

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 14, Issue 2

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023

Eight pages



The Martin County Council held their first meeting of the year on Monday, January 9. From left to right around the table are Council Members Warren Albright, Keith Gibson, Monty Gregory, Adam Greene, and Jordan Dant; Auditor Michelle Norris and Council Member Andrew Beaver. The council meets on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the courthouse.

County council again approves FSG contract, okays overtime for jailers

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council met Monday night, January 9 with three of the four new members, Jordan Dant, Monty Gregory and Andrew Beaver. They joined current council members Warren Albright, Keith Gibson and Adam Greene. New council member Jim Hamby was not present. The council voted to have Jordan Dant serve as president and Adam Greene as vice president.

The council discussed the current mileage rate reimbursement for employees. The state rate is currently at 49 cents however Martin County's rate is 44 cents. It was last updated in 2013 in the county, but the state reevaluates the rate every six months. The council decided to table changing the rate until the commissioners complete the policy on when mileage reimbursement will be paid. Currently employees can choose to have their mileage reimbursed once a year however the commissioners would like to see that go to quarterly.

The council again discussed the FSG contract for 2023. FSG (Financial Services Group) is the firm the county hired two years ago to serve as financial advisor. The contract was discussed and voted on at the last council meeting and was approved. It was then taken to the commissioners at their last meeting for approval and they decided not to make a decision until the

Drainage Board sends issue back to the City of Loogootee

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Drainage Board held their second-ever meeting Tuesday night, January 10. The drainage board was recently formed due to an issue with a blockage causing flooding in the City of Loogootee. Jason Tinkle, who lives in Green Acres, had been through litigation to get his neighbor, Bruce Smith, to remove the alleged blockage that is causing flooding on his property. The City of Loogootee would not take action to fix the issue and the litigation between the two property owners resulted in the formation of the drainage board.

At last month's meeting, Attorney Dave Lett had told the drainage board he would reach out to the City of Loogootee because this is their issue.

(See 'DRAINAGE' on page 2)

new council voted on it. So, it was brought back to the county council again.

At Monday night's meeting, Council Member Monty Gregory asked Auditor Michelle Norris how many hours a week she uses FSG. Norris replied that she mostly talks to FSG about the budget and hasn't had to contact them much for other reasons.

Council Member Andrew Beaver said his concern is having a new auditor and a new ambulance service. He said he doesn't want to rely on FSG so much because it's the council's job to handle the financial aspects of the county. He asked Auditor Norris if during budget time, she could get training from FSG so she wouldn't need their help as much. Norris said she could discuss it with them. Beaver said he would like to see the \$25,000 paid to FSG go back into the county in some way but they also don't want the auditor to have to struggle being in the new position.

Council Member Gregory asked Norris if she could keep a log of how often she contacts FSG so the council can know how much the firm is being used. Norris said she could. Gregory added that they don't want to use FSG as a crutch.

"The less we use him, the less we pay him," said Council Member Warren Albright. He said the more the auditor learns, the amount paid to FSG will go down.

The council then unanimously approved the FSG contract for 2023.

Sheriff Josh Greene talked to the council about the need to pay overtime to his jailers. He said they have six jailer positions and currently only four filled. He said one jailer is leaving on January 19 also. Each jailer is accumulating a tremendous amount of compensation time due to the extra hours they are working. He said not paying overtime leads to employees looking for a different job where they will be paid overtime. Greene said he is going to have to start pulling deputies in to cover the jailer shifts because he can't get anyone to apply for the position.

The council discussed whether they should pay overtime for now, until the sheriff is able to get fully staffed. It was noted that no additional money would be needed because the sheriff has two, and soon three, open positions that are not being paid out.

The council voted to allow overtime pay for jailers on a monthly basis, contingent on approval from the commissioners as it is a change in county policy.

(See 'COUNTY COUNCIL' on page 2)

Superintendent Wilson requests city council prepare for staff changes

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee City Council met Monday, January 9. Council Members Ron Gilbert and Tim Lawrence were not present for the meeting. The council voted Rick Norris to serve as president.

City Superintendent Bo Wilson gave a proposal to the council regarding his staff. Wilson explained in his letter to the mayor that he recently lost Jeff Sanders, who retired after 35 years. He said in the next two to three years, the city will be losing three more long-time employees to retirement, including himself. He requested the council take proper steps to have a more experienced and qualified staff with the senior employees retiring. He also noted that the failing and outdated sewer system and stormwater collection system add to the workload of the staff.

Wilson requested that Daniel Shultz be promoted to foreman of public works to replace Sanders and to promote Devon Stoll from part-time to full-time to cover Shultz. He also asked that Don Mann be promoted to step three laborer/equipment operator, up from step two and Crystal Trambaugh be trained to become the department leader of the street department because they currently don't have anyone in that position. He also asked that

Amber Gilbertson, a clerk in the water office, be moved from part-time to full-time and all full-time employees to start receiving a \$29 monthly stipend to help pay for their cell phones since they are using them more to communicate.

Clerk-Treasurer Roger Downey said he would like the council to understand that the city was \$80,400 over budget in the general fund, \$30,133 over in the EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) fund and \$25,712 over budget in the water department for 2022. He said they need to look at these things before they start making decisions.

"We need to wake up and step up," said Wilson adding that they are going to be losing knowledgeable staff and the city customers are not going to be getting all the services needed.

Tim Bradley, who was in the audience, asked what happens when the city goes in the hole, from the state's perspective. Downey replied that so far, they have been transferring money between accounts to make things work but they can't do that forever.

Wilson said he has been asking for something to be done since mid-2022 and he doesn't want the issue to go away.

Mayor Noel Harty said some members of the council didn't receive Wilson's proposal prior to the meeting so they

(See 'CITY' on page 2)

Commissioners approve grant road paving list and policy for overtime pay

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners met Tuesday, January 10. Paul George was again voted in as president of the commissioners with Aaron Summers as vice president.

The commissioners approved the roads to be apart of the 2023 Community Crossings grant application. They are Cherry Road, from Brickyard Road to Reinhart Road; County Farm Road, from Hickory Ridge Road to State Road 450; Rama Dye Road, from CR 72 to Dover Hill Road; CR 72 to Rama Dye Road; Sherfick School Road, from Doe Run to Goldsberry Road; and CR 12, from Rutherford Road to the dead end. The total amount to do all the roads is \$1,334,690.

Highway Superintendent Scott Seals said he has an employee leaving and requested permission to advertise for the position. The commissioners approved.

Shoals Town Council Member Cary Albright gave the commissioners a check for \$2,000 to help pay for redoing the sidewalk on the county property located by the jail.

