cut any employee benefits. I'm a blue collar worker and I know it's hard to make a living right now and I'm not going to cut any employee benefits before I cut myself," said council member Hawkins.

"We don't want to cut employees per se so we better find an answer for this insurance because if you don't, we're going to have employees, and we're going to save money on insurance because they'll be going out the front door," said council member Summers.

The discussion moved on to the sheriff's department's cuts with no decision made on the health savings accounts.

The current sheriff Tony Dant and new sheriff Rob Street both presented their reductions to the council. Sheriff-elect Street voluntarily gave back around \$6,000 in radio, light, and sirens; uniforms, IDAC, and postage, and clothing, bedding, dishes, and towels. The council decided to not replace an open deputy position which put back \$22,000. The council also decided to take a third deputy's pay from the 911 fund which put \$23,783 back into the general fund.

The commissioners' budget was cut by a little over \$18,000 including \$1,500 from the Historical Society, \$300 from Ride Solutions, \$7,500 from juveniles and institutions, \$2,000 from computer upgrades, \$2,000 from publishing of legal notices, \$500 from Four Rivers, \$500 from SIDC, and \$4,000 from medical for inmates.

The council considered cutting from the 4-H grounds maintenance but in the end decided to leave it alone. As far as the historical society, it was decided that since they have money put back to operate on, they would be cut instead. "If they've got money to operate on and we don't, I mean it don't seem very good for us to give them money to put on CDs while we're talking about cutting people's income," said council member Albright. The fair board also asked for \$4,500 for manuals for the 4-H kids and utility costs

which the council considered cutting. "We have to be cutting money from somewhere to get to our point," said council member Randy Winger.

"We do have to, even if it's just \$500, it will add up" said council member Gee.

"We're going to have to do our job okay," said Winger.

"Okay, but we're back to cutting from people that's borrowing money to pay the bills and leaving it in historical society that's got their money on CDs," said council member Albright. "I'm just saying the one is needing money to operate and that's what we're trying to do is keeping money to operate, 4-H needs money to operate and right now historical society is keeping their lights on."

In the end it was decided to cut the historical society from \$5,000 to \$3,500 and leave the 4-H alone. "I would say 4-H count yourself very lucky this time. You better start finding ways to make some money because next year we may not be this lucky," council member Winger said to Jonathan Stevens, who was in the audience.

After the commissioners' deductions the total cuts sat at \$444,860.

Clerk Julie Fithian reduced her budget by \$1,500 in backup tapes, training, official records, and travel plus \$40,000 in election expenses that will be reimbursed by Loo-gootee, Shoals, and Crane after the next election.

Treasurer Diana Schutte cut her budget by \$2,200 taking from part-time help, travel and training, and computers and equipment.

Theresa Harder with the Soil and Water Conservation District gave back \$1,750 from supplies/telephone.

The courthouse budget was left as is but the judge's budget was cut by \$9,500 for transcripts, postage, and law books. Probation was cut \$1,000 for a part-time worker.

The surveyor's budget was decreased by \$5,000 for the deputy surveyor when it was decided that a community corrections inmate could assist that department.

Council member Hawkins suggested that the county council members reduce their salaries by \$300 a year going from \$2,900 to \$2,600 to save the county \$2,500. "I'm willing to do that," he said.

"We're already the lowest paid in the state," said council member Winger.

"We're ranked 83rd, if we made this change I think we would get the title," said Hawkins.

The rest of the council chose not to act on the salary reduction.

Moving on, civil defense was reduced by \$500 for building improvements.

The assessor's office budget was left alone.

Jonathan Steven with the Purdue Extension offered back \$2,500 for office supplies, computer/lesson supplies, equipment repair, postage, and travel.

The coroner's office was cut by \$750 for a deputy coroner and equipment.

This put total cuts at \$470,810. It was briefly discussed to stop making cuts due to the health insurance meeting to be held later that night because insurance costs may be decreased. In the end the council decided to go ahead through the rest of the budget.

The recorder's office reduced their budget by \$3,440 using money from the Recorder's Perpetual Fund.

Nancy Steiner cut the auditor's budget by \$4,500 taking from part-time employee, meeting compensation, and printing.

The one percent raise that was put in the budget in August for county employees was cancelled putting \$14,000 back into the budget.

With the council having cut \$100,000 over what was required by the state to approve the budget they decided to wait to do any more until after the health insurance special meeting that evening. The total cuts for the three-hour meeting totaled \$493,650 in the general fund.

In the cumulative capital improvement plan budget it was decided to take out \$100,000 for jail repairs leaving \$100,000 and \$93,500 was removed for the courthouse bond payment leaving \$10,000 for courthouse improvements.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. -Matthew 5:4

CINDY K. MARTIN

Cindy K. Martin died at 11:09 a.m. Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at Daviess Community Hospital. A resident of Washington, she was 51.

She was born September 17, 1959, in Lake County; the daughter of Harold and Orvada (Farren) Garrett. She was a 1977 graduate of Loogootee High School and she was a homemaker. She married Tim Martin

on March 13, 1987 and he survives.

She is also survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Briana and Lance Hart of Lafayette; a son and daughter-in-law, T.J. and Amanda Martin of Washington; and her mother, Orvada Garrett.

She is preceded in death by her father, Harold Garrett.

Graveside services were held at Sunday, December 12 at New Veale Creek Ceme-

tery, with Bro. Wayne Walters officiating. There was no visitation. Arrangements were made through Gill Chapel.

JUDITH ARLENE (STRAWN) WEASE

Judith Arlene (Strawn) Wease died at 7:15 a.m. Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis. A resident of Loogootee, she was 61.

She was born June 19, 1949, in Daviess County; the daughter of Dale and Hazel (Fogle) Strawn. A 1967 graduate of Barr-Reeve High School, she retired from U.S. Gypsum in 2004. She married Tony Wease on April 4, 1981, and he survives. She was a member of Loogootee United Methodist Church.

She is also survived by one son, Kristopher Wease of Louisville; one daughter and son-in-law, Kim (Leighty) and Bill Bates of Carmel; one sister and brother-in-law, Darlene and Bud Halbert of Loogootee; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Larry and Mary Ann Strawn of Evansville, and Mike and Millie Strawn of Loogootee; one niece, Susan and husband Kevin Kotter of Olathe, Kansas; four nephews, Doug and wife Denise Strawn of Evansville, Mark and wife Susan Strawn of Evansville, Thomas (Sonny) and wife Andrea Strawn of Ireland, Indiana, and Rich and wife Autumn Strawn of Loogootee; and two grandchildren, Jack and Lucy Bates of Carmel.

She is preceded in death by her parents and one son, Kevin Lee Colvin.

The funeral was held Saturday, December 11 at Brocksmith Funeral Home in Loogootee. Burial followed in Goodwill Cemetery in Loogootee.

Preferred memorial donations are to the American Cancer Society through the funeral home.

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

DAVID GINGERICH JR.

David Gingerich Jr. died Thursday, December 9, 2010 at his home. A resident of Odon, he was 91.

He was born December 13, 1918, in Daviess County; the son of David and Mary (Knepp) Gingerich. A farmer and carpenter, he was a charter member of the Bethel Mennonite Church. He married Martha (Lengacher) Gingerich on August 4, 1946 and she survives.

He is also survived by daughters and sons-in-law, Karen and Dean Swartzentruber of Odon, and Judy and Eddie Graber of Loogootee; son and daughter-in-law, Howard and Kate Gingerich of Odon; grandchildren, Sherri Petit, Dena (Tim) Lengacher, Shelly (Leon) Wagler, Mike (Theresa) Swartzentruber, Kent (Deanna) Gingerich, Brett (Tamara) Gingerich, Valarie (Greg) Stoll, Andrea (John) Gere, and Jenna (Craig) Sanders; 15 great-grandchildren; two stepgreat-grandchildren; and a brother, Virgil Gingerich.

He is preceded in death by his parents; a son, Abraham "Abe" Gingerich; a great-grandson, Cole Stoll; six sisters; and two brothers.

The funeral was held Saturday, December 11 at Bethel Mennonite Church, with Bros. Eddie Graber, Carmen Detweiler and Kevin Swartzentruber, Rev. Melvin Paulus and Deacon Simon Knepp officiating. Burial was in Bethel Church Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to World Missionary Press.

Condolences may be made to the family online at www.gillsince1872.com.

LOOGOOTE

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to \$8,626. She said that they also put a note on the budget stating that the city needs to watch their spending in the MVH fund because they are probably not going to be able to spend all that was budgeted for.

Mayor Bowling updated the council on the status of collecting delinquent sewer bills. He said that a contract has been signed with Hoosier Accounts Service out of Evansville to assist in the debt collecting. During the discussion Council member Susan Brewer brought of an issue with a property located by her residence. She said the former renters of the property moved in the middle of the night and left around 50 bags of garbage and a very large tree limb along with delinquent water and sewer bills. The rental property is owned by Washington Mayor Larry Haag. Mayor Bowling said that he would contact Mr. Haag to make him aware of the situation.

Clerk-Treasurer Nancy Jones told the council that the MVH (Motor Vehicle Highway) Budget is running very low. She said that the reason for this is that the property tax distribution will not arrive until December 31 at 2 p.m. She said that she is going to request that the money, around \$11,000, be received by noon in order to get it into the bank, otherwise the MVH fund will be in the negative going into 2011. She requested that the council approve her holding off on paying the sewer department the \$500 for the use of the backhoe until the money is in the account.

City Attorney Mark Jones opened one bid for sand and stone from Arvin Crushed Stone. The bid amounts were the same as last year. The council approved the bid.

The council approved bonds for the clerk-treasurer and her deputy for \$300 and \$100. The also approved the position bond for the mayor's secretary, the utility clerk, public works superintendent, any laborer who accepts bills, park and rec pool manager, police chief, all police officers, and the fire chief for \$276.50.

