

Martin County JOURNAL

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HALEY FISCHER

Haley Fischer named 2022 Lilly Scholar

Haley Fischer, Shoals High School Senior and daughter of Michael and Amanda Fischer, has been named the Martin County Community Foundation's 2022 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar.

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides for full tuition, required fees, and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private non-profit college or university.

Haley plans to pursue post-secondary studies next fall, majoring in business/accounting. She is undecided at what college she will be attending, but has applied to the University of Evansville, Butler University, Indiana University, and several others. Receiving this scholarship will open up many possibilities for her.

Haley commented on her selection as the 2022 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar: "I am extremely honored to receive this scholarship. It means a lot to me given the quality of the other applicants and the previous winners. I want to thank God, my family, teachers, coaches, and everyone else who has helped me over the years. I also want to thank the Lilly Endowment and the Martin County Community Foundation. This scholarship will provide so many opportunities that may not have been available to me otherwise."

Lilly Endowment created the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program for the 1998-1999 school year and has supported the program every year since with tuition grants totaling in excess of \$439 million. More than 5,000 Indiana students have received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship since the program's inception.

The primary purposes of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program are: to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in (See 'LILY' on page 2)

Debate at council meeting on use of ARPA funds

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council spent most of their special meeting Monday night, December 13 discussing giving stipends to employees with the ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) funds.

Auditor Bobbie Abel said one category of the ARPA is to give a stipend to elected officials and other county employees who worked during the COVID shutdown of 2020. She said she needs to know if the council wants to give that stipend for elected officials because once the salary and wage ordinance for next year is approved, it cannot be changed for elected officials. She said the stipend is only for employees who worked in the office during the shutdown and not those who worked from home and each department head was responsible for keeping track of hours they and their employees spent in the office.

Commissioner Cody Roush, who was

in the audience, said he thought the commissioners were the ones who approved how ARPA money is spent. He said the committee, formed to go over ARPA funds, hasn't discussed this, and an ordinance has not yet been created. He said approving this would be putting the cart before the horse.

Auditor Abel disagreed. She said each individual category has already been set up for ARPA funds, such as stipends, infrastructure, etc.

"We haven't approved it though," said Commissioner Roush. He said he is confused because they couldn't approve spending ARPA funds on the buildings last week but now she is saying they can approve raises with it.

"It's not a raise, it's a stipend," said Auditor Abel.

"A bonus, okay, a bonus," said Roush adding again that the ARPA committee still hasn't approved this.

"I just want to make sure everybody knows that," he said. "Because I'm not

for it." He said he couldn't speak for the other two commissioners, however, and they wouldn't be able to discuss it until their meeting the next night.

Auditor Abel said the council can hold a special meeting before the end of the year to decide if they want to issue stipends and the commissioners can recommend how the money is spent but the council has the final approval.

Roush said the commissioners have not recommended spending ARPA funds on stipends.

Abel said again that once the salary and wage ordinance is approved, elected officials' salaries cannot be changed for 2022.

Council Member Warren Albright suggested approving the salary and wage ordinance with the stipends contingent on the commissioners' recommendation, so they don't have to have another meeting before the end of the year.

Albright noted however that the com- (See 'ARPA' on page 2)

Loogootee boards approve cameras, new officers

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee City Council and Board of Public Works met Monday night, December 13.

Police Chief Aaron Means requested approval to hire Luke Harmon as a part-time deputy, Joshua Seymour as a full-time deputy and move Jonah Shaw from reserve deputy to part-time since he is going through the police academy through the sheriff's department. He also requested removing Kyle Long and Rob Lents from the department's payroll. The council approved all requests.

Chief Means also requested approval to purchase new cameras for the municipal building and the JFK Gymnasium/Annex

building. The quote he received was from Area One for \$5,645 and includes eight cameras with brackets and the computer system used to host the cameras. The council approved the purchase to come from the LOIT (Local Option Income Tax) fund. Public Works Superintendent Bo Wilson asked if they are going to be shown how to view the cameras because the ones installed in the park were never able to be accessed. He said they need to be trained on how to use the cameras. It was noted that this would be looked into.

Means also told the board of works that three additional body cameras were needed for new officers as they only have five currently.

Council Member Theresa Nolley asked about the city ordinance that says there

are a maximum of 25 firefighters on the roster. She said there are more than that and suggested the ordinance be changed. The council agreed to look into changing it.

The city council questioned the fact that the police department is going over budget each month. Mayor Noel Harty said the police chief is new and is learning. Council Member Tim Lawrence told Means they need to watch their budget more closely and Means agreed. Lawrence suggested not hiring someone to wash police cars and instead have the officers do it themselves at home.

Mayor Harty replied that this has only happened one time.

Lawrence said he understood this but (See 'LOOGOOTE' on page 2)

Commissioners vote 2-1 for Shoals Public Library to proceed with tax base expansion

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Sylvia Albaugh, with the Shoals Public Library, approached the Martin County Commissioners again at their meeting Tuesday, December 14, about giving the green light for the library to expand their tax base to include Halbert, Mitcheltree, Lost River and Center townships. The library is currently only funded by Town of Shoals residents although is used by everyone in the district. Albaugh gave a brief history of the library that started in 1914 and also a rundown of the services the library provides. She said the goal for expanding the tax base is to make what everyone pays equal and provide the same services to everyone. The cost per property would be .00745 per \$100 of assessed valuation. This would reduce what Town of Shoals residents are currently paying by almost half and would bring in \$140,000 to the library whose current budget is \$69,995 a year.

A few members of the audience then spoke out in support of the library.

Commissioner Paul George said his problem with the tax rate is the cost difference between properties. He said a

user fee, where everyone paid the same amount, sounds better to him. Albaugh said the way it's done is state statute so they can't change that.

Commissioner Aaron Summers said he has a hard time approving this now when prices of other things are so high, including gasoline. He said he would prefer the library to do the petition option and get signatures.

Shoals School Board welcomes new member, approves staff changes

The Shoals School Board met December 9. Board members in attendance were Drexel Turpin, Jenell Hoffman, and Eva George. Staff in attendance were Dr. Candace Roush, Amanda Heckard, Kindra Hovis, and Josh Mullis. No patrons were in attendance.

The board approved the following personnel recommendations:

-Annette Taylor to fill the open board member position.

-Tim Sanders to cover the maternity leave for Aimee Harder.

-Amanda Heckard for the treasurer position effective December 20, 2021.

-Kim Perry to serve as a homebound

instructor.

-Macey Way as volunteer softball coach

-Larry Sherfick to cover maternity leave for Cassie Phillips.

-Madison Burkhead as substitute teacher and Roger Stallings as substitute custodian.

-Lisa Elliott's resignation effective December 31, 2021, from the position of treasurer and payout of compensation time.

The superintendent recommended paying Lisa Elliott's comp time balance to zero after December 31, 2021, and (See 'SHOALS' on page 3)

ARPA

(Continued from page one)

missioners are just making recommendations and the council can decide if they like any of them. He suggested just deciding on the elected officials for now since their salary has to be set.

Council Member Buck Stiles asked if all the elected officials worked in the courthouse during the COVID shutdown. Auditor Abel replied that she can only speak for her office, but they did. She noted three elected officials in the audience who could speak for themselves.

Commissioner Roush said he has a hard time being okay with stipends being paid from the ARPA funds when the money was to be used for capital development. He said the ARPA money will save taxpayers down the road by using

LOGOOTE

(Continued from page one)

it's something that doesn't need to be done in the future. "I'm just making a point. You can blow all you want but it's just a point," said Lawrence regarding the mayor's reaction to his suggestion.

