

Martin County JOURNAL

Merry
Christmas
Christmas Greetings
begin on page 12!

Year One, Issue Forty-Three

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15 Pages

Indiana's population up 6.6 percent since 2000 Census

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

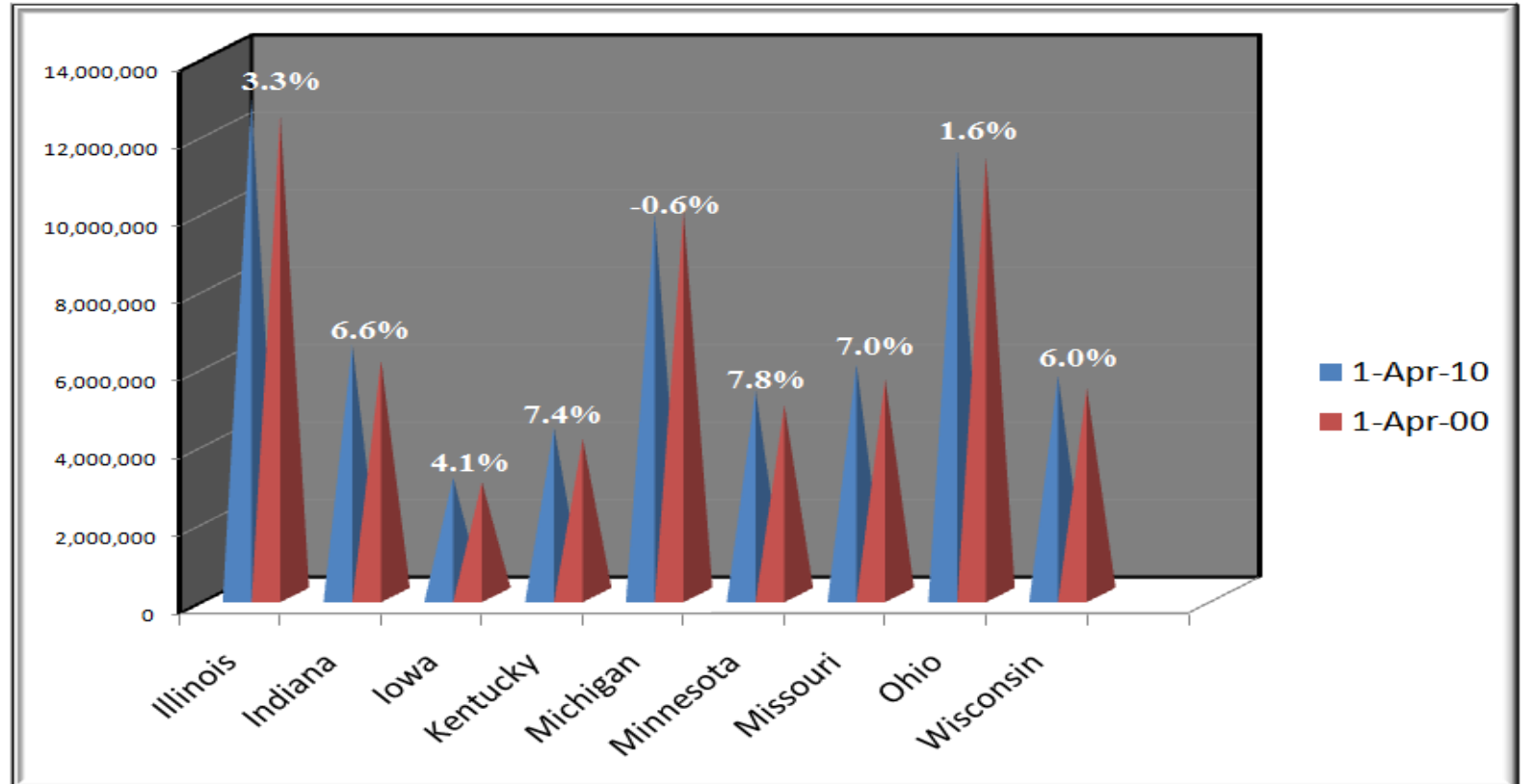
The first round of 2010 Census data was released yesterday morning but only included statewide information. The 23rd Census began last January in Alaska.

Indiana's population increased by 6.6 percent since the year 2000, from 6,080,485 residents to 6,483,802. Based on numeric change, Indiana ranks 18th and 31st based on percentage change.

Based on percentage change Nevada had the largest increase with 35.1 percent for the second Census in a row. In the 2000 Census Nevada had a 66.3 percent increase in population. The only state seeing a decrease in population over the last ten years was Michigan losing 0.6 percent of the population or 54,804 people.

The total population for the 50 states for 2010 is 309,183,463 including the over 1 million citizens currently overseas. In 2000 the US population was 281,421,906.

As mandated by the Constitution, the census counts every resident in the United States every 10 years to determine the num-



Loogootee School Board holds very quick meeting

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee School Board held a six-minute meeting Tuesday night, December 21.

In personnel, Bryan Fountain's resignation was accepted as assistant track coach. Superintendent Larry Weitkamp said Mr. Fountain was resigning for personal reasons. "I'd like to thank him for his service," said board member Tim Bradley. Board member Larry Craney added "He did a real good job; I think everyone is going to miss him."

Condolences were offered to Jim Neidefer for the death of his grandmother-in-law.

The board gave permission for the corporation treasurer, Mary Walton, to make end-of-the-year fund transfers. An official list of the transfers will be provided to the board at the January or February regular meeting.

In her monthly school and student success report Elementary West Principal Laura Mattingly thanked the Martin County Community Foundation and SOAR! for donating dictionaries to the third grade students. This is something that both organizations do at Shoals and Loogootee every year.

Intermediate and High School Principal John Mullen was not present at the meeting to give a report but Superintendent Weitkamp read a few updates to the board. Intermediate spelling bee champion Carson Rayhill was congratulated along with runner up Jake Simmons. He also reported that the FACS Club had a scarf and mitten drive for Head Start and the sixth grade traveled to the nursing homes to provide music and entertainment. On a final note Weitkamp also thanked Intermediate Parent Advisory Committee head Lisa Nonte for continuing the annual Lion Power Card sales.

ber of seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Indiana's number stayed the same at nine representatives but some states did not get that lucky.

New York with their more than 19 million residents lost two representatives going from 29 to 27 and Ohio also lost two moving to 16. Ohio has a population of 11.5 million.

Texas, however, added four representatives bumping up to 36 for 25.2 million residents. Florida went to 27 representatives up two for 18.9 million residents.

Other states losing a representative were Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

States gaining one representative were

Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah, and Washington.

There are 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives to be apportioned among the 50 states. Each state has at least one representative. Congress increased the number of seats to 435 in 1913. The Constitution set the number of representatives at 65 from ('CENSUS' continued on page 2)

County adds 33 residents to the jobless column for November

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Martin County saw an unusual rise in unemployment for November jumping from 6.9 percent to 7.5 percent knocking the county out of the top five for the lowest jobless rate in the state. Martin moved to the 82nd place adding 33 residents to the unemployment slot from October to November. There are currently 5,160 residents in the job market an increase from 5,134 just one month before with 386 unemployed. One year ago Martin County had just 5,012 residents in the job market with 336 unemployed or 6.7 percent.

Daviess County remained in the top position in the state for the lowest unemployment rate at 5.7 percent only increasing by .2 percent from October to November. Daviess County also saw a slight increase in their labor force going from 15,073 in October to 15,103 in November. The county had 863 resident unemployed for November up from 831 just a month before. In November of 2009, Daviess County's jobless rate stood at 5.4 percent with 14,911 residents in the workforce with 807 of them without jobs.

Dubois County's unemployment rate only rose slightly for November increasing from 6.5 percent to 6.7 percent keeping them in the 88th spot out of the 92 Indiana counties of the lowest jobless rate. They are tied with Hamilton County for the second month in a row. Dubois County had a labor force of 22,050 for November down 50 people from October. Of the number in the job market 1,470 were unemployed. In November of 2009, Dubois stood at 6.6 percent with 21,678 people in the job market and 1,434

of them without jobs.

Orange County fell .3 percent from October to November and dropped to 36th place in the state. For October, the county's jobless rate was 9.5 percent and bumped to 9.8 percent for November. Orange County had a slight decrease in their labor force going from 10,173 in October to 10,157 in November. Of the November number, 995 were without jobs up from 961 just a month prior. In November of 2009, Orange County's unemployment rate was 9.9 percent with 10,178 residents in the job market and 1,012 of them unemployed.

The five spots in Indiana with the lowest unemployment for November were Daviess County with 5.7 percent, Monroe County at 6.5 percent, Knox County with 6.6 percent, Hamilton and Dubois counties at 6.7 percent, and Switzerland County at 7 percent.

The ranking of the highest unemployment for November went to Elkhart County with 13.3 percent, Fayette County with 13 percent, Noble County with 11.8 percent, Vermillion County with 11.7 percent, and Henry County with 11.5 percent.

Indiana's preliminary seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percent to 9.8 percent in November 2010. This decline puts Indiana at the same rate as the nation. Though private sector employment in Indiana declined in November (-2,600), the state has added 46,200 private sector jobs in 2010, an increase of 2.0 percent. In contrast, U.S. private sector job growth for the year stands at 1.1 percent.

"Indiana's unemployment rate has decreased by four-tenths of a percent since the summer. This decline is noteworthy because the U.S. rate has been going up during the same period," said Mark W. Everson, Com-

missioner of the Department of Workforce Development.

Employment by Sector

Sectors showing significant employment gains in November include: Professional and Business Services (7,600), Leisure and Hospitality (1,500) and Financial Activities (500). Sectors showing significant declines are Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-5,000), Manufacturing (-4,400) and Construction (-2,100). Total non-farm employment decreased (-1,800) in November.

Midwest Employment Picture

In comparison to other state's Indiana's unemployment rate for November was tied with the Ohio. Michigan's jobless rate dropped .4 percent to 12.4, Kentucky's jobless rate was 10.2 percent up from 10 percent in October, and Illinois had the lowest unemployment rate in the region dropping .2 percent from 9.8 to 9.6 for November.

This article was created in part with a press release from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Oops . . .

In last week's Shoals Girls' Varsity Basketball story Nicole Harder was incorrectly listed for having 26 and 25 points in the Borden and Dugger games. The player actually scoring those points was Michaela Brockman. I apologize to Michaela for this error.

Also, in the Loogootee Sixth Grade Boys' Basketball story from December 8, Tye Collins was left out for scoring contributions for the game against Washington Catholic. Tye had six points. I apologize for Tye for this error as well.



Shoals 4th Grade play

-Photo provided

Mrs. Hawkins' Fourth Grade Class at Shoals performed their Christmas Play on Monday, December 20. The play was "Randy, the Red-Horned Rainmoose". Shown above in the front row, from left to right, are John Sukup, Matthew Newkirk, Melanie Hawkins, Georgia Bryson, Hallie Wyman, and Maddy Gaines. In the second row, from left to right, are Ryan Spurgeon, Evan Wagoner, Sean Davis, Klayton Tichenor, Josh Richardson, Olivia Stoll, and Amber Fields. In the back row, from left to right, are Harley Spurgeon, Lori Albright, Ryan Hawkins as Santa, Chase Fromme, Kyle Montgomery, Angel Hampton, Calli Winger, Alyssa Hernandez, and Jarod Waggoner.

