

# Martin County JOURNAL

Year 11, Issue 52

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

Seven pages

## Shoals Council approves logging bid, various contracts

The Shoals Town Council met Monday December 14. Those in attendance were Council Members Cecil Ragsdale, Cary D. Albright, and Clint Hoffman; Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge, Town Marshal Todd Eckert, Town Attorney Dave Lett, SVFD Chief Jim Hamby, Center Township Trustee Ann Stewart, Center Township Board Member Norma Baker, Steve Deckard, with the Shoals News; and Darron Tanksley with Indiana Timber & Veneer.

Councilman Hoffman made a motion to accept the bid from Indiana Timber & Veneer in the amount of \$45,000 for 300 choice cut trees on the town-owned property on Sherfick School Road. Councilman Hoffman made the motion for this bid as he felt the bid was more responsive to the town's long-term vision, preservation and goals for the property. Councilman Albright seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Attorney Lett advised Darron Tanksley, with Indiana Timber & Veneer, to prepare a contract for him to review in order to move forward.

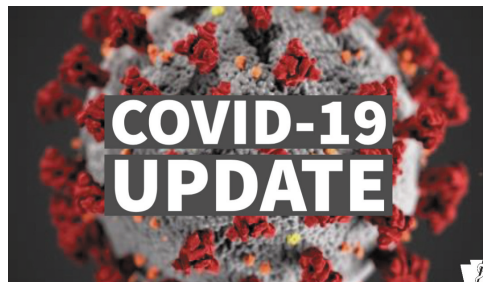
Shoals Chief Jim Hamby presented the 2021 fire protection contracts for Center and Halbert townships. After discussion, the 2021 amount for the contracts were set for \$10,600 for each township and Hamby stated the amount for 2022 will be \$16,000 each. Hamby noted it had been several years since an increase had been made. Center Township Trustee Ann Stewart thanked the chief for all that the department does and stated she is still trying to get a CCI Fund going from her township for them and if passed would bring in around \$12,000 annually. Stewart stated she submitted everything, but it had been denied, however, she was working on getting everything re-submitted.

Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge presented a proposal received from the Martin County Sheriff's Department for IDACS (*Indiana Data and Communications System*) and dispatching services. The proposal was for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the sheriff's department and the Town of Shoals for the purpose of compensating a portion of the IDACS and dispatching services endured by the sheriff's department to serve the Town of Shoals. The proposal was in the amount of \$3,127 on an annual basis. Councilman Albright made a motion to move forward with an MOU between the sheriff's department and the Town of Shoals for the services provided. Councilman Hoffman made the second and all were in favor.

Rutledge provided the annual renewal and license agreement for the utility billing and payroll software in the amount of \$4,080 with Keystone software. Councilman Hoffman made a motion to approve the renewal with Councilman Albright

making the second and all were in favor. Rutledge then presented a quote to purchase Keystone Accounting Software which would interface with the utility billing program and the payroll program. Currently, the accounting is handled by paper and pencil. Councilman Albright made a motion to accept the quote and purchase the software with Councilman Hoffman making the second and all were in favor.

Rutledge presented the 2021 Salary & Wage Ordinance for approval. She stated the changes were as listed: a fifty cents per hour raise for the general laborer, town marshal and deputy clerk, a \$1,040 annual salary increase for the municipal utilities manager, and no raises for elected officials. Rutledge stated that it was noted that no employee health insurance deduction would be taken out of employee paychecks in January as AIM Medical Trust, the health insurance provider, was giving clients a "premium holiday" for the health coverage portion only in January 2021. Councilman Albright made a motion to approve the 2021 Salary & Wage Ordinance with Councilman Hoffman making (See 'SHOALS' on page 2)



Martin County is still at 11 deaths due to COVID-19. Doctors from Memorial Hospital in Jasper submitted the following letter to the community:

As Memorial Hospital Physicians and Nurse Practitioners fighting this battle from the front lines, we strongly encourage residents of Dubois and surrounding counties to continue their vigilance in taking EVERY precaution possible to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

The drastic increase in confirmed COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths over the last few weeks and the continued rise is alarming. We are seeing the effects of the Thanksgiving holiday and are concerned about the coming holidays, where people are more likely to gather indoors.

Given the high level of community spread, our physicians, nurse practitioners and nurses need the public's help in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Now more than ever, the community has joined us in the front lines in the fight against this pandemic. We know a lot has been asked of you thus far, but we desperately need your help. We know that masking, social distancing, and hand washing will help us ensure that we have the resources to care for the patients who are most in need. These things are easy to do and help curb the spread of illness, while allowing us to keep vital businesses operating and our economy strong. But even more is needed at this moment to reduce community spread. We urge you to reconsider large family holiday gatherings during this time. Please consider avoiding travel and not mixing households. You can help us better care for our community. We humbly ask you to join us in this fight.



## Christmas Star

-Photos by Lynn Gee & Brian Bruner

Jupiter and Saturn lined up on Monday night, December 21, so close together that they appear as one bright shining star. Many refer to it as the "Christmas Star." It's the closest the two planets have appeared together in about 800 years, and won't occur again until 2080. In the smaller photo, by Brian Bruner, you can see Jupiter on the left and Saturn (with its rings) on the right.

## Martin County unemployment rate at 3.4 percent for November

Martin County's unemployment rate moved from 3.6 percent in October to 3.4 percent in November. The county had the seventh lowest jobless rate in the state for November, tied with Tipton, Warren and Warrick counties.

In November, the county had 5,360 residents in the workforce and 180 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 5,447 residents able to work and 194 of them without jobs.

In November of last year, Martin County's jobless rate was 2.3 percent, with 5,347 residents in the workforce and 124 of them unemployed.

Daviess County's jobless rate in November edged down to 2.8 percent, from 2.9 percent the month before. The county had the lowest unemployment rate of all 92 Indiana counties for November.

In November, the county had 16,328 residents in the workforce and 461 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 16,525 residents able to work and 487 of them without jobs. In November of 2019, Daviess County's jobless rate was 2.4 percent with 16,661 residents able to work and 407 of them without jobs.

Dubois County's unemployment rate also slightly moved down last month. Moving from 3.6 percent in October to 3.5 percent in November. The county had the 11<sup>th</sup> lowest jobless rate in the state last month, tied with Jay, LaGrange and Whitley counties.

In November, the county had 22,003 residents in the workforce and 775 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 22,335 residents able to work and 807 of them without jobs. In November of last year, Dubois County's jobless rate was 2.3 percent with 22,852 residents in the workforce and 516 of them without work.