Clerk-Treasurer Jones presented the 2011 meeting schedule and holiday calendar. Council member Rick Norris commented that December 23 was left off as a paid holiday stating that every year the city employees receive the Friday and Monday off before and after Christmas and Christmas Eve.

Jones also discussed the gasoline prices. She said that last year the city spent \$22,000 and according to the State Board of Accounts any purchase less than \$50,000 does not have to be put out for bids; quotes can be sought. Jones said the city employees requested that quotes be received for a 24-hour service station so she called the only two in the city and Jones Oil is the only one who responded. They quoted one cent less per gallon than the advertised price on the outdoor sign. The council approved going with Jones Oil.

Jones then discussed with the council the city employees' health savings accounts. She explained that last year when the city went with new insurance they decided to supplement the employees by opening a health savings account for each of them to offset the deductibles. The lump sum payment for families was \$3,000 and \$1,000 for singles. Jones said she would prefer to not do the lump sum payments anymore and give partial money at the beginning of the year and the rest halfway through the year. Council

member Rick Norris, who is also a city employee, asked what an employee was supposed to do when they had a claim that needed to be paid which was more than the partial payment. Jones said that she hoped the employees would have money that rolled over from the year before to use.

Jones said the reason she wants to do it this way is to keep the MVH fund from going into the hole like it did this year. "I'm just trying to spread it out a little bit over the year rather than paying it all up front in January," she said.

Norris made a motion to leave the health savings accounts alone and deposit all the money in January. The rest of the council voted in favor.

The council voted to raise the fire hydrant fee for those across the Daviess County line from \$100 a year to \$200 a year. After it is advertised it will be officially approved at the January meeting after a public hearing for patron concerns.

Tim Kinder, executive director of the Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth provided the council with information on the county signing up to be a part of the Mt. Vernon Port Authority. He also informed the council that current Alliance board member Mark Trout needs to be replaced due to a conflict of interest. Trout is with Nonte and Company who is going to be the Alliance's accounting firm. Kinder recommended that Mayor Bowling be the person to fill that seat and the council approved.

Moving on, Kinder stated that although it's been a challenge and there are a lot of things that still need to be done he posed a scenario to the council about the possibility of a non-profit purchasing the Perfect Fit building. Non-profits are not required to pay property taxes but Kinder said that this particular one would be willing to pay around 50 percent of them. He said he was unable to provide any additional details and that nothing is carved in stone about the purchase.

The building is still in Perfect Fit's possession which he said he is working on.

Council member Rich Taylor asked Kinder if the non-profit would plan on hiring. Kinder said yes, they do plan to take on employees. The council agreed that they would like to see the building occupied especially if it provided jobs. Kinder requested a letter from the council stating they were in favor of having a non-profit in the building.

New Fire Chief Morgan Huebner reported that it's been a smooth transition and everything is going well in his new position.

At the end of the meeting Council member Rich Taylor requested that INDOT be contacted about measuring the amount of traffic on Highway 231 into JFK Avenue. He said that between 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. it is almost impossible to get out on the highway from the side roads. He said that he thinks the yellow caution lights at Butcher Boulevard should be replaced with a traffic light. Mayor Bowling added that the speeding through the city has been out of hand as well but in the past when he has spoken to INDOT about reducing the speed limit they have refused.

Council member Taylor also brought up the issue of supply trucks to Ruler blocking the street behind the stores where no traffic can pass. He said there have been two or three accidents from people going up on the sidewalk to get around the trucks. Street Su-

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

Tuesday, December 7

6:11 p.m. - Received a call from a female reporting an aggressive driver on U.S. 50, eastbound from Cannelburg.

7:17 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:56 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:54 p.m. - Received a call about unidentified noises in a basement.

4:00 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on U.S. 231, south of Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:29 a.m. - Received a call from a female on S.R. 450 about possible gunshots in the area.

9:30 a.m. - Received a report of a stranded semi on U.S. 50, near the fairgrounds.

9:40 a.m. - Received a report of a deer that had been struck by a vehicle on U.S. 231 south of Loogootee, near Old School Rd.

Wednesday, December 8

11:56 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on U.S. 50 and the subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:09 p.m. - A male caller advised of a vehicle eastbound toward Shoals at a high rate of speed and driving left of center.

5:30 p.m. - A female caller advised that her water meter had been tampered with and vandalized.

7:09 p.m. - A male caller stated his vehicle had broken down on S.R. 650 but was out of the path of travel.

7:27 p.m. - Received a report of a large amount of smoke off of U.S. 231, south of Loogootee. No fire was reported, and only chimney smoke was found.

Thursday, December 9

8:20 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic disturbance in Loogootee.

3:28 p.m. - A female caller in Crane Village advised of possible animal neglect.

4:30 p.m. - A male caller advised of vehicles racing on U.S. 50 near Buffalo Bottoms.

7:19 p.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver traveling left of center on U.S. 150 from Roland.

7:40 p.m. - Received a report from a subject in Crane Village that someone had released his hunting dogs from their collars.

8:06 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. No transport was necessary.

9:00 p.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver on S.R. 450.

9:47 p.m. - A female caller reported problems with her daughter.

10:59 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on S.R. 450. The caller called back minutes later and advised an ambulance would not be needed.

Friday, December 10

11:48 a.m. - Received a report of a break in at a residence in the Shoals area.

11:51 a.m. - A female came on station about threatening text messages.

1:17 p.m. - A female caller reported a possible scam.

2:21 p.m. - A fire was reported at Posh Pets in Loogootee.

6:05 p.m. - A car fire was reported on Boyd Hollow Road.

7:42 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:42 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute with weapons involved.

10:02 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute at Scenic Hill.

Saturday, December 11

3:15 a.m. - Received a report of a possible suicidal subject in Shoals.

7:55 a.m. - Received a report from Bailey Bros. in Shoals about a hit and run accident. They reported when they arrived for work they noticed their bridge that connects their used car lot to 2nd Street had been hit and completely destroyed.

9:55 a.m. - A male subject came on station to report his vehicle stolen. The vehicle was later located.

12:37 p.m. - Received a call about custody issues.

12:47 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. No transport was necessary.

2:45 p.m. - Received a call about an out of control teen.

3:46 p.m. - Received a call in reference to a controlled burn.

4:31 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. No transport was necessary.

5:28 p.m. - Received a request for assistance for a lockout.

5:29 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on U.S. 50 between Loogootee and Shoals.

Sunday, December 12

12:05 a.m. - Received a report of a tree across S.R. 450, just past Low Gap Road.

2:45 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee.

11:57 a.m. - Received a commercial burglar alarm in Shoals.

2:42 p.m. - Received a report of a property

damage accident on County Farm Road.

3:53 p.m. - Received a report of a slide off on U.S. 50, near S.R. 650.

4:50 p.m. - Received a report of an accident on U.S. 231, south of Whitfield.

5:56 p.m. - Received a report of a slide off on Reinhart Road.

8:00 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down on Sherfick School Road near Mill Road.

11:00 p.m. - Received a report of a tree across the roadway on Hillham Road.

Monday, December 13

3:27 a.m. - Received a report of a loud explosion in Loogootee.

4:53 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:05 a.m. - Received a report of a stranded motorist on Lumpkin Road., near Kiefner Lane.

9:16 a.m. - Received a report of a slide off on U.S. 50 just east of U.S. Gypsum.

10:00 a.m. - Received a request for a welfare check on a subject just outside of Loogootee.

12:00 p.m. - Received a report of possible animal neglect in Crane Village.

12:13 p.m. - Received a request for traffic assistance reference a wrecker pulling a vehicle onto the roadway on U.S. 50.

1:23 p.m. - Received a report of a deer accident.

2:32 p.m. - Received a 911 call and the call was transferred to Poison Control Center.

Martin County real estate transfers

Twala Jean Angerer Howard and Michael R. Howard to **Keith D. Keller**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, Rutherford Township, Martin County, Indiana, and containing 1.099 acres, more or less.

Cathleen Renee (Howard) Morrow, of Posey County, Indiana to **Keith D. Keller**, of Martin County, Indiana, part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, and containing 1.00 acres, more or less.

Bradley M. Howard, of Charleston County, South Carolina to **Keith D. Keller**, of Martin County, Indiana, part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, and containing 1.02 acres, more or less.

Delmar Knepp and Ida Knepp and Philip N. Stoll and Lois Stoll, of Martin County, Indiana to **Kenneth Schrock and Lawrence Carpenter**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 1, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, lying in Hal-

bert Township, Martin County, Indiana, and containing 5.00 acres, more or less.

Roger P. Jenkins, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jonathan J. Russell**, of Martin County, Indiana, Tract I: a part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 15, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, and containing 4 acres, more or less.

Tract II: A part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 15, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, and containing 1.93 acres, more or less. Also, a portion of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 15, Township 3 North, Range 3 West. Tract III: Beginning at a point where the west line of said quarter quarter intersects with the Northeast right of way line of State Highway #650, and containing 2 acres, more or less.

Tyler G. Ramsey, of Martin County, Indiana to **Louis S. Graber and Karen R. Graber and John Wagler and Martha Wagler**, of Martin County, Indiana, a tract of land in the Southeast corner of Section 31, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, containing 10 acres, more or less. More commonly known as 7881 US Highway 150 Shoals, IN 47581.

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Loogootee Police log

Monday, December 6

11:55 a.m. - Female caller stated her son was tearing up the house, and out of control. Chief Rayhill responded and the male juvenile was later jailed and transported to Southwest Youth village.

2:09 p.m. - Received a report of telephone lines down on Ackerman Drive. Chief Rayhill spoke with the driver of the semi.