Yellow plow trucks ready for white Xmas

Accumulated snow combined with below average temperatures will ensure that much of Indiana will remain blanketed in white this Christmas holiday. With a chance of winter weather forecast on Christmas Eve, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) stands ready to plow and treat highways ahead of the influx of holiday travelers.

"Winter weather does not take holidays or weekends off and, when needed, neither do our dedicated winter operations professionals," said INDOT Chief Operations Officer Troy Woodruff. "Many of our plow truck drivers leave their families on Christmas to fight snow and ice on a 12-hour shift."

As Hoosiers gather for Christmas and New Year's parties, INDOT and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) urge motorists to celebrate responsibly. Law enforcement agencies will be out in force patrolling for impaired drivers. Simple tips are available on the web at <http://cji.IN.gov/3353.htm>.

"The season can turn deadly when holiday festivities spill out onto Indiana's roadways. By planning ahead before you plan to drink you could save a life," said ICJI Executive Director T. Neil Moore. "Don't let your 2010 end with an arrest or worse. Remember that buzzed driving is drunk driving."

Holiday travelers can access road condition information and weather alerts through INDOT's TrafficWise Traveler Information Service at <http://trafficwise.in.gov/> or 800-261-ROAD (7623). Although most INDOT road construction projects have wrapped up for the winter, TrafficWise also includes information about road closures or restrictions.

Yellow plow trucks are deployed ahead of predicted winter weather to make state highways as safe as possible, but winter driving safety is a partnership where motorists play an equally important role. INDOT urges motorists to remember Ice & Snow: Take it Slow and drive at a slow, safe and consistent speed to minimize winter crashes.

We all know that someone . . . the person impossible to buy for . . .

How about a gift to a favorite fund in their honor?

Gifts to an endowment help their cause now & in the years to come.

Endowments are funds that are held in "perpetuity" through the Martin County Community Foundation. That means core donations are invested and the principal is not spent. The funds payout a percentage each year based on our distribution policy. Bottom line - your gift is leveraged with other gifts and will forever benefit Martin County.



FUNDS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Want to help a high school student go to college? Look here:

Terri Sullivan Callaway Scholarship
Gordon Jones Memorial Scholarship
Page Scholarship Fund
St. Vincent de Paul Scholarship for LHS
St. Vincent de Paul Scholarship for Shoals High School
Faye Shobe Memorial Scholarship Fund
William McGovern II Fund
Ben Trout Memorial Student Athlete Scholarship Fund
Whitfield Men's Club Educational Fund

Want to help the local libraries? Look here:

Loogootee Public Library Fund
Shoals Library Fund

Want to help local sports programs? Look here:

Leo Harding Memorial Fund (Shoals Baseball)

Want to help preserve local history? Look here:

Martin County Historical Society Fund

Want to help local single mothers get a better start? Look here:

Expectant Mothers Assistance Fund

Want to help build the arts in Loogootee? Look here:

Loogootee Community Performing Arts and Cultural Event Fund

Want to help feed the local hungry? Look here:

Martin County Food Pantry Fund

Want to help the Town of Shoals? Look here:

Shoals Betterment Fund

Want to help a particular Church or Cemetery? Look here:

St. John Perpetual Fund (Catholic)
Spirit of St. Martin Church Fund
Lucile & Rosemary Arvin Whitfield Cemetery Preservation Fund
Frye Family Truelove Cemetery Preservation Fund
St. John Cemetery Preservation Endowment Fund
South Martin Cemetery Preservation Fund
Truelove Cemetery Preservation Fund

Want to help the poor locally? Look here:

St. Vincent de Paul Society Endowment Fund

Want to help an adult go back to school? Look here:

Second Door Scholarship Fund
Martin County Non-Traditional Scholarship Fund

Want to help local youth? Look here:

Martin County 4-H Club Council, Inc. Fund
Sarah Bowling Fuhrman Memorial Fund for Youth

Want to help local education? Look here:

Martin County Community Foundation Education Fund
Shoals Community School Corporation K-12 Fund

Want to help Martin County but just not sure how? Look here:

The MCCF makes unrestricted grants to qualifying organizations from these funds:

Martin County General Unrestricted Fund
Martin County Memorial and Tribute Fund
Wendell Bough Family Fund
Crane Fund for the Betterment of Martin County
Al and Helen Friesenhengst Fund
Gregory Family Humanitarian Fund
Leo Harding Family Unrestricted Fund
Michael B. Lett Memorial Fund
Old National Bank Unrestricted Fund
Tri-Kappa of Loog.-Shoals Community Grants Fund
Other Funds:
David Arthur & Jewel Kelso Brown Memorial Fund
German American Bank Community Fund

Want to explore starting a fund or leaving a legacy in Martin County through a will? Just give us a call 812-295-1022 or email mccf@rtccom.net.

CENSUS

(Continued from page one)

1787 until the first Census of 1790, when it was increased to 105 members. By April 1, 2011 all states must receive redistricting data in accordance with Public Law 94-171.

Public Law 94-171, enacted by Congress in December 1975, requires the U.S. Census Bureau to provide state legislatures with the small area census population tabulations necessary for legislative redistricting. The states electing to participate in this voluntary program will define the small areas for which specific data tabulations are desired and submit these areas following timelines established by the Census Bureau. These small areas include census block boundaries, voting districts, and state legislative districts. The website www.rethinkingredistricting.com has conceptual maps based on the 2000 Census including other redistricting information from Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita.

The program also will ensure continued dialogue with the states in regard to 2010 Census planning, thereby allowing states ample time for planning, response, and participation.

134 million housing units in the U.S. were contacted for the 2010 Census, either by mail or in person, to collect a form or determine if vacant. 74 percent of households returned their forms by mail matching the mail participation rate achieved during the 2000 Census.

22 states met or exceeded their 2000 Census mail participation rate.

More than \$400 billion in federal funds is distributed each year to states and communities based in part on census population data.

More Census data is scheduled to be released in February of next year.



If you would like to make a gift in honor of someone or in memory of a loved one, simply send a check to: Martin County Community Foundation P.O. Box 28 Loogootee, IN 47553

Make checks payable to the Martin County Community Foundation. Please include a note that states the fund you would like to support, in whose honor or memory the gift is being made, and the address where you would like notification of the gift sent. (We do not include gift amounts in notifications of memorials or honorariums. You will receive a separate receipt. All gifts to MCCF funds are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.)

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

ELNORA TEDROW

Elnora M. Tedrow went to be with her Lord on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 2:05 p.m. at the Loogootee Nursing Center. A resident of Loogootee, she was 91.

She was born June 16, 1919 in Martin County; the daughter of James H. Davis and Anna K. (Meyer) Davis. She married Gledys Tedrow on January 20, 1938 and he preceded her in death on July 13, 1990.

She is survived by four sons and daughters-in-law James E. and Justine, Marvin W. and Delema, G. Freeman and Marilyn, all of Shoals, and Michael L. and Dawn Tedrow of Mount Vernon; eleven grandchildren, six step-grandchildren; thirty-seven great-grandchildren; and many friends.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, three sisters, four brothers and two daughters, Camella J. Tedrow and Wilma M. Parke.

The funeral service was held Sunday, December 19, at Poplar Grove Church with Rev. James Downs and grandson Rev. Gary Tedrow officiating. Burial will be in Poplar Grove cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to Poplar Grove Church.

HAZEL "GENE" CROPP

Hazel "Gene" Cropp, formerly of Shoals, died Tuesday, December 14, 2010, at 4 a.m. at Garden Villa in Bedford. A resident of that city, she was 95.

She was born on August 31, 1915 in Mar-

tin County; the daughter of Grover and Grace (Hickman) Hawkins. She married Darrell W. Cropp on June 27, 1936 in Mitchell and he preceded her in death on July 3, 1987. She was a 1933 graduate of Shoals High School and was a homemaker. She attended Shoals United Methodist Church and was a member of Eastern Star; Women's Study Club in Shoals; Homemakers Club in Shoals; Garden Club in Shoals; D.A.R.; United Methodist Women; and Tri-Kappa in Martin County.

She is survived by two daughters, Judith (Donald R.) Johnson of Bedford; Ardis (Stanley) Asbell of Henderson, Nevada; six grandchildren: Greg (Marcy) Johnson, Kansas City, Missouri; Jim (Susan) Johnson, Bedford; Brent (Dezarae) Johnson, Vincennes; Dean Asbell, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Randy (Denise) Asbell, Las Vegas, Nevada; Andrea (Gary) King, Henderson, Nevada; seven great-grandchildren; one brother, Clyde (Helen) Hawkins, Shoals; one sister-in-law, Lydian Hawkins, Shoals; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; four brothers: Charles, John, Hubert and Bob Hawkins; three sisters: Mildred Beaver, Wanda Stiles and Lucille Jarboe.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 18 at Queen-Lee Funeral Home in Shoals with Pastor Delbert Stoll officiating. Burial followed in Spring Hill Cemetery in Shoals.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shoals United Methodist Church in memory of Hazel "Gene" Cropp.

LILLIAN DAVIS

Lillian Wilma Davis, formerly of Shoals, passed away on December 13, 2010 at 11:53 a.m. at the Bedford Regional Medical Center. A resident of Mitchell, she was 79.

She was born in Martin County on February 14, 1931; the daughter of Frank and Myrna (Davis) Wilcoxon. She was previously married to Arthur Davis.

Wilma loved to participate in Special Olympics for which she received several medals. She was very gifted with needlework, and she loved to gift her work to others. Wilma lived in a group home for many years, and she enjoyed her roommates and the many activities they participated in. In later years, she became a resident of Mitchell Manor, where she resided at the time of death.

Survivors include sons Arthur Davis, Jr and Henry Davis, two granddaughters, three sisters Bernice Morris, Virginia Brown, and Mabel Akles; and two brothers Leland and Gerald Wilcoxon

She is preceded in death by her parents, a daughter Gracie Davis, sisters Bonnie Davis, Ruth Hunt, Anne Vaught; and her twin brother Wilson.

A funeral service was held Thursday, December 16 at the Queen-Lee Funeral Home in Shoals. Burial will be in Mount Union

Cemetery. Suggested memorials are to the Special Olympics.

CARRIE "BETTY" BROWN

Carrie Elizabeth "Betty" Brown formerly of Columbus, Indiana passed away on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at the Loogootee Nursing Center. A resident of Shoals, she was 83.

She was born April 13, 1927 in Shoals; the daughter of Thomas Sr. and Carrie Elizabeth (Stone) Arvin. She married John E. Brown on April 3, 1948 at St. Mary of The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Shoals, and he survives.