Greene County's unemployment rate edged down from 4.5 percent in October to 4.4 percent in November. The county ranked 31 for jobless rate in November, tied with five other counties.

In November, the county had 13,176 residents in the workforce and 577 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 13,353 residents able to work and 607 of them without jobs. In November of 2019, Greene County's jobless rate was 3.6 percent with 13,757 residents in the

workforce and 501 of them without work.

The top ten spots in the state for the lowest jobless rate for November were Daviess County at 2.8 percent, Boone and Adams counties at 3.1 percent, Union and Posey counties at 3.2 percent, Hamilton County at 3.3 percent, and Martin, Warrick, Warren and Tipton counties at 3.4 percent.

The top ten spots in the state for highest jobless rate for November were Lake County at 7.4 percent, Orange County at 7.1 percent, LaPorte County at 6.9 percent, Fayette County at 6.8 percent, Marion County at 6.3 percent, St. Joseph County at 6.1 percent, Starke County at 5.9 percent, Howard County at 5.6 percent, Vigo County at 5.5 percent, and Switzerland County at 5.4 percent.

Indiana's unemployment rate stands at 5.0 percent for November, and the national rate is 6.7 percent. The monthly unemployment rate is a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicator that reflects the number of unemployed people seeking employment within the prior four weeks as a percentage of the labor force.

Indiana's labor force had a net decrease of 40,274 over the previous month. This was a result of a decrease of 17,345 unemployed residents and a decrease of 22,929 employed residents. Indiana's total labor force, which includes both Hoosiers employed and those seeking employment, stands at 3.33 million, and the state's 62.9 percent labor force participation rate remains above the national rate of 61.5 percent.

Learn more about how unemployment rates are calculated here: <http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov/infographics/employment-status.asp>.

Employment by Sector

Private sector employment has decreased by 87,600 over the year and decreased by 200 over the previous month. The monthly decrease is primarily due to losses in the Professional and Business Services (-3,800) and the Leisure and Hospitality (-3,000) sectors. Losses were offset by gains in the Construction (3,700) and the Other (2,300), which includes Mining and Logging, IT and Other Services, sectors. Total private employment stands at 2,643,400, which is 105,900 below the January 2019 peak.

Merry  
Christmas  
From the Hughett family  
and the  
Martin County Journal



# Making A Difference

By Curt Johnson  
MCCF Director



### --YOUTH AND THE FUTURE --

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

Youth. Future. Those two words belong together for so many reasons. Youth have so much to look forward to. Youth have choices to make to get to their future. The youth are our future, whether we try to build it for them or we prepare them for it.

### -- WE HAVE AN INTEREST --

We all have a vested interest in helping our youth to learn, grow and become capable adults. They will be making decisions that affect our community, our county, and beyond. And they will be impacting our own lives when we adults will be relying on them for our care and well-being. It's important that we be a part of their growth.

So how can we help? As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, mentors, and any other adult close to our youth, you guide and shape them. You should know that everything you do teaches them about adult life and guides them toward their own future. We need to be sure that we are positive role models.

### -- YOUTH FIRST --

Youth First, Inc. is an organization that strives to help our youth grow and prepare for the future. Their mission is to strengthen our youth and families by providing programs that prevent substance abuse, promote healthy behaviors, and maximize student success. They do this by placing a social worker in a school system and implementing programs to meet their mission.

Youth First was recently presented a \$5,000 grant to implement some of these programs in the Loogootee Community School Corporation (LCSC). The LCSC Youth First office also was one of the recipients of a surprise \$5,000 grant from this year's MCCF Annual Dinner event. Curt Johnson (MCCF Director) and Dan



Pictured left to right are Curt Johnson (MCCF Director), Megan Shake (YF Social Worker), Elizabeth Christmas (YF Clinical Supervisor), Janay Sharp (YF Regional Development Officer) and Dan Gregory (MCCF Board member).

Gregory (MCCF Board member) were pleased to present these grants to Youth First representatives Megan Shake (Social Worker), Elizabeth Christmas (Clinical Supervisor), and Janay Sharp (Regional Development Officer).

### -- WITH MORE NOW --

If you want to help others deal with the changing and emerging needs in the county, like what you heard about today, your donation to an MCCF "unrestricted" fund will do that for you. And the MCCF has a matching grant opportunity where we will match \$2 for every \$1 donated to any of these unrestricted funds. We will also match 50¢ for each \$1 donated to any other fund type such as designated, donor advised, scholarship or field of interest funds. The matching grant is available on a first-come, first-served basis while the grant funds are available.

### -- MORE INFORMATION --

For more information about the MCCF and how we can help you accomplish your charitable goals, please contact the

MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or [mccf@cfpartner.org](mailto:mccf@cfpartner.org).

You are also welcome to visit our webpage at [www.cfpartner.org](http://www.cfpartner.org), follow us on Twitter at [www.titter.com/MartinCountyCF](https://twitter.com/MartinCountyCF), and "like" the MCCF Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/mccommunityfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/mccommunityfoundation).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*'We were able to collect around \$3,000.'*

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

The Salvation Army of Martin County bell ringing is finishing up for the year. We would like to thank the businesses for allowing us to put the kettles in your store, the volunteers that rang at IGA and the money donations we received. We were able to collect around \$3,000. The money we collected goes back to Martin County.

Thanks again and God Bless,  
Salvation Army of Martin County

# SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

the second and all were in favor.

Rutledge presented a certificate of appointment for the Shoals Public Library for a board member with the library requesting appointment of Kathy Collins. Councilman Albright made a motion to accept the recommendation from the library with Councilman Hoffman making the second and all were in favor. The council approved meter deposit and applies as listed: transfer of S. McShane to C. Land, transfer of M. Wence to J. Hill, a transfer of address for R. Rush, and a full return for D. Bauernfiend.

The clerk-treasurer told the council that the year-end meeting needed to be set and the council set it for Thursday, December 31 at 9 a.m. at the town hall.

Council Member Ragsdale presented Town Marshal Todd Eckert with a letter of appreciation on behalf of the town for his exceptional work during the COVID pandemic. Ragsdale commended Eckert for all of his extra efforts in many aspects of the town to include work in the water, wastewater, cemetery, street and other departments. Ragsdale stated Marshal Eckert had gone above and beyond during this time.

Council Member Ragsdale asked if there was an update on the rate study. Rutledge stated she received a response from Mr. Brock who is requesting more documentation and that he stated he was close to being finished.