Greg Jones and Rhonda Rumble, with SIDC, talked to the commissioners again about the land bank program that is getting started. The commissioners had questions at their last meeting. Eight counties are involved in the land bank initiative which takes dilapidated properties from each county's tax sale, cleans them up and gets them put back on the tax rolls. Jones said the idea is to increase housing in the area because it is needed. They are working on grants to help fund the property revitalizations. Each county is asked to contribute

\$5,000 per year to be a part of the land bank. Counties a part of the initiative include Owen, Daviess, Greene, Lawrence, Orange, Washington, Crawford and Martin. Jones said the plan is to do eight properties over the next few years, per county. He noted they are not planning to purchase properties from the tax sale that are highly sellable, only those that no one wants to buy.

Commissioner Cody Roush said Martin County doesn't really have any properties left after the tax sale, except empty lots.

(See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)

City of Loogootee Primary Election filings

The following candidates have filed, so far, for the City of Loogootee Primary Election on May 2, 2023:

Loogootee Mayor: Noel D. Harty (D)
Loogootee Clerk/Treasurer: Lori D. Carrico (R)

Loogootee City Council At-Large: No filings to date

Loogootee City Council District 1: No filings to date

Loogootee City Council District 2: No filings to date

Loogootee City Council District 3: Carroll R. Rayhill (D)

Loogootee City Council District 4: No filings to date

To run for these positions, you need to have resided within the city for one year prior to filing. You must be a registered voter in the city at the time of filing. You may pick up paperwork to file at the Martin County Clerk's Office at 129 Main Street in Shoals. If you have questions, please call the clerk's office at 812-247-3651. Deadline to file is February 3 at noon.

COUNTY COUNCIL

(Continued from page one)

Sheriff Greene reported they currently have 82 inmates in the jail with 39 of them from Vigo County and three from the department of corrections. Greene said Martin County is the only county still holding Vigo County inmates as their new jail has been open since the beginning of November last year. He said he doesn't know how long that will continue.

Ambulance Director Jeramey Osborn gave the ambulance service activity report. They have done 389 runs since the ambulance service started in August of last year. In December, they had 111 runs, with 67 patients transported, 21 who refused transport, eight were disregarded in route and two were dead on arrival. Osborn said they are still waiting to hear from Daviess Community Hospital about being the county's sponsor hospital. The state medical director is still serving as the county's sponsor. He said he is going to reach out to IU Health as a backup plan in case Daviess Community Hospital doesn't come through. He said they are at the mercy of the hospital's legal department.

Alliance Director Jessica Potts talked to the council about the Choose Southern Indiana Workforce Attraction Program. She said the Martin County Alliance was awarded a grant for \$5,000 from the Martin County Community Foundation to help Martin County participate in Radius Indiana's talent attraction and workforce development program called Choose Southern Indiana. Choose Southern Indiana is program that pays a \$5,000 incentive to out-of-state talent to move to the Radius Region. Radius and the Martin County Alliance will be partnering on covering the cost of the incentive paid for those wishing to relocate to Martin County. The initiative has already provided \$135,000 in relocation packages to 27 new residents (70 total including family members) as an incentive to move to the region, in the other counties that have participated. The initiative has received over 1,000 applications. Martin

COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

Jones replied they can also look at those empty lots to see if something can be done. He said he does believe Martin County could benefit from being a part of the land bank.

Jones also talked to the commissioners about the Town of Crane's project to get hooked up to the Greene County Sewer District as Crane Base wants them off their system. Crane is working toward a grant to cover \$2.1 million of the project costs but the town will need to also have a 10 percent match. Jones wanted the commissioners to keep that in mind if Crane needs help. He said they are looking at different county resources as well, such as the community foundation.

Sheriff Josh Greene talked to the commissioners about changing the county policy to pay overtime for jailers instead of giving them compensation time. The council approved the overtime pay at their meeting last night however the commissioners have to approve the policy change because the county doesn't pay overtime. The commissioners approved changing the policy.

Greene reported that the deputy's truck involved recently in an accident has been declared totaled. He said they plan to keep one of the trucks they were originally going to trade in and put the insurance money into the budget to purchase a vehicle when they are available. He said the truck they are keeping is still under warranty.

The commissioners approved paying for three \$1,000 insurance deductibles for sheriff's department vehicles from ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) funds for a total of \$3,000.

The commissioners tabled the contract with the Martin County Alliance until the county attorney has time to talk to the di-

County didn't participate in the first year, but Daviess, Dubois, Greene, and Orange counties did. The goal is to get five new residents to move to Martin County in 2023. If a business is interested in learning more about the Choose Southern Indiana Incentive, and to see if their company would be eligible to use the incentive, they can contact Potts at the Martin County Alliance office at 812-295-4800. This incentive must be approved.

The council approved the following appointments:

Alcoholic Beverage Commission - Kenny Inman

Good Samaritan Advisory Council - Andrew Beaver

SIDC (Southern Indiana Development Commission) Board - Monty Gregory

Martin County Solid Waste Board - Jim Hamby

Economic Development Commission - Warren Albright

PTABOA (Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals) - August Bauer and Roger Downey

Martin County Park Board - Denise Craney and Donna Hawkins

Martin County Redevelopment Commission - Warren Albright and Keith Gibson

Community Corrections Advisory Board - No longer a voted position. It is automatically the president of the council - Jordan Dant

Martin County Alliance Board - Adam Greene

Shoals Public Library Board - Barb Loomis and Linda Sherfick

The council approved \$81,761.93 in encumbrances from the 2022 budget as requested by various departments.

Council Member Dant asked if the meeting agendas could be sent out earlier than the weekend before the meeting so the council has time to review the things that will be discussed. He said they would like them two business days before the meeting. Auditor Norris said she would do that.

rector.

The commissioners approved the FSG contract now that the new county council has approved it. FSG is the financial advisor for the county. The contract is not to exceed \$25,000 for 2023.

The commissioners made the following appointments:

SIDC Board - Cody Roush

Alcoholic Beverage Board - Bill Shaw

Martin County Redevelopment Commission - all three commissioners

Regional Mental Health Board - Danielle Murphy

County Attorney - Dave Lett

Veteran Service Officer - Linda Evans Dillon

Highway Superintendent - Scott Seals

White River Military Coordination Alliance - Dena Held

Local Economic Development Organization - Cody Roush

Martin County Solid Waste Board - all three commissioners

District Oversight Planning Committee - Paul George

Civil Defense Director - Monty Wolf

Civil Defense Assistant Directors - Andy Ringwald and Mike Ringwald

Community Corrections Advisory Board - Paul George

Four Rivers RC&D Council - Aaron Summers

County Health Board - Judy Walker and Monty Wolf

Disaster Planning Council - Casey Dearwester

South Central Region 8 Workforce Board - Paul George

They tabled appointments for the West-Gate Authority, the Loogootee Library Board and the PTABOA (Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals) until they could find out more information.

CITY

(Continued from page one)

need time to look it over.

Council Member Teresa Nolley said in order to make it work, there are going to have to be concessions on both sides. She said they are not going to get all the manpower they want, and the council is not going to get the budget they want.