She was employed with Crane and the Department of Defense at Fort Ben in Indianapolis. She was a graduate of Shoals High School, and a member of St. Mary of The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. She was a founding member of the Psi Iota Xi, a member of The Joseph Hart Chapter of Daughters of American Revolution, and very active in Cloth A Child in Indianapolis, Indiana.

She is survived by one daughter, Lisa Golay-Hicks, and her husband David, of Louisville, Kentucky; one son, John Patrick Brown of Loogootee; one grandson, Benjamin Golay of Ithaca, New York; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, Mary Jo Doyle, Doris Howell, and Ruth Donaldson, and brothers Marion, Robert, Charles, and Thomas J. Arvin.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, December 20 at St. Mary of The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Shoals, with Fathers Joseph Erbacher and Leo Kiesel as co-celebrants. Burial was in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Preferred memorials to the American Cancer Society or the charity of choice.

MARVIN THARP

Marvin J. Tharp passed away at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at his home. A resident of Shoals, he was 61.

He was born February 25, 1949 in Martin County; the son of Wayne and Ilean (Potts) Tharp. He married Sandra Lumm in Shoals on February 2, 2006. He was a farmer and worked in the timber business.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra of Shoals; one step-son, Jesse Roscoe and Tabitha Lumm of Bicknell; one step-grandson, Steve Trey Lumm of Bicknell; three sisters, Shirley Todd of Shoals, Sharon (John) Blake of Loogootee, and Juanita Tharp of Shoals; one brother, Gary Tharp of Shoals; nieces Stacy and Derek Crowder and Annie Todd; and nephews Jeffrey Roberts and Jeffrey Crowder.

He was preceded in death by his parents. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 21 at Queen-Lee Funeral Home. Burial was in Poplar Grove Cemetery



St. Joseph's Christmas play

Shown above are Fr. Joe Erbacher, pastor and members of the congregation of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bramble who participated in the St. Joseph Christmas Pageant on December 12.



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HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Eve - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Christmas Day - Closed

New Year's Eve - 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Open New Year's Day - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

New Year's Eve Buffet featuring Prime Rib, Catfish Fiddlers, BBQ Ribs, Fried Chicken, and Shrimp. Served from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

REGULAR BUFFET HOURS

Breakfast: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Sat. 7 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Lunch: Mon.-Sat. 10:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Dinner: Mon.-Sat. 4 p.m.-8 p.m. • Closed Sunday
Sandwich menu always available; Friday & Saturday dinner menu available after 4 p.m.

Martin County Sheriff's Department log

Monday, December 13

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.

2:58 p.m. - Received a report of a stranded semi on U.S. 50, in Shoals.

3:49 p.m. - Received a report of a possible chimney fire in Shoals.

4:18 p.m. - Received a report of a property damage accident in Odon. Daviess County was contacted.

4:34 p.m. - A female caller advised that she had found a hawk with a broken wing.

6:26 p.m. - Received a report of an accident on Dover Hill Road.

7:22 p.m. - Received a call about a hit and run accident that occurred in Lawrence County and they were contacted.

8:16 p.m. - Received a report of a stranded semi on U.S. 50.

11:57 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

Tuesday, December 14

7:21 a.m. - Received a report of a slide off on U.S. 150, near Singing Hill. No damage was reported.

1:02 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:16 p.m. - Received a request for assistance from a female caller that had locked herself out of her residence.

3:00 p.m. - Received a report of a possible overdose. The subject went by personal vehicle to the hospital with a friend.

4:11 p.m. - A female caller reported a male subject harassing her son.

4:52 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Crane Village. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:16 p.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver on U.S. 50, near Buffalo Bottoms.

Wednesday, December 15

5:37 a.m. - Received a call about a stranded motorist on U.S. 231, south of Loogootee.

11:20 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle in a ditch on Lily Pond Road.

1:29 p.m. - Received a request for an am-

bulance for an injured logger off of Powell Valley Road.

3:30 p.m. - A female caller requested to speak to an officer with concerns about her brother.

6:44 p.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver on S.R. 550.

8:47 p.m. - Received a request for a check to be done on a pickup truck parked off of S.R. 450 with a small fire outside of it.

9:05 p.m. - Received a report of a possible overdose. The subject was in Orange County and they were contacted.

Thursday, December 16

4:04 a.m. - Received a call about a stranded semi on Mill Road.

4:15 a.m. - Received a report of a stranded motorist on S.R. 550.

5:44 a.m. - Received a call about an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Police Department was notified.

6:30 a.m. - Received a report of a stranded motorist on Chicken Farm Road.

6:33 a.m. - Received a report of a slide off on Chicken Farm Road.

7:11 a.m. - Received a report of a slide off in Shoals.

9:47 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on S.R. 550. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:11 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:31 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

11:56 a.m. - Received a request for lift assistance in Loogootee.

3:13 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check on a female in Shoals.

3:17 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:23 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on Tharp Road.

Unknown time - Received a report of damage done to a fence on Mt. Pleasant Road.

5:03 p.m. - Received report of a FedEx truck stranded at St. John's Cemetery.

6:55 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

Unknown time - Received a request for a welfare check on a subject in Loogootee.

7:42 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle with no tail lights on U.S. 50.

7:52 p.m. - Received a report of a male walking in the middle of U.S. 231.

8:24 p.m. - Received a report of power outage in Shoals.

8:39 p.m. - Received a report of threatening

text messages.

9:35 p.m. - Received a report of a deer in the roadway at Buffalo Bottoms.

11:07 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

Friday, December 17

Unknown time - A call was received to report a stranded motorist on U.S. 150, near Mill Road.

7:25 p.m. - Received a report of a semi on U.S. 231 tailgating and speeding.

9:32 p.m. - Received a call about an injured duck on U.S. 231, north of Truelove Church Road.

11:19 p.m. - Received a report of possible shots fired in the area of Wadsworth Lane.

11:55 p.m. - Received a call about a stranded motorist. The vehicle was in Greene County and they were contacted.

Saturday, December 18

1:10 a.m. - Received a call about an unknown subject trying to gain entry to a residence. The call came from Mitchell and Mitchell Police Department was contacted.

3:23 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle that had slid off the roadway on ice in Shoals.

3:53 a.m. - Received a report of a battery.

7:54 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

10:16 a.m. - Received a report of stolen medication.

Martin County accident reports

Tuesday, December 14

6:01 a.m. - Jacob E. Jones, 62, of Dubois, was traveling north on Windom Road in a 2005 Ford. He rounded a curve, lost control of his vehicle on the snow covered roadway, and slid off the right side of the road striking a tree. The investigating officer was Chief Deputy Rob Street.

12:54 p.m. - Bruce A. Carlisle, 62, of Martinsville, was traveling east on U.S. 150 near Asbell Road in a red 2007 Pontiac. He lost control of his vehicle and ran off the right hand side of the road. Carlisle stated that his front end started sliding before he went off the road. The roadways were wet in some places with melting snow and ice in some areas. There was also sand and salt on the roadways. Carlisle ran off the right hand side into a ditch and struck some rocks with the front and front passenger side of his vehicle. He contacted AAA and they sent Bob Lueger's Motor out of Jasper to tow the vehicle back to Martinsville. The investigating officer was Corporal John Fischer.

Wednesday, December 15

8:50 a.m., Miriam Hammack, 24, of Williams, was traveling east on Cale Road when she lost control of her 2008 Toyota Scion. Miriam spun around in the road and

11:49 a.m. - Received a report of a slide off on Chicken Farm Road.

1:39 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on County Farm Road. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

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

2:56 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals.

6:20 p.m. - Received a report of a dog bite.

Sunday, December 19

12:15 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. No transport was necessary.

1:53 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance at Martin County Healthcare. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:00 a.m. - Received a report of a violation of a protective order.

12:21 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on Witt Road. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:15 p.m. - A male caller in Shoals advised that his dog had been attacked by another dog in the area.

4:25 p.m. - Received a report of stolen firewood.

5:46 p.m. - Received a report of a deer accident in Daviess County.

6:20 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

then slid off the left hand side of the road into a fence post. The Toyota had significant damage to the entire passenger side, but was able to be driven from the scene after G & M pulled the vehicle back onto the roadway. Snow and ice on the roadway was the cause of the accident. The investigating officer was Corporal John Fischer.

Thursday, December 16

6:12 a.m. - Frances A. Doyle was operating 2006 Chevy on Country Court. Due to icy roads Doyle's vehicle slid through Butcher Boulevard and into a fence owed by Loogootee Little League. No injuries were reported. Chief Rayhill was investigating officer.

9:08 a.m. - John P. Jones driving a 1994 Ford truck slid on the ice as he was trying to park in McDonald's parking lot and struck a 1996 Dodge belonging to Mike Like of Vincennes. There was no damage to the Jones vehicle. Damage was to the driver's side of the Like vehicle. Investigating officer was Chief Rayhill.

12:14 p.m. - Tim Hudson was operating a 1996 Dodge wrecker and was attempting to hook onto a U.S. Postal truck. The wrecker slid on the icy road into the front of the postal truck. Chief Rayhill investigated.

Martin County real estate transfers

Michael J. Hopkins and Karen A. Hopkins, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jase Properties, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 30, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Halbert Township, Martin County, Indiana, and containing 1/3 acres, more or less.

Stephen T. Jenkins and Teresa L. Jenkins, of Lawrence County, Indiana to **Jeffrey Kevin Heerkink**, of Monroe County, Indiana, a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 25, Township 5 North, Range 3 West, Mitcheltree Township, Martin County, Indiana, and containing 2.86 acres, more or less.

John E. McAtee and L. Ann McAtee, of Martin County, Indiana to **Mark E. McAtee**, of Martin County, Indiana, 60 feet off of the east side of Lot Numbered 133 to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana, the same being of even width and all of said lot except 6 feet off the west side thereof.

Cecil L. Arvin, of Martin County, Indiana to **Steven R. Arvin**, of Martin County, Indi-

ana, a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 30, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, and containing 0.569 acres, more or less.

Trudy R. Riley and Sheila R. Denson, as co-personal representatives of the estate of Leonard Bert Smith to **Dan R. Wagler and Martha Wagler**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, and containing 3.5 acres, more or less.

Robert M. Hellums, of Martin County, Indiana to **Rick Norris and Connie L. Norris**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of Lot Numbered 1 in the Ackerman Addition to Loogootee, Martin County, Indiana.

Monty Gregory and Brooke Gregory, of Martin County, Indiana to **Tammie J. Steward, Sara J. Steward, and Forrest Steward**, of Martin County, Indiana, .2 of an acre in Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West.

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Loogootee Police log

Martin County court news

Monday, December 13

4: 55 a.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department requested for first responders on JFK Avenue for a male with heart problems.

Tuesday, December 14

12:23 p.m. - Loogootee Police assisted ISP with a two-vehicle accident in front of Ruler.

1:10 p.m. - First responders requested on SE 3rd Street for a male with a noise bleed.

3:20 p.m. - DCSD advised of a possible suicidal subject traveling on US 50.