Ragsdale asked if there were Christmas-themed banners that could be put up. Rutledge said she had a note for the town manager asking.

Next, several properties in need of clean up were discussed and the council requested letters be sent notifying property owners of ordinance 83-4 violation.

Council Member Ragsdale asked Rutledge to get a quote for West 1st Street for the work that HWC Engineering advised concerning storm water drainage.

Town Marshal Eckert stated he had obtained a boat trailer that would fit the town-owned boat and he would like to donate it to the town. The council accepted the donation.

The next town council meeting will be held Thursday, December 31 at 9 a.m.

# At Your Service

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### TRASH PICK-UP

**KRB Disposal**  
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# OBITUARIES

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MARTIN COUNTY JOURNAL

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

## RAY LARKIN

Raymond A. "Ray" Larkin passed away at 5:27 a.m. Friday, December 18, 2020 at home. A resident of Jasper, he was 88.



RAY LARKIN

He was born in Washington on February 2, 1932; son of Joseph C. and Ruth (Adams) Larkin. He married Nancy Apple on September 3, 1962 in St. Joseph Catholic Church in

Jasper.

He graduated from Loogootee High School where he was a prominent high school basketball player. He then graduated with a marketing degree from Notre Dame University in 1956.

Ray was a U.S. Army Veteran who served in the Korean War and was a member of the Jasper American Legion Post #147 and the VFW Post #673.

He owned and operated the Home Outfitters Furniture Stores, which operated for over 45 years in five locations, including Jasper, Loogootee, Washington, Petersburg and Vincennes.

He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jasper, the Jasper Knights of Columbus, the Jasper Kiwanis Club, The St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Notre Dame Club of Southern Indiana, and was an associate of the Little Company of Mary. He enjoyed attending sporting events, especially Notre Dame Football games and Jasper High School Athletics, traveling, and volunteering at the Dubois County Museum.

Surviving are his wife, Nancy Larkin of Jasper; one sister, Nancy Dooley of Phoenix, Arizona; one brother-in-law, Gerald "Jerry" Apple of Jasper, and nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were three brothers, David, Jerry, and Jack Larkin; and two sisters, Mary Ruth Larkin and Gene Larkin Pearson.

A private visitation and Mass of Christian burial was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jasper, with burial following at Fairview Cemetery in Jasper. The VFW Post #673 conducted military gravesite rites.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, the Dubois County Museum, or the St. Vincent de Paul Society - Community Meals.

Online condolences may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com).

## RALPH HAULK

Ralph Wesley Haulk, formerly of French Lick, passed on December 21, 2020 at Northwood Good Samaritan in Jasper. A resident of Jasper, he was 87.

He was born in Brownsburg on March 23, 1933; son of Russell W. and Ella (Litteral) Haulk. He married Truedella (Trudy) Stevens on January 8, 1956 and she survives.

Ralph was retired from maintenance work and was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in the Korean War. He loved fishing, watching Kentucky Wildcat Basketball and playing Aggravation. He was a member of the Springs Valley Wesleyan Church.

Survivors include his wife, Trudy of Jasper; four sons, Robin (Donna) Haulk of Shoals, Steven (Sherry) Haulk of Ferdinand, Shannon Haulk of Shallowater, Texas, and Tyrue (Elisa) Haulk of Lubbock Texas; one daughter Chana Weasel of Alexandria; stepdaughters, Teresa Callen of Crossville, Tennessee and Villanda Wable of Anderson.

He is preceded in death by his brothers, Tom Haulk and Delbert Haulk; daughter, Tamla Haulk; and one stepson, Rick Stevens.

No services are planned. Burial will be at a later date. The Queen-Lee Chapel of the Thorne-George Family Funeral Homes has been entrusted with the arrangements.

## JERRIE FLECK

Jerrie L. Fleck passed away at 2:04 a.m. Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at Daviess Community Hospital. A resident of Loogootee, she was 68.

She was born February 27, 1952 in Louisville, Kentucky; daughter of the late Harold Wadsworth and Lavern (Gallagher) Walker.

She loved to play bingo and cards. She will be deeply missed by her companion, Freddie Street, family and friends.

Jerrie was preceded in death by a son, Brent Allen Montgomery and her parents, Harold and Lavern Walker.

She is survived by her daughters, Lisa Lannert and Kelly Cunningham, both of Evansville; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brother, James (Peggy) Wadsworth of Shoals; stepfather, Charles Walker; and companion, Freddie Street and his family.

A graveside service was held Friday, De-

ember 18 at Mt. Zion Wesleyan Cemetery in Loogootee, officiated by Pastor Debbie Davis.

Condolences may be made online at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com). Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jerrie L. Fleck.

## FREDA STRINGER

Freda M. Stringer passed December 16, 2020 in French Lick. A resident of Shoals, she was 85.

She was born January 4, 1935 in Martin County; daughter of Anna (Canfield) Collins-Trimble. She married Charles W. Stringer on October 27, 1951 in the St. Mary's Church in Shoals. He preceded her in death on March 25, 2020.



FREDA STRINGER

Freda was a graduate of the Shoals High School Class of 1952, was previously employed at Crane CAAA and was a homemaker. She was actively involved in the community as a member of the Martin County Extension Homemakers, was a Brownie Troop Leader and taught Catechism Class at St. Mary's in Shoals.

Survivors include one daughter, Linda D. Brown of Shoals; one granddaughter, Laura Ann Brown of Shoals; and one sister-in-law, Wilma Engle of Palm Springs, California.

Preceding her in death are her parents, one son, Anthony W. Stringer; sister-in-law, Wanda Mesiana; and a son-in-law, Curt Brown.

Funeral services were held Monday, December 21 at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals with Rev. Father Kenneth Walker officiating. Burial followed in the Spring Hill Cemetery.

The family requests no flowers or gifts. The Queen-Lee Chapel of the Thorne-George Family Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

## DICK HOWELL

Delbert J. (Dick) Howell, formerly of Shoals, passed away at 2:30 p.m. December 18, 2020. A resident of Bryson City, North Carolina, he was 80.

He was born November 21, 1940 in Martin County; the son of Burl G. and Doris M. Arvin Howell. He married Carla Jean Coo-

per on November 21, 1963 and she preceded him in death on January 31, 2013.