Joe Lannan, who was in the audience, said he sees glaring red flags when it comes to what Wilson is trying to say. He said if something happens to Wilson, the city is going to be in trouble.

Mayor Harty said whichever way they go, salaries are going to have to change in order to have licensed employees who can take the place of Wilson who serves as head of all departments.

Council Member Nolley said they are going to have to cut the budget in other places to make up for the needs elsewhere. She said they need to spend more time on the budgets each year and decide what needs to be prioritized.

No decision was made on Wilson's proposal and the council moved on to other agenda items.

The mayor said they will be using \$225,000 in EDIT funds to pay the matching money needed for the \$250,000 grant recently received from READI to turn the railroad property, on the corner of JFK Avenue and Church Street, into a green space with a pavilion for gatherings. The total project cost is \$500,000.

Lannan, from the audience, said when his firm was a part of this project, he understood that some of the matching money could come from in kind work. He said it was a concern to take that much money at once from the EDIT fund.

The mayor replied that there is currently \$1.1 million in EDIT. Clerk-Treasurer Downey corrected him and said there is around \$600,000.

Tim Hudson, who was in the audience, asked about the proposal that was on the agenda to allow chickens in city limits. The mayor replied that they were tabling that discussion as the request was made by Police Chief Aaron Means and he was not present for the meeting. Hudson said he just wants clarification to know if they are saying they could have any animals in the city like cows, pigs, etc. He said he has five acres and would love to have animals. The mayor said the issue is tabled until the next meeting.

Superintendent Wilson presented a revision to the utility rate ordinance. He said the state legislature revised the utility receipt tax last year on July 1 and the city should have done the reduction for customers but did not. He said the reduction would equate to a decrease of 12 cents on the first 2,500 gallons of water.

Clerk-Treasurer Downey asked if the reduction would be retroactive to July of last year or if it will take effect once the ordinance revision is done. Wilson said he will have to ask Baker Tilly, who serves as the advising firm for the city pertaining to water and sewer rates.

Wilson also told the council that since they still don't have an agreement with Daviess County Rural Water, they are selling water to them at a rate substan-

DRAINAGE

(Continued from page one)

On Monday night, Lett said he sent a letter to Loogootee Mayor Noel Hart and the Loogootee City Council informing them that the drainage board has no authority to take any action on the matter. He said the city was granted an easement by property owners when they did a stormwater project back in 2005 and 2006 so the city is legally obligated to maintain it.

He said even if the drainage board wanted to take action on the issue, he would advise against it.

Surveyor Nathan Hoffman, who joined the meetings via Zoom, agreed saying

tially lower than what regular city customers pay. He said the rate they are being charged now is \$2.98 per thousand gallons of water and they should have been included in the tiered rate increases other customers have had and that rate should now be \$4.44 per thousand gallons. Wilson said he has brought this issue up many times, but nothing is ever done. The mayor said they haven't heard back from Daviess County Rural Water when the proposal was sent to them. He said he will have City Attorney Arianna Wright work on it.

At the end of the meeting, Council Member Nolley asked if there is any decision on whether the school will help pay for the repaving of the parking lot between the municipal building and JFK Gym. The mayor said he hasn't heard back from them.

Nolley asked why the website the city paid for is not up yet. The mayor said the website designer is scheduled to be at the next council meeting to explain why it has taken so long.

Nolley then asked if there is any progress on finding the leak at the city pool. Superintendent Wilson said they have cut out some concrete to try to identify the problem.

The mayor made the following appointments for 2023:

Board of Public Works and Safety: Mayor Harty, Rick Norris and Danny Clark

Mayor's Administrative Assistant: Phyllis Panko

Public Works Superintendent: Bo Wilson

Utility Clerks: Teresa George and Amber Gilbertson

Chief of Police: Aaron Means

Fire Chief: Eric Thomas

City Attorney: Arianna Wright

Custodian: Cindy Clark

Stormwater Utility Board: Bo Wilson, Martin Tarrh and Gianna Armstrong

Oversight Committee: Teresa Nolley and Rick Norris

Martin County Solid Waste Board: Mayor Harty and Teresa Nolley

Land Use Policy Council: JD Flynn, Aaron Means, Chris Bledsoe and Danny Clark

SIDC Board: Mayor Harty

Building Commissioner: Justin Davis

Zoning Appeals Board: Mike Engleman, Judith Blackwell and Elaine Renoire

Alcoholic Beverage Board: Floyd Lonnie Hawkins

Park and Recreation Board: Karen Slaven, Don Greene, Justin Clark, Gary Arvin, Lynette Arvin and Ron Gilbert

Downtown Beautification Board: Amber Gilbertson, Brandi Judd, Christina Ziegler, Amanda Campbell, Katie Kidwell, Miranda Beaver, Kristi Thomas, Jessica Sheetz, Michelle Thompson, Ashley Fisher, Renee Street, Macy McAtee, and Trenton Scott

Festival and Special Events Committee: Jolene McAtee, Don Greene, Alexandra Wathen, Adam Graber, Lyndzee Hart, Sherri Bowling, Brenda Coulter, and Jacqueline Harner

the issue is the responsibility of the city.

Jason Tinkle, who was in the audience, said, according to Indiana code, any and all projects done in the county are required to go through the drainage board and the surveyor's office. He said this was not the case when the stormwater project was done.

Board Member Paul George asked Attorney Lett how Tinkle is supposed to get the city to do something.

Lett said he sent the letter, and he would contact the Loogootee Mayor to let him know the outcome of the meeting.

The board voted to take Attorney Lett's recommendation and not take any action.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT PENDLETON

Robert Lawrance Pendleton passed away Wednesday January 4, 2023, at Norton Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky with his family by his side. A resident of Montgomery, he was 64.



ROBERT PENDLETON

He was born April 19, 1958, in Washington; son of the late Lewis and Betty (Crecelius) Pendleton.

Robert was a United States Navy Veteran. He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee. He worked for Jasper Group for 30 plus years. He loved fishing, kayaking, and boating. Robert loved traveling to Florida with his family and sitting on the beach. He loved watching his grandkids grow and play and will be deeply missed by his family.

Robert is preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Betty Pendleton and his brother, Ed Pendleton.

He is survived by his daughters, Nicole Pendleton (Travis Troutman) of Loogootee and Whitney Pendleton (Brandon Ackerman) of Saint Anthony; his grandchildren, Kaden Pendleton and Oakleigh Ackerman; his siblings, Nancy (Glen) Stoll of Washington and John (Janie) Pendleton of Lebanon; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Saturday January 7 at Blake Funeral Home with the Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker officiating. Burial followed in St. John Cemetery in Washington.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Blake Funeral Home for the family.

Online condolences can be made at www.blakefuneralhomes.com.

Arrangements provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Indiana.