3:23 p.m. - Caller advised a truck had flipped in a field pass Loughmiller's. DCSD was notified.

4:52 p.m. - First responders requested in Crane Village for a subject with chest pains.

Wednesday, December 15

9:25 p.m. - Male caller stated a female was in his house with mental issues. Sgt. Hennette responded.

Thursday, December 16

12:45 a.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department advised of a 911 hang up on NE First Street.

4:20 a.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department advised of two vehicles struck on State Road 550.

6:05 a.m. - Female caller reported her son's vehicle had slid off the road near Goodwill Cemetery.

6:30 a.m. - Caller reported a vehicle had slid into a pole on JFK Avenue and vehicle then left the scene.

7:10 a.m. - Caller reported a slid off on Cedar Street.

8:10 a.m. - Caller reported a slid off on North Line Street.

8:25 a.m. - Caller reported a slid off on Cedar Street.

10:45 a.m. - CVS requested an officer in regards to a suspicious prescription.

11:02 a.m. - Caller reported a van hung up on Locust Street.

11:59 a.m. - Caller reported a vehicle accident at the Loogootee High School.

12:00 p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department reported an elderly lady had fallen on her porch. Chief Rayhill assisted.

6:00 p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department requested assistance on a property damage accident on Mt. Pleasant Road.

7:48 p.m. - Caller reported reckless vehicles in the high school parking lot.

Friday, December 17

11:17 a.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident in German American Bancorp parking lot.

5:11 p.m. - Caller reported possible drug activity on North Line Street.

7:00 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious vehicle on Indiana Avenue.

10:48 p.m. - Mother called and advised she was having problems with her daughter and wanted to speak with an officer.

Saturday, December 18

10:13a.m. - Caller stated his tires were slashed. Officer Todd responded.

4:19p.m. - Caller reported loud music at Country Place Apartments. Captain Akles responded.

Sunday, December 19

11:00a.m. - DCSD reported a reckless driver on Hwy 50.

3:50p.m. - Caller reported a trespasser on his property on SW 1st Street.

7:34p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department reported a 911 hang-up on SE 1st Street.

Jail bookings

Sunday, December 19

12:55p.m. - Matthew S. Taylor, 33, of Loogootee, was arrested for invasion of privacy and transported to the Martin County Security Center. Captain Akles was the arresting officer.

7:35 p.m. - Brian Tow, 52, of Shoals, was arrested and charged with resisting law enforcement.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

December 7

Carla Besaw to Midland Funding, LLC in the amount of \$1,464.84.

Blythe Downey to Capital One Bank in the amount of \$1,956.15.

Jimmy Hamby to Midland Funding, LLC in the amount of \$3,244.39.

Michael Hopkins to Midland Funding, LLC in the amount of \$775.14.

Leah May to Equable Ascent Financial, LLC in the amount of \$2,426.43.

Kimberly Sanchez to Capital One Bank in the amount of \$845.53.

Larry Sullivan to Crane Federal Credit Union in the amount of \$6,603.39.

CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

December 13

German American f/k/a Peoples Bank vs. Robert Hellums, heirs, legatees, devisees; and unknown occupants, mortgage foreclosure, dismissed.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suit Filed

December 13

Fremont O. Pickett vs. L. Lynn Clark, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

December 7

Wendie Bell to Hoosier Accounts Service in the amount of \$275.39.

William Bryson to Hoosier Accounts Service in the amount of \$422.20.

Tara Cronin to Hoosier Accounts Service in the amount of \$351.51.

John and Pamela Daniel to Hoosier Accounts Service in the amount of \$1,858.88.

William Edwards to Hoosier Accounts Service in the amount of \$661.58.

Julie Hawkins to Hoosier Accounts Service in the amount of \$4,017.16.

Christopher M. Parsons to Hoosier Accounts Service in the amount of \$1,497.59.

Paula Murphy to All Terrain in the

amount of \$3,406.

December 20

Freddie and Mary E. Padgett to Hoosier Accounts Service in the amount of \$614.77

TRAFFIC TICKETS PAID

December 8 - December 15

Heather Allen, Loogootee, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Robert Allen, Loogootee, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Sandra Andis, Shoals, seatbelt violation, \$25.

David Craft II, Shoals, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Toni Craney, Loogootee, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Tyler Fehribach, Loogootee, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Jesse Floerke, Bedford, speeding 69 in a 55, \$119.

Joshua Kalb, Jasper, speeding 52 in a 35, \$124.

Carrie McPherson, Loogootee, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Samuel Miller, Shoals, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Franklin Nolley, Loogootee, unregistered vehicle; expired plates, \$119.

James Payne, Shoals, speeding 71 in a 40; alteration by local authority; school, \$130.

Carl Porter, Loogootee, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Elizabeth Potter, Bedford, speeding 65 in a 50; alteration by local authority; school, \$119.

Jordan Roller, Loogootee, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Paul Stowers, Merom, speeding 73 in a 55, \$124.

Kyle Tarr, Loogootee, speeding 52 in a 35; alteration by local authority; school, \$124.

Greg Tolbert, Loogootee, seatbelt violation, \$25.

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Opinions

Classified **ADS**



My Point of **VIEW**

By Courtney Hughett
Owner, Martin County Journal

So, I sat for three hours last Monday watching the Martin County Council attempt to find around \$600,000 to take out of the general fund. Department heads cut money from their office supplies, postage, equipment purchases and repairs, among other funds. The sheriff's department lost the ability to replace a deputy putting them at seven now instead of eight and Sheriff-elect Rob Street openly admitted it would be difficult to provide 100 percent police coverage to the county when you factor in officer vacations, sicknesses, leave, etc.

Prosecutor Mike Steiner voluntarily gave back \$8,000 in his budget and even took a gamble on taking \$20,000 more out to be paid for from his IV-D Fund which is only reimbursable from the state by two-thirds. Watching Mr. Steiner you could tell that he had a genuine concern for helping find the money and ultimately helping the county. (And he was just re-elected last month so that wasn't his motive.) While other department heads gave back funds too, most did so out of necessity not of their own accord and some were downright hesitant. While I have no doubt some departments can operate just as efficiently on less money, some of the cuts were downright scary.

Commissioner Dan Gregory suggested raising the Local Option Income Tax (LOIT) to 1.5 percent up from 1 percent. To me, this didn't sound so bad. It would add over \$800,000 in additional revenue therefore solving a majority of funding problems for our county and giving back quite a bit of those possibly unfavorable cuts.

So, if you grossed say \$500 on your paycheck you would pay \$7.50 to the county instead of \$5.00. And I understand that with federal taxes already so high the last thing people want is to pay more, but in this case our county must stay afloat so it's an option that may have to be looked into or this will be the norm at budget time every year.

Another concern I have is with the

salaries of our elected officials. They are very low. I did a comparison back at the beginning of October and Martin County's elected officials are paid thousands less than comparable counties. For instance, our auditor makes \$26,000 a year. That's \$500 a week before taxes. I am in the courthouse every single week and I have seen what that job entails. I wouldn't want it and certainly not for that annual salary. And to think that our elected officials actually have to campaign for those positions – buy yard signs, advertisements, etc. I just have to think that they don't do it for the money, they do it for the love of their county but at what point does the cost of living cause them to move on to greener pastures. Will this leave our elected positions open to anyone – regardless of experience, intelligence, or work ethic? The sheriff's salary was reduced by \$20,000! That is a lot of money. Rob Street has been with the department for 20-something years and they didn't cut the salary until he was knee-deep into the campaign process during an election year. While most may believe a reduction was acceptable, is \$20,000 a fair amount to take away?

Other concerns I have are on bridge repairs which the county has no choice but to put a band-aid on every year due to lack of funding, road repairs which have fallen to the wayside for the last several years, our county is in need of an animal control officer, and worthy community organizations' budgets are being slashed to the point of non-existence.

According to 2009 data from www.indianacounties.org Daviess County adopted a LOIT rate of 1.75 percent, Orange County's is 1.25 percent, and Lawrence County's is 1.75 percent. Greene County and Dubois County are still at 1 percent. While I know tax hike puts a lot of people in an uproar, I guess the big questions would be is a few extra dollars a week worth it to keep Martin County – Martin County?

~LETTER TO THE EDITOR~

Speeding through Loogootee

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*:

Recently it was brought up at a Loogootee City Council meeting that a stoplight be added at Butcher Boulevard (Vincennes St) in days past. The mayor said that he asked INDOT to lower the speed limits on Highway 231 coming into Loogootee. They refused.

If we don't ticket the speeders on the city streets, what good could changing the number on a sign on the highway do? During high traffic times, the police department needs to be authorized to have multiple officers on duty writing tickets to all speeders (No Warnings Allowed). Warnings aren't going to pay the police department's cost of keeping this city safe. If it happens to be me

or my wife speeding I guess I will do my part to support the city budget.

It is my understanding that the speed limit on city streets is 20 mph even though it isn't posted on every block.

I witness speeding people (students and parents) heading to and from the school on Walker Street every week. I would love these people to slow down. If that means their wallets are lighter to get them to do it I'm ok with that. If it is made a priority to slow down the speeders it will happen. The officers know when and where to be to find the speeders, just let them do it. I am not for a stoplight at Butcher Boulevard. I am for enforcing the laws that we already have to make Loogootee safer.

Michael A. Milligan
Loogootee

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The City of Loogootee is now accepting applications for PART-TIME POLICE DISPATCHER

All applicants that will be considered for appointment must be:

- A. A citizen of the United States
- B. Have received a high school diploma or G.E.D.
- C. Free of a felony conviction
- D. Have good communication skills
- E. Must pass a mandatory drug-screening test
- F. Willing to work weekends and 3rd shifts
- G. 18 years of age

City of Loogootee does not discriminate against persons on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or political affiliation. City of Loogootee is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applications may be picked up at the Loogootee Police Department at 401 JFK Ave. during normal business hours. Deadline for this process is 4 p.m. on January 10, 2011.

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41-80 words - \$8 per week
81-120 words - \$12 per week
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Call 812-259-4309 for more information.

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 Christmas, there will not be organized walking. You may still come and walk individually without music. Starting January 5, there will be devotion discussions every Wednesday at 8:30. 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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Dannon and Directv settle claims of deceptive marketing practices with Indiana and other states

The Indiana Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division has reached multi-state and multi-million dollar settlement agreements with The Dannon Company, Inc., and Directv, Inc. resolving concerns both companies engaged in deceptive marketing practices to sell their products. Dannon has agreed to pay \$21 million in a settlement reached with 39 state attorneys general and the Federal Trade Commission, while Directv has agreed to provide consumers refunds, as well as pay \$13.25 million to the 50 attorneys general joining in the settlement.

"Both of these settlements demonstrate the important role the states play in enforcing consumer protection laws," Attorney General Greg Zoeller said. "The collaborative efforts of the consumer protection divisions around the country often help achieve results on behalf of those they serve better than acting alone."