He is survived by a daughter, Amy (Tony) Holt of Bryson City, North Carolina; a nephew that was a son to him, Patrick (Lisa) Farhar of Martinsville; two granddaughters, Madelyn Rose Holt of Bryson City and Lauren Holt of Loogootee; two grandsons, Bailey and Kaedon Holt of Loogootee; his caretakers, Jim and Kay Allen; and a very special friend, Jayliene Grogan.

Delbert chose cremation and a graveside service will be announced at a later date.

## BRENDA HOPKINS

Brenda Lou Hopkins passed December 15, 2020 at Jasper Memorial Hospital. A resident of Loogootee, she was 66.

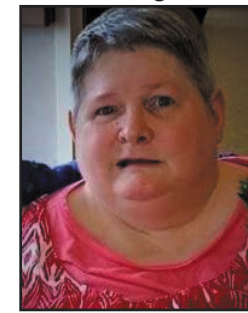
She was born August 5, 1954 in Washington; the daughter of James R. and Vondale (Allbright) Hopkins.

Surviving relatives include five sisters, Linda Sue Albaugh of Shoals, Shirley Ann Canell of Loogootee, Pamela Jo Owen of Shoals, Teresa Lynn Allbright of Shoals and Becky Phillips of Loogootee; and one brother, Gerald Hopkins of Shoals.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were held Friday, December 18 at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals with Ernest Canell officiating. Burial followed in the Spring Hill Cemetery.

The Queen-Lee Chapel of the Thorne-George Family Homes was in charge of arrangements.



BRENDA HOPKINS

## CLYDE BROWN

Charles Clyde Brown passed away Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at Monroe Hospital in Bloomington. A resident of Loogootee, he was 89.

He was born April 18, 1931 in Loogootee; son of the late Simon Clyde and Irene Eva (Mauder) Brown.

Clyde married Barbara Jean Emmons on June 1, 1952 in Loogootee and she preceded him in death on July 16, 2006.

He was a United States Army veteran and served during the Korean War. He was a 50-plus year member of the Loogootee American Legion Post 120.

Clyde was a member of the Truelove Methodist Church and served on the church board. He retired from USG after 38 years of employment. He loved spending time with his family, cutting wood, mowing, and farming.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Brown; parents, Simon C. and Irene E. Brown; sisters, Vernelta Lingenfelter, Wilma Collins and Minnie L. Brown; brothers, Edward C. Brown; infant twins; and daughter-in-law, Darlene Brown.

Clyde is survived by his children, Diana (John) Fegan of Loogootee, Charles C. Brown of Washington, Becky (Rick) Bauer, Peggy (Gerry) Mattingly and Clifford (Vicki) Brown, all of Loogootee; six grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren; and sister, Norma Ziegler.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, December 27 at Truelove Methodist Church in Loogootee. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be held Saturday, December 26 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

Social distancing and masks are required by all in attendance.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Truelove Methodist Church.

Condolences may be made online at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com). Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Charles C. Brown.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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### HELP WANTED

## Martin County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications to fill open PART-TIME JAIL OFFICER AND DISPATCHER POSITIONS

#### Applications:

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

#### Requirements:

1. Must be a citizen of the United States
2. Must be at least 18 years of age
3. Must have a high school diploma or GED
4. Must not have any Felony, Misdemeanor Battery or Domestic Violence convictions
5. Must be willing to submit to pre-employment drug screening
6. Ability and willingness to work a variety of shifts, including evenings, weekends and some holidays

#### Compensation:

Part-time Jail Officers: up to \$12.50 per hour  
Part-time Dispatchers: up to \$12.00 per hour  
Advancement opportunities are available

## Martin County Sheriff's Department log

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

3:31 a.m. - Received a report of a prowler in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth and Deputy Flanagan responded.

12:03 p.m. - Received a report of a disturbance in Loogootee. Captain Reed and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

1:19 p.m. - Received a dog complaint north of Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

2:21 p.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock near Loogootee.

2:40 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 near Shoals. Captain Reed and Reserve Deputy Commander Gammon responded.

2:45 p.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock in Crane.

3:20 p.m. - Captain Reed assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock in Loogootee.

4:37 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle in Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

5:10 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver in Crane. Major Keller responded.

5:16 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett and Town Marshal Eckert responded.

5:45 p.m. - Received a report of two young people walking alongside US 231, south of Loogootee. Major Keller and ICO Mann responded.

8:19 p.m. - Received a report of an accident near Loogootee. Deputy Seymour, Martin County Ambulance, and Loogootee Fire responded.

8:43 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:19 p.m. - Received a request for lift assistance near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

2:17 a.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Crane. Deputy Seymour and Loogootee Officer Means responded.

9:18 a.m. - Received a report of a theft near Shoals. ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

10:20 a.m. - Received a report of an incident south of Loogootee. Major Keller

and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

11:35 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Police responded.

1:27 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:27 p.m. - Received a medical alarm call south of Shoals. Lost River Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

1:30 p.m. - Major Keller took one inmate to court.

2:30 p.m. - Major Keller took two inmates to court.

5:59 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Crane. Major Keller responded.

9:40 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Crane. Deputy Seymour responded.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

4:44 a.m. - Received a report of an accident on US 50, west of Shoals. Deputy Seymour responded.

7:23 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:27 a.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist in Loogootee with a vehicle unlock.

10:00 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

11:00 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn in Loogootee.

5:08 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn in Loogootee.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:15 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Crane. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

10:30 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took two inmates to court.

11:05 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. The subject was transported to IU Health in Bedford.

11:06 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee Fire, and Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded. No one was transported.

1:00 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

2:00 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took two inmates to court.

5:13 p.m. - Received a report of a fire in Shoals. Shoals Fire responded.

6:15 p.m. - Received a report of a person walking along US 231, north of Loogootee. Deputy Lents responded.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:14 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident on SR 150, just east of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

10:01 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm, south of Loogootee. Deputy Lents responded.

11:07 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

1:40 p.m. - Received a request for an officer in Shoals for a custody issue. Sgt. Gibson, Deputy Lents and Deputy Seymour responded.

2:05 p.m. - Received a call reporting a controlled burn in Loogootee. Loogootee Police Department advised.

3:09 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute near Loogootee. Deputy Lents, ISP Trooper Beaver, and Deputy Seymour responded.

5:45 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was advised.

7:48 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless vehicle near Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

8:12 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded.

8:37 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless semi near Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded.