DAVID STONE

David R. Stone passed away Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville. A resident of Shoals, he



DAVID STONE

David attended Shoals High School. He retired from National Gypsum after 33 years, and later drove a tri-axle truck. He loved NASCAR racing and watching YouTube videos.

Surviving is his wife, Wanda; children, Rhonda (Tom) Isaacs, David Stone Jr., Christy Stone, and Mark Stone; grandchildren, James (Ashley) Peek, Russell Peek, Brian Conley, Kayla Conley, and Cody Stone; great-grandchildren, Ava, Braelynn, Harmony, Leo, Marley, Aurora, and Shanasy; brother, Tony (Sharon) Stone; brother-in-law, Karlas (Sandy) Spears; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Brian Stone; grandson, Ryan Baker; five brothers; and five sisters.

David was laid to rest in a private family burial at Spring Hill Cemetery.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.queenlee.com.

ADA STEWART

Ada Delores Stewart passed away at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at Stonebridge Health Campus. A resident of Springville, she was 89.

She was born October 18, 1933; daughter of Curtis and Mildred (Payton) Stevens. She married Grant S. Stewart on July 22, 1950, and he preceded her in death on December 6, 1993.

She had been an assembler at RCA and attended Valley Mission Church of the Nazarene and Life Church in Bloomington. Ada enjoyed flowers, gardening, cooking, and sewing.

Survivors include three children, Carolyn Helderman, of Loogootee, Grant M. Stewart and wife, Julia A. "Julie", of Avon; and Ricky J. Stewart and wife, Gaye Ann, of Bedford; 11 grandchil-

was 78.

He was born July 22, 1944, in Huron; son of Russell and Helen (Terrell) Stone. He married Wanda McDaniel on November 3, 1962, and she survives.



ADA STEWART

dren, Troy M. Helderman (Shelly), Shelly M. Chestnut (Steve), Rita McGillum, Cristal R. Lewis (Rodney), Jennifer A. Shufran (Matthew), Sarah J. Robinson (William), Rachelle M. Shaver (Nathan), Priscilla C. Moore (James), Deborah M. Perry (Grant), Ricky Joseph "Joey" Stewart, Jr. (Dianna), and Amy M. Deering (Rodger); 29 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; three brothers, Robbie Stevens, Harold Guy Stevens, and Arthur Stevens.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a sister, Linda Harris; a brother, Charlie Stevens; three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 9 in the Elmwood Chapel of the Day & Carter Mortuary with Pastor Tim Stewart officiating. Burial followed

in Hanson Cemetery.

Family and friends may express condolences at www.daycarter.com.

COLLEEN SIMS

Colleen M. Sims passed away Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at Daviess Community Hospital in Washington. A resident of Shoals, she was 71.

She was born July 2, 1951, in Syracuse, New York; daughter of Dennis and Doris (Smith) O'Neal.

Colleen graduated from Shoals High School class of 1969 and retired from NWSC Crane.

Surviving are her son, David Sims and niece, Sierra O'Neal.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Richard O'Neal.

Cremation was chosen and no services will be held.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Queen-Lee Chapel of George Funeral Care.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.queenlee.com.

"The most dangerous phrase in our language is, "We've always done it this way.""

-Admiral Grace Hopper



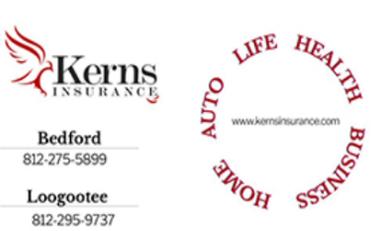
Derek George
Owner & Funeral Director

It may seem strange to plan your own cremation or funeral ceremony, but it's the best way to ensure it's what you want. It also helps your family get everything taken care of in advance, so they know they're doing the right thing for you. Gain peace of mind by preplanning with a name you trust.



QUEEN-LEE CHAPEL
GEORGE FUNERAL CARE, LLC
431 High Street
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<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">AUTO REPAIR</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Greene's BODY SHOP Complete Collision Repair</p> <p>106 Wood St., Loogootee Adam Greene 812-295-9840</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">FUNERAL SERVICES</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>BLAKE FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>300 Church Street, Loogootee IN 47553 • 812-295-2100</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">AVAILABLE SPACE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AVAILABLE SPACE \$25 PER MONTH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Email courtney@martincountyjournal.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">HEATING & AIR</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>American Standard M&M ELECTRIC HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING • Geo-Thermal •</p> <p>LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED MARK & MARY FIELDS</p> <p>107 West Main St. Office (812) 295-4699 Loogootee, IN 47553 Fax (812) 295-2487</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">INSURANCE</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Kerns INSURANCE</p> <p>Bedford 812-275-5899</p> <p>Loogootee 812-295-9737</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">INSURANCE</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Terri Kelso Insurance</p> <p>1211 S Meridian St, Ste 2, Washington, IN 204 S JFK Ave, Loogootee, IN 812-254-7770 or 812-295-5777 Fax 812-254-7778</p>  <p>Terri Kelso OWNER terrikelso@att.net www.terrikelso.com</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">AVAILABLE SPACE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AVAILABLE SPACE \$25 PER MONTH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Email courtney@martincountyjournal.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">MONUMENTS</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>MARTIN COUNTY MONUMENTS LLC EST. 2020</p> <p>Emma Letterman, Owner 812-709-2457 • emma.letterman@gmail.com</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">PHYSICIAN</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Daviess-Martin Medical Clinic</p> <p>David Nibel, MD Daniell Summers, FNP</p> <p>Lab & X-ray Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm</p> <p>Call us today for an appointment! 812-295-5095</p>  </div>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">REALTOR</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Allie Jones Your Local Agent</p> <p>MIDWEST REALTY 1-812-709-0418</p> <p>REALESTATEALLIE@OUTLOOK.COM</p>  </div>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">STONE/GRAVEL</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Fast Lane Farms</p> <p>Stone • Ag Lime Sand • Gravel</p> <p>Randy Wininger 812-709-0383 • rvcwininger@gmail.com 3201 St. Rd. 550, Shoals IN 47581</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">TRASH PICK-UP</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>KRB Disposal</p> <p>Pickup household trash weekly NOW serving Martin & Daviess counties</p> <p>812-247-3115 or 812-247-3604</p>  </div>

Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

2:32 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:20 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

3:45 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

3:55 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

4:04 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

4:53 p.m. - Received a call from Orange County Dispatch reporting a possible reckless driver on US 150, heading northwest. Sergeant Gibson responded.

5:51 p.m. - Received a call from Convergent Alarm reporting a panel alarm going off in Crane. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

6:14 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:44 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:16 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

4:48 a.m. - Received a call from Koorsen Fire and Security reporting a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

8:20 a.m. - Received a call reporting an accident with no injuries in Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

8:56 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down south of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department was notified.

10:48 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:48 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:55 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

1:39 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

2:00 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported three inmates to court.