Details of Dannon settlement

The settlement agreement describes how Dannon made unlawful claims in advertising, marketing, packaging, and selling Activia yogurts and DanActive dairy drinks. Dannon represented that Activia yogurt products helped to regulate one's digestive systems based largely on the presence of one ingredient, a bacterial strain with purported probiotic benefits that Dannon trademarked under the name Bifidus Regularis.

Additionally, the settlement resolves allegations that Dannon made unproven claims about the health benefits of Activia when one serving per day for two weeks was consumed while the majority of scientific studies demonstrated a benefit only for individuals who consumed three servings per day for two weeks.

Dannon also produces and distributes DanActive dairy drinks. Dannon represented that DanActive provided consumers with "immunity" and cold and flu prevention benefits. The attorneys general allege that those claims are unlawful and lack scientific proof. As with Activia, Dannon's advertising and marketing emphasized that DanActive contains a probiotic bacterial strain called L. casei Immunitas, also trademarked by Dannon.

The settlement limits the claims Dannon can make regarding their products, specifically that the products can prevent, treat or cure disease and requires Dannon to obtain reliable scientific evidence to support claims about health benefits of its probiotic food products.

Indiana will receive \$425,000 from the multi-state agreement.

Details of Directv settlement

Directv has agreed to make changes to its business practices to settle consumer protection allegations that the satellite TV provider engaged in deceptive and unfair sales practices. In response to numerous consumer complaints that Directv did not clearly communicate its terms of service or prices, the settlement requires Directv to:

- Clearly disclose all material terms to consumers;

- Replace leased equipment that is defective at no cost except shipping costs;

- Not require the consumer to enter into an additional contract when simply replacing defective equipment;

- Clearly disclose when a consumer is entering into a contract;

- Clearly notify consumers before a consumer is obligated to pay for a seasonal sports package;

- Clearly disclose all limitations on the availability of local channels;

- Not misrepresent the availability of sports programming;

- Not represent that a consumer would get cash back if the consumer would actually get a bill credit; and

- Clearly notify consumers that they will be charged a cancellation or equipment fee at least 10 days before charging the fee.

Indiana has received over 500 consumer complaints since January 1, 2007 about Directv.

Directv has also agreed to institute a consumer restitution program for eligible consumers who have unresolved consumer complaints sent to Directv or the Attorney General's office that involve conduct addressed in the settlement and occurred after January 1, 2007. Consumers can still file a complaint with Directv or the Attorney General by June 9, 2011 to be considered for the restitution program as long as the complaint is about activity that occurred after January 1, 2007. To file a complaint with the Indiana Attorney General's office call 1-800-382-5516 or download the complaint form at www.IndianaConsumer.com.

Directv will attempt to resolve the complaints with consumers. If the complaint cannot be resolved, Directv shall inform the consumer that the complaint can be resolved by an independent claims administrator and mail a claim form to the consumer. The claims administrator will then resolve the dispute between the consumer and Directv.

In addition to any refunds that will be paid to Hoosiers, Indiana will receive \$185,000 from the settlement.

Governor reinstates raises for state employees

Governor Mitch Daniels sent a letter to state employees yesterday to advise them that following a two-year pay freeze most will be eligible for a modest pay increase in 2011.

In the letter, the governor said those who receive a positive performance review will receive, on average, a 1.3 percent increase. The raises will be a flat amount: \$1,000 for employees who earn an evaluation of outstanding (approximately 5 percent of employees); \$750 for those who exceed expectations (10 percent of employees), and \$500 for those who meet expectations (75 percent of employees). Employees who are evaluated as needing improvement or who do not meet expectations will not receive a pay increase.

"It has been very disappointing to me that we have not been able to recognize financially your hard work over the last two years," Daniels wrote. "Of course, few of the taxpayers who pay our salaries have had pay increases, and many have lost income or their jobs. Still, I have really regretted

our inability to give pay raises during this recession."

State employees did not receive pay increases in 2009 or 2010 when the governor reduced spending throughout the executive branch of state government as state revenues fell off during the national recession. However, the pay for performance evaluation plan the governor instituted in 2006 has remained in place, and outstanding performance has been rewarded through the state's spot bonus program and the governor's public service achievement awards.

Daniels has asked the leaders of the state's executive branch agencies to forego a salary increase. For the third year in a row, Daniels will not accept the salary increase for the governor approved by the General Assembly three years ago.

State employee reviews are currently being conducted, and the pay increases will be effective in February.

The letter may be found at this link: www.in.gov/gov/files/Press/122110letter.pdf.

The Messmer Report

By District 63 State Rep.

Mark Messmer



How To: Visit the Statehouse

The 2011 legislative session will be beginning January 5 and when talking to people I get a lot of interest in visiting the Statehouse. Whether you are looking for an educational experience or just something fun to do in Indianapolis, coming to the Statehouse is an opportunity to take advantage of. Our state capitol is a spectacular building with a lot of history to discover. I encourage you take a trip to Indianapolis to see the General Assembly in action and to explore the building.

A few interesting facts about the building: It was built in 1888 and the architecture was inspired by the Parthenon in Greece. It is one of the only state capitol buildings to still house all three branches of government in one building: the executive, legislative and judiciary offices.

There are three easy ways to visit the Statehouse. My first suggestion to visit the Statehouse is to take a scheduled tour. The Statehouse Tour Office offers many options to help plan your visit, and is a free experience open to the public. Whether you want a quick historical orientation of the building or the opportunity to see the governor's office, taking part in a tour is a great way to learn more about the Statehouse and what goes on inside.

I recommend coming on a day when the House or Senate is in session, which is Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. The gallery, on the fourth floor, is open to the public and watching the proceedings can help you to better understand the law-making process. If you are interested in taking a tour or want more information, you can call 317-232-5293 or e-mail captours@idoa.in.gov.

The second option is for students, ages 13-18. They are offered the opportunity to

page for the House of Representatives. As a page, students view and participate in day-to-day activities of the General Assembly. They work closely with their representative, run errands, and attend committee hearings and floor sessions. They also have the chance to take a tour of the governor's office and the Indiana Supreme Court.

Hundreds of students each year take advantage of this unique educational experience and have fun doing it. The House Student Services Office can set up a date that works for you and answer any questions you might have. You can visit the Indiana House Republicans website and click on Student Opportunities. You can also e-mail h63@in.gov or call 317-232-9671 to apply.

Spots fill up quickly, so apply soon if you're interested.

Finally, you can watch a live feed of House proceedings online. Technology has become a useful tool at the Statehouse. Every floor session is recorded and set up on a live feed on the House of Representatives website. You are able to watch the law-making process as it happens. I highly encourage you to explore the General Assembly website and watch a live session. The website offers information about the House and Senate, filed bills and calendars, and is very user-friendly. You can go to www.in.gov/legislative to watch the live feed online.

I hope you are able to visit our state capitol and, like me, appreciate the important events happening here daily to better the lives of all Hoosiers. We have a great opportunity in the session ahead to improve our state in many ways. If you can make a trip to see session in action I will do my best to take some time to visit with you and your group.

Hume invites students to spend a day at the Indiana State Senate

State Senator Lindel Hume (D-Princeton) is inviting area students to participate in the upcoming session of the Indiana General Assembly by serving as Senate pages.

Students in grade 6 through high school seniors may apply to serve as Senate pages while the General Assembly is in session. Students will serve in the State Senate for one day assisting legislative aides and interns with legislative tasks and attending session in the Senate chamber. Volunteering as a Senate page is an excused absence from school.

Session begins January 5 and will continue through April 29. Pages serve only on session days, which are generally Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of each week.

Skillman announces she will not run for governor in 2012

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman issued the following statement on Monday on a gubernatorial run in 2012.

"With much disappointment, I am announcing today that I will not be a candidate for Governor in 2012. My end-of-year physical exam revealed minor health issues. Nothing will interfere with my devotion to my duties as Lt. Governor, and I plan to continue the same pace as always. However, it is best to continue without the additional stress of a gubernatorial campaign.

"I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my family, office staff, campaign staff, and many friends and supporters throughout the state who offered great encouragement for my potential candidacy.

"I look forward to the next two years of service with enthusiasm, particularly the upcoming legislative session, as Governor Mitch and I work every day to move our state forward."

There are a limited number of page positions available each session and interested students should email Sen. Hume at s48@iga.in.gov or write in care of the Indiana State Senate, 200 West Washington, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2785, and include their full name, address, phone number, age, school, and two different dates they would be available.

Students may also contact Senate Student Services by calling 800-382-9467 or 317-232-9410 for more information on the program.

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.

Lt. Governor Skillman has served in elective office for 34 years. She began her career in 1976 as Lawrence County Recorder. After an eight-year term as recorder, she was elected Lawrence County Clerk. In that time, she also served as President of the Association of Indiana Counties. In 1992, she was elected to the Indiana State Senate, where she held unprecedented leadership roles for a woman. In 2004, she joined Mitch Daniels on the ballot and became Indiana's first elected female lieutenant governor.

In her role as lieutenant governor, Skillman leads the State Department of Agriculture, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Defense Development, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, and the Office of Tourism Development. She also chairs the Indiana Counter Terrorism and Security Council and serves as the President of the Indiana Senate.

Attorney General Zoeller sets priorities for 2011

As the economic downturn has emboldened fraudsters, scam artists and identity thieves to try to defraud Hoosiers, Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller has ratcheted up his efforts to protect consumers, homeowners and taxpayers and hold accountable those who victimize the public. With Indiana's criminal justice system facing declining revenues, Zoeller in 2010 also focused on resource challenges posed by drug-trafficking organizations and urged policymakers to continue a dialogue on the escalating costs of the death penalty.

"In 2011, I plan to be an advocate for full state funding of the criminal justice system,

so that law enforcement has adequate resources to combat well-funded drug rings while ensuring funding is efficient and transparent. The Attorney General's Office serves in a dual role not only as the lawyer for state government but also as the state's consumer protection agency. Hoosiers can rest assured that my office is serving them by defending against unscrupulous companies and individuals who want to deprive them of their money and security," Zoeller said.

Defending consumers

Amid nationwide complaints that mortgage servicers routinely filed foreclosures without adequate review, the Indiana Attor-

ney General joined a 50-state investigation into financial institutions "robo-signing" documents. Zoeller also filed 34 lawsuits in 2010 against illegal foreclosure-rescue consultants who preyed on distressed homeowners, taking their money but doing nothing to prevent a foreclosure. Armed with the powers of a new state law regulating credit service organizations, Zoeller's team of consumer protection attorneys also began cracking down on credit-repair scam artists whose victims are also those who can least afford to be scammed.

The AG's Unclaimed Property Division also assists Hoosiers who have money owed to them, often through forgotten bank accounts, unspent store credits or overlooked assets. In 2010, more than 60,000 claims were processed, translating into \$40 million that the program returned to Hoosiers. Zoeller also kicked off the office's first Amnesty program, allowing companies who had not previously filed unclaimed property reports to do so without penalty. This nearly doubled the number of companies who reported unclaimed assets to the state, which will translate into more money returned to Hoosiers in the future.