10:51 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car versus deer accident near Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

11:33 p.m. - Received a call requesting a deputy in Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

5:30 a.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries near Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

8:28 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:33 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County Ambulance transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:57 a.m. - Received a request for a lift assist in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

10:29 a.m. - Received a request for extra patrol at West Boggs Park due to theft issues. Deputy Lents was advised.

12:20 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle southeast of Shoals. Shoals

Fire Department responded.

12:48 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a head-on accident southeast of Shoals. Martin County Ambulance, ISP, Lost River Fire Department, and G&M Towing responded. No one was transported.

1:31 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance near the Lawrence County line, north of Shoals. Lawrence County was advised.

2:00 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance to Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

9:06 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee Fire Department, Deputy Flanagan, ISP Detective Lents and Loogootee Police Department responded. Martin County Ambulance transported two patients to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

2:15 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a deputy in Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan and Loogootee Officer Means responded.

5:35 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident in Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded.

5:57 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down north of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

10:44 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance near Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. Martin County Ambulance transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

1:28 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance near Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. Martin County Ambulance transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:50 p.m. - Received a call reporting a theft in Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

3:00 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Deputy Wells, Martin County Ambulance, and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

7:39 p.m. - Received a call reporting a disabled vehicle. Sgt. Gibson responded.

## ARRESTS

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

12:39 p.m. - Robert Aaron Holt, 35, of Loogootee, was arrested by ISP Trooper Beaver on a Martin County warrant and is being held without bond. Assisting with the arrest was Captain Reed.

1:00 p.m. - Johnathan Dant, 41, of Loogootee, was arrested by Captain Reed and charged with invasion of privacy and is being held without bond. Assisting with the arrest was ISP Trooper Beaver.

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# COURT NEWS

## CRIMINAL JUDGMENTS AND SENTENCINGS

### December 7

Catherine Jean Ziegler, convicted of theft, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 365 days suspended. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

### December 9

Cody Edward Lee Taylor, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 82 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 41 actual days previously served plus 41 Class A credit days.

### December 10

Cole J. Hovis, convicted of reckless driving, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 60 days with 58 days suspended and credit for 1 actual day previously served plus 1 Class A credit day. Defendant received 6 months of probation.

Georgia M. Cunningham, convicted of dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 3 Felony. Sentenced to serve 4,380 days with the Indiana Department of Corrections with 1,460 days suspended and credit for 8 actual days previously served plus 3 Class B credit days. Defendant shall serve the executed portion of 2,909 days on electronic home detention through Martin County Community Corrections. Defendant received 48 months of probation.

Derek Lee Sipes, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 363 days suspended and credit for 1 actual day previously served plus 1 Class A credit day.

Brian D. Wildman, convicted of operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 361 days suspended and credit for 2 actual days previously served plus 2 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

### December 14

Demetrius Jay Howard, convicted of neglect of a dependent, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; and operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 102 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 51 actual days previously served plus 51 Class A credit days.

Dawn M. Clark, convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 289 days suspended and credit for 38 actual days previously served plus 38 Class A credit days. Defendant received 10 months of probation.

### December 15

Alias Rian Keasling, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 355 days suspended and credit for 5 actual days previously served plus 5 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation. Also convicted of domestic battery, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 125 days suspended and credit for 120 actual days previously served plus 120 Class A credit days. Defendant received 4 months of probation.

Christopher L. Bearden, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 60 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 30 actual days previously served plus 30 Class A credit days. Also convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 345 days suspended and credit for 10 actual days previously served plus 10 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

Dustin A. Cramer, convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6

Felony. Sentenced to serve 730 days with the Indiana Department of Corrections with 658 days suspended and credit for 36 actual days previously served plus 36 Class A credit days. Defendant received 22 months of probation.

### December 16

Amber M. (Ridener) Hardy, convicted of domestic battery, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 345 days suspended and credit for 10 actual days previously served plus 10 Class A credit days. Defendant received 9 months of probation.

## CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

### December 7

Catherine Jean Ziegler, theft, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; two counts of use of private land without consent, Class C Infractions, dismissed.

### December 10

Cole J. Hovis, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Georgia M. Cunningham, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 3 Felony, dismissed; maintaining a common nuisance – controlled substances, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Derek Lee Sipes, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

### December 14

Demetrius Jay Howard, visiting a common nuisance – controlled substances, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

### December 15

Alias Rian Keasling, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; public intoxication, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; battery resulting in bodily injury, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Christopher L. Bearden, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Dustin A. Cramer, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed; operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

### December 16

Amber M. (Ridener) Harty, domestic battery resulting in moderate bodily injury, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed.

### December 17

Timothy B. Horn, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; maintaining a common nuisance – controlled substances, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed.

## CIVIL COURT

### New Suits Filed

### December 15

Adam Slaubaugh vs. Rachel Slaubaugh, petition for dissolution of marriage.

### December 16

US Bank National Association vs. Dennis Williams, civil collection.

Freedom Mortgage Corporation vs. Brent A. Wessel, mortgage foreclosure.

## CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

### December 15

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Midland Credit Management, Inc. and against the defendant Tammy Nelson in the amount of \$1,084.17.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Quicken Loans, LLC and against the defendant Merrill Bateman for mortgage foreclosure in the amount of \$98,746.14.

## SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

### December 10

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Charity Truelove-Karcz and against the defendants James Salmon and Audra Seals in the amount of \$107.

# Loogootee Police log

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

3:31 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a report of a possible prowler.

5:41 p.m. - Officer Means responded to a report of an erratic driver northbound from the Whitfield area on US 231 South.

7:38 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a truck on fire at a local business on West Broadway Street.

8:21 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to an accident on Brickyard Road.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

11:37 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a minor accident in McDonald's parking lot.

12:04 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a domestic dispute on Doyle Avenue.

2:10 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a property damage accident on SW Second Street.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:52 a.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a report of a hit-and-run accident at the junction of US 50 and US 231.

11:41 a.m. - Chief Rayhill completed a vehicle check.

9:07 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth completed a welfare check

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

10:45 a.m. - Chief Rayhill completed a welfare check

11:16 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call at a local business.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

11:10 a.m. - First responders were dis-

patched to a medical call on Church Street.

4:40 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted the department of child services with a welfare check.

10:17 p.m. - Officer Means responded to a minor property damage accident at the Marathon parking lot.

11:45 p.m. - Officer Means investigated a complaint of possible drug activity.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:27 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on South Kentucky Avenue.

9:00 a.m. - Officer Seymour spoke with a complainant in reference to threatening phone calls and violation of a protective order.