3:56 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

3:52 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2, Martin County Medic 3, Loogootee Fire Department, Sergeant Gibson, Loogootee Reserve Officer Long, Indiana Conservation Officer Mann and Big John's Towing responded. No transport was needed.

4:10 p.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard in Gibson County. Call was transferred.

6:04 p.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Transferred call to Daviess County 911.

6:24 p.m. - Received a 911 call from a Greene County address. Call was transferred to Greene County 911.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

4:24 a.m. - Received a call reporting an accident in Loogootee with no injuries. Loogootee Officer Sims and Big John's Towing responded.

6:02 a.m. - Received an accidental 911.

7:09 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported

one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

8:14 a.m. - Received a call reporting a vehicle in a ditch south of Shoals. Big John's Towing responded.

10:13 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:42 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 2, Shoals Fire Department, ISP Trooper Beaver, Sergeant Gibson and Daviess County EMS responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital with Daviess County Medic on board.

10:42 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Daviess County EMS responded.

1:17 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Chief Deputy Keller, Sergeant Gibson and Lost River Fire responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

1:30 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

1:37 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance east of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Medic 2 responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:25 p.m. - Received a call from Area 1 Protection advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Shoals. Keyholder was contacted and advised to disregard.

4:20 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Haysville Fire Department and Indiana Conservation Officer Mann responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:27 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a vehicle unlock. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

6:55 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

7:05 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:02 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:42 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to an officer. Deputy Hawkins responded.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

6:24 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:42 a.m. - Received a call reporting a commercial burglar alarm in Shoals. Keyholder was notified.

11:43 a.m. - Received an accidental 911.

12:17 p.m. - Received a call reporting an accident with no injuries east of Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

2:29 p.m. - Received a request for an identification number check on a boat. Corporal Wells responded.

3:09 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

3:27 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

3:32 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Wells responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:48 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin

County Medic 2 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:06 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Daviess County EMS responded.

5:15 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:29 p.m. - Received a 911 call advising of a suspicious person in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin and Corporal Wells responded.

6:45 p.m. - Received 911 call reporting possible gunshots in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin, Corporal Wells and Indiana Conservation Officer Fuhrman responded.

8:35 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to an officer. Corporal Wells returned the call.

9:21 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

3:00 a.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

3:12 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Indian Creek Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Health in Bedford.

6:55 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an officer in Shoals. Deputy Long responded.

11:04 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

11:57 a.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check northeast of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

1:00 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

2:19 p.m. - Received a 911 call wanting to report a brake light out on vehicle he is following on Highway 50.

4:22 p.m. - Received a call advising of a suspicious vehicle south of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

4:48 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded. No one was transported.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

12:37 a.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims, Deputy Long and

ARRESTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

1:01 a.m. - Tyler Hostetter, 29, of Elнора, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Erwin and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-prior, possession of paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, possession of a legend drug and possession of a controlled substance. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

12:25 p.m. - Jordan Gosciniak, 33, of Petersburg, was arrested by Deputy Pressley on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

6:51 p.m. - Zane Sanders, 23, of Shoals, was arrested by ISP Trooper Nolan on a Martin County Warrant. He is being held without bond.

8:12 p.m. - William Bratton, 27, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Hawkins and charged with resisting law enforcement and on a Dubois County warrant. He is being held without bond.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

5:44 p.m. - Robert Roach, 37, of French Lick, was arrested by Corporal Wells on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

Big John's Towing responded.

7:18 a.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Transferred call to Daviess County 911.

7:50 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

8:59 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:09 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible domestic dispute in a vehicle on US 50 heading east toward Loogootee. Corporal Wells and ISP Trooper Lents responded.

11:20 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Corporal Wells and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

11:46 a.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

1:05 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

1:46 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:59 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

4:30 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check north of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

6:45 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

6:50 p.m. - Received a call reporting a field fire south of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department advised it was a controlled burn.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

12:33 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

12:36 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting suspicious activity north of Loogootee. Deputy Long and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

12:41 a.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Transferred call to Daviess County 911.

8:46 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible domestic dispute in Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

11:59 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver north of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded. Greene County was notified.

3:50 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:08 p.m. - Received a request to speak with an officer. Captain Reed responded.

11:40 p.m. - Received a call reporting a missing female north of Shoals. Sheriff Greene, Captain Reed, Loogootee Officer Sims and Martin County Medic 1 responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

Real estate transfers

Hayden A. Norris, of Martin County, Indiana to **Hayden A. Norris and Corie McBride**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 21 in the original Town of Crane.

Michael D. Bough, of Martin County, Indiana to **Robert E. Bough**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 3 North, Range 4 West in Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 4.726 acres, more or less.

Kenneth R. Jones and Tracy Lynn Jones, of Martin County, Indiana to **Derrek Knepp**, of Daviess County, Indiana, Lot Number 33 in Williams' Addition to the Town of Shoals, formerly Memphis, Indiana.

COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING

December 28

Robert J. Hawkins, convicted of intimidation, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 0 days suspended.

Mackenzie W. Carty, convicted of theft, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 549 days with 256 days suspended and credit for 146 actual days previously served plus 146 Class A credit days. Defendant received 257 days of probation.

December 29

Steven E. Pendley, convicted of operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, 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. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

Alias Rian Keasling, convicted of auto theft, a Level 6 Felony; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 Felony and criminal mischief, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 730 days with 730 days suspended. Defendant received 24 months of probation. (Suspended sentenced revoked after charge of failure to return to lawful detention, a Level 6 Felony, and full 730 days with the Indiana Department of Corrections was ordered.) Also convicted of domestic battery resulting in moderate bodily injury, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 20 actual days previously served plus 20 Class A credit days.

Cameron Anthony Gregory, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor and operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 44 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 22 actual days previously served plus 22 Class A credit days.

Aaron Padgett, convicted of operating a vehicle with an ACE of at least .08 but less than .15, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Federal grant will help improve quality, access, affordability of early childhood care, education

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, in partnership with the Indiana Department of Education Office of Kindergarten Readiness, has been awarded a \$42 million federal grant. These dollars will be used over three years to implement programmatic changes that will improve Indiana's capacity to recruit early educators, increase access to early learning opportunities for students in unserved areas and ultimately, support families as they make important decisions regarding their child's education.

"These funds come at a key time as Indiana has built the foundation for innovation through the collaborative partnership of FSSA, IDOE and the Early Learning Advisory Committee. Together we are uniquely prepared to best serve children and families across the state," said Maureen Weber, chairwoman of the Early Learning Advisory Committee.

The three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will award \$14 million annually to FSSA, which partnered with the Indiana Department of Education on the grant application.