Defending crime victims and supporting criminal justice

As the state's lawyer, the Attorney General represents the prosecution in appellate court and opposes attempts by offenders to overturn convictions or reduce sentences on appeal. Through November, the AG's Criminal Appeals Section fielded 1,450 new appellate cases, a 17 percent increase from 2009, and is on track to open 1,600 new cases in 2010 - each one requiring zealous legal work to protect the public and crime victims.

The Attorney General by law also defends prosecutors named in civil suits. Representing the criminal justice system broadly, Zoeller organized the Mexico Rule of Law conference at IUPUI in September that analyzed how the well-funded, well-organized drug cartels that have violently thwarted justice south of the border now seek to extend their influence into the U.S.

Zoeller also led the first AG Criminal Justice Summit at Notre Dame in November that created a dialogue among prosecutors, defense attorneys and policymakers on whether the costs of a death penalty trial mean capital punishment is sought in some counties but not others, creating fairness issues. Diligently enforcing the laws on the books, Zoeller's office prevailed in the Joseph Corcoran case where the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death sentence. Zoeller also brought together medical professionals, social services providers, and law enforcement to focus on prescription drug diversion and addiction in Indiana.

Protecting patients and seniors

The Attorney General's Office filed licensing violations against the professional licenses of doctors, nurses, administrators, and other health care professionals accused of violating state rules and endangering patients. Zoeller obtained revocations or suspensions of the licenses of a number of physicians who endangered patients by over prescribing narcotics in dangerous quantities and by prescribing to known addicts. Thoroughly investigating complaints to ensure licensing actions stick, Zoeller also advocated for changes in state law to protect nursing home residents, such as requiring mandatory criminal background checks for nurses and other healthcare workers.

Standing up for state sovereignty and representing Indiana in court

As the state's lawyer, the Attorney General defends and protects state sovereignty and executive authority: the ability of Indiana to pass and enact its own state laws and not have them overridden by the federal government or courts. That means Zoeller proactively serves as plaintiff's attorney, such as when Indiana was one of 20 states to file a legal challenge to the new federal health care law, contenting the individual mandate to buy insurance is unconstitutional. That also means Zoeller serves as defense attorney for a state statute that plaintiffs seek to overturn, such as when the Indiana Supreme Court up-

held the Voter ID law as being constitutional. Zoeller and Solicitor General Thomas M. Fisher now are defending the state's school funding formula and Indiana's Auto Dialer law restricting "robocall" machines from separate legal challenges. Fisher authored friend-of-the-court briefs in U.S. Supreme Court cases involving state sovereignty and other issues.

Fighting health care fraud

The AG's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) investigates nursing home abuse, neglect and fraud, and investigates ineligible billings submitted for reimbursement to Medicaid. Since January 2009, the MFCU participated in 13 settlements with pharmaceutical companies that were accused of engaging in illegal off-label marketing practices, and Indiana's share of the announced settlements is more than \$23.6 million. Also, the MFCU since early 2008 has obtained nearly \$1 million through settlements with health providers who illegally billed for services provided by employees who were excluded from the Medicaid program. Zoeller and his Deputy AGs from MFCU gave several presentations to health care workers on how to blow the whistle on fraud by filing suit under the False Claims Act.

Fighting public corruption

Zoeller continued to pursue the lawsuit that former Attorney General Steve Carter brought under the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), against East Chicago political figures accused of corruption. In March, a federal court ordered former East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick to pay \$108 million in damages, after that court last year entered judgments against Pastrick and two accomplices on every racketeering count the AG alleged in the \$24 million "sidewalk-for-votes" fraud. Seeking to collect on the judgment and opposing Pastrick's bankruptcy petition, Zoeller also has fought in court and in the Legislature to pry open the books of a non-transparent for-profit entity Pastrick created, Second Century, that received casino revenue in East Chicago. Zoeller has urged legislators to change state law to require financial transparency whenever casino revenue flows to such companies through local development agreements.

To recover public funds, the Attorney General also filed suit against several local officeholders around the state who misappropriated money according to State Board of Accounts audits. Zoeller sued Linda Durham, the former Knight Township trustee in Vanderburgh County, for allegedly using \$74,000 in public money on personal items and luxuries. The AG's Office also served as special prosecutor in the criminal trial of Monte Murphy, a former Muncie city councilman convicted of three counts of mishandling absentee ballots.

Combating illegal activity to improve quality of life

Zoeller has used the AG's environmental law authority to wage an ongoing legal battle to stop pollution by VIM Recycling, an Elkhart County wood recycler subject of years of odor complaints. Zoeller's Revenue Division used sales-tax evasion laws to shut down an unregistered dog-breeding operation in Bloomfield that owed the state \$311,000 in unpaid taxes. Continuing the popular Do Not Call program Carter started, Zoeller sought to deter candidates from engaging in annoying political robo-calls. He negotiated the "Treaty of 2010" the three-state political party chairmen signed that urged candidates not to resort to automated calls. Complaints to the AG's Office about robo-calls were few during the 2010 election season and no suspected violations were substantiated.

Environment and economic development

As the state's lawyer, Zoeller's office represented Indiana in the old General Motors bankruptcy negotiations. Zoeller's office obtained a \$25 million settlement for environmental cleanup of former GM manufacturing sites in Kokomo, Anderson, Indianapolis, and Bedford so they can be remediated and marketed to new employers. The AG's Office also negotiated a separate \$3.6 million settlement for cleanup of a former GM plant site in Anderson that the city hopes to redevelop.

Court hears arguments in legal challenge to federal health care law

Last Thursday a federal court in Florida heard the arguments of a group of 20 states - including Indiana - in their legal challenge to the new federal health care law. Attorney General Greg Zoeller, who joined the lawsuit on behalf of Indiana in May, issued this statement:

"Indiana and 19 other states who brought this legal challenge ask the court to decide a fundamental question: Can the federal government require individuals to purchase a private health insurance policy or face a penalty? This individual mandate is unprecedented, and raises the specter of what other financial products the federal government might seek to compel individuals to buy regardless of whether they want to or can afford to. Our bringing a respectful legal challenge is the means by which this question about the proper role of federal government eventually can be asked of and answered by the United States Supreme Court," Zoeller said.

"We also are heartened by the fact that Virginia was successful this week in its separate legal challenge to the federal health care law. Virginia's challenge had raised legal arguments similar to those in our case in Florida: that the individual mandate to purchase insurance is unconstitutional. The federal court that heard Virginia's case agreed, and struck down the individual mandate. Although our case is heard in a different court and raises other issues, the same line of legal reasoning has withstood a crucial test," Zoeller said.

In last Thursday's case in federal court in the Northern District of Florida, U.S. District Court Judge Roger Vinson heard

arguments on the merits of the case. The plaintiffs include Indiana, Florida and 18 other states as well as two private individuals and the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). The U.S. Department of Justice represents the federal government defendants. The court is expected to rule sometime early in 2011. From there, the case is likely to be appealed to a federal circuit court of appeals, and from there potentially to the United States Supreme Court.

From the start of the litigation, Zoeller has spent no additional tax dollars on the legal challenge beyond his office's regular budget that the Legislature previously approved in 2009. Indiana did not pay a legal fee to join the lawsuit. No outside legal counsel was used; Indiana's legal work has been performed by a salaried employee of the Attorney General's office who would have been paid the same regardless of whether Indiana participated. No one from the Attorney General's Office traveled to Florida last week for the courtroom arguments; instead, Solicitor General Thomas M. Fisher monitored the court proceedings by phone from Indianapolis through a court teleconference.

Before announcing in March that he would join the multistate legal challenge to the new federal law, Zoeller in February prepared a 55-page report on and analysis of the federal healthcare legislation at the request of U.S. Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana. The Attorney General's report to Lugar is found here: http://www.in.gov/portal/news_events/files/IN_Atty_Gen_Impact_Analysis_of_the_Patient_Protection_and_Affordable_Care_Act.pdf.

Hoosiers can now apply for unemployment extensions

Hoosiers eligible to resume collecting the federally funded unemployment extensions were able to begin filing online for those benefits on Sunday, December 19, 2010. The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) anticipates the recently passed law will restore eligibility to approximately 90,000 Hoosiers who exhausted or were at risk of losing benefits.

In order to qualify for these retroactive benefits, Hoosiers will need to complete their weekly vouchers through Uplink, Indiana's online filing system. Each Hoosier will need to verify they were unemployed through no fault of their own, report where they looked for work each week and list any outside income earned each week in question. Hoosiers will need to complete a voucher for each week of benefits they want to collect.

Hoosiers moving into the Extended Benefits (EB) program, the final tier of benefits, will not have vouchers available on December 19. It is a requirement of the Extended Benefits program that each person applies in person at their local WorkOne Center and brings their eligibility letter from DWD. The department will resume sending those letters this week. Hoosiers previously enrolled in Extended Benefits had vouchers available beginning December 19 to collect

the benefits they had remaining when the program ended on December 12.

"About 30,000 Hoosiers saw an interruption in their benefits due to Congressional delay. Starting Sunday, almost all eligible Hoosiers were able to file their vouchers following the normal process to get their benefits before Christmas" said Mark W. Everson, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

This new federal legislation does not include the \$25 weekly federal additional payment. This additional payment is no longer available to anyone due to federal law.

There is no increase in the number of potential weeks of benefits. Ninety-nine weeks remains the maximum length of time someone can collect.

Hoosiers eligible for retroactive benefits should visit their homepage on Uplink, Indiana's online filing system daily to make sure they don't have any pending applications or links seeking information. In some cases this information will be required for vouchers to appear.

Answers to frequently asked questions about this extension are available here: http://www.in.gov/dwd/files/Dec_EUC_FA_Q.pdf

Hoosiers can find their nearest WorkOne Center at <http://www.workoneworks.com/>

New Beginnings Church WEEKLY MESSAGE

BY SHIRLEY CANELL
Pastor's wife

The Indescribable Gift 2 Corinthians 9:15
"Thanks be unto God for his indescribable gift." 2 Corinthians 9:15.

This time of the year we are concerned about choosing just the right Christmas gift for that special person. Have you ever received a gift that was indescribable? What kind of gift would be called indescribable? Would it be a gift that was so beautiful, or a gift that carried a lot of emotional feelings with it, or the 'caught you completely off guard' gift? Or maybe even a gift you cared so little about that you wouldn't even bother to find words to try to describe it.

Manufacturers spend a lot of money describing their products in TV and newspaper ads. They are described in such an appealing way as to entice you into believing you simply can not live the rest of your life without it. Every human gift is describable by someone.

In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul, at first, is writing about human gifts. The church in Corinth is taking up offerings to give to the poor Christians in Jerusalem. He commends them for their eagerness to help and reminds them that those who sow sparingly will also reap sparingly, but those who sow generously will reap generously. Then Paul shifts his attention from human gifts to God's gift of sending Jesus to Earth for us. And he cannot find words to describe it. He simply

says, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."

Poets, painters, sculptors, and musicians have taken up the tools of their trade to pay tribute to Jesus the gift of God's love. Some of the greatest music our ears will hear were written about God's indescribable gift.