4:19 p.m. - Marvin Williams of Loogootee reported a theft from his residence. Sgt. Norris did a case report.

7:46 p.m. - Caller stated her neighbor's dog had not been fed and was without shelter. Sgt. Norris responded.

Wednesday, December 8

8:09 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on Queen Street. Sgt. Hennette responded.

Thursday, December 9

8:22 a.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on John C. Strange Street. Capt. Akles responded.

Friday, December 10

11:00 a.m. - Caller reported his business had been broken into. Capt Akles responded.

2:21 p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department reported a structure fire on Mill Street. Loogootee Fire responded.

7:44 p.m. - First Responders were requested at the Golden Ponds Apartments in reference to a heart patient.

8:46 p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department requested an officer for a domestic dispute on Country Pines Road.

9:41 p.m. - Caller reported his Co2 detector going off. Fire personnel responded.

10:00 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute at Scenic Hill. Martin County Sheriff's Department was also notified.

11:22 p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department requested assistance for a fight in the jail.

Saturday, December 11

9:19 a.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department reported a structure fire Larimer Street in Crane. Loogootee Fire responded.

1:40 p.m. - Caller reported his son's residence on Jackson Street had been broken in to. Capt. Akles responded.

5:22 p.m. - Male caller reported his vehicle had been vandalized.

5:34 p.m. - Male caller reported unauthorized parking at his business. Capt. Akles responded.

Sunday, December 12

8:10 a.m. - Female caller on North Oak Street reported dogs had attacked her rabbits.

4:51 p.m. - Male caller reported a hitch stolen and requested extra patrol.

5:02 p.m. - ISP requested assistance with a vehicle slide off on US 231 South.

6:23 p.m. - Male caller requested extra patrol on SE First Street.

7:00 p.m. - A local business reported possible intoxicated juveniles. Sgt. Norris was advised.

9:52 p.m. - Male caller reported kids doing donuts at the swimming pool parking lot.

Winter weather creates difficult driving conditions

The snow fall from the weekend and the windy conditions are creating difficult traveling conditions.

Following these safety tips should help motorists navigate the slick road conditions and allow them to make it to their destinations safely.

Be prepared:

-Before traveling, check the forecast and let someone know your travel route.

-Keep your gas tank full.

-Carry a winter driving kit: blankets, flashlight and extra batteries, a brightly colored cloth, sand (or cat litter), shovel, candles, matches, non-perishable high calorie food, a first aid kit and jumper cables and cell phone.

Drive according to road conditions:

-Allow extra time to get to your destination.

-Clear all windows of ice and snow and remove snow from hood, roof, head lights, and tail lights.

-Beware of bridges, underpasses, shaded areas, and intersections where ice is slow to melt.

-Slow down to increase traction; don't use cruise control on slick roads.

-Avoid abrupt stops and starts: slow down gradually and keep wheels turning to avoid

Jasper Post November enforcement activity

The Indiana State Police had the following enforcement activity for November 2010.

The Jasper State Police Post covers Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Martin, Orange, Perry, and Spencer Counties.

Traffic Arrests (tickets) 644

Warnings 1,939

Commercial Motor Vehicle moving arrests 9

DUI Arrests 15

Total Criminal Arrests 54

To obtain the latest road and weather conditions, tune into your local radio or television station or contact the Road and Weather line at (800) 261-ROAD (7623) or visit TrafficWise.IN.gov.

Additional motorist tips and helpful winter weather links can be found online at WinterDrivingSafety.IN.gov.

loosing traction.

-Use low beam headlights to decrease glare from ice.

Should you become stranded:

-Do not leave your car: it's the best protection you have.

-Tie a brightly colored cloth to your antenna if you need help.

-Roll down your window a small amount for fresh air.

-Keep the exhaust pipe free of blockage to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

-Don't panic! An idling car uses only one gallon of gas per hour.

Please do not call local, county, or state police for an update on road conditions. To obtain the latest road and weather conditions, tune into your local radio or television station or contact the Road and Weather line at (800) 261-ROAD (7623) or visit TrafficWise.IN.gov.

Additional motorist tips and helpful winter weather links can be found online at WinterDrivingSafety.IN.gov.

Martin County court news

CRIMINAL COURT

New Charges Filed

November 29

John D. Hill, theft, a Class D Felony.

November 30

Angela E. Graham, illegal possession of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C Misdemeanor.

December 3

Ronald J. Blackmon, possession of methamphetamine, a Class B Felony.

Ryan T. Souerdikey, possession of methamphetamine, a Class B Felony.

December 8

Donna S. Childress, escape, a Class D Felony.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

AND SENTENCING

November 15

Corey L. Carnegie, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 60 days in the Martin County Security Center. Court suspends 54 days. Defendant received credit in the amount of 6 days including good time credit. Defendant received 11 months of probation and defendant's driver's license was suspended for 90 days.

CRIMINAL COURT DISMISSED

December 1

Christopher J. Profit, two counts of check deception, Class A Misdemeanors, dismissed.

December 2

Lincoln R. Pickett, driving while suspended with prior conviction, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

December 2

RAB Performance Recoveries, LLC vs. Stephen T. Jenkins, civil collection.

Aaron Hayden vs. Kristi Hayden, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Darrell Courtright vs. Cheryl Courtright, petition for dissolution of marriage.

December 3

Cathy Evans, William M. Heckard, Norman W. Heckard, Rick L. Heckard, and Darwin I. Heckard vs. Betty L. Salmon, P.G. Salmon, and Kainen Salmon, civil plea-nary.

December 6

RLW Accounts, LLC vs. John W. Wilz, civil collection.

Cavalry Portfolio vs. Rocky J. Street, civil collection.

December 7

Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC vs. Donna Boyd, civil collection.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suit Filed

December 6

Barbara Young vs. Janet K. Fox, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

December 6

Nick Clingerman to Jerry Schnarr and Cheryl Stemle in the amount of \$4,010.78.

TRAFFIC TICKETS PAID

December 1 - December 7

John Barker, Newberry, maximum weight restrictions; enforcement of limits, \$539.

Okee Cha, Invertness, Illinois, speeding 66 in a 50, \$124.

Andrew Davis, Evansville, speeding 70 in a 55, \$119.

Nicholas Fitzgerald, Indianapolis, speeding 70 in a 55, \$119.

Kenneth Goodson, Owensboro, Kentucky, violation of 70-hour rule, \$119.

Vicki Herbert, Evansville, speeding 50 in a 35, \$119.

Nathan Knepp, Montgomery, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Lee Lechner, Jasper, speeding 70 in a 55, \$119.

Samuel Mehringer, Jasper, violation of 70-hour rule, \$124.

Richard O'Connor, Loogootee, no valid operator's license, \$119.

Bernard Reier, Madison, Alabama, violation of 70-hour rule, \$119.

Guy Simmons, Salyersville, Kentucky, speeding 70 in a 55, \$119.

Jennifer Sims, Newburgh, speeding 68 in a 50, \$124.

Dennis Smith, Jasper, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Allen Syring, Clarence, Iowa, speeding 69 in a 55, \$119.

Linda Tambunan, Jasper, driving while suspended, \$119.

James Wallisa, Washington, speeding 65 in a 50, \$119.

Stephen Witty, Linton, speeding 68 in a 50; alteration by local authority; school, \$124.

Yu Yin Zheng, Roanoke, Virginia, speeding 67 in a 50, \$124.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

December 10

Neil Edward Bradley of Loogootee and Mikki Jo Harper of Loogootee.

Jail bookings

Wednesday, December 8

12:20 p.m. - Donna Childress, 46, of French Lick, was arrested on a Martin County warrant and charged with escape.

Thursday, December 9

2:10 p.m. - Justin A. Mills, 28, of Bedford, was arrested and charged with habitual traffic violator.



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Martin County accident reports

Monday, December 6

11:29 a.m. - Loren G. Qualkenbush, 59, of Shoals was traveling east on U.S. 150, outside of Shoals, when he lost control of his 2004 Ford 150 and drove off the right hand side of the road into a ditch. Mr. Qualkenbush was slightly injured during the accident. During the investigation it was found that Mr. Qualkenbush had been drinking and he was transported to the Martin County Sheriff's Department to take a chemical test. He failed with a .16 and then was transported to the Jasper Memorial Hospital to be treated for his injuries. His vehicle had extensive damage to the entire driver side and was towed by G&M Auto in Loogootee. The investigating and arresting officer was Corporal John Fischer.

Tuesday, December 7

3:15 p.m. - Diana G. Summers, of Loogootee, was operating 2002 Chrysler, and backing onto Walnut Street when she did not see a 2001 Toyota operated by Lyndzee R. Brassine, of Loogootee. No injuries were reported. Chief Rayhill was the investigating officer.

Wednesday, December 8

3:30 p.m. - Jordan A. Roller, of Loogootee, was operating a 1994 Ford southbound on Bloomfield Road. As Roller approached Acton Street he struck the rear of a 2004 GMC operated by Curis S. Wolfe, of Loogootee. No injuries were reported. Chief Rayhill was the investigating officer.

4:39 p.m. - Michael Shipman, 42, of Olney, Illinois, was operating a 2005 Chevrolet Equinox, westbound on U.S. 150, approximately three miles east of Shoals when a deer ran into the side of his vehicle. Shipman's vehicle sustained significant damage to the front passenger side fender and door. The investigating officer was Deputy Steve Nolan.

Thursday, December 9

8:06 a.m. - Judith A. Stuckey, of Loogootee, was backing a 2006 Buick from the Marathon parking lot when she backed into a 2006 Chevy owned Gabriel J. Swartzentruber, of Odon. No injuries were reported. Capt. Akles was the investigating officer.