"You don't need to insult me," said the mayor.

"Don't insult me," replied Lawrence.

The mayor started to explain that he had COVID previously and his breathing is affected however Lawrence broke in and said he has had a heart attack, so he doesn't understand the point. The mayor moved onto another topic.

Mayor Harty presented the 2022 holiday schedule for approval. Council Member Nolley said Juneteenth (June 20) hasn't been approved by the state as a holiday and recommended removing it from the holiday schedule next year. She made a motion to that affect with Council Member Lawrence making the second. The motion failed to get the votes.

A second motion was made and seconded to keep the Juneteenth holiday on the calendar. The motion was approved with Lawrence and Nolley voting against.

Bruce Smith, who owns the Loogootee.com website, talked to the council about his 64-page website that has been active for 12 years. He told the council that he is confused why the city would start over with a new website and pay that cost when the current city website can be updated to be more user friendly. He offered to show them how to update it for free since he has experience with his own site.

Mayor Harty said he thinks it's unfair to discuss this now because they are requesting bids for website design but said Smith can also put in a proposal.

Smith said he just thought it would be a waste of money to pay for another website and the city needs to fix the one they have.

The mayor replied that this is Smith's opinion but may not be the opinion of other people. He said they get a lot of criticism for their current website.

Council Member Nolley said she would like to get an example of the websites to see how user friendly they are, when proposals are submitted. Mayor Harty agreed. He added that if they don't know how to update their website, regardless of who does it, there is no point in having one.

The board of works discussed whether or not to approve the rates for West Boggs Sewer customers who are not utilizing service. This was discussed at a previous meeting and Superintendent Bo Wilson had suggested reducing that minimum fee by half for vacation homes and eliminating the fee for empty lots. On Monday, the mayor asked if Wilson was ready to present those rates for approval. Wilson said an ordinance needs to be created and he doesn't do ordinances. He said he didn't see the need to move forward with paying someone to create an ordinance if the board of works was not in favor of

it to make improvements. He said the funds can't be used to give the sheriff's department deputies raises so he doesn't think it should be used to give anyone else extra money. He said he's not saying the employees are not worth it, he's just saying he thinks it's the wrong way to spend the money.

"I'm just telling you where I stand as a commissioner. I can't speak for the other two," he said.

Council Member Albright said if Roush would read what the ARPA money was for he would see it's to pay the employees for working through COVID.

Roush replied that there are other categories the money can be spent on. "It's more important to me to fix the things that need to be fixed," he said.

changing the rates. The board of works then voted to move forward with getting the ordinance done.

Jamison Hibbs, with West Boggs Park, talked to the council again about the Indiana code 5-23 for project development. He said the typical system calls for three bids and taking lowest bid which then comes with change orders that drive up that low bid. This Indiana code says the city can sign on, after approval of a resolution, and get around this process by putting out a request for qualifications and choose which company they want to work with. He said this comes with lower fees and change orders are covered by the company unless there are changes made by the city. He said they are going through the process at West Boggs and using local vendors as much as possible. Hibbs told the council that they may never use this process but it's a good tool to have if they need it. The council will come up with a resolution for approval for a future meeting.

LILLY

(Continued from page one)

local communities throughout the state.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although the gifts of stock remain a financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. The Endowment funds significant programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion. However, it maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

Since 1997, Independent Colleges of Indiana has administered the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program statewide with funding provided by Lilly Endowment. Founded in 1948, ICI serves as the collective voice for the state's 29 private, nonprofit colleges and universities. ICI institutions employ over 22,000 Hoosiers and generate a total local economic impact of over \$5 billion annually. Students at ICI colleges have Indiana's highest four-year, on-time graduation rates, and ICI institutions produce 30 percent of Indiana's bachelor's degrees while enrolling 20 percent of its undergraduates.

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars may also participate in the Lilly Scholars Network (LSN), which connects scholars with resources and opportunities to continue to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities. Both the scholarship program and LSN are supported by grants from Lilly Endowment to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI).

Albright said the money is to be used to help people affected by COVID and the county buildings were not affected by COVID.

Auditor Abel said \$30,000 was slated for stipends for elected officials and \$70,000 was slated for other employees. She said the total amount of the ARPA funds is \$1.9 million, half this year and half next.

Council Member Albright wanted it noted that the commissioners and county council are not being included in this stipend discussion. Council Member Barb McFeaters thanked him for saying that because she said she would be against it if they were.

Council Member Adam Greene asked Auditor Abel if any county employee made less money due to COVID. Abel replied that each employee made what the salary and wage ordinance said they would make. She said the money is just a one-time bonus for working on-site during the government shutdown of 2020.

From the audience, Assessor Carolyn McGuire said her office worked on site and Recorder Rhonda Sanders said she

COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

go the signature route if he asked them to. The library would need to get signatures of twenty percent of taxpayers from each township to bypass commissioner approval.

Albaugh said she wanted the commissioners to be on board and didn't really want to have to go that route. It was also questioned if residents would want people knocking on their door with the current virus climate.

County Attorney Dave Lett mentioned that people who are against the tax can also do a petition also, so that's not as easy of an option as it's being portrayed.

Commissioner Roush made a motion for the library board to move forward with expanding the tax base. Commissioner George made the second. Commissioner Summers voted against it. A member of the audience noted that Commissioner Summers' district already pays taxes to the Loogootee Library.

Auditor Bobbie Abel asked about a stipend from the ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) monies for the elected officials and county employees as was discussed at the county council meeting the previous night. The stipends were designed to compensate employees affected by the 2020 COVID shutdown. Abel asked the commissioners' opinion on the stipends. She said the council voted to give elected officials \$1,000 since the elected officials' salaries cannot change after the salary and wage ordinance is approved for the year. The council did make this contingent on the commissioners' recommendations.

Commissioner Roush said he spoke to the Alliance Director, and both agree that the process of spending the ARPA money needs to go through the committee formed for the ARPA funds. He said also that the stipend is designed for essential workers and when the courthouse was closed during the shutdown, employees were not dealing with the public. Abel said they were dealing with the public by appointment along with allowing lawyers and title companies access to the building.

Roush said the committee had decided to use the ARPA funds for capital improvements for county buildings. He said they can discuss doing bonuses if there is money left. He again said he doesn't believe the stipend request by the auditor went through the right channels. He said the committee should have been the ones making the recommendation to the council and if not, he asked what

did more property transfers ever in 2020 due to people refinancing.

Council Member Sherri Bowling said she thinks they need give the stipend. She made a motion to that effect. It was approved. It was decided that the elected official stipend would be \$1,000 and there are nine elected officials that may be eligible, and this is contingent on the commissioners' recommendation. The council said the other employees can be discussed at the beginning of next year.

Prosecutor Aureola Wright requested approval to transfer \$1,440 from pre-trial diversion income to give stipends to three employees. The council approved the transfer with a 4-3 vote.

The council approved the county purchasing property next to the jail for \$17,500.

They also approved the recycling center to move \$104,000 from their savings, that wasn't budgeted, into the 2021 budget to pay bills. Council Member Bowling voted against the transfer. Auditor Abel told Solid Waste Director Jim Williams that he will need to watch next year's budget to make sure this transfer would not affect it.

the point was of having a committee. He said every dollar spent from ARPA funds on a project that doesn't come out of the general fund is a savings to taxpayers. "That's my goal," said Commissioner Roush.