Why does Paul call Jesus indescribable? How do you describe a baby born of a virgin? How do you describe God in flesh, walking upon our earth and reaching out to the hurting masses of humanity? Isaiah said He would be called Emanuel, "God With Us". How do you describe that? What words would you choose? How do you describe God who is all-powerful? How do you describe the eternal? How do you describe God who has all knowledge when all we have is limited knowledge?

Paul says we cannot, words are inadequate. Many of the wisest men in the world have tried to describe Jesus. Even when we bring together our greatest minds and our most extensive vocabularies, we cannot adequately describe Jesus.

Paul calls Jesus indescribable because of His purpose in coming to Earth. The angels announced to the shepherds, "Unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord." What do we celebrate at Christmas? We celebrate the fact that Jesus came into our world to save us. God saw that mankind needed saving. He saw man's inhumanity to his fellow man. When God looked at our world He knew our greatest need was for a Savior. There

will never be peace on Earth until men have been lifted out of their sin, and their hearts changed and their thinking changed, because the Savior has come into their lives. Our greatest need is to be saved from the very flames of hell, itself.

You know every gift that we give at Christmas will be given because the recipient of that gift has some claim on us. We buy gifts for our kids because they are our kids, our grandchildren, our family, fulfilling our obligation. God doesn't owe us anything. That is what makes God's gift so special. We are in constant rebellion against Him and His will for our lives. God gives a gift, not because He feels obligated to give a gift but because His love is so overwhelming. Paul says something remarkable in Romans chapter 5, "While we were yet in our sin, while we were yet the enemies of God, Christ died on the cross for us."

When you stop and look at the manger at Bethlehem and look at the Christ child, you must realize that He is a gift, a gift of grace. No words are adequate enough to describe God's grace towards us in Jesus.

The Bible teaches that when we accept Jesus, the indescribable gift of God, we will never be the same again because of how He affects our life.

The first effect of Jesus coming into our life and our obedience to Him is that we are forgiven of our sins. God forgets them; they will not be remembered and are buried deep as the sea.

When I accept Jesus I am adopted into

His family and I am guaranteed citizenship in His kingdom. Because I have accepted Him, I am an adopted son of Almighty God. Everything that belongs to Jesus also belongs to me. We are brothers and sisters in God's family because I accepted His indescribable gift.

When I accept Jesus I receive the gift of His Holy Spirit to live within me. Now He will guide, counsel, protect and empower me.

When I accept Jesus I am given His peace. Not the peace of the world, but the peace that surpasses all understanding. Peace that allows me to cope with everyday situations. Peace that allows me to look beyond the smug and smog of our world to see the great pure air of Almighty God in heaven.

When I accept Jesus, my mansion in heaven is paid for, a dwelling place that will last for all eternity.

In the fullness of time God sent His only begotten Son, as a baby. The good news is that you don't have to be able to describe Him to accept Him. You just have to be warmed and changed by Him. Make your journey to the manger with the shepherds, take him into your heart and accept God's indescribable gift for you.

We will be having a Christmas Eve service at 11 p.m. Christmas Eve. Feel free to join us in worshipping Christ, the indescribable gift. If you have any questions call Pastor Ernie at 709-0258.

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Rivet trounces Lady Rox 72-19

The Shoals Lady Rox suffered a crushing defeat by Vincennes Rivet last Saturday, December 18 in the Lady Patriot's gym. The final score was 19-72.

Rivet started off early by outscoring Shoals in the first quarter 17-7 putting the ball up 20 times to Shoals' 10. In the second half the Lady Rox were again outscored 22-9 putting the half-time score 39-16.

Despite several shot attempts, Shoals only scored three points in the second half, all in free throws.

Briana Wagler and Nicole Harder finished with five points each followed by Jenna Bleemel with four, Jaylenn Hilderbrand with three points, and Rachel Harder with a bucket.

Wagler made one field goal of four attempts and was 3-4 in free throws. Nicole Harder was 0-3 from two-point range and 1-6 from three-point range. She also finished 2-2 from the charity stripe. Bleemel finished 0-3 in field goal attempts, 1-1 in three pointers, and 1-2 in free throws. Hilderbrand was 1-6 from two-point range and 1-4 in free throws. Rachel Harder finished 1-3 in field goals and 0-5 in three-point attempts.

Rivet had 11 of their 13 ladies in the scoring column for the game led by Emily Montgomery with 11 points.

Shoals had 34 turnovers, Rivet finished with only six.



Shoals 5th Grade Basketball

-Photo provided

Shown above are members of the Shoals Fifth Grade Basketball team. In the front row, from left to right, are Jacob Ivey, J.D. Troutman, Phillip Troutman, Sam Bruner, Justin Sanders, and Kenyon Sorrells. In the back row, from left to right, are Ryan Spurgeon, Ryan Hawkins, Mitch McKibben, Coach Michael Harding, Dalton Parr, Chase Fromme, and Cole Diamond.

Classes, 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.

Résumé writing and career planning

Need help with your résumé? Darlene Ridgway with Bramble Consulting will offer Résumé Assistance-Level One on January 18 and again on January 27. The class is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and cost is \$25. This is a basic course designed for an applicant needing help with the application process for government civilian and/or government contractor positions, specifically for NSWC Crane. Contact Kathy at the learning center at 812-295-2674 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, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$65 and includes textbook. Call today to sign up! The deadline to sign up and provide payment is January 28.

SAT prep class

An SAT preparation workshop for college-bound high school students will be offered at the learning center by Karen Whorral. 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.

Overcomers' group

Indiana Drug Education and Awareness Solutions are conducting an ongoing Overcomers' 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.



Shoals 6th Grade Basketball

-Photo provided

Shown above are members of the Shoals Sixth Grade Basketball team. In the front row, from left to right, are Alex Tedrow, Dakota Priddy, Zane Sanders, and Jayce Graber. In the back row, from left to right, are Adam England, Jace Erwin, Coach Cory Brassine, and Tobias Hignite.

NOTICE *** NOTICE ***** NOTICE
NOTICE ***** NOTICE *******

Lynne E. Ellis, Judge-elect of Martin Circuit Court, will begin serving as Judge of Martin County on January 1, 2011. Because the Rules of Judicial Conduct prohibit Lynne E. Ellis from practicing law in a private capacity, the Law Office of Duncan & Ellis, PC located at 122 Church St., Loogootee, IN is no longer accepting new clients and has begun withdrawing from all cases in which Lynne E. Ellis and the Law Office of Duncan & Ellis, PC are listed as Counsel of Record. For current and past clients of Duncan & Ellis, PC wishing to obtain your records, please contact the office at 812.295.9000 no later than January 15, 2011. The office will be open on an "as needed" basis, so please leave a message with your name and number and someone will contact you regarding a time to pick up any records you wish to retain.

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DNR gift ideas for those who don't need more stuff

The Indiana DNR has gift solutions for the person on your gift list who's more concerned about the state's outdoors than about acquiring more stuff. Convenient contributions in that person's name can be made to support a number of outdoor causes.

Help schools fund field trips for children to Indiana state parks and reservoirs by donating to the Discovering the Outdoors Fund, administered through the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (IndianaNRF.org). Go to www.IN.gov/ai/appfiles/inrf-donations/ and include "Discovering the Outdoors Fund" in the "In Honor Of/Memory Of" line.

Support a person's favorite state park or reservoir with a financial gift in their honor. Contact Ginger Murphy at (317) 232-4143, gmurphy@dnr.IN.gov, or write to State Parks and Reservoirs, 402 W. Washington St., Room W298, Indianapolis, IN 46204. You can also give a Friends Group membership to McCormick's Creek, Spring Mill, Lincoln, Falls of the Ohio, Indiana Dunes, Potato Creek, Mounds, Turkey Run/Shades or Brown County state parks, Hardy Lake, Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber SRA) or the Upper Wabash Reservoirs using the same contact information.

Support plans to develop a raptor education program and outdoor viewing area for birds at the Salamonie Interpretive Center. This facility supports nature and history programming for Mississinewa Lake, Salamonie Lake and Ouabache State Park. Contact the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (IndianaNRF.org) at www.IN.gov/ai/appfiles/inrf-donations/ and include "Upper Wabash Raptors" in the "In Honor of/Memory Of" line.

Support the Dwight Chamberlain Raptor

Rehabilitation Center at Hardy Lake, where injured hawks and owls receive care and are released. Permanently injured birds are used in programming for schools and families. Contact Leslie Grow at (812) 794-3800.

Support the restoration of the kitchen in the John Lusk Home at Turkey Run State Park. Lusk owned and protected the land that eventually became the park. Contact the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (IndianaNRF.org) at www.IN.gov/ai/appfiles/inrf-donations/ and include "Lusk Home kitchen" in the "In Honor of/Memory Of" line.

Contribute to the Crossroads Campaign through the Falls of the Ohio Foundation, which is designed to fund the complete redevelopment of new world-class exhibits at the Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center in Clarksville. See www.fallsoftheohio.org.

Support land acquisition and a variety of other projects throughout the DNR by contributing to Indiana Heritage Trust. Contact (317) 233-1002, nheinzelman@dnr.IN.gov, or write to: The Indiana Heritage Trust, 402 W. Washington St., W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Make sure to give your child or grandchild the gift of a time for a winter hike, a hunting trip or a nature center visit at a state park, reservoir or state forest trail in January.

Annual passes, lake permits, and state park inn gift certificates are available at any state park or reservoir or online at www.innsigns.com.

Written acknowledgments for donations can be provided. For up-to-date information about happenings in the DNR, visit dnr.IN.gov.

Michigan changes lake trout regulations; Hoosiers could benefit

The state of Michigan's lake trout regulations will change in 2011, and again in 2012. According to Indiana DNR fisheries biologist Brian Breidert for the Hoosier portion of Lake Michigan, Indiana anglers could benefit by both changes.

In 2011, the state of Michigan's lake trout season will open April 1 and end October 31. In recent previous years, it opened May 1 and ended September 30.

In 2012, the state of Michigan's lake trout season will open January 1 and close October 31.

Indiana does not have a closed season on lake trout.

According to Breidert, as water temperatures warm each spring in Lake Michigan, Hoosier anglers have fantastic fishing opportunities for trout and salmon.

Breidert said that although Indiana has no closed season on lake trout, Hoosier anglers do not typically catch them in large numbers in Indiana waters. The reason is that lake trout are a long-lived species usually found in depths greater than 60 feet. Those waters are primarily outside of Indiana's boundaries of Lake Michigan.

Michigan's regulation change should increase the harvest of lake trout coming back to Indiana ports in the spring.

Michigan's change also will simplify regulations for Hoosiers on one front but possibly create confusion on another. Indiana has a daily bag limit of five trout and salmon of which no more than two can be lake trout greater than 14 inches; Michigan has the same five-trout-and-salmon catch aggregate while no more than three may be lake trout, brown trout or steelhead trout with a size limit of 20 inches for lake trout.