Combined with FSSA's \$4.2 million annual investment as matching funds required by the grant, \$54.6 million will be leveraged in total to accelerate and build Indiana's capacity to implement long-lasting change, including:

-Building upon stakeholders' understanding of the needs, gaps and inequities in Indiana's birth-through-age-5 mixed delivery system, especially as they relate

to underserved populations
-Refreshing Indiana's birth-through-age-5 strategic plan to reflect the current environment and the existing opportunities to drive system-level change

-Amplifying the voices of families in decision-making and introducing new services and educational supports that empower them as their child's first and most important teacher

-Introducing new workforce recruitment and career pathways, building the operational capacity of early childhood care and education providers and enhancing workforce conditions and compensation

-Strengthening instructional practices, quality measures and birth-to-age 8 coordination efforts

-Investing in the expansion of high-quality programs in underserved geographies

The funding will build upon key work already underway to improve the early learning infrastructure in Indiana. New state legislation championed by Gov. Eric J. Holcomb restructured and expanded Indiana's Early Learning Advisory Committee, and Gov. Holcomb also launched a new Office of Kindergarten Readiness within IDOE to work in partnership with OECOSL to ensure the early learning experiences children receive are effectively readying them for school. In September 2022, new early learning policy goals were established by ELAC to ensure Hoosier children, especially those most underserved, have access to early learning opportunities that prepare them with the skills required to thrive in kindergarten.

January 3

Alias Rian Keasling, three counts of resisting law enforcement, Class A Misdemeanors, dismissed; criminal mischief, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; public intoxication, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; reckless driving, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; intimidation, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; domestic battery resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 Felony, dismissed; confinement, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suits Filed

December 28

Tannya James vs. Donnie Robbins, eviction.

January 3

Tedrow Properties, LLC vs. David Blackmer, eviction.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Patrick Robert Smith of Loogootee and Mary Genava Wagoner of Loogootee.

to underserved populations

-Refreshing Indiana's birth-through-age-5 strategic plan to reflect the current environment and the existing opportunities to drive system-level change

-Amplifying the voices of families in decision-making and introducing new services and educational supports that empower them as their child's first and most important teacher

-Introducing new workforce recruitment and career pathways, building the operational capacity of early childhood care and education providers and enhancing workforce conditions and compensation

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Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

9:09 a.m. - Received a call about a deer hanging in a tree near West Washington Street.

11:45 a.m. - Caller requested to speak to an officer about her mailbox.

1:28 p.m. - Caller advises of a civil matter between him and his ex-wife.

5:51 p.m. - Officer Shaw assisted Deputy Hawkins with processing a warrant.

5:59 p.m. - Officer Sims responded to an alarm.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

9:47 a.m. - Received a report of illegal trash dumping at the city park.

10:42 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance for an 80-year-old having seizures.

2:41 p.m. - Officer Long responded to a report of a semi hitting power lines on Grant Street.

3:27 p.m. - Officer Long responded to an accident at Discount Tobacco.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

4:26 a.m. - Officer Sims responded to a slide off near Southwest Third and Grant streets.

10:06 a.m. - Officer Seymour and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call.

11:05 a.m. - An officer performed a vehicle unlock at China Wok.

6:03 p.m. - Officer Erwin performed a vehicle unlock on Butcher Boulevard.

8:56 p.m. - Officer Erwin responded to a medical call on North Line Street.

9:20 p.m. - Officer Erwin responded to a dog call on Park Street.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

6:24 a.m. - Officer Seymour and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical issue at IGA.

Consumer Alert: Products Recalled in December

Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers of important consumer protection concerns for products recalled in December.

"Now that the holidays have come to an end, there is no better time to make sure your gifts weren't recalled," Attorney General Rokita said. "Hoosiers deserve protection from products that, for whatever reason, are not reliable or may even cause injury. If you have one of the recalled products below, stop using it and pursue resolution from the manufacturer."

Attorney General Rokita encourages consumers to take advantage of opportunities available for those who purchased the recalled items.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the following consumer products were recalled in December:

Gotway and Begode Unicycles from eWheels

Cuisinart Compact Blender & Juice Extractor Combos from Conair

Aduro Surge Protectors from JBR Solutions

Cloud Island 4-Piece Plush Toy Sets from Target

Viper Level PRO SD Climbing Tree-stands from Summit Treestands

10:29 a.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a report of a vagrant at Broadway Street and JFK Avenue.

4:20 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department responded to a lift assist at Sunset Trailer Court.

6:26 p.m. - Officer Erwin responded to a disturbance on Southwest Second Street.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

11:08 a.m. - Chief Means and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to a lift assist in Sunset Trailer Court.

12:59 p.m. - Chief Means responded to a minor accident at Marathon.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

9:03 a.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Mt. Calvary Road.

11:00 a.m. - Chief Means was requested for traffic control for a funeral procession.

11:12 a.m. - Received a call of a civil disturbance on Highway 50, eastbound from Washington.

11:21 a.m. - Chief Means and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Church Street.

6:40 p.m. - Officer Sims responded to a report of a reckless driver on Butcher Boulevard.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

12:36 a.m. - Officer Sims investigated suspicious activity at Stoll's Lakeview Restaurant.

8:48 a.m. - Chief Means responded to a civil disturbance on Queen Street.

12:33 p.m. - Chief Means investigated a dog complaint on South Oak Street.

11:49 p.m. - Officer Sims assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a missing person report.

RZR Recreational Off-Road Vehicles from Polaris Recalls

Discovery Cubes Animal Hide and Seek Activity Toys from HABA USA

2022 All-Terrain Vehicles from American Honda

Utility Vehicles from Kubota

Laundry Detergent and Household Cleaning Products from The Laundress

Cordless Window Shades Battery Packs from Ningbo Dooya Mechanic & Electronic Technology Co.

Scotch™ Thermal Laminators from 3M

Gas Fireplaces from Ortol

Darkest Blue Women's Fleece Sweatshirts and Men's Fleece Shorts from The Life is Good Company

Art of Green® Laundry Detergent from AlEn USA

E-Bikes from Gyroor

Thornhill Baby Cribs from Crate And Barrel

Good Matters Three-Wick Candles from Advantage Sales & Marketing

If you recently purchased a recalled product, stop using it and check its recall notice. Then follow the notice's instructions, including where to return the product or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

To view recalls, visit the www.cpsc.gov/Recalls.



ONE-LEVEL LIVING: This home includes beautiful hardwood floors, large living room, eat-in kitchen, 2 BR, 1 bath, laundry/mud room, partial basement, outbuilding, covered patio, large backyard, and off-street parking. \$149,900. Call Noel. MLS#202300105

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COMMUNITY & EVENTS



MARTIN COUNTY
**Community
Foundation
Partnership**

Making A Difference

By Curt Johnson
MCCF Director



-- ARISTOTLE --

"The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." So, what does a quote from an ancient Greek philosopher and scientist have to do with you and I here in Martin County in 2023? You've probably seen it used before to make a point about working together to accomplish something good, something more than could have been done individually. So, you bet, here's another time to see it.