Commissioner George suggesting tabling a decision until they had more time to think about it and until the ARPA committee meets again next month.

Julia Albright, with the Martin County Health Department, reported the county is staying in "orange" status because they are still seeing COVID cases every day. She said the county is not seeing a huge spike like other Indiana counties are however. Albright also requested permission to move forward with a two-year grant for \$100,000 for a school liaison to help school nurses at both schools in the county. She said she knows the school nurses are overworked but each school will need to have a needs assessment done. The commissioners gave permission to go forward with the grant.

The commissioners approved the culvert bids from last meeting after speaking with the highway superintendent.

Alliance Director Angie Risacher reported the county has received the READI grant. The total amount of the grant is \$30 million which will be divided between 10 other counties who applied together. Risacher said more than 270 projects were submitted with everything from housing projects to projects related to the schools. She said the county won't get all their projects funded and they will find out how much of the \$30 million the county gets within the next six months.

Risacher then asked that the redevelopment commission meetings be more frequent. The meetings are currently held quarterly, a half hour before the commissioners' meetings, and she said with the grants coming in, she believes more meeting time is needed, if possible. Attorney Lett said the redevelopment commission meetings used to be monthly but there wasn't much business to conduct, so it got moved to quarterly. Commissioner Roush agreed they need to meet more often. Attorney Lett suggested waiting until after the redevelopment board is reappointed at the beginning of the year.

Sheriff Travis Roush reported there are currently 51 inmates in the jail with 17 of them from Vigo County. He said he does have more Vigo County inmates coming in soon.

Community Corrections Director Danielle Murphy reported they currently have 16 active clients.

OBITUARIES

SALLY MARKEL

Sally A. (Carr) Markel passed away, with loving family at her side, at Ketcham Memorial Center in Odon on Monday, December 13, 2021. A resident of Loogootee, she was 77.



She was born July 18, 1944, in Columbia, Louisiana; daughter of William Kenneth & Helen (Hudson) Carr. She married the love of her life, Kelly A. Markel, Jr. on October 3, 1965.

Sally was a homemaker and enjoyed spending time with her family. She was employed at Crane, where she worked for 13 years.

Family left to cherish the memory of Sally include two sons, Kelly (Trea) Markel of Washington and Brett (Tonia) Markel of Bloomfield; five grandchildren, Alex Markel, Trevor Markel, Savannah Markel, Justin Markel and Austin 'Cheese' Markel; three brothers, Kenneth Carr, Tom Crain and Junior Crain; and two sisters, Joyce Hailey Carr Binford and Lorraine Crain Bratton.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kelly Markel, Jr. and brother, Keith Crain.

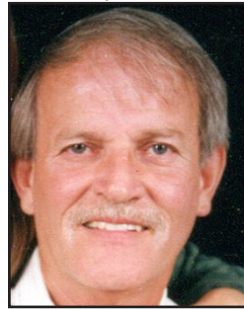
A memorial service will be at 6 p.m. Sunday, December 19 at Meng Family Funeral Home in Odon with Richard

Crabtree officiating. A Gathering of Family and Friends will be from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Arrangements and care have been entrusted to Meng Family Funeral Home in Odon. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family online at www.mengfuneralhome.com.

MIKE NEWTON

Michael "Mike" Newton passed away Thursday December 9, 2021, at his home.



A resident of Loogootee, he was 78.

He was born January 9, 1943, in Washington; son of Michael J. and Hazel (Thompson) Newton.

Mike married Bonnie (Hutchinson) Newton on

April 10, 2011. He was well known for lawn care and enjoyed mowing lawns for over 23 years around Loogootee. Mike was a jokester and loved listening to music.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Hazel Newton; his son, Michael J. Newton Jr.; his sisters, Georgia Winger and Marianne Matteson; and his niece, Carla Jo Frye.

Mike is survived by his loving wife, Bonnie; his daughter, Danielle Jeanette Newton; his sister, Margie Mattingly, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Cremation was chosen according to his wishes.

Online condolences can be made at www.blakefuneralhomes.com

Arrangements provided by Blake Funeral Home.

GLORIA RAY

Gloria M. Ray passed away peacefully Thursday, December 9, 2021, at Parkview Village Christian Care in Odon. A resident of Odon, she was 88.



She was born October 10, 1933, in Braceville, Illinois; son of Henry and Margaret (Harvey) Gaddo. Gloria married the love of her

life, WR Ray on May 17, 1952.

Gloria was a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bramble. She was a homemaker and took pride in caring for her home and family. Gloria owned the Odon Fabric & Yarn Store for five years, she loved knitting and sewing.

Family left to cherish the memory of Gloria include son, David (Connie) Ray of Plainville; daughters, Dawn (Jeff) Caldwell of Georgetown, Kentucky and Deidre (Greg) Bechtel of Odon and Darla (Terry) Lowder of Paragon; eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, WR Ray; granddaugh-

ter, Cassie Jo; grandson, Christopher David; great-grandson, David Cooper; brother, Henry Gaddo, Jr.; and two sisters, Elaine Joyce and Dorothy Spiezio.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 14 at Meng Family Funeral Home in Odon with Father J. Kenneth Walker officiating. Gloria was laid to rest in St. Joseph Cemetery in Bramble.

Memorial contributions may be made to Parkview Village Christian Care or Ketcham Memorial Nursing Center in Odon.

Arrangements and care have been entrusted to Meng Family Funeral Home in Odon. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family online at www.mengfuneralhome.com.

AGNES WITTMER

Agnes Janet 'Jan Jan' (Redmond) Witt-



mer passed away with loved ones at her side Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at Prairie Village Nursing Center in Washington. A resident of Odon, she was 85.

She was born February 25, 1936, in Indianapolis;

daughter of Samuel and Gertrude (McNaulthy) Redmond. Agnes married the love of her life, Amos Wittmer on July 4, 1956.

She was a homemaker and loved spending time with her family. She was a member of the First Christian Church and Eagles Lodge.

Family left to cherish the memory of Agnes include three sons, Tom (Chris) Wittmer of Odon, Terry (Susan) Wittmer of Loogootee and Kevin Wittmer of Springfield, Virginia; two daughters, Lisa (Dick) Gray of Washington and Sherri Lengacher of Columbus, Ohio; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and sister, Zeld Snyder of Indianapolis.

Agnes was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Amos Wittmer; sons, Jeffery Scott Wittmer and Kerry V. Wittmer; sister, Elizabeth Hadler; and brothers, Richard, Rod, Isaac, Sam and Raymond Redmond.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 11 at Meng Family Funeral Home in Odon with Micah Stephens officiating. Agnes was laid to rest in Walnut Hill Cemetery in Odon.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer Association.

Arrangements and care have been entrusted to Meng Family Funeral Home in Odon. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family online at www.mengfuneralhome.com.

SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

paying Tammy Cooper 159 comp time hours. The board approved.

The superintendent requested permission to advertise and hire a payroll/secretary prior to next board meeting in January. The board approved.

The board approved the high school principal's request for a student-ran coffee shop for students and staff members.

The board approved the annual stipend to all non-certified staff members and a stipend per year to Bryson Abel and Danielle Cornett for their athletic director duties.

The board approved the updated Covid back-to-school plan and the handbook updates.

The board approved the following fundraiser requests:

-The athletic department to sell shirts for the annual cancer awareness games. The cancer awareness games will be January 19 versus Washington Catholic varsity boys and January 8 versus Washington Catholic varsity girls. This year all proceeds will go to Nancy Sexton. Shirt order forms have been given to every student and more order forms are located in the high school office. All money from the shirts will be donated to the family and donations will also be collected during the game. Any fan wearing the shirt will get in free to the game.