4:09 p.m. - Officer Seymour assisted a complainant with a custody issue.

9:10 p.m. - Officer Means and first responders were dispatched to a personal injury accident on US 231 North and Goodwill Cemetery Road.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

2:15 a.m. - Officer Means responded to a report of a possible trespasser at a residence.

5:35 a.m. - Officer Means responded to a property damage accident on East Broadway Street.

12:30 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd issued a possession of deer permit.

2:58 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call at Country Place Apartments.

# Martin County real estate transfers

**Ryan T. Bittorf and Adriana M. Bittorf**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Adriana M. Duvall**, a/k/a Adriana M. Bittorf, of Martin County, Indiana, a parcel of land in the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

**Gregory & Sons Properties, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Elizabeth G. Lapastora**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 12, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in Martin County, Indiana, containing one acre, more or less.

**Dianna L. Breitweiser and John U. Breitweiser**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Dianna L. Breitweiser and John U. Breitweiser and Rachele J. Jones and Randall J. Blankenbaker**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, and lying in Center Township, in Martin County, Indiana, containing 2.072 acres, more or less. Also, part of the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Second Principal Meridian,

## Region 8 Workforce Board looking for public comment

The South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc., an Equal Opportunity Employer, is requesting public comments regarding the WIOA Local Plan of Services. The WIOA Local Plan is the primary vehicle for communicating the board's vision for the local WorkOne system and how it will provide services to meet the needs of job seekers and employers in the Indiana Counties of Owen, Monroe, Brown, Greene, Daviess, Martin, Lawrence and Orange.

The plan will be available for review on the web at [www.southcentral8.org/](http://www.southcentral8.org/) or [www.workonesouthcentral.org/](http://www.workonesouthcentral.org/) no later than 4:30 pm on December 22, 2020. The public comment period begins on December 22, 2020 and ends at 5 p.m. (EDT) on January 22, 2021. Written comments will be accepted by email at [southcentralregion8@gmail.com](mailto:southcentralregion8@gmail.com). Comments may also be submitted by US Mail to: South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc., 333 S. Landmark Avenue Bloomington, IN 47403.

Center Civil Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.38 acres, more or less.

**Paul G. Moffitt**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Paul G. Moffitt and Victoria Tow**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northeast quarter of Section 9, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, containing 16.21 acres, more or less.

**S. Anita Letterman**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Daniel E. Foerster**, of Martin County, Indiana and **Joyce R. Foerster**, of Martin County, Indiana, all that part of Lot Number 10 in the Town of Shoals, formerly called Memphis, lying and being in a strip of even width and 20 feet wide, more or less.

**Donna S. Watson**, of Thurston County, Washington and **Marie Kathleen Mathias**, of Pike County, Indiana to **JAP Enterprises, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana, a parcel of land in the City of Loogootee, Indiana, being a part of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West.

**William J. Schimke and Kyndra A. Schimke**, a/k/a Kyndra A. Teague, of Martin County, Indiana to **Ethan S. Wade and Nicole M. Wilson**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 6 in Oliver & Taylor's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

**Gregory A. Tarr**, a/k/a Gregory Alan Tarr, of Martin County, Indiana to **Gregory A. Tarr, Jr.**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: The southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 28, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing 40 acres, more or less. Tract II: Commencing at the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 28, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing 1.4 acres, more or less.

**Leland A. Wagler and Darla R. Wagler**, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Darrel Lee Kemp and Loretta Lynn Kemp**, of Daviess County, Indiana, a part of the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 31, Township 5 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 8.05 acres, more or less.

**Scott L. Arvin and Trenton Arvin**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Scott L. Arvin and Jarrett S. Arvin**, of Martin County, Indiana, four acres, more or less, in Section 19, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Rutherford Township, Martin County, Indiana.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



**DEAD PENGUINS – I NEVER KNEW THIS!** Thanks Brenda Bauer Smith

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica? Where do they all go?

Wonder no more! It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird and lives an extremely ordered and complex life. Penguins are extremely committed to their family and will mate for life, as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with their offspring throughout the remainder of their life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and their social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using only their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried.

After packing the ice back in the hole, the male penguins then gather in a circle around the grave and sing:

“Freeze a jolly good fellow.”

“Freeze a jolly good fellow.”

You really didn’t believe that I know anything about penguins, did you?

It’s so easy to fool people! I am sorry, an urge came over me and made me do it. Oh, quit whining. I fell for it, too...

**THOUGHTS**

\*I just got excited about a new scent of dish soap. Nobody warned me that adulthood was going to be such a non-stop thrill ride.

\*If one door closes and another one opens, your house is haunted, and you need to run.

\*If you notice cows sleeping in a field, does that mean it’s pasture bedtime?

\*I found that I have been happier in the morning since I changed from coffee to orange juice. My doctor explained that it’s the Vitamin C and natural sugars but I really think it’s the Vodka.

\*I miss very few things about being young, but the ability to sneeze without injuring myself is a big one.

\*How do people go to sleep as soon as they close their eyes? It takes me 4 hours, 7 pillow flips, 11 different positions, 2 trips to the bathroom, and a partridge in a pear tree.

\*A pirate walks into a bar with a paper towel on his head.

The bartender asks, “Hey, what’s with the paper towel?”

The pirate says, “Argh, I’ve got a Bounty on my head.”

\*Tonto: “Can you think of something worse than being scalped, Kemosabe?”

Lone Ranger: “Not off the top of my head,” Tonto.

**SERIOUSISMS**

\*One day you will wake up and there won’t be any more time to do the things you’ve always wanted to do. Do it now! -Paul Coelho

\*I asked a wise man, “Tell me sir, in which field could I make a great career?” He said with a smile, “Be a good human being. There is a lot of opportunities in this area, and very little competition.”

\*Even if we disagree about everything, we can still be kind.

-----  
Make someone smile today!

## Troopers increasing holiday patrols

Indiana State Police Jasper Post announced it will be increasing patrols during the holiday season, as part of the winter Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over national enforcement mobilization. Now until January 1, officers will be showing zero tolerance for impaired drivers, whether it’s alcohol or drugs, and will be on the lookout for unbuckled motorists.

The patrols are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) through an Indiana Criminal Justice Institute grant.

“Holiday celebrations may look different this year due to the pandemic, but precautions still need to be taken on the road,” said Lieutenant Jason Allen, Commander of the Jasper Post. “Officers will be out in greater numbers, but it’s going to take everyone working together to keep our roads safe. Drive sober and buckle up this holiday season.”