-- SMALL FOR BIG --

And I've said it before that we are a small county. Nothing new there. But as we've seen more than once, our residents come together to make our county better. So many times, people volunteer their time and talent to help pull together that important event, to improve the quality of life in some way for someone in our community. People from a small county can make a big difference when they work together.

-- YOUR GIVING PLAN --

This same thought also applies when you start thinking about your giving plan for the year. You'll need to decide how much you can donate to a charity so that you can have an impact on a concern that

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

LOOKING FOR A HOME HEALTH AIDE/CARE in Loogootee to start ASAP. Monday and Tuesday, 10 hours a day, 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extra hours available and some Saturdays. For care of one person. 812-295-8491.

Seeking 3-4 (2-man) Pergola Installation Crews needed for Midwest Territory

We are seeking F/T installers for a 300-mile radius from Orleans, IN. Very generous compensation-average pay is over \$1,500 per day taking a two-person crew 6-8 hours and payment is typically disbursed immediately upon completion. Must have a dependable pickup, minimum 16' dual axle utility trailer, and own tools. Vehicle & business liability insurance required.

Serious inquiries only please.

Note: If you are Amish we will provide transportation and trailers.

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Paoli, Indiana 47454-9814

is important to you. Some people donate money whenever there's an event or celebration. Sometimes instead of buying gifts, they donate in honor or memory of a loved one. Some can donate a significant amount of money, but the majority of us are not that fortunate.

-- LITTLE BITS ADD UP --

But there is an amount this is right for each of us. Pick some percentage of your income or a specific amount that you want to donate and how often. And it can be a small amount. Whatever or however you do it is fine; just stay committed to your cause. Over the year it adds up. And if many people commit to donating what they can, together it adds up to make a big difference. It's "strength in numbers."

-- YOUR MCCF --

The MCCF is here to help you put your giving plan into practice. We start every new year with board members that give us good representation across the county. Please contact any of them to start that conversation about how you can be a part of something bigger.

The 2023 MCCF Board members are:

Paula Ringwald, President
Krista Ausbrooks, Vice-President
Garry Smith, Secretary
Richard Burch
Audrey Gibson
Megan Hawkins
Jenell Hoffman
Janie Johnson
Tracy Rayhill
Angie Risacher
Kelli Wilson

-- MORE INFORMATION --

For more information about the MCCF, please contact the Director, Curt Johnson, at mccf@cfpartner.org, 812-295-1022, or at 2668 US Hwy 50 (on the Martin County fairgrounds), PO Box 28, Loogootee IN 47553.

You are also welcome to visit the MCCF webpage at www.cfpartner.org and follow the MCCF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mccommunityfoundation.

USI Dean's List for 2022 fall semester

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, the University of Southern Indiana Dean's List has been released for the 2022 fall semester. Dr. Mohammed Khayum, USI Provost, announced a total of 1,956 undergraduate students were named to the Dean's List. Graduate students are not eligible for the Dean's List.

Undergraduate students must achieve a 3.5 or better semester grade point average (on a 4.0 system) to be named to the list. Students earning no IN (incomplete) or Z (missing) grades for the term and earning letter grades of computable point value (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory and Pass/No Pass graded courses do not apply) in 12 or more semester hours, with a semester grade point average between 3.5 and 4.0 are named to the list.

The following students from Martin County were listed on the Dean's List: Jessica L. Browder, Shalyn B. Bruner, Sarah R. Bussinger, Chloe M. Carrico, Grace Gingerich, Andrea B. Graber, David D. Graber, Leonna L. Hedrick, Pryce Hedrick, Jocelyn R. Helms, Marissa N. Helms, Cassandra Knepp, David C. Lengacher, Haylie B. Mathies, Halle R. Sheetz, Jacob S. Simmons, Tyler D. Swartzentruber, Sebastian D. Toy, Kallin B. Trambaugh, Karlena J. Wagler, Katie A. Wagler, Madison J. Wagoner, and Olivia R. Wininger

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Loogootee School Board meeting

The Loogootee School Board will hold their reorganizational meeting Thursday, January 12 at 4 p.m. in the high school media center. The meeting is open to the public.

Dog/cat Wellness Clinic

The Martin County Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic hosts a wellness clinic on the third Friday of each month from 5-6 p.m. The clinic offers low-cost vaccines, testing, nail trims, etc. No appointment is required.

Mental Health Task Force

The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets via Zoom. If interested in being a part of the tax force, email echristmas@youthfirst.org or toddamy@iu.edu.

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

St. Vincent Food Pantry

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, on Park Street in Loogootee, is open the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December when they are open the third Thursday. The hours are 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 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!

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Solid waste board

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

Soil and Water meetings

The Martin County SWCD meets the

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

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.

Daviess Hospital Foundation accepting scholarship applications

The Daviess Community Hospital Foundation has announced that they will be awarding health career scholarships to residents of Daviess, Martin, and Pike counties or dependents of DCH employees from any area. Students attending an accredited educational institution of higher learning who are pursuing a degree in the field of health care are eligible to apply for the scholarships. Applications are available now on the Foundation's web page at www.dchosp.org/our-foundation/health-careers-scholarships/ The application deadline is Friday, March 3, 2023.

The DCH Foundation annually awards scholarships to aspiring health care professionals in an effort to support and encourage those individuals to return to our community to fulfill our communities' need for dedicated, trained health care providers in a hospital or outpatient clinic setting. Full and part-time students are eligible and both traditional and non-traditional students are encouraged to apply.

The DCH Foundation awards scholarships annually through three scholarship programs. Up to \$1,500 may be awarded for each scholarship recipient selected for the health careers scholarships. The DCH Auxiliary will award one scholarship up to \$1,000. One \$500 scholarship award will be made to a student pursuing nursing from The Helen Arthur Memorial Scholarship.

The Daviess Community Hospital Foundation is a nonprofit organization that exists to enhance the mission of Daviess Community Hospital by providing a means for philanthropic support of the hospital and by strengthening relationships between the hospital and the community. For further information, contact the DCH Foundation Office at 812-254-8858 or email asteiner@dchosp.org.

TOY'S AUTO PARTS, INC.

Loogootee (812) 295-2312	Shoals (812) 247-3321	Jasper (812) 634-2222	Washington (812) 254-2540
Sullivan (812) 268-5252	Martinsville (765) 342-6623	Linton (812) 847-4494	
Jasonville (812) 665-3969	Bicknell (812) 735-3545	Bloomfield (812) 384-4453	

Spacious home in Shoals

Spacious home on 2.36 acres, in Shoals! The main floor has 3 bedrooms & 2 full baths! The full walk-out basement has the potential for 2 additional bedrooms/1 full bath with plenty living space! 3,804 square feet. \$259,000



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Horse racing fans know that a triple-crown winner is a rare thing. It takes a very special three-year-old thoroughbred to win the Kentucky Derby, the Belmont Stakes and the Preakness, and it just does not happen very often. This year, for the first time ever, there is a triple-crown winner in the horticultural world. The National Garden Bureau has named 2023 the Year of the Rudbeckia in the perennial plant category. This coincides with high praise for a particular rudbeckia in joint trials by the All-America Selection Association and the Perennial Plant Association. Such high praise of an easily propagated plant means that many gardeners will be growing this celebrated plant this year, and for good reason.