11:30 a.m. - Desiray Crane, 22, of Mitchell, was backing her purple 1999 Chrysler Sebring in RJ Food Mart's parking lot, when she struck the back bumper of a black 2003 GMC Envoy belonging to Patricia Jones, 27, of Shoals. Both vehicles had slight damage to the back bumpers. The investigating officer was Corporal John Fischer.

Friday, December 10

11:44 a.m. - Michael Graber, of Loogootee, was operating a 1987 Ford westbound on Broadway Street. Graber stated he attempted to merge into the outside lane, and did not see a 1996 Ford operated by Jeffery Weber, of Charlestown, Indiana. No injuries were reported. Capt Akles was the investi-

gating officer.

12:30 p.m. - James McPherson, of Loogootee, was operating a 1994 Ford on Broadway Street when he attempted to turn onto Walnut Street and turned into the path of a 2004 Dodge operated by Roger Jackson, of Shoals. No injuries were reported. Capt. Akles was the investigating officer.

Sunday, December 12

4:00 p.m. - David Rincker, 63, of Shoals, was traveling north on Spout Springs Road, south of Gun Shop Road. Rincker lost control of his 2001 Toyota Corolla on the snow covered roadway and traveled off the opposite side of the road, striking a large tree stump. Rincker was uninjured in the accident. The investigating officer was Deputy Steve Nolan.

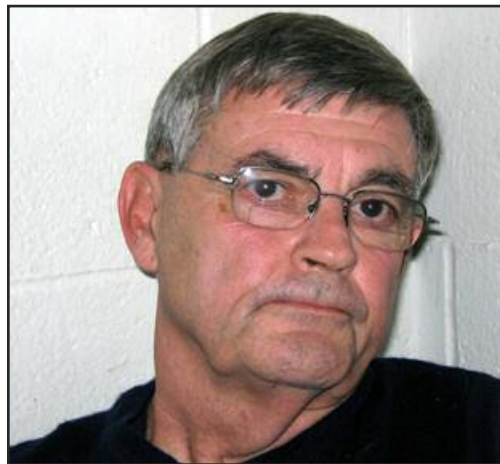
4:35 p.m. - Charles Voelkel, 58, of Dubois, was traveling south on Windom Road when he lost control of his 2003 GMC Envoy on the snow covered roadway. His vehicle went off the roadway and struck a tree resulting in significant damage to the entire front of the vehicle. Voelkel and his passenger were uninjured in the accident. The investigating officer was Deputy Steve Nolan.

Monday, December 13

5:46 a.m. - Krista Nicholson, 24, of Loogootee, contacted the Martin County Sheriff's Department stating that she struck a deer while traveling west on Brooks Bridge Road. The deer struck the front driver's side fender of her 1997 Chevy Malibu, causing slight damage. The investigating officer was Corporal John Fischer.

8:04 p.m. - Kevin L. Stewart, 39, of Shoals, was traveling south on Rama Dye Road when a deer entered the roadway in front of his vehicle causing him to hit it. The deer initially impacted the front bumper causing a small dent in the bumper then hitting the driver's side front fender causing another dent. Stewart had possession of the deer when the office arrived and was issued a deer permit. The investigating officer was Deputy Joshua Greene.

8:42 p.m. - Charles Diamond, 20, of Shoals, advised that he crested a hill, northbound on Dover Hill Road in a 2000 Chevrolet. He said he saw Marvin R. Williams, 61, of Shoals, in a grey 1993 Sonoma southbound, so he moved more to his side of the road. This caused him to slide into a ditch, where he continued to drive for approximately 30 ft. before the accident occurred. Williams stated that when he saw Charles approaching him he tried to move more to his side of the road, but when he did his front tires lost traction, causing his vehicle to slide left of center impacting with the Diamond vehicle. Damage was done to the grill, driver's side mirror, front bumper, and trim of the fender on the Charles vehicle. The damage to the Williams vehicle was to the driver's side mirror plastic. The investigating officer was Deputy Joshua Greene.



ALVA SIBBITT

Paoli man arrested after backing into trooper's car

Preliminary investigation reveals that last Thursday afternoon at approximately 3:38 p.m., Indiana State Police Trooper Robbie Lambert noticed a Silver 2007 Chrysler Town and Country van turn onto West Water Street from Elm Street in Paoli. While observing this vehicle, Trooper Lambert noticed that the driver of the vehicle was not wearing his seatbelt and therefore he attempted to conduct a traffic stop however the driver, Alva L. Sibbitt, 68, Paoli refused to stop.

Trooper Lambert followed the vehicle east on Water Street where Sibbitt disregarded a couple of stop signs, one at Josephine and Water and the other at SW Third and Water, before pulling over at E. Water and SR 37.

Trooper Lambert made his initial contact with Sibbitt and was returning to his patrol vehicle when Sibbitt put his vehicle in reverse and struck Trooper Lambert's patrol car. Lambert immediately returned to Sibbitt's vehicle and after a brief struggle Sibbitt was placed in handcuffs.

Sibbitt was transported to the Orange County Jail where he was incarcerated and charged with the following: resisting law enforcement with a vehicle-D Felony, intimidation-D Felony, resisting law enforcement-A Misdemeanor, and criminal recklessness-B Misdemeanor

Neither Trooper Lambert nor his K-9 Diesel, which was in his vehicle, was injured when Sibbitt hit Lambert's patrol car. Both vehicles received minor damage in the incident.

COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

A second public hearing was held for the Lost River Township Fire Station. The total amount of the grant being applied for is \$500,000 with the total cost of the project to be \$556,000. A local match is being provided by the township of \$56,000. Lost River Township's Trustee Millie Brown addressed the commissioners and the audience saying that back in 1997 Lost River Township was without fire protection. After speaking with residents and taxpayers of the township it was decided back then to develop their own volunteer fire department. Since that time their fire station has been in a barn on a pig farm. She went on to say that the building is deteriorating and the fire department has outgrown it along with having issues with keeping the trucks warm and the water inside the tanks from freezing. She added that they want to move the station to a more central location to better serve the residents of the township. "I'm asking the county to go along with this proposal and see if you can help us out in any which way you could," she said. The fire station would be located on Butler Bridge Road. For the local match of \$56,000, it was stated that the township will be working with the community foundation. They will also be using the value of the donated land for the station as part of that match.

The Lost River Volunteer Fire Department has around 20 firefighters including four first responders.

Discussion ensued about the state of the current fire station and the need for the new one to be built.

Purdue Extension Educator Jonathan Stevens presented his annual contract for the commissioners to sign if they wanted to keep him on as the educator. The commissioners approved the contract with Commissioner Dan Gregory telling Stevens that he does a good job.

Auditor Nancy Steiner presented the contract between the commissioners and the Martin County Health Board for their signatures and the annual contract for the community corrections grant also for their signatures.

Auditor Steiner also presented information from RDM Sale and Service who is a vending company that wants to put a machine in the courthouse. The county would make 7.5 percent off of the candy that was sold from the machine. Commissioner Dan Gregory said that he knows that you have to make a lot of money off of the machines to cover the cost of the electricity. He said that one was at the community building and it lost money. "You have to have a lot of traffic to make these pay," he said. He said he would personally stay away from it and if the courthouse employees are interested in it he would like to see them come to a meeting to discuss it. Auditor Steiner noted that the representative from RDM stopped by the courthouse with the information; the employees did not request it. Commissioner Paul George said that the commissioners were not interested in installing a machine at this time.

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The Messmer Report

By District 63 State Rep.
Mark Messmer



Studying the education roundtable
On Wednesday Gov. Daniels and Superintendent Bennett hosted a roundtable discussion about the education system in Indiana. I want to take some time to highlight their proposal; however I would like to note that I am not endorsing their entire proposal. There have been very few changes to the education system in Indiana since the 1970s, and we all want to make Indiana's education system the best it can be by making children the priority in our schools.

At this point, the following are simply suggestions for the General Assembly and the Indiana State Board of Education to consider when drafting legislation and policies. Most likely there will be many separate bills to cover the changes, and not just one.

Initially, Gov. Daniels and Superintendent Bennett would like to change the teacher evaluation system. Teacher evaluations are sensitive and complex issues, but they need to be addressed. In discussions with teachers statewide, many teachers feel evaluations are just not happening. Even teachers feel that there should be statewide measurement, such as the level of student engagement in the classroom or an individual student's improvement from year to year. Then there can also be local measurements created by individual school systems and their administrations and teachers. The goal is to bring integrity back into the process of evaluating.

Another item on their plan was to allow the money that the state gives to schools to follow the children. Gov. Daniels and Superintendent Bennett also proposed that high school students be given the option to graduate early, and then be given the money that would have been spent on them their

last year of high school by the state as a scholarship for college. In a poll of high school freshmen and seniors across the nation, more than 70 percent said they would be very interested in graduating early.

The governor and superintendent's intentions are to, "identify and reward great teachers and principals, to empower school leaders to bring success to failing schools, and offer equal educational opportunities to all children and give parents a voice."

We have made progress in the recent past already to improve our education system. For instance, we have created a scholarship tax credit, supported local innovation in schools, and identified and took initial intervention steps in persistently low-achieving schools.

Nothing is off the table at this point and this is an open discussion for everyone. I encourage parents to take great interest in their child's education. As a parent of four I want to ensure my children have a bright future and support their education fully. I have been actively involved in helping all my children with their homework and making sure assignments are done on time. In return I hope it has helped show my children how it is important to be the best they can be by investing time which will in turn, help them to be successful.

Your feedback and input is important to us in this process because this affects the future of our children and our state. I would really like to open up communication on this issue. So, if you are a teacher, a parent, a past educator or a concerned citizen - I welcome your questions and comments on this issue. You can reach me by e-mail at H63@in.gov, or at 1-800-382-9841, or by mail at 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Another lawsuit filed against foreclosure prevention company

Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller last Tuesday filed a lawsuit in Vanderburgh County against Hope4Homes, Inc., a for-profit foreclosure consultant, claiming the company has been operating in Indiana illegally and has violated several state consumer protection laws. Hope4Homes is located in California and is owned and operated by Mahan Abbasi, who is listed as a defendant in the suit.