"Increasing the fishing season could certainly show some increase in lake trout harvest, especially in the spring," Breidert said. "For anglers fishing in April, I am sure many will see this as a positive move."

Indiana anglers often fish within Michigan waters. In previous years they were required to release any lake trout they caught. Now they will be able to be included as part of the catch.

"As a result, we may see fewer salmon brought back to Indiana during the spring fishing season," Breidert said. "The spring catch will be monitored during our annual creel program through which we analyze the long-term catch and harvest coming back to Indiana ports on southern Lake Michigan.

"Undoubtedly, we will see changes in our spring catch composition as a result of this change by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Environment."

HUMANE SOCIETY Pets of the week



The Martin County Humane Society has 13 very nice looking puppies for adoption and they are around eight weeks old. The pups are Lab and Shepherd mix. If you are interested in one of these pups call Don at 812-296-0952. The society also has a few more young dogs and a few cats. Give one these animals a home for the holiday.

SCOUTING MATTERS

By Mike Leighty - Odon Troop 481 Scoutmaster

This month I struggled with providing a Christmas message but I did find the following story in Scouting Magazine I wanted to pass along to each of you. It is dedicated to scouting volunteers – past and present.

Moments of Gratitude - One of the best gifts of the holiday season is the chance to reflect on all the blessings we enjoy. Ralph de la Vega's story reminds us that, as Americans, we have many reasons to be grateful.

De la Vega was born in Cuba; the years after the Cuban Revolution of 1959 hit his family hard. His father's business was confiscated. People were imprisoned on the slightest provocation or suspicion.

His parents made the agonizing decision to go to America, even though it meant leaving Cuba with little more than the clothes on their backs. However, when the family arrived at the airport, a militiaman looked over their exit papers and told them: "only the boy can go." The boy was de la Vega. He was only 10 years old.

The family sent him on thinking they would follow within a few days. As it turned out, they were not able to reach America to join de la Vega for another four years. During those years, another immigrant family cared for him as he adjusted to a new country, a new language, and no money.

"Those early days without my family were so difficult that everything else since then has been relative easy," he recalls. So, when de la Vega became president of a nationally known telecommunication company's Mobility and Consumer Marketing Division and helped steer the \$41 billion merger with a major competitor, he jokes that this, too, was "relatively easy."

De la Vega is thankful for the country that provided him so many incredible opportunities. "I am living proof that the American dream is still very much alive," he says. He is also grateful for the mentorship of his grandmother, who urged him not to accept

the limitations others placed on him.

"The advice that his grandmother gave him – like the advice that BSA Scoutmasters give to young people – can have immeasurable positive impact on their lives, he says.

That is why de la Vega is passionate about the scouts, and that is why he is heading up the BSA's Hispanic initiatives. He believes that scouting is the best way to share American values with Hispanic young people and their families, so that they, too, can fully participate in the American experience. "No other institution has a bigger opportunity to forge the American sole of today's youth than the Boy Scouts of America," he says.

As we gather with our friends and families this holiday season, let us all take a moment to reflect on de la Vega's amazing journey – to recall with gratitude the opportunities and freedom we enjoy as Americans, to remember all the people in our lives who gave of themselves to help shape and guide us.

This is the aim of the Boy Scouts of America - a century-old organization that I am proud to be associated. Furthermore, I am grateful for the volunteers who, over the decades, have volunteered to make a positive impact and help shape the lives of young people and the future of this nation. You may have touched the life of a struggling young person who will one day become an extraordinary leader like Ralph de la Vega. In this, the BSA's centennial year, your service matters more than you know.

On behalf of Troop 481 and scouting units everywhere, we wish a wonderful holiday season to you and your family.

If you would like to learn more about the scouting program in your local community drop me an email at mike.leighty@centurytel.net and I will help you make contact with a local unit.

Yours in Scouting,
Scoutmaster Mike

Wintry weather gives environmental reason for the season

Cold weather is already tightening its icy grip on the Midwest. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is challenging Hoosiers to engage in environmentally-responsible habits when dealing with wintry weather.

To be navigable, sidewalks and driveways need to be cleared of snow and ice, but careful consideration should be given as to how the wintry mix is removed. Snow-blowing devices produce air emissions, so shoveling is friendlier to the environment; however, health and safety should be considered first and foremost because snow is heavy and health officials say overexertion can lead to a heart attack. In addition, as much snow as possible should be removed during a storm, rather than waiting until the snow stops falling.

De-icers work best when there is only a thin layer of snow or ice that must be melted, but these should be used sparingly because of the potentially hazardous chemicals they contain. Instead, consider using a more environmentally-friendly flat hoe to help scrape ice; just be cautious when chopping the ice build-up to avoid damaging the sidewalk.

Apply salt sparingly. According to the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation and the Center for Watershed Protection, the recommended application rate for rock salt is about a handful per square yard treated. Using more salt will not increase the rate of melting and excess salt will wind its way onto streets, into storm drains, and ultimately into water bodies where it wreaks havoc. In the alternative, sand provides traction and is easy to sweep up when the weather warms. Kitty litter also provides traction and is environ-

mentally-friendly but does not melt snow and ice and tends to get messy.

Through the Hoosiers Care initiative, six state agencies, including IDEM, are helping Hoosiers learn about small changes that can help the environment and save homeowners money. The collaboration also includes the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Office of Energy, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. To learn more environmentally-friendly tips now and throughout the year, visit www.HoosiersCare.IN.gov and www.HoosiersCare.org.

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Publisher is a member of the





Christmas Greetings

The individuals and businesses on the next four pages have placed these Christmas Greetings in the *Martin County Journal* in part because 50 percent of the cost of the ads will be given to the Martin County Humane Society to help build an animal shelter.

These people understand the meaning of 'it's better to give than to receive' and the *Martin County Journal* thanks them and the Martin County Humane Society thanks them.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
 from all of us at
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Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas from Atlanta to all our family and friends back home!



Love, Charity, Adam, Scout, and Louis

Merry Christmas
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Merry Christmas
 to Denny, Beth, Jane & Neal, Katie & Clint, Terry & Gina and kids; John, Tyler, Makenzie, Madison, Tyler, Caylin, and the most wonderful wife a man could ever ask for, **Mary.**
 You all are missed and loved more than you know.



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 From your friends at





Merry Christmas!

In Loving Memory on this 2010 Christmas of
 My Brother,
THOMAS STEVEN HICKMAN
 and My Mother,
NORMA ANNE HICKMAN

Time has a way of going on, but only in time;
 But it seems like only yesterday in my mind.
 You will not be forgotten, and you will both always be loved;
 I know that you are together with the rest of our family and friends
 In Heaven up above

**-Forever In My Heart-
 Love You Both, Karen**



*May God's Peace Surround You
 This Christmas Season and
 Throughout The New Year*

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Merry Christmas
 to all of our customers and their families
 Wishing you and your family love, peace, and joy this Christmas.
 Thank you for your business in 2010!
 We look forward to serving you in 2011!



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*Glory to God in the highest,
 and on earth peace, good will
 toward men. Luke 2:14*



*May your family be
 blessed this holiday season.*

New Beginnings
 COMMUNITY CHURCH

**From our family to yours,
Merry Christmas**
Wishing you a blessed holiday season!



**The Nonte's:
Brent, Bobbi Sue,
Brooke, Will, Jacob,
Luke & Abbi**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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Happy
Christmas*



**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year**




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Please don't forget the animals this holiday season.
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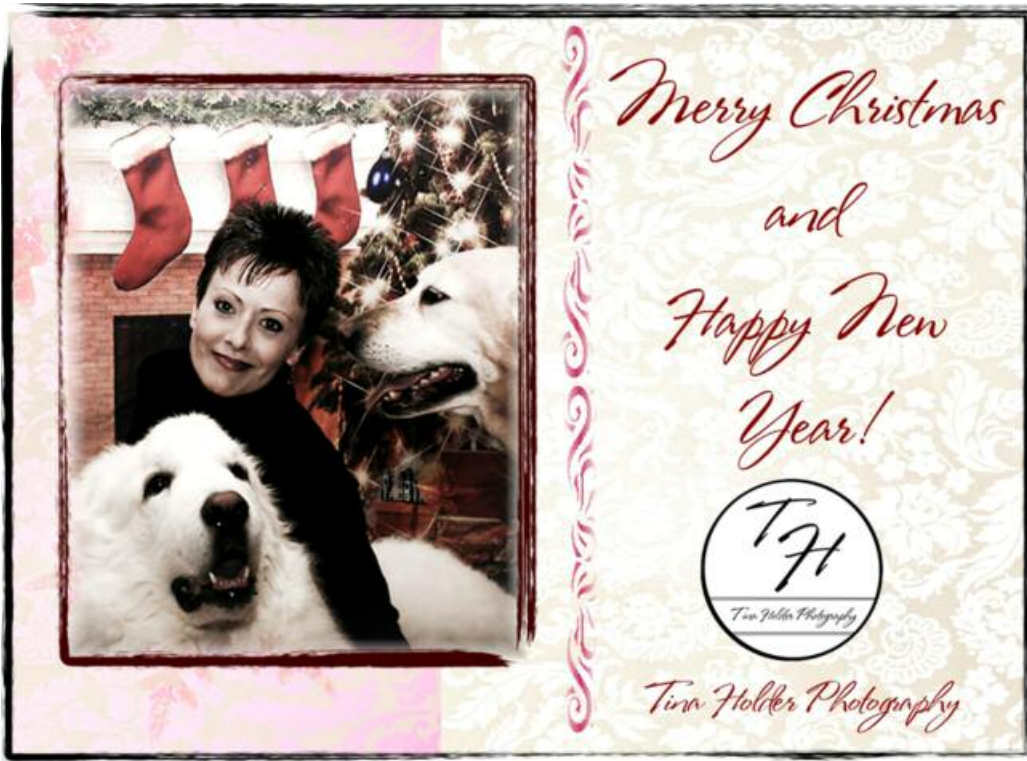
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**Merry
Christmas
Martin
County!**



-Gus Haag

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everyone who
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Greeting.
Your donation to
the Martin County
Humane Society
is greatly
appreciated!**



Merry Christmas to all Martin County Journal Subscribers

★ Thank you for all you have done & continue to do in support of this publication. Our gratitude cannot be expressed enough. You made it a great first year and there are many more to come!



**-The Hughett family
Josh, Courtney, Wyatt, and Alex**

Happy Holidays

May your holiday season be blessed with the true meaning of Christmas.

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Christmas**
and a Blessed New Year

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Christmas.*

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Happy Holidays

May you have the spirit of Christmas which is peace, the gladness of Christmas which is hope and the heart of Christmas which is love.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
Grandma Bert!

*Love, Trevor Kneip
and Aidan Sheetz*

Rejoice in the MIRACLE...

May this Christmas season be filled with miracles for you and those you love - and may the coming year bring you the precious gifts of health and happiness!

Merry Christmas from Omer Chiropractic Clinic
Jamey, Jenna, Dr. Brooke Hawkins and Dr. Leslie Starr-Omer