The holiday season is one of the deadliest times of the year for impaired-driving fatalities. According to NHTSA, during the Christmas and New Year’s Day holiday periods in 2018 alone, there were more drunk-driving-related fatalities (285) than during any other holiday period that year in the U.S. Last December in Indiana, there were 415 alcohol-related crashes, resulting in 105 injuries and 11 fatalities.

In every state, it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. In Indiana, drivers under 21 with a BAC of .02 or higher are subject to fines and a license suspension for up to 1 year.

However, impaired driving includes more than alcohol. Drugs and even some over-the-counter medications can also cause impairment, and can slow coordination, judgment and reaction times on the road.

“You can’t drive safely if you’re impaired, whether it’s from drugs, alcohol or prescription medications,” said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. “This has been an extremely difficult year for many families, which is all the more reason to make good decisions before getting behind the wheel.”

To further save lives and prevent traffic fatalities, officers will also be watching for seat belt violations.

According to NHTSA, from 1975 to 2017, seat belts have saved an estimated 374,196 lives. While Indiana’s seat belt usage rate is above the national average of 90.7 percent, more than half of the people who were killed in motor vehicle crashes last year were not buckled up.

“With inclement weather and busier roads this time of year, it’s especially important to buckle up,” said Robert Duckworth, ICJI Traffic Safety Director. “We want everyone to have a safe holiday season and wearing a seat belt is the best way to protect yourself on the road.”

Indiana has a primary seat-belt law, meaning that police officers may ticket unrestrained drivers or passengers, even if no other traffic violation has taken place. Children under eight must be properly restrained in a federally approved child or booster seat.

**Joint closed-door meeting**

The Advisory Board of Martin County Community Corrections and the Martin County Commissioners will meet, Tuesday, December 29 at 2 p.m., at the American Legion Post #120, 112 Church Street, Loogootee, Indiana for an executive session. The purpose of executive meeting is pursuant to I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(6): to receive information concerning an individual over whom the board has jurisdiction and that person’s alleged misconduct, and to discuss, before a determination, the individual’s status as an employee, and pursuant to I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(9): To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. The meeting is closed to the public.

**Food pantry hours**

The Loogootee United Methodist Food Pantry will be open the first, second, third and fifth Thursdays of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and also the first Monday of the month from 5-6:30 p.m.

**Mental Health Task Force**

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

**Celebrate Recovery meetings**

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

**Local recovery meetings**

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

**Free lunch for kids**

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

**SOAR Tutoring**

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

**Solid waste board**

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the recycling center located at 500 Industrial Park Drive in Loogootee. The meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

**Soil and Water meetings**

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



## COVID-19 vaccines arrive at Memorial Hospital

Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center received COVID-19 vaccines last week. They began vaccinating frontline healthcare workers on Friday, December 18. At this time, Indiana’s vaccination distribution plan is as follows: Phase 1A – Health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities – IN PROGRESS NOW. Phase 1B – High-risk patients (yet to be defined by IDOH) – timeline to be determined. Phase 2 – Those who work/live in high-risk conditions (jails, homeless, critical infrastructure workers) – timeline to be determined. Phase 3 – General population – timeline to be determined. Shown above are caregivers receiving the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines. In the photo on the left is Jama Wallace, Pharm D Pharmacy manager with the FedEx employee delivering the vaccines. In the photo on the right are Stan Fowler, R. PH Staff Pharmacist and Erin Kuczanski, Pharm D Staff Pharmacist.

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## In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser, Purdue University Master Gardener

For the past couple of columns, I have written about plants associated with Christmas. However, one native plant whose common name actually contains the word “Christmas” is often overlooked as a landscape plant. That plant is the Christmas fern.

The Christmas fern is native to much of Eastern North America. With the exception of an area in east-central Indiana, it can be found growing in wooded areas of the Hoosier state. It is easy to spot this time of the year, as it is one of the few green plants on the forest floor. Actually, it is only the large, leathery, sterile fronds of the fern that remain green through the winter. The smaller fertile fronds die down. As I walked through Sandhill Gardens recently, the Christmas ferns were still standing, but they usually lie flat on the ground after the first real accumulation of snow. The Christmas ferns in the garden were rescued many years ago from a construction site, but the wooded area below the cliff sports several clumps of the native fern.

Ferns are normally associated with moist, shady landscapes. Christmas ferns do, indeed, grow best in shady locations, although they will tolerate some morning sun. However, this fern will survive where soils are well-drained and will take some drought.

The Christmas ferns are not the only

green ferns at Sandhill Gardens right now. The autumn ferns are also still green and remain more upright than the Christmas fern. Autumn ferns will eventually die down and return as bronze fronds in the spring. They morph to the present gray-green color in autumn. Autumn ferns are larger and more upright than Christmas ferns, so it is easy to tell them apart.

The ferns are the perfect winter foil for the evergreen foliage of the hellebores. *Helleborus niger* is commonly known as the Christmas rose and I am happy to report that at least one clump of hellebores at Sandhill Gardens has blooms for the Christmas season. (*Helleborus orientalis* is commonly called the Lenten rose and those blooms will be coming along in February.) The Christmas rose is not the only thing in bloom at Sandhill Gardens. Some late autumn daffodils are still holding on to some blooms and the winter witch hazel will soon be blooming also.

I love lights in the garden and Christmas time is a great time to light up the landscape. An antique red pickup truck carrying a Christmas tree has become a popular Christmas decoration, so I have put my 1952 Ford pickup into the Christmas scenery, complete with a native red cedar in the bed. If you are out and about this season, drive by and take a look. It is yet another way to enjoy the gardens. Merry Christmas.

## Eagles over Monroe features mix of virtual, in-person activities

Monroe Lake is offering a nine-day bald eagle experience on January 23–31 that will include a mix of virtual, self-directed, and small-group activities.

The event is being held in place of Monroe Lake’s traditional annual bald eagle driving tour.

Jill Vance, Monroe Lake’s interpretive naturalist, will be hosting sunset eagle watches at the lake from 5 to 6 p.m. on January 23, 25, 29, and 31. She and a couple of volunteers will have spotting scopes set up to help participants observe eagles and other birds. Hot cocoa will be available for those who bring their own travel mugs.

To ensure social distancing, each sunset eagle watch is open to a maximum of 12 people, and advance registration is mandatory. Registration closes three days prior to each date, or when the event is full, although wait lists are available. Sign up for a session at [bit.ly/sunseteagle2021](http://bit.ly/sunseteagle2021).