Evansville residents Harold and Sharon Matthews paid Hope4Homes \$1,800 to negotiate a home loan modification. According to the state's complaint, the Matthews were instructed by Hope4Homes to stop making payments on their mortgage while Hope4Homes negotiated a new loan. The Matthews fell three months behind on their payments, which had been current, and new loan terms were not reached. Hope4Homes advertised a "100% Money Back Guarantee if we cannot achieve a loan modification for our clients," however no refund has been provided.

"So-called 'foreclosure consultants' are taking advantage of those who are facing desperate financial hardship and scamming them out of thousands of dollars when they are most vulnerable. They are operating illegally and this will not be tolerated in Indiana," Zoeller said. "Working to protect Hoosier consumers includes bringing ac-

tions against those who violate our state laws and also warning people to protect themselves, their family and their neighbors - beware of the warning signs and don't let a loved one fall victim to these scams, no matter how convinced they may be of their legitimacy."

In Indiana, a foreclosure consultant or credit service organization must have a \$25,000 surety bond registered with the Attorney General's office before demanding payment upfront before services are performed. The company's bond acts as an insurance policy for consumers in the event the company fails to perform the services and does not provide a refund. Hope4Homes failed to meet those requirements and also did not register to do business in Indiana.

Consumer complaints against foreclosure consultants spiked in 2009 as the economy took its toll on the unemployed and homeowners who typically might ignore "too-good-to-be-true" promises. They were drawn to claims made on websites, late-night TV commercials, and radio programs. The Attorney General's Homeowner Protection Unit is currently investigating more than 150 consumer complaints against foreclosure consultants. The majority of the complaints filed and the on-going investigations involve companies not located in Indiana.

Bloomfield dog breeder signs injunction, agrees to cease selling dogs in Indiana

The owner of a commercial dog-breeding operation where 124 puppies and dogs were seized two weeks ago has agreed to no longer breed dogs or sell them in Indiana, Attorney General Greg Zoeller announced last week.

The Indiana Attorney General's Office has reached an agreement with Darlene J. Clark, owner of Love My Pets in rural Bloomfield, where Clark signed a permanent injunction that prohibits her from conducting business in Indiana - including the selling or breeding of dogs and puppies. The permanent injunction was filed today in Greene County Circuit Court and the judge signed it. Additional terms of the settlement are expected to be filed by December 21.

"By entering into such agreements, defendants acknowledge that they sold retail merchandise without collecting sales tax from customers or remitting the tax to the state, as retail merchants are required to do. As delinquent taxpayers, they acknowledge owing unpaid tax, and acknowledge the state had the legal authority to seize their inventory - in this case, puppies - to satisfy the tax liability," Zoeller said today.

An investigation found Clark owed \$294,293.06 in sales tax from the sale of dogs and puppies that had gone unpaid for approximately nine years, through October 31, 2010. She also owed \$17,168.57 in delinquent income tax over five years ending in 2009, records show, for a total delinquency of \$311,461.63. Also, Clark is neither registered as a retail merchant nor as a commercial dog breeder, both of which are required under Indiana law.

When a jeopardy tax assessment is filed in court by the state, it automatically is considered a civil judgment against the delinquent taxpayer. If the taxes cannot be paid immediately, then the state has the legal authority to seize the inventory of the business to satisfy the civil judgment. In the case of Clark's business Love My Pets, located at 10203 East Dobson Road in rural Bloomfield, the business' inventory consisted of puppies and dogs - primarily poodles, pugs, Yorkies and Maltese.

On December 1, after the jeopardy assessment was filed, investigators and attorneys from the Indiana Attorney General's Office seized 124 puppies and dogs from Clark's business in rural Bloomfield. Volunteers from

several groups assisted the state in removing the animals, transporting them to the Pets Alive Spay/Neuter Clinic in Bloomington and providing for their care and veterinary treatment.

Filing a jeopardy tax assessment in civil court triggers a legal process where the Attorney General seeks to collect unpaid taxes. A delinquent taxpayer has the legal right to contest it by filing a claim for refund from the state. If denied, they can appeal to the Indiana Tax Court.

As a condition of a settlement, Attorney General's Office will require that Clark must agree not to challenge the state's authority to seize the animals to apply the proceeds to her unpaid tax liability. The state also will require that Clark must agree not to seek a refund or appeal, Zoeller said.

"To resolve this fairly, the state is willing to consider forgiving the remaining tax amount this delinquent taxpayer owes, provided she complies with our agreement and never again conducts retail business in Indiana or sells dogs here. We support the right of private individuals to operate small businesses, but every retail merchant has a legal obligation to collect and remit sales tax to the state," Zoeller said.

The investigation of the Love My Pets facility began in June when two consumers complained to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division that they purchased a pug puppy for \$500 from Clark who did not charge them sales tax. The puppy was diseased, and though the customers spent \$2,986 in veterinary bills, the animal soon died from complications of pneumonia, dog lice and Coccidia, the investigation found.

Disease was a concern for the investigators and volunteers who exercised health precautions when they removed the 124 dogs from cages at Clark's kennel facility December 1. Upon being relocated to the Bloomington clinic for quarantine, the dogs and puppies have been examined by a veterinarian. Nearly all the dogs were diagnosed with one or more canine diseases, including Giardia, Coccidia, hookworm, other parasites, severe dental disease and other conditions. Once the dogs are treated, the volunteer groups who assisted in the removal operation and paid for veterinary care will oversee their relocation to regional pet shelters that will handle pet adoptions.

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New Beginnings Church

WEEKLY MESSAGE

BY SHIRLEY CANELL
Pastor's wife

The Gifts we Give, The Gift of Worship.
John 4:20-24

So have you got the perfect present for everyone? Do you have one of those people that you just have no idea what to get? What is the perfect gift we can give to God? Do you know what God wants for Christmas?

God wants those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. True worshippers are all those everywhere who, worship God through His son Jesus Christ. How do we worship in Spirit and truth?

Prepare your heart for worship as you are getting dressed, getting in the car driving to church. In our offering to Him of our praise and worship that is due, His name we will receive at His hand more than we could imagine. In the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." The definition of worship is an honor paid to a superior being. It's a simple word we use to give homage, honor, reverence, respect, adoration, praise and glory.

Worship is giving, giving honor and respect to God. We gather to give that respect not to the preacher or the praise band but to give honor to God. Through all that occurs, there is to be a stimulating desire in our hearts to Honor God.

Worship is the priority. It is what we give to God. That's why in Romans 12 when

Paul just begins to open the responsibility of the believer, the first thing he says is to present your bodies as a living sacrifice. Worship precedes anything else. We are called then to be a worshipping people, to give to God. Yes, we are eager to receive from him, and to minister to one another, but prior to that to give to God.

To offer this gift of worship to God we need to know the God we worship. Many people are confused of who God really is. But the word of God tells us more than we know; by the power of the Holy Spirit we can know the mysteries of God. You can't worship God by taking liberties, doing things your own way; you follow the instruction of Scripture.

God is looking for those who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. To worship in the spirit means the Holy Spirit. Those who have given their heart to Jesus Christ received the Holy Spirit. You can't worship in the Spirit if you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You must ask for forgiveness for your sins and ask Him to come into your life and give you a new heart. Then and only then are you able to worship in the Spirit. Then you worship Him with your human Spirit because you want to offer an acceptable form of worship with your whole self so it will please God. In Romans Chapter 12 it tells us to offer our bodies pleasing to God as an acceptable form of worship.

Worshipping in the truth refers to the worship of God with the revealed scripture and centered on the word made flesh. Truth is the divine energy and power of God, truth is to understand the word of God and who we are worshipping. Truth comes from God.

WE know we are to worship our Lord Jesus Christ as a priority in our lives. This is not an option. This is not something we can pick and choose. We were called to worship. We seek and ask His forgiveness for those many times when we have gathered and not worshipped Him or not even came at all. When we have been so indifferent, we seek His forgiveness.

Can I apply this for a minute? If you have trouble in your life, problems in your life and you go through a checklist as to why these things may be occurring in your life. Put at the top of that checklist - Perhaps I'm not worshipping God with a true heart and a true spirit ... perhaps I do not have the grace to worship God acceptably...acceptably with reverence and godly fear. And the consequences are His chastening.

The gift God the Father wants for Christmas or any other time is those who will worship in Spirit and Truth. If you want to give Him that gift and the best Christmas present that you could ever receive ask Jesus to forgive you your sins and come in and live in your heart. Believe that He died for you on the cross so that you can go to

Heaven. What a great gift He has given us: eternal life. Then and only then can you give to God what he wants.

Make this the best Christmas you will ever have by giving your life to Jesus Christ and you will not be disappointed. Your life will never be the same. He promises!

This Sunday is our Christmas celebration at 10 a.m. If you are looking for a place that you can belong and worship the God that loves you so much - He sent His son as a baby to live and to die for you - come and join us this Sunday. If you have questions about how you can have a personal relationship with our loving and living God please call Pastor Ernie at 812-709-0258 and he will be glad to talk to you. Merry Christmas!

Loogootee Revival Center Church Christmas Services

The Loogootee Revival Center Church, located at 205 NW First Street, will be having the following Christmas Services: Sunday, December 19 at 9:30 a.m. candlelight and communion service with Sonny Flock sharing about his miracle of healing.

Wednesday, December 22, from 7 to 8 p.m. Christmas caroling with snacks following.

Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 a.m. prayer and anointing service.

Pastor Debbie Davis and the congregation invite you to attend and worship with them.