-The junior class (class of 2023) to sell cutlery materials. Use of funds will be for prom, the senior trip, and graduation.

-Shoals Beta clubs to host a light show food drive and sell winter treats and drinks, as well as pictures with Santa. The use of funds will be for Beta related activities.

The Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District requested to use the cafeteria on February 7, 2022, at 6 p.m. for their annual meeting. The board approved.

The board approved the high school principal's recommendation to hold prom on May 7, 2022.

The board held a first reading of the pay scale policy.

High School Principal Kindra Hovis

began with State Beta Convention, which was a success. They had 37 students who participated. The pep club-sponsored food drive provided boxes to 15 different families plus a surplus of items were donated to the food bank at The River Church. All grades, k-12 helped with the food drive. Newly-installed vape detectors have cut down on the amount of vapes being used at the school. Advisory students have really bonded this week by participating in the classroom door decorating contest. Students and staff are really getting in the Christmas countdown on dress up days. The RECN grant has allowed them to meet and partner with other early college high schools to gather ideas for the upcoming early college endorsement. A rough draft of the master schedule is now complete. They offered another free FAFSA night last Thursday evening for senior students and their families. The culinary department, led by Mrs. Perry, will be bringing a coffee and pastry shop second semester. Testing is now complete for ISETP+ and NWEA. Upcoming events include Homecoming on December 17, final exams on December 20 and 21; and winter break from December 22 to January 4.

Middle School Principal Josh Mullis started with honoring the November students of the month and November teacher of the month. Students of the Month were 6th Grader: Loren Bauer, 7th Grader: Sydney Turpin, and 8th Grader: Keegan Bearden. Teacher of the Month was Mary Ellen Baker. They enjoyed lunch together from Velma's Diner. They appreciate Velma's Diner and their partnership to help provide this meal. The Jr. Beta Club competed very well recently at the State Convention in Evansville. Katie Brett took 1st in Creative Writing. The Technology Team, consisting of Carter Rice, Braxton Mullis, Eli Holt, Isaac Johnson, and Jaxon Mullis, took 1st. The 2D Design Team, consisting of Brooklyn Albright, Sydney Turpin, Rylee Bauer, Emalynn McNabb, Charleigh Long, Olivia Wright, and Rator Hoffman, also took 1st. They had several other teams and individuals claim 2nd and 3rd Place. They

have a lot to be proud of and thanks again to Reva Troutman, the sponsor, and all of the volunteer chaperones that made the trip. The new program Fun Friday is going well. They are rewarding somewhere between 60-75 students each Friday for their ability to navigate the week prior without a tardy, missing assignment, or discipline referral. Good luck to the robotics team members and coaches that will be competing this weekend at state. They recently passed out personal hygiene bags to students who had requested certain items. Middle school students will be taking final exams on Monday, December 20 and Tuesday December 21. With the school board's approval this evening, they would like to thank Larry Sherfick and Tim Sanders for taking on the maternity leaves after the first of the year. Mr. Mullis welcomed Annette Taylor to the school board. Also, he wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Superintendent Dr. Roush thanked Lisa Elliott for her 36 years of service to the Shoals Community School Corporation. She congratulated the Beta students on their many awards and wished the robotics team well in their competition. She updated the board on a FEMA grant she is applying for to fund two new classrooms, serving as tornado safe rooms. She praised the school for its increased pride and spirit this year. She said it is a blessing to work at a school where everyone is so happy and full of school pride. Dr. Roush welcomed Annette Taylor to the board and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Before adjourning, the board wanted to thank Lisa Elliott for her years of service. She has truly been an asset to the school. Also, a very Merry Christmas to all the students and staff!

Superintendent Secretary Amanda Heckard wanted to thank the board for the opportunity as the new school treasurer and is excited to begin the position.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. The next board meeting will be on January 13, 2021.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

1:13 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wells responded.

1:30 a.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard southeast of Shoals. Captain Reed and Shoals Fire Department responded.

5:18 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Loogootee. Haysville Fire Department and Captain Reed responded.

5:42 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

5:59 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wells responded.

6:06 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down north of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

12:34 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:49 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:38 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded.

3:30 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Loogootee. Martin County Highway Department was notified.

6:05 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

6:33 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

7:15 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims and Loogootee Assistant Chief McBeth responded.

8:48 p.m. - Received report of a suspicious person in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson, Deputy Shaw, Deputy Hawkins and LPD Assistant Chief McBeth responded.

9:05 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

11:44 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

2:00 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:53 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle east of Loogootee. Captain Reed responded.

5:50 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means, Captain Reed and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

9:47 a.m. - Received a report of a theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Police were notified.

2:55 p.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm north of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson and Deputy Wells responded.

5:36 p.m. - Received a report of an accident east of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson responded.

5:59 p.m. - Received a report of a stranded vehicle north of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson responded.

7:20 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver southwest of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

8:55 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

10:27 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

4:42 a.m. - Received a report of slick roads north of Shoals. INDOT was notified.

4:53 a.m. - Received a report of an accident east of Loogootee. Captain Reed responded.

5:38 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:58 a.m. - Received a report of an accident southeast of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

8:16 a.m. - Received a report of car-deer accident in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Chief Deputy Greene responded.

8:37 a.m. - Received a report of an accident southeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and ISP Master Trooper Lents responded.

9:49 a.m. - Received a report of an accident north of Shoals. Major Keller, Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

12:27 p.m. - Received a report of a re-possession in Loogootee.

4:40 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

5:52 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:30 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief McBeth, Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

4:31 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

8:00 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

8:13 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Shoals. Major Keller was notified.

10:31 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:42 a.m. - Received a report of an accident north of Loogootee. ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

11:44 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

12:00 p.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist southwest of Shoals with a vehicle identification check.

1:00 p.m. - Corporal Seymour took two inmates to court.

1:09 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle northeast of Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

1:59 p.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist in Shoals with a vehicle identification check.

2:42 p.m. - Corporal Seymour took two inmates to court.

2:49 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down southeast of Shoals. INDOT was notified.

3:05 p.m. - Corporal Seymour took one inmate to court.

3:52 p.m. - Deputy Wells assisted a motorist in Shoals with a vehicle identification check.

4:18 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:08 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle west of Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

6:11 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control officer Hughett was notified.

8:16 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department, Deputy Wells, and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:50 p.m. - Received a report of an accident north of Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief McBeth, Deputy Wells, Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Daviess Commu-

nity Hospital.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

2:47 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

8:43 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Shoals. The homeowner was contacted and advised accidental.

9:08 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver south of Loogootee. Major Keller responded.

12:25 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

1:16 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

3:30 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance northwest of Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

4:25 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down southwest of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

7:40 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

7:57 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department, Deputy Wells and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:39 p.m. - Received a report of a dog complaint north of Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

9:46 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Deputy Wells, Loogootee Assistant Chief McBeth and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

10:08 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

11:25 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins, Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

12:40 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down southeast of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department responded.

12:27 a.m. - Received a report of an accident southeast of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins, Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

12:49 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department responded.

12:53 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Loogootee. Haysville Fire Department responded.

2:30 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down southeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

5:37 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

7:39 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle northeast of Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

9:30 a.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

9:46 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down east of Loogootee. Civil Defense responded.

9:49 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:50 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down east of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

12:42 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Loogootee. Haysville Fire responded.