Visitors can also create their own self-guided bald eagle driving tour at the lake using the property’s bald eagle brochure as a guide to the best viewing locations and times. On January 22, Vance will post a link to download the bald eagle brochure on the Facebook event page, which can be found at [bit.ly/eaglesmonroe2020](http://bit.ly/eaglesmonroe2020). You can also, from January 22 to 29, email a request for the brochure to [jvance@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jvance@dnr.IN.gov).

Virtual programming will be hosted on the property’s Facebook page, [facebook.com/monroelake](https://facebook.com/monroelake). For direct links and descriptions, see the event description at [bit.ly/eaglesmonroe2020](http://bit.ly/eaglesmonroe2020).

January 23 at 3 p.m. Facebook LIVE Identifying Bald Eagles

January 25 at 3 p.m. Facebook LIVE Bald Eagle Mating, Nesting, and Fledging

January 26 at 11:30 a.m. Facebook LIVE Return of the Bald Eagle



January 27 at 2 p.m. Facebook VIDEO Bald Eagle Flyer Craft Tutorial (rerun)

January 28 at 10 a.m. Facebook VIDEO Bald Eagle Magnet Craft Tutorial (premiere)

January 29 at 1:30 p.m. Facebook LIVE Bald Eagle Coloring Break

“We’ll miss hosting our traditional eagle driving tour this winter, but we hope this reworked experience will give people a range of opportunities to learn about and observe bald eagles in a safe manner,” Vance said.

For more information about event programming, contact Vance at [jvance@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jvance@dnr.IN.gov) or call 812-837-9967.



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## Take a First Day Hike on New Year’s Day

Welcome 2021 with an Indiana DNR tradition — a First Day Hike on January 1. First Day Hikes are a healthy way to start the new year and provide a chance to get outside, exercise, and enjoy nature.

In past years, Indiana state parks, reservoirs and state forests have offered organized hikes led by park staff and volunteers. These hikes have become a tradition for thousands of Hoosiers.

This year, in response to the need to practice social distancing and keep group sizes to those within your personal “bubble”, the DNR has created hiking opportunities that allow you to be your own tour guide.

After you decide which state park, reservoir, or state forest you plan to visit for a hike, stop by your site of choice to pick up your Indiana First Day Hike sticker. Stickers will be available at the entrance gates at Pokagon, Chain O’Lakes, Turkey Run, and Shades state parks, and at Cataract Falls State Recreation Area (SRA); at the nature center at Indiana Dunes State Park; and outside all other state park and reservoir property offices.

The state forest properties — Salamonie River, Clark, Greene-Sullivan, Yellowwood, Morgan-Monroe, Owen-Putnam, Ferdinand, Pike, Jackson-Washington, Martin, and Harrison-Crawford state forests, and Deam Lake and Starve Hollow SRAs will also participate. All will have stickers available outside their office.

Wear your sticker proudly during your hike and be ready to say Happy New Year to your fellow hikers on the trail.

Choose your favorite trail and look for a “resolution sign” at each trailhead. These signs will propose different new year’s resolutions you might consider.

Snap a photo of yourself with the sign, then take a hike. Share your resolution and/or your hike photos on the Indiana State Parks Facebook page at [facebook.com/INDnrstateparksandreservoirs](https://facebook.com/INDnrstateparksandreservoirs) or on the Division of Forestry Facebook page at [facebook.com/INDnrforestry](https://facebook.com/INDnrforestry) and use either #FirstDayHikeIN, #FindYourResolution, or #IHikedTheFirstDay to allow



your images to be found so you can be included in the drawing for prizes.

The DNR will randomly select participants from those who post to win park passes, inn and camping gift cards, and more.

Make sure to bundle up, bring a warm drink and snack, and remember to wear your mask if you’ll be going on a popular or narrow trail where maintaining social distancing is a challenge.

If you are not able to visit a state park, reservoir or state forest for a First Day Hike, check out a virtual First Day Hike video on the Indiana State Parks Facebook page on New Year’s Day and enjoy the hiking experiences of others.

This annual event is organized by Indiana State Parks in cooperation with America’s State Parks ([stateparks.org](https://stateparks.org) and [facebook.com/Americas-State-Parks-205324976548604](https://facebook.com/Americas-State-Parks-205324976548604)). Hikes and virtual opportunities will take place in many of the 50 states.

First Day Hikes originated more than 20 years ago at Blue Hills Reservation, a state park in Milton, Massachusetts. The program was launched to foster healthy lifestyles and promote year-round recreation at state parks.

See additional details and great ideas for fitness and hiking challenges on the DNR’s Healthy Parks, Healthy People page at [dnr.IN.gov/healthy](https://dnr.IN.gov/healthy).

## Monroe Lake hosts First Day Trail Run and Walk

Monroe Lake will host its eighth annual First Day Trail Run and Walk on January 1 at Fairfax State Recreation Area, 9301 S. Fairfax Road in Bloomington.

The event format for 2021 has been modified from past years. The non-competitive run and walk will have three route options, ranging from 1.3 to 3.7 miles long. Unlike in past years, advance registration is required, and no walk-up registration will be permitted. Register at [bit.ly/firstdaytrail2021](http://bit.ly/firstdaytrail2021) through December 30 or until the event is full. Total participation is capped at 300 people.

When registering, each person will choose a 15-minute check-in window. Each window is limited to 20 people. Participants will need to check in at the Fourwinds Lakeside Inn, located within Fairfax SRA, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Registration is \$15 per person and includes a grab-n-go box lunch, an entry for the prize drawing, an embroidered collectible event patch, and a \$15 gift certificate for the Fourwinds Lakeside Inn restaurants.

After checking in, participants will be directed to the starting area and have until 4 p.m. to complete the route of their

choice. A photographer will take photos as people cross the line and hear the finish line bell.

Facial coverings must be worn while inside the Fourwinds Lakeside Inn. Participants should also carry a facial covering on the course to wear whenever passing within 6 feet of someone who is not a member of their household. A list of additional event modifications and safety precautions is posted on the event website.

This event is co-sponsored by Monroe Lake and the Fourwinds Lakeside Inn and Marina. Proceeds support public events, programs, and interpretation at Monroe Lake.

For more information, contact Jill Vance, Monroe Lake interpretive naturalist, at [jvance@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jvance@dnr.IN.gov), or 812-837-9967. Entrance to Fairfax SRA is free during winter.

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