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Calendar of Events

Walking for fitness at LUMC

Walking for fitness is held each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Loogootee United Methodist Church in the Family Center. The program will follow school weather closings. If there is a school delay, or during the week before Thanksgiving and the week before Christmas, there will not be organized walking. Come "follow the blue line". All ages are invited, and it is free. Call Sandy Haseman at 295-9822 with any questions.

Humane society meetings

The Martin County Humane Society meets on the third Tuesday of the month at Loogootee Municipal Building, at 7 p.m. To become a member, contact Martin County Humane Society, P. O. Box 537, Shoals, Indiana 47581, call Don at 296-0952.

Recovery support group

The Overcomers Recovery Support Group meets every Tuesday night at 6 p.m. at the Martin County Community Learning Center.

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GAB wins decorating contest

-Photo provided

The Martin County Chamber of Commerce congratulates German American Bank-Loogootee Branch for winning the business Christmas decorating contest for 2010. Businesses were invited to enter the contest which was judged by a panel of three local businessmen during the Loogootee Christmas Stroll. A plaque, donated by Precision Laser Expressions, was awarded to German American Bank by chamber president Marie Hawkins. The picture was taken of the presentation inside the beautifully decorated bank. Pictured from right to left are Bank President Kenny Frye, Rita Denson, Ann Wagler, Chamber President Marie Hawkins, Betty Mersinger, and Kerry Sims.

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Shoals Lady Rox defeat Dugger, fall to Borden

The Shoals High School Girls' Varsity team defeated Dugger at home last Tuesday by a score of 59 to 47.

Dugger outscored the Lady Rox in the first quarter 21-16 but Shoals came back in the second quarter hitting 5 of 7 field goals and netting two 3-pointers. The score at the half was 31-25 in favor of the Lady Rox.

In the third quarter Shoals again came to play by outscoring Dugger 15-4. Dugger attempted a comeback in the final quarter putting 18 points on the board but Shoals held them off returning 13 points and taking the win.

Nicole Harder finished with a game high 25 points. Rachel Harder ended with 10 points, Kelsey Hardwick had nine, Shaelin Adams with six, Jaylnn Hilderband with five, and Briana Wagler and Lezlie Hart both with two points each.

The Lady Rox finished with 83 percent free throw shooting in the game and shot 19

for 30 from two-point range and 4 for 9 from three-point range. Shoals had 15 turnovers and Dugger had 14.

Dugger finished 11 for 27 from two-point range and 5 for 15 from three-point range. They were led in scoring by Shayna Nicol with 16 points.

Morgan Stanifer had 13 points, Cheyenne Goodman finished with 12, Hallie Smith contributed four, and Cali Hale had one bucket.

The Shoals High School Girls' Varsity team fell to Borden Saturday, December 4 with the final score Borden 51, Shoals 41.

The Lady Rox were outscored in the first quarter by five points and only two in the second putting the halftime score 17-20.

Nicole Harder scored over 60 percent of the team's points and finished with 26. Rachel Harder ended with seven, and Briana Wagler, Lezlie Hart, Shaelin Adams, and Kelsey Hardwick had two points each.

Loogootee Junior High Girls' teams suffer rough bout of losses

On December 6th, the Loogootee 8th Grade Girls played the Washington Hatchets in an away game. The Lady Lions were defeated 34 to 43. Leading scorers for the evening were Waylee Wagoner with 14 points, Allie Walker with 13 points, Kaelyn Nonte and Malorie Weisheit each with two points, and Chassidy Bridges with one point.

On Thursday, December 9th the 8th grade girls traveled to Holy Family. There they were defeated 21 to 44. Allie Walker led the scoring with nine points, followed by Waylee Wagoner with six points, Kaelyn Nonte with four points, and Chassidy Bridges with two points. This brings the 8th graders to a 5 win, 6 loss season thus far.

The 7th grade girls fell to the Lady Hatchets this past Monday with a score of 20 to 35. Leading scorers for the game were Macey Baxter with 11 points, Emily Bateman with four points, Bailey Davis with three points, and Kendall Riley with two points.

On Thursday, December 9th, the 7th grade girls traveled to Holy Family where

they were defeated 20-41. Leading the 7th graders in points was Emily Bateman with seven, followed by Macey Baxter with six, Kendall Riley with five, and Bailey Davis with two points.

Lion 6th Graders fall to Holy Family 20-24

The Loogootee Sixth Grade Boys' Basketball team was defeated by Holy Family on Saturday, December 11 at home.

The final score was Loogootee 20, Holy Family 24.

Landon Bell led the team with 12 points followed by Tokala Richardson with four, and Blake Ziegler and Cole Gillick with two apiece.

Bell also led in rebounds with four and steals with six.

The team will travel to South Knox on Friday night. The game begins at 6 p.m. Then on Saturday they will face Barr-Reeve at home at 9:30 a.m.

LJHS 8th beats Hatchets

The Loogootee 8th Grade Basketball team defeated Washington on December 7. The final score was Loogootee 47, Washington 26.

Hayden Bell led with way with an impressive 17 points and four rebounds. Darien Stewart followed right behind with 16 points and Ben Blackwell contributed seven.

The team moved to 9-2 on the season.

Loogootee 6th graders rack up wins over Washington, Valley, and WC

The Washington Schools travel squad came to the Loogootee East gym to take on the host 6th grade Lady Lions on Saturday, December 11. Loogootee trailed throughout the game, until knotting the score at 20-20 in the 4th quarter. Good defense helped Loogootee push the game into overtime, with a 25-25 tie after four quarters. Meghan Mathies took over in OT, scoring a three-pointer and hitting 5 of 6 free throws, propelling Loogootee to a 35 to 27 win. Mathies led all scorers with a whopping 22. Mayson Riley added nine, and Emily Brookshire and Kylie Hall each scored a bucket.

The girls hosted the Lady Blackhawks of Springs Valley on Thursday, December 9, cruising to a 28 to 7 victory.

Mayson Riley led the way with a game-high 14 points. Meghan Mathies scored eight, and Kylie Hall added six.

The sixth graders traveled to the Birdcage last Monday, December 6 to take on the Washington Catholic Lady Cardinals. Loogootee, due to sluggish play, trailed at the half, 10 to 8. The Lady Lions came out to play in the second half, outscoring WC 8-0 in the 3rd quarter, winning 28-19.

Meghan Mathies led a balanced scoring attack with nine points. Kylie Hall chipped in eight points, Mayson Riley controlled the boards and added six points, Mya Hedrick and Abbey Williams contributed two, and Emily Brookshire finished with a point.



LOOGOOTE ELEMNTARY WEST

Breakfast

Thursday, December 16

Cereal, sausage, applesauce, juice

Friday, December 17

Sausage, egg, biscuit, juice

Monday, December 20

Pancake, sausage, applesauce

Tuesday, December 21

Cereal, sausage, muffin

Lunch

Thursday, December 16

Corn dogs, baked beans, bread, peach crisp

Friday, December 17

BBQ rib sandwich, corn, mixed fruit

Monday, December 20

Hot dogs, French fries, peaches

Tuesday, December 21

Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, hot rolls

LOOGOOTE INTERMEDIATE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Lunch

Thursday, December 16

Taco salad or pizza, corn, fruit, salad plate, milk

Friday, December 17

Spicy chicken or pizza, French fries, mixed vegetables, fruit, salad plate, milk

Monday, December 20

Breaded tenderloin or pizza, scalloped potatoes, peas, fruit, salad plate, milk

Tuesday, December 21

Chicken fajita or pizza, rice, corn, fruit, salad plate, milk

Wednesday, December 22

Country fried steak or pizza, mashed potatoes, fruit, green beans, salad plate, milk

SHOALS SCHOOLS

Breakfast

Thursday, December 16

Cereal, sweet rolls, cheese stick, milk

Friday, December 17

Sausage on a stick with syrup, potato, milk

Monday, December 20

Cereal, cinnamon biscuit, juice, milk

Tuesday, December 21

French toast, sausage, juice, milk

Wednesday, December 22

Cheese omelet, biscuit with jelly, juice, milk

Lunch

Thursday, December 16

Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, peas, yeast bread, milk; choice 4-12: pepperoni pizza

Friday, December 17

Chili soup with crackers, applesauce, garlic bread, milk

Monday, December 20

Turkey sandwich, French fries, fruit, cake, milk

Tuesday, December 21

Cheese bread sticks with spaghetti sauce, corn, tossed salad, milk; choice 4-12: pepperoni pizza

Wednesday, December 22

Ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, ice cream, milk; choice 4-12: sausage pizza

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Martin County Soil and Water receives \$7,000 Clean Water Indiana Grant

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA-DSC) and the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) have selected the 2011 recipients of the Clean Water Indiana Grants. A total of \$573,408 was awarded to all 88 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) that submitted a grant application to carry out conservation initiatives.

Martin County received \$7,000 along with Orange and Dubois counties. Daviess County received \$6,000.

"Our districts play a critical role in improving Indiana's water quality by communicating about progressive conservation initiatives and delivering opportunities locally throughout the state," said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, who serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture.

SWCDs received up to \$5,000 for projects and initiatives in the following grant categories: Adult Outreach-Education, Cost-Share Demonstrations and Capacity Building. An additional \$2,000 was available for partnering with other districts and professional training.

"A good example of Clean Water partnership projects occurred with DeKalb and Steuben SWCDs that utilized a previous grant (Clean Water) to collaborate and part-

ner with a local agribusiness to host an Agronomy Field Day," said ISDA-DSC Director Jerod Chew. "This event attracted at least 150 farmers and featured field plots on no-till, strip-till and a discussion of other conservation measures. These districts and many others will host similar field days throughout Indiana again in 2011."