12:42 p.m. - Received a report of an accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

1:20 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

1:54 p.m. - Received a report of trees down east of Shoals. INDOT, Shoals Fire Department, Sheriff Roush and Deputy Wells responded.

3:52 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Crane Fire Department, Loogootee Fire Department, Deputy Wells and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

5:20 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:11 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

7:07 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down southwest of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

9:20 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

12:50 a.m. - Received a report of suspicious person south of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

1:05 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:05 p.m. - Received a report of a car versus deer accident north of Loogootee with no injuries. Sergeant Gibson responded.

6:10 p.m. - Received a report of an accident southeast of Shoals with property damage. Sergeant Gibson responded.

6:33 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver north of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson responded.

7:21 p.m. - Received request for a lift assist in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

9:51 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded.

ARRESTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:19 p.m. - Jakob Graber, 39, of Loogootee was arrested by Loogootee Officer Sims and Loogootee Assistant Chief McBeth and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He is being held on \$10,000 10 % bond.

9:20 p.m. - Kimberly Spurgeon, 56, of Shoals, was arrested by Loogootee Assistant Chief McBeth and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-prior and operating a vehicle while intoxicated greater than .15. She is being held on a \$15,000 10 % bond.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:56 p.m. - Mark Parker, 59, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Chief Means and charged with escape. He is being held without bond.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

5:05 a.m. - Jeremy Harlan, 39, of Vincennes, was arrested by Deputy Hawkins and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He is being held on a \$10,000 10 % bond and no driving.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

10:50 a.m. - Courtney Aynes, 38, of French Lick, was arrested by Deputy Wells and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated, operating a vehicle while intoxicated - controlled substance, and possession of a controlled substance. She is being held on a \$15,000 10 % bond with no driving.

COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCINGS

December 6

Michael L. Kane, convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 365 days with the Indiana Department of Corrections with 365 days suspended. Defendant received 12 months of probation. Also convicted of theft, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 365 days with the Indiana Department of Corrections with 105 days suspended and credit for 130 actual days previously served plus 130 Class A credit days. Defendant received 3 months of probation. Also convicted of unlawful possession or use of a legend drug, a Level 6 Felony and operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 360 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 180 actual days previously served plus 180 Class A credit days.

Robert Lee Beasley, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 3 actual days previously served plus 3 Class A credit days. The defendant shall serve the remainder of executed time of 359 days through Martin County Community Corrections Home Detention Program, with a transfer to Daviess County Community Corrections.

December 7

Robert A. Holt, convicted of theft, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 402 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 201 actual days previously served plus 201 Class A credit days.

Calvin Gibson, convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 1,095 days with 1,037 days suspended and credit for 44 actual days previously served plus 14 Class B credit days. Defendant received 34 months of probation.

Anthony G. Jones, convicted of resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 353 days suspended and credit for

6 actual days previously served plus 6 Class A credit days. Defendant received 11 months of probation.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

December 6

Robert Lee Beasley, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

December 7

Calvin Gibson, neglect of a dependent, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; maintaining a common nuisance – controlled substances, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Anthony G. Jones, reckless driving, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Michael L. Kane, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

December 1

Discover Bank vs. Mary Walton, civil collection.

December 6

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Nancy Cox, civil collection.

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Gary S. Allen, civil collection.

Real estate transfers

George Erler, Jr., of Martin County, Indiana to Landon B. Dearwester, of Martin County, Indiana, sixty feet of even width off of the north end of Lot Number 40 in the original plat of the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Neil A. Strange and Emily Johnson, n/k/a Emily A. Strange, of Martin County, Indiana to Neil A. Strange and Emily A. Strange, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, Rutherford Civil Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 3.51 acres, more or less.

Trinity Tabernacle Holiness Church to Behind the Wire Ministries, Inc., four tracts of land in Keck's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

1:13 a.m. - Officer Wells responded to an alarm at a local business.

5:42 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Poplar Street.

5:59 a.m. - Officer Wells responded to a property damage accident at US 231 and US 50.

7:28 a.m. - Captain Rayhill responded to a property damage accident in the Loogootee High School parking lot.

9:27 a.m. - Chief Means spoke with an individual regarding property issues with a neighbor.

7:18 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a property damage accident on East Broadway Street.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

10:00 a.m. - Caller reported a theft.

3:33 p.m. - Chief Means responded to assist a motorist on US 231 South.

5:46 p.m. - Caller reported a stranded vehicle on US 231 North.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:07 a.m. - Chief Means responded to a report of a hit-and-run accident.

12:56 p.m. - Chief Means transported an inmate to the Martin County Jail on a charge of escape.

6:30 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Church Street.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:58 a.m. - Chief Means responded to a report of a speeding vehicle nearing Loogootee on US 50 East.

3:33 p.m. - Chief Means responded to a request for a welfare check at the public square.

8:12 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth and first responders were dispatched to a medical call.

8:23 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth re-

sponded to a complaint of harassment.

9:50 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to a report of a personal injury accident on US 231 North.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:20 a.m. - Caller reported a suspicious person in their neighborhood.

6:58 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth completed a welfare check on pedestrians on US 231 South.

10:52 a.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth responded to an alarm at a local business.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00 a.m. - An employee at a local business reported indecent exposure.

12:40 a.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department responded to a report of a tree down on State Road 550.

12:49 a.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department responded to a report of a tree down on US 231 South.

3:08 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Lomar Street.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Loogootee School Board meeting
The Loogootee School Board will meet Thursday, December 16 at 5 p.m. in the LHS Media Center. The meeting is open to the public.

Mayor Harty hosts Santa
Loogootee Mayor Noel Harty will host Santa and Mrs. Claus at his new home at 409 East Washington Street in Loogootee on Thursday December 23, from 4-6 p.m. Professional photos will be provided, and refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend.

St. Vincent Food Pantry
The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, on Park Street in Loogootee, is open the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December when they are open the third Thursday. The hours are 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.

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

Mental Health Task Force
The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 1-2 p.m. at the Community Learning Center on the Martin County Fairgrounds.

Celebrate Recovery meetings
Celebrate Recovery meetings will be held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Redemption Church in Loogootee. This is a Christ-centered recovery program and anyone is welcome to attend.

Local recovery meetings
Wednesdays-Alcoholic Anonymous, Martin County Community Corrections Building at 8 p.m.; Thursdays-Narcotics Anonymous, Redemption Church Loogootee at 8 p.m.; Fridays-Alcoholic Anonymous, Loogootee Municipal Building Loogootee at 8 p.m.

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

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

Solid waste board
The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the recycling center located at 500 Industrial Park Drive in Loogootee. The meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

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



A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and he sees a sign in front of a broken down shanty-style house: 'Talking Dog For Sale.'

He rings the bell, and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice-looking Labrador Retriever sitting there.

"You talk?" he asks.

"Yep," the lab replies.

After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says, "So, what's your story?"

The lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA. In no time at all, they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running... but the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger, so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the guy says.

"Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on Earth are you selling him so

cheap?"
"Because he's a liar. He's never been out of the yard."

THOUGHTS
*If two people love each other, nothing is impossible...except deciding where to eat.

*Do you ever wake up, kiss the person sleeping beside you, and feel glad that you are alive? I just did and apparently will not be allowed on this airline again.

*I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, but if the white runs out, I'll drink red.

*For anybody else that's getting coal for Christmas, maybe we can link up and get the grill going or something.

A guy takes his girlfriend to her first football game. They had great seats right behind their team's bench.