This celebrated plant is a black-eyed Susan tagged as "American Gold Rush". The nativar (a cultivated variety of a native plant) was developed at Intrinsic Perennial Garden in Illinois, which is good news for Hoosier gardens. Since our conditions are very similar to those found in our neighboring state, we can be assured this plant will perform well in Hoosier gardens. In general, rudbeckias are considered easy-to-grow plants. Once established, they usually are drought tolerant, and they are not bothered by insects. Even deer tend to leave them alone, unless there is nothing else to eat. The one bothersome pest has been a fungal disease known as Septoria leaf spot. This disease causes the leaves to develop black spots, and while it rarely kills the plant, it will make it rather unattractive by late in the season. However, American Gold Rush has exhibited a high level of resistance to this fungal disease, winning high praise in the trial gardens. The other complaint that gardeners have with rudbeckias is that they often become rangy and fall over. American Gold Rush is more compact than the wild black-eyed Susans and most of the older cultivars, standing only 22 to 27 inches tall. That makes the plants less prone to flopping. If the plants have room,

they will bush out to around 40 inches.

American Gold Rush will be covered with 3-inch yellow blooms from July until frost, as long as the plants are dead-headed. Individual flowers will last several weeks, so dead heading is not a great chore. The flowers are described as having an arching ray and a reddish halo, surrounding a deep chocolate cone. Native plant purists often contend that cultivars lack the nectar value of the natives, but that does not seem to be the case with this nativar. Bees, butterflies and other nectar-feeders flock to the blooms, and the seeds in the cones provide food for birds and other wildlife. The leaves and stems of the plant are covered with hairs, giving the plants a silvery sheen when in the sunlight. The hairs also account for the deer resistance and the resistance to fungal disease.

American Gold Rush is worthy of a place in any pollinator garden. It combines well with other native plants and nativars, especially with grasses like little blue stem. It would do well in a meadow with sedges and daisies. While it likes the sun, it will tolerate light shade, so it will do well at the edge of a wooded area. Good drainage is a must, but newly planted specimens will benefit from supplemental watering during dry spells.

American Gold Rush has actually been around for a few years. The trials at the Chicago Botanical Gardens have given it superior marks over three years. Since it is not a brand-new cultivar and is touted as easy to propagate, there should be plenty of growers lined up to offer this plant come spring. It may be a little pricey, due to the accolades the plant has received, but it should not be difficult to find. I hope to give it a spot in my meadow at Sandhill Gardens. As with most meadow plants, it will look best grown in groups of three to five plants. Look for this plant to be available by late spring. They will go quickly, so buy what you need when you find the plants for sale.



I probably have said it before, but I think it was Robert Frost that said, "You can't get too much winter in the winter." I disagree! I already miss not seeing grass on the landscape and I know that there are a lot of livestock that feel the same way.

I'm not a stickler for making or keeping new year resolutions and maybe I should be. As the old year becomes even more a piece of the past with the changing of a digit, my first thought is usually what can I do differently in this new run of 12 months that I wasn't successful doing in the last.

We all make mistakes or make wrong decisions. A wise man recognizes those errors and works to not make them again. Life is full of lessons. You just have to pray that you learn them right the first time. Instead of making resolutions that you probably won't keep, take some time and really study something that didn't work last year and figure out how to improve it. For me, that's time management. I'm not "old," but I'm also not young and winter is closer than spring. Time gets more valuable and eventually you can't put a price on it.

Winter came quickly and harshly this time around. Some say that it was a wintery blast that we'll be talking about for decades – could be. I know that I haven't forgotten or stopped talking about the winter of 1978. Luckily, for the most part, I was ready and my contingency plan kicked in. Livestock were moved to where they had shelter from the predicted winds and hay was strategized in such a way that minor effort would be required to provide access for however long was needed.

I'm usually not a huge fan of bale feeding on pasture. The reason is because most years tend to be too wet and there is not enough frozen ground. Even though I appreciate the additional nutrients and organic matter that is added to the site, I've also seen more harm than good done too often. Under wet, especially saturated conditions, the soil around the bales can become tenaciously mud quickly from the concentrated livestock around them – even worse if bale rings are used which would require more energy to move around than I'm really willing to provide.

If you are feeding hay, you ideally don't want to put out too much at a time to create some competition, reducing waste and improving efficiency. Additional hay could be set out for the next feeding or two and fenced off with some temporary electric fence in lots of cases. Hay is an input into the operation, so when utilized, it needs to be efficient as possible.

I've seen other producers in late fall also strategically place large round bales out in the field where they will be fed and then move electric fence (and ring feeders if used) allocating the hay as needed. This certainly lessens the impact of tractor tires mudding around in the field.

Unrolling bales is also certainly an option and almost always better on the soil structure than standing bales. Unrolling bales spreads out the hay, dispersing the livestock more and helping to disperse nutrients and organic matter in the aftermath a lot more evenly. Quality hay is consumed readily and if conditions are good, you may not see much negative impact at all.

Even the unrolling and feeding of hay is best done where there is ample forage present. I start sounding like a scratched record repeatedly stating that maintaining good cover and good above ground

growth means good root structure should be present. Overgrazed pastures have short roots and are more prone to compaction and pugging. The more pugging type of disturbance a pasture has, the more likely it will shift to forages or plants that are adapted for such conditions and those are usually less productive and desirable.

The hay feeding location should be carefully thought out. It should have proper drainage, be close to a water source if possible and not be located where it will cause problems such as along a stream or above or adjacent to a water body. The ideal site should always be where water is available, and nutrients are lacking.

It is good to keep several options open for winter feeding. Stockpiled forages become more challenging to manage and consume the deeper the snow gets or if ice is present. Sometimes it is just easier and better to put out hay and wait until the forages are more accessible again. Livestock that are used to grazing stockpiled forages surprisingly are not as concerned about snow being on top and just continue to graze. Forages usually maintain decent condition and quality even when covered for long periods with snow.

I'd much rather stay on stockpiled forage, but again, you have to pay attention to soil conditions and go with a contingency plan when needed. If conditions improve, then you can go back to grazing. Dry or frozen soils are best for any of the activities.

It is no surprise that most producers feed hay or supplemental feed in dry lots in the winter. Rocked or concrete feeding pads control mud well, reduce energy requirements of livestock as compared to deep mud and protect pastures from damage.

Why do we do what we do – because it's the life we have chosen and