Other Clean Water Indiana Grant projects include:

- Continuation of a watershed technician on staff who will implement a watershed project cost-share program to help reduce sediment & nutrient runoff.

- Restoration of stream banks and ag land that has been subject to excessive erosion due to extreme weather events.

- Addressing the importance of wetlands as a natural filter in protecting the quality of our rivers, lakes, and streams

- Providing cover crop planting incentives to ag landowners to help protect the soil surface from rain impact, increase water infiltration therefore decreasing run off, and encourage the development of healthier soils as a result of the additional plant organic matter.

For more information on Clean Water Indiana Grants and a complete list of grantees, visit <http://www.in.gov/isda/2356.htm>

Watermelon Drop coming to Vincennes December 31

One of the nation's most unusual spectacles in New Year's Eve celebrations - the Watermelon Drop - is coming to Vincennes on December 31.

For the third year, the Vincennes skyline will see an 18-foot, 500-pound watermelon rise in the air as a large crowd begins the countdown.

At the stroke of midnight, 2011 will begin when 11 Knox County-grown watermelons fall 100-feet onto the "splatform" while a large fireworks display simultaneously ushers in the New Year.

"As one of the nation's best watermelon-growing regions, there is no better way to usher in the New Year than with a Watermelon Drop," said John Frenz, co-chair of the event's organizing committee. "The large crowds this event has attracted the past two years prove people love watermelons - even on New Year's Eve."

Since its creation in 2008, the 18-foot watermelon has become a star attraction in Vincennes, with people applauding its procession in the town's July 4th and Christmas parades.

Prior to being elevated high in the sky on New Year's Eve last year, many people stopped by earlier in the evening to have their photos taken with the giant watermelon. It is also featured on several YouTube videos.

This year's Watermelon Drop site is ad-

acent to Vincennes' Riverfront Pavilion, located at the corner of First and Busseron streets. "The site allows activities to take place under one roof with restroom facilities, electrical power, and propane heaters. The site is also near several commercial businesses and fraternal organizations that sponsor New Year's events, making downtown Vincennes the place to be on New Year's Eve," Frenz said.

Beginning at 9 p.m. (EST), revelers at the Riverfront Pavilion will enjoy a beer and wine garden, music, and noisemakers. An assortment of Watermelon Drop clothing and novelty items will also be for sale with proceeds supporting the event.

"Last year's Watermelon Drop was big and this year's event should be even bigger as word of the celebration continues to spread. In fact, at the rate this event is growing, the networks may soon want to add Vincennes to its televised coverage of worldwide New Year's Eve extravaganzas. There are few spectacles like this one," Frenz said.

Indiana's first city, founded in 1732, Vincennes is the county seat of Knox County, well-known for its multi-million dollar melon crops that are shipped throughout the nation.

The Watermelon Drop will be broadcast live on www.wzdm.com and locally on Avenue Broadband Channel 24.

State health officials offer tips for removing snow safely

Snow can be fun to play in, but removing it can pose a risk to safety. State health officials are urging Hoosiers to exercise caution when shoveling snow, using a snow blower, and walking on snow and ice this winter.

Injuries can happen while shoveling snow, including sprains and strains, particularly in the back and shoulders.

"When working to remove snow, remember that this activity puts an extra strain on the heart. If you have a medical condition such as heart disease or high blood pressure or if you don't get regular exercise, talk to your doctor first," said Joan Duwve, M.D., medical director for injury prevention at the Indiana State Department of Health. "Anytime you do heavy outdoor work this winter, dress appropriately and work slowly. Take breaks as needed to warm up, drink plenty of fluids, and call 911 if you experience chest pain or shortness of breath."

The good news is that shoveling snow can actually be good exercise if done correctly. Here are some simple tips that can prevent injury when clearing the way:

- Warm up by stretching and doing a few exercises before shoveling.

- Avoid smoking or eating a large meal before shoveling.

- Dress warmly in layers with a hat. Be sure to cover your neck.

- Wear shoes or boots that have slip-resistant soles to avoid falls.

- Plan before shoveling snow. Shovel heavy snow in stages. Start by skimming off the snow from the top, and then remove the bottom layer. Don't overload the shovel.

- Avoid a rush and allow enough time to do the work. Follow a slow and steady pace and take frequent breaks to stand up and stretch.

- Watch what you are shoveling/blowing. Don't let a hat or scarf block your vision. Watch for ice patches and uneven surfaces.

- Use a shovel that's comfortable for your height and strength. Don't use a shovel that's too heavy or too long for you. Space your hands on the tool grip to increase your leverage.

- Push the snow instead of lifting it. If you must lift, do it properly. Squat with your legs apart, knees bent, and back straight. Lift with your legs. Do not bend at the waist.

- Do not throw the snow over your shoulder or to the side as it could stress your back.

- Breathing cold air dehydrates the body, so drink water during breaks.

- Operating a snow blower can also pose a hazard if the user isn't careful. Finger and hand lacerations and finger amputations can occur. Take precaution when operating a snow blower by reading the instruction manual prior to using and becoming familiar with the specific safety hazards and unfamiliar features.

- "Snow blowers, like any heavy duty equipment, need to be operated with caution," said Duwve. "Never stick your hands in a snow blower if it becomes jammed, don't leave the blower unattended with the engine running, and keep young children at a safe distance during operation. If you use an electric snow blower, pay attention to where the cord is at all times. And remember, stay away from the engine as this can cause serious burns."

- For more information about winter weather safety, including health tips and helpful links, visit the Indiana State Department of Health Website at www.in.gov/isdh/24414.htm.

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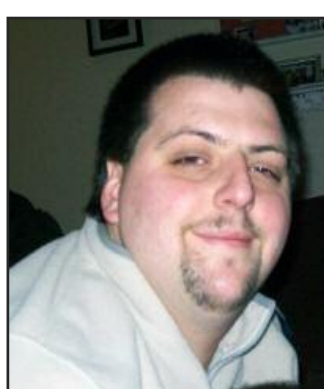


New Beginnings
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Happy Birthday to my
Favorite Brothers-In-Law!
today, December 15th



← Jeff
Patrick
and
Marc →
Otto



We love you both bunches,
your sister-in-law Courtney and the rest of the Hughett family

New holiday gift idea for the sportsperson in your life

A new way of giving is available for lovers of the outdoors, with the option of purchasing gift certificates for hunting, trapping or fishing licenses.

There are two ways to purchase or redeem a gift certificate, online and at DNR properties that sell hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. The gift certificates do not expire.

Rules for gift certificates:

-The amount of the gift certificate can be in dollars and cents.

-The amount remaining on the gift certificate will be tracked and the remaining balance can be used for future license purchases.

-When redeeming the gift certificate online, the user will be shown the current balance of the gift certificate.

~THANKS A LOT~

'Damage was kept to a minimum due to the quick actions of these wonderful people'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*:

Thank you to all those who helped extinguish the fire at Posh Pets and to those who helped get the dogs to safety especially Chuck and Audrey Robinson, unknown dark-haired young man, Misty Kinder (Misty's This and That), Bill Toy and sons, Candace Crew, Dr. Wallace, Loogootee Fire Department, and all others who I have not named (I was a bit stressed and if I missed anyone I am sorry.) No one or no animal was injured and the damage was kept to a minimum due to the quick actions of these wonderful people. THANKS!

Sonja Ader
Owner, Post Pets
Loogootee

-The gift certificate can be used to donate, but a gift certificate cannot be used to purchase another gift certificate.

-The gift certificate cannot be redeemed as cash.

-The 2011-12 licenses (valid from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012) will not be available in the online system or at retailers until January 1, 2011.

Find more information online at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/>.



Help the Martin County Humane Society build a shelter

The Martin County Humane Society has placed over twenty five of these collection jars around Martin County. If you would like to see an animal shelter built, please donate to a very good cause.

All the money collected will go to help build a shelter. The humane society thanks you for your support.

Classes and programs at the learning center

College classes

The following Ivy Tech classes will be held in Martin County during the spring 2011 semester:

English Composition (ENGL 111) Tuesdays 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Essentials of Algebra I (MATH 023) Wednesdays 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Intro to Sociology (SOC 111) Thursdays 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

*In-state fees for Ivy Tech classes are \$104.55 per credit hour.

If you need a proctor for an online class or computers with internet to take your classes, contact Kathy at the learning center to schedule a time that works with your schedule.

Free computer class

A free computer applications course is being offered at the center by Fathers Forever Coalition, along with the Marriage & Family Alliance. It is scheduled Mondays, January 3 through January 31 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. This program is geared specifically for those in search of new employment or career advancement. Subjects include: basic computer skills, practical internet savvy, Microsoft applications—such as Word and Excel, résumé writing and professional correspondence. Contact Kathy at the learning center to register.

Sign language class

An exciting, beautiful way to communicate, Intro to Sign Language by instructor Karen Mattingly will be offered at the center on Mondays, February 7 through February 28, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$65

and includes textbook. Call today to sign up!

SAT prep class

An SAT preparation workshop for college-bound high school students will be offered at the learning center by Karen Whorrall. This class will assist preparing students in securing competitively high scores for placement. The class will be held on Wednesdays, January 5 through January 26 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Cost is \$25. Seats are limited! For registration or further information, contact Kathy at 812-295-2674.

Overcomer's group

Indiana Drug Education and Awareness Solutions are conducting an ongoing Overcomer's Recovery Support Group at the center. Meetings are held every Tuesday evening from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and newcomers are invited. There is no cost for participation. For further information, contact Jason Underhill at 812-653-1908.

Adult literacy and education

Do you know someone who could use some help with his or her reading skills? Anyone interested is encouraged to contact SOAR! at 812-709-1618 for further information.

For GED-Adult Basic Education, call Vicki Conrad at 812-936-2881 or 812-606-2056.