After the game, he asked her how she liked the experience.

"Oh, I really liked it," she replied, "Especially the tight pants and all the big muscles, but I just couldn't understand why they were killing each other over 25 cents."

Dumbfounded, her date asked, "What do you mean?"

"Well, they flipped a coin, one team got it, and then for the rest of the game, all they kept screaming was, 'Get the quarterback! Get the quarterback!' I'm like, hello? It's only 25 cents!"

THOUGHT FOR THE SEASON: No other birthday has impacted the entire world for over 2,000 years.

Make someone smile today!

The Susan "Lynn" Harshaw family would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for the support and condolences we received during our loss.

Our foremost gratitude goes to the doctors, nurses, staff, and chaplain at Jasper Memorial Hospital for their compassion, professionalism, and efforts caring for Lynn and our family.

We wish to extend thanks to Blake Funeral Home for their thoughtful and considerate guidance throughout our time of sorrow. We cherish the kind and heartfelt words of Lynn's Pastor, Mike Schlaegel, shared at the funeral. In addition, we welcomed the kindness and love we received from the members of Dover Hill Christian Church.

The family would like to express our sincere gratitude to the St. Martin Catholic Church Family for their assistance and delicious, sustaining meal as we visited Lynn's final resting space.

We are also thankful for the gravesite blessings delivered by Father Kenneth Walker and Sean Lents.

We recognize the many expressions of kindness from Lynn's coworkers at TriStar Engineering, NSWC and the D.F. Crane family.

We thank Hannah's classmates and cheer squad/coach for their thoughtfulness and support.

Most graciously, our family wishes to thank everyone who shared their kindness through meals, flowers, memorialized giving, visits, and thoughtful messages and prayer during our difficult and unplanned time saying goodbye to our special mother, sister, and aunt, Lynn Harshaw.

We are OVERWHELMED, but not surprised by the kindness and thoughtfulness of our loving community.

With Gratitude, Heather and Hannah Harshaw, Mark Robbins Beth (Dave) Milligan, Gary (Debbie) Lannan, and Denise (Charlie) Lannan Families



LHS Volleyball awards

-Photos provided

The Loogootee Lady Lions Volleyball Teams held an awards banquet at the beginning of the month. Shown above are the varsity award winners: Grace Lingenfelter-Academic All State, Hustle & Desire; Jocelyn Strange-Blue Chip All Conference, 1A South All District, 1A All State 1st Team, AVCA Best & Brightest 2nd Team, Career Digs Record Holder, Most Serving Points with 227, Most Digs with 420, Highest Passing Percentage 2.18, and Most Outstanding Defensive Player; Madison McAtee-Academic All State and Mental Attitude; Kyleigh Courter-Most Aces with 58; Brooklyn Summers-Most Service Points with 227, Most Assists with 591, and Highest Serve Percentage with 96.8; Haylie Mathies-Academic All State and 1A South All District; Abbey Fuhrman- 1A South All District and Most Blocks with 30; and Kylie VanHoy-Blue Chip All Conference, 1A South All District, 1A All State 1st Team, Academic All State, AVCA Best & Brightest 1st Team, Most Kills with 313, and Most Outstanding Offensive Player. The junior varsity and C team award winners are below: Allie Henninger-Hustle & Desire, Alana Hedrick-Most Kills with 74, Lindsey Nolan-Most Digs with 101, Breanna Courter-Most Assists with 100, Chrislynn Holland-Mental Attitude, Brianna Eckerle-Hustle & Desire, Addy Lengacher-Most Improved, Cacia Wilcoxon-Mental Attitude, and Vittoria Zoia-Most Service Points with 67.





Making A Difference

By Curt Johnson
MCCF Director



-- ONE TO MANY --

“One to many.” What do you think of when you hear that phrase? You may just be thinking “One WHAT to many WHAT?” Or an old memory of a mathematics test may have raised its ugly head. Maybe a computer database design comes to mind. Or you may remember an organizational structure or process model that you helped develop or tried to understand. It could be any number of things.

-- RELATIONSHIPS --

I have talked before about how even giving one moment of your time to help someone else can multiply to impact many others. Whatever it was, I can guarantee it’s about a relationship of that “one” and how it impacts the many.

-- ENDOWMENTS --

That is one of the fundamentals of funds created with the Martin County Community Foundation – how the generosity of one donor can positively impact the lives of many others, forever. These funds (endowments) are designed to last essentially forever, giving back to the community for generations to come.

-- STAYING INVOLVED --

Some donors wish to have some input on how and where the fund payouts are used. A “donor advised fund”, as I’ve discussed in previous columns, allows for this kind of donor involvement. The donor(s) work with the MCCF staff to identify ways of using the dollars from their fund to address the issues and needs they care about most.

-- A LASTING MEMORY --

One such “donor advised fund” is the Carter Lee Kerns Memorial Fund, created in the loving memory of Ed and Alyssa Kerns’ son. With this fund, Carter leaves a memory and a legacy that will forever improve the lives of children and families in Martin County.

-- OUR FIRE DEPARTMENTS --

This year Ed and Alyssa were touched by how critical our volunteer fire departments (VFDs) are to the well-being of the children and families in our community.



Shown is Alyssa Kerns presenting a \$1,135 grant check to Lost River VFD Chief Tim Parke.

We hope to never have a personal need for our local VFD, but we are so very thankful and comforted to know that they are there for us when we need them. These individuals are willing to risk their lives in order to keep us and our families safe.

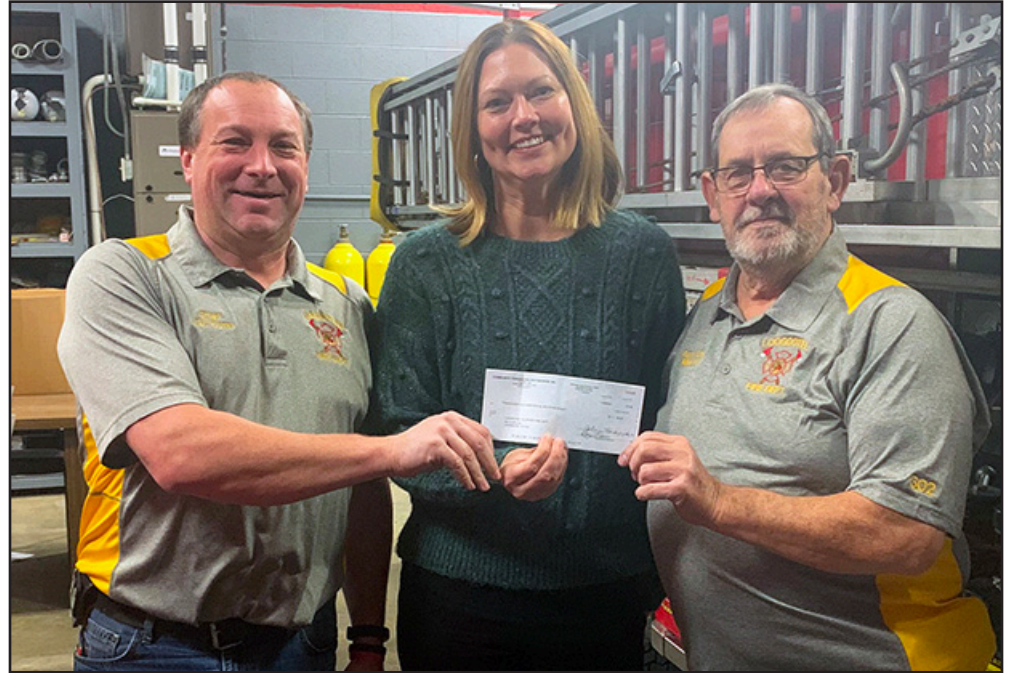
-- ONE TO MANY --

So, the Kerns’ once again found a way that their Carter can still touch many lives. This year they recommended that three local VFDs receive grants from the Carter Lee Kerns Memorial Fund. Ed and Alyssa know that Carter’s life will have an immeasurable impact when some very thankful families see the fire department come to their rescue and that this year’s grants have played a part in that. And the Kerns know that the Shoals, Lost River and Loogootee VFDs are also very thankful for the help from them and this fund.