Contact

Kathy Kerr, Coordinator, 812-295-2674 or email kkerr8@ivytech.edu

Office hours

Monday through Thursday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Senator Hume ranking Democrat on committee to address sentencing policy

State Senator Lindel Hume (D-Princeton) has been appointed to serve as Ranking Minority Member on the Senate Corrections, Criminal and Civil Matters Committee for the 117th General Assembly. Among other initiatives, this committee is expected to review changes to the state's sentencing laws, methamphetamine control, and texting while driving.

As a member of the Criminal Law and Sentencing Policy Study Committee, Hume heard extensive testimony during the legislative interim on the state's alternative sentencing programs, community corrections, and parole and probation matters. He plans to be involved in a comprehensive state review aimed at reducing recidivism and managing the growth of Indiana's prison population being prepared through a partnership with the Pew Center on the States and the Council of State Governments' Justice Center. That review and related recommendations are expected to be

complete by November 2011.

In addition, Hume has also been appointed to the following Senate standing committees during the 2011 and 2012 legislative sessions:

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Appropriations
- Appointments and Claims
- Ethics
- Local Government
- Rules and Legislative Procedure

For a complete list of standing committees in the State Senate and House of Representatives, visit the General Assembly's website at www.in.gov/legislative/2356.htm.

The 117th Indiana General Assembly will reconvene on January 5 for the 2011 legislative session.

For more information on Sen. Hume, his legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.in.gov.

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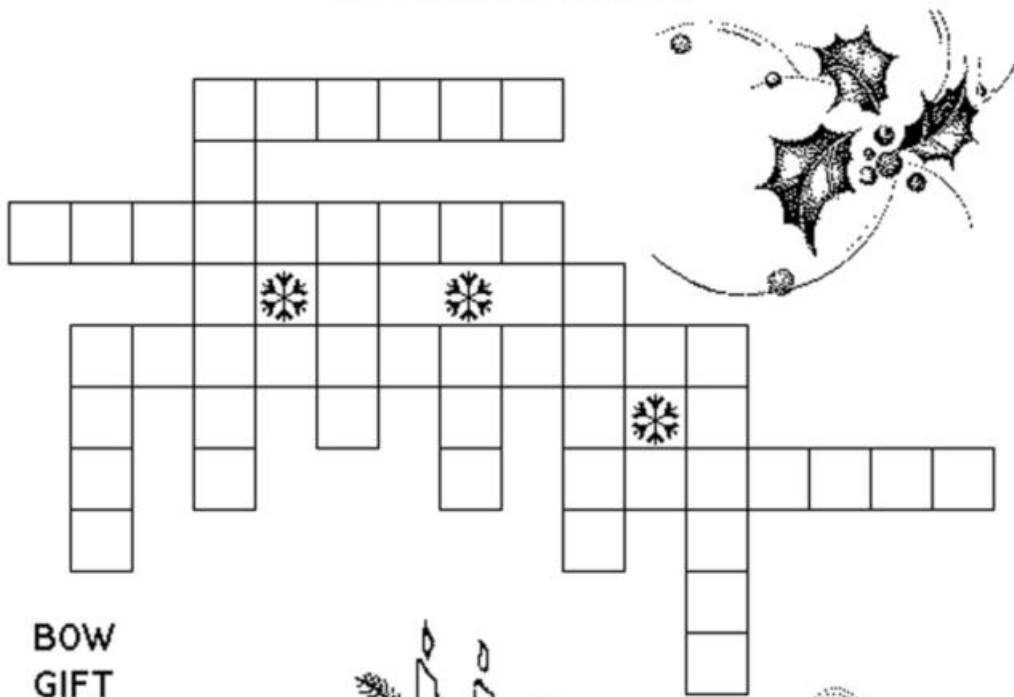
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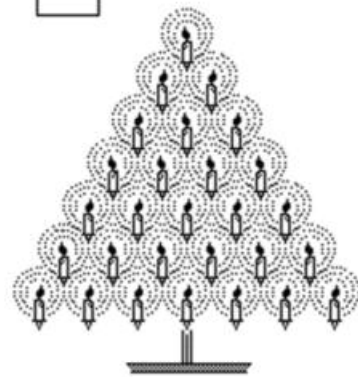
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Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



- BOW
- GIFT
- TREE
- PEACE
- FAMILY
- DINNER
- CANDLES
- FRIENDS
- CHRISTMAS
- GINGERBREAD

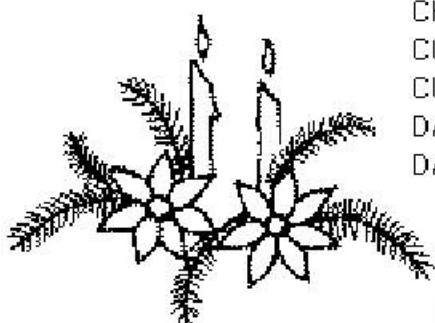


Christmas Word Search

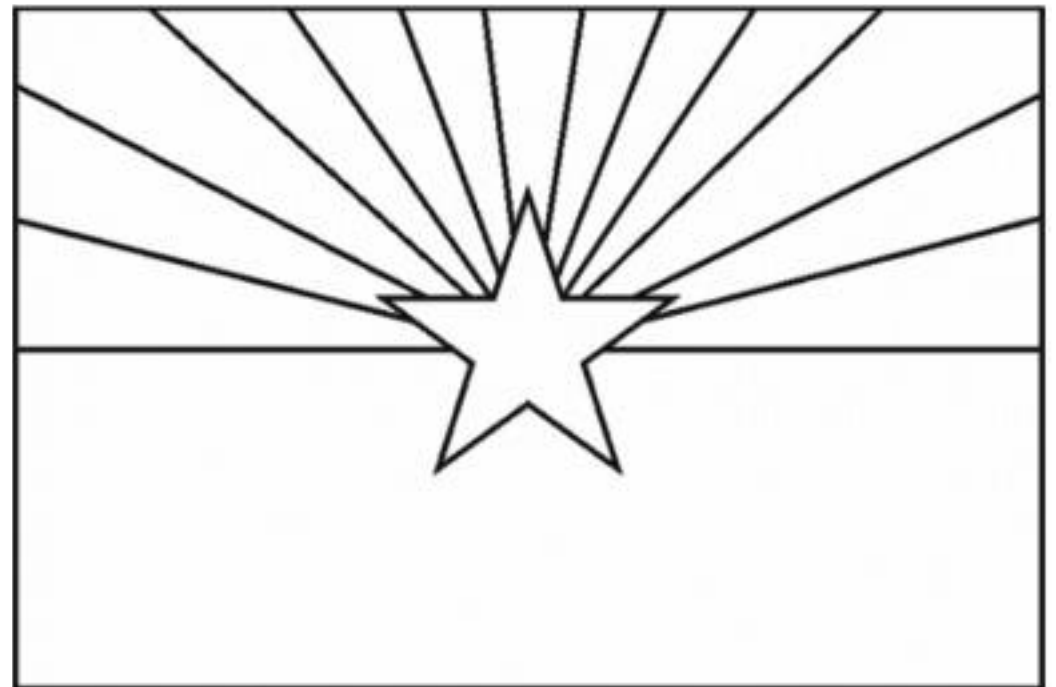


S D S S C A N D Y V D W
 A L L N O W D A S H E R
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 W U T M T K N E T X D T
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|---------|---------|---------|
| BALL | DEER | SANTA |
| BELL | DONNER | SLED |
| BLITZEN | ELF | SNOWMAN |
| CANDY | FROSTY | STAR |
| CHIMNEY | GIFT | TOY |
| COMET | PRANCER | TREE |
| CUPID | PRESENT | VIXEN |
| DANCER | RUDOLPH | WREATH |
| DASHER | SACK | |



ARIZONA



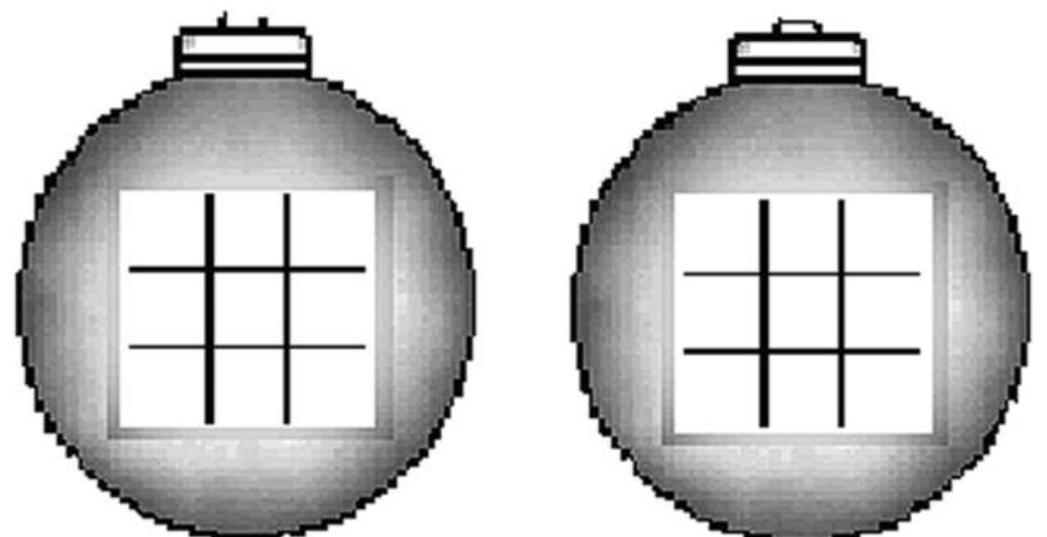
Nickname: The Grand Canyon State
 Motto: God Enriches



5. James Monroe 1817-1825

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Christmas Tic Tac Toe



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 CHRISTMAS!