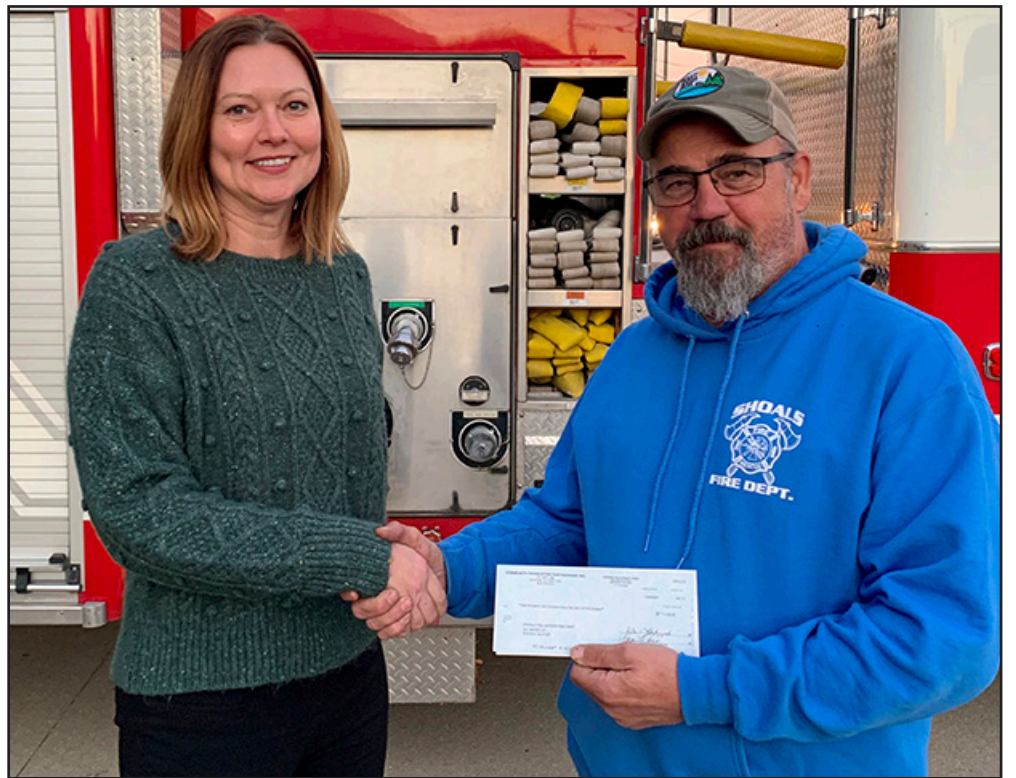
-- MORE INFORMATION --

For information about how the MCCF and how we can help you give back to your community, please contact the MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or mccf@cfpartner.org.

You are also welcome to visit our webpage at www.cfpartner.org and “like” the MCCF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mcccommunityfoundation.



Shown, from left to right, are Loogootee VFD Chief JD Flynn, Alyssa Kerns presenting a \$1,136 grant check, and Assistant Chief Mike Kirk.



Shown above is Alyssa Kerns presenting a \$1,135 grant check to Shoals VFD Chief Jim Hamby.

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Whether bought as a gift or as an addition to your own holiday decoration, the collections of holiday plants that have arrived in many stores and garden centers are certainly eye-catching. Usually wrapped in bright-colored foil, the plants will require some attention if they are to survive through the holidays.

Few plants like to have wet feet, so that foil presents a problem. Beneath that foil is likely a plastic pot which is a less-than-ideal home for a plant. If you only plan to use the plant as a holiday decoration, it may survive that long, if given some extra care. Many more plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Feel the soil on your plant. If the soil feels damp, do not water it. Allow the soil to dry out before watering, then give it a good soaking. I suggest removing the foil or plastic when doing this. Water a plant until water comes out the drainage hole. Let it drain well and do not let the plant sit in the drained water. You may then put the foil back on the pot if desired.

If the plant is in a pot with no drainage hole, extra caution is necessary to prevent over-watering. One way to water such a plant is to just place a couple of ice cubes on top of the soil when the soil feels dry. The ice will slowly melt, allowing the water to soak into the soil. Using just one or two ice cubes controls the amount of water being added.

I have dozens of houseplants, including several holiday plants. I have Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti, numerous amaryllis bulbs and a spurge that turns colors in the winter months. At our Hoosier Hill-sides Master Gardeners Christmas dinner, I won a door prize of a potted poinsettia, as if I needed another one. I also have several orchids that will bloom at various times. With all of these plants, one would think I would be immune to the allure of purchasing the holiday plants being offered in

the stores. However, while I have resisted so far, I have been tempted by a couple of plants I have seen.

I have seen some lovely cyclamens in bloom in a couple of stores. Cyclamens are prized for their bright flowers but are a beautiful foliage plant even when not in bloom. Cyclamens are native to the Mediterranean area and Middle East. There are 23 species in the genus, along with some hybrids. A few of those are hardy and may be planted in the landscape in southern Indiana. They make great rock-garden plants, as good drainage is essential to prevent the tubers from rotting. However, most of the cyclamens one finds in stores at this time of the year are not hardy here and must be kept as houseplants. These sub-tropical cyclamens generally have larger flowers than the hardy bulbs. Flowers range from purple to red, pink, salmon and white, with some sporting double and fringed blooms. The foliage is generally dark green with silver variegation. Heart-shaped leaves are common, but some plants have scalloped leaves and irregular shapes.

I would recommend transplanting the cyclamen into a terra cotta pot, which more accurately approximates the Mediterranean conditions. Do not go with a pot that is much bigger than the original plastic pot, as cyclamens do best if slightly pot bound. While some of the hardy cyclamens do best in shade, the potted plants want to be in bright indirect light. They do not like to be too warm—liking temperatures around 50 degrees at night and 60 to 70 during the day.

Many people simply discard cyclamen tubers when the foliage goes dormant. However, while a bit of a challenge, it is possible to get the plant to return for another year. The blooms may be smaller and less numerable, but still beautiful and can give the gardener a sense of accomplishment.

Farmer sentiment weakens as production cost concerns mount

BY KAMI GOODWIN
Purdue University News Service

The Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer slipped 5 points in November to a reading of 116 as producers continue to be pessimistic about both the current and future outlook of the agricultural economy. The Index of Current Conditions declined 7 points in November to a reading of 128, and the Index of Future Expectations fell 4 points to 110. November marked the lowest reading of 2021 for all three measures of producer sentiment and comparing year-over-year, the barometer is 30 percent lower than in November of 2020. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted November 15-19.

"Farmers are facing sharp rises in production costs coinciding with fluctuating crop and livestock prices, the prospect of changing environmental and tax policy, uncertainty over COVID-19, as well as a host of other issues, all of which are negatively impacting farmer sentiment," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

Rising production costs, including those for fertilizer, farm machinery, seed and fuel, are of increasing concern to farmers. For example, in November 43 percent of survey respondents said they expect farm input prices to rise by more than 16 percent in the upcoming year. This compares with the actual average rate of farm input price inflation over the past decade of less than 2 percent.

Supply chain problems could be responsible for a drop in the Farm Capital Investment Index. The index declined 7 points to a reading of 39, the lowest reading since April of 2020. In November, 44 percent of producers said their farm machinery purchase plans were impacted by low farm machinery inventories. When asked what their biggest concerns are for their farming operation in the upcoming year, nearly half (47 percent) of survey respondents chose higher input costs.

Unlike the broader sentiment measures, the Farm Financial Performance Index rose 2 points to 106 in November, 10 percent above its low reading in June of 2021.

"Compared to late spring, strong crop yields for fall harvested crops and strength in wheat prices helped push 2021 crop revenue and profitability estimates up, compared to one year ago," Mintert said.

Producers remain very optimistic about farmland values over both the next 12 months and the next five years, as both the short-term and long-term farmland value expectations indices remain near

their peaks.

Mintert says, "Strong cash flows from crops in 2021, low interest rates and, possibly, rising concerns about inflation continue to propel farmland values higher."

Somewhat surprisingly, given the concerns about rising input costs, 52 percent of corn/soybean producers expect cash rental rates to rise in 2022 compared with 43 percent in October. This marks the highest percentage of producers reporting that they expect rental rates in 2022 to rise since the May 2021 survey.

Both interest and awareness of leasing farmland for solar energy projects is on the rise. In November, 11 percent all respondents reported having a discussion with a company or companies about leasing farmland for solar energy production; however, reported lease rates continue to vary widely. In November, 25 percent of producers who reported having discussions with a solar leasing company said they were offered less than \$500 per acre, while 34 percent of producers said they were offered a lease rate of \$1,000 or more per acre.

Concerns over governmental policy and regulations remain elevated among farmers. On the November 2021 survey, 82 percent of respondents said they expect more restrictive environmental regulations, 74 percent expect higher estate taxes, and 77 percent expect higher income taxes in the years ahead. These percentages compare to results from the October 2020 survey when just 41 percent of producers expected more restrictive environmental regulations and 35 percent expected higher estate taxes over the next five years.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report online. The site also offers additional resources such as past reports, charts and survey methodology, and a form to sign up for monthly barometer email updates and webinars.

Each month, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture provides a short video analysis of the barometer results. For even more information, check out the Purdue Commercial AgCast podcast. It includes a detailed breakdown of each month's barometer, in addition to a discussion of recent agricultural news that affects farmers.

The Ag Economy Barometer, Index of Current Conditions and Index of Future Expectations are available on the Bloomberg Terminal under the following ticker symbols: AGEGBARO, AGECCURC and AGECFTEX.

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Purdue to host virtual 2022 Top Farmer Conference

BY TORRIE SHERIDAN
Purdue University News Service

The Purdue Top Farmer Conference, a management program for farmers that features some of the nation's top experts on farm management, farm policy, agricultural finance and marketing, will take place Jan. 7, live via the Zoom meeting platform.

Frank Mitloehner, a University of California, Davis professor of animal science, air quality extension specialist and the conference keynote speaker, will discuss animal agriculture's path to climate neutrality. Mitloehner is a sustainability expert who has spent nearly two decades studying the relationship between the livestock industry and air quality. His research sheds new light on the impact of livestock emissions on climate and reveals, once livestock emissions and mitigation process are better understood, how the world can move closer to turning what can be viewed as a liability into an asset. He is the director of the University of California's CLEAR Center, which is dedicated to bringing clarity to the intersection of animal agriculture and the

environment. In 2013, Mitloehner served as chairman of a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization partnership project to benchmark the environmental footprint of livestock production.

Additional speakers include Purdue University's Nathanael Thompson, associate professor of agricultural economics; Carson Reeling, associate professor of agricultural economics; and Shalamar Armstrong, associate professor of agronomy. They will offer insights into emerging opportunities for farmers to receive payments for storing carbon on their farms and explore underlying motivations for these markets, what opportunities markets are currently offering farmers and what soil science tells us about the viability of soil carbon markets.

Purdue's Todd Kuethe, associate professor and Schrader Endowed Chair in Farmland Economics; RD Schrader, president of Schrader Real Estate and Auction Co. Inc.; and Howard Halderman, president and CEO of Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management, will discuss the new record high farmland prices across the Midwest and cover the drivers behind the recent sharp increase

in farmland values, the implications for farm finance and cash rents, and how long the boom is expected to last.

Additionally, Dan Quinn, assistant professor of agronomy and Extension corn specialist; Shaun Casteel, associate professor of agronomy and Extension soybean specialist; Bill Johnson, professor of weed science and Extension weed specialist; and Michael Langemeier, professor of agricultural economics, will examine the impact of the dramatic rise in crop input prices, as well as potential input supply shortfalls on corn and soybean production in 2022.

The conference will take place 10 a.m.

to 3 p.m. ET with a one-hour break for lunch. Registration for the four-hour virtual event is \$50 per person and includes access to the live conference, video recordings and presentation slide decks. Upon registration, participants will receive the Zoom meeting link and details about how to join the conference at its scheduled time.

The conference is sponsored by Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture and Farm Credit Mid-America. For more information or to register, contact Sarah Zahn at smithse@purdue.edu or 765-494-7004 or visit <https://purdue.ag/topfarmer>.

Extension sets virtual program for beef producers

BY ABBY LEEDS
Purdue University News Service

Purdue Extension beef experts invite producers with fewer than five years of experience and individuals who are considering starting a beef cattle operation to join them for Purdue Beef Basics. The virtual program is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. ET Tuesday evenings starting February 8 and ending March 29.

Participants will gain knowledge and skills related to beef cattle management and establish good recordkeeping habits. Purdue University professors and Extension

Monroe Lake to host First Day Trail Run and Walk

Monroe Lake will host its 9th annual First Day Trail Run and Walk at Fairfax State Recreation Area on Saturday, January 1 at 3:30 p.m.

The event is non-competitive and offers distance options of 1.3, 2.9, and 3.7 miles. Registration is \$15 per person and includes a post-event grab-and-go meal and a ticket for the prize drawing.

Advance registration is available until Dec. 30 at bit.ly/firstdayrun2022. That web location also includes course maps and additional info. The first 300 people to register will receive a \$15 gift certificate for the restaurants at the Fourwinds Lakeside Inn and an embroidered iron-on commemorative patch. Participants can

also register on the day of the run from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m., cash or check only.

The First Day Trail Run and Walk is co-sponsored by Monroe Lake, the Fourwinds Lakeside Inn, and the Indiana Trail Running Association. Proceeds support public events, programs, and interpretation at Monroe Lake.


Session topics include:
Overview of the beef cattle industry.
Animal behavior.
Stockmanship and facilities.
Beef cattle health.
Forages and nutrition.
Beef cattle genetic selection and reproduction.

The registration fee is \$50 per individual. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/wwvba92w> by February 1. For more information, contact Nick Minton at 812-279-4330 or nminton@purdue.edu.

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- Ability to work a variety of shifts, including evenings, weekends and some holidays

To be considered for an open position, interested candidates are encouraged to pick-up an application at the Martin County Sheriff's Office: 318 Capital Avenue, Shoals, IN 47581 (812) 247-3726.

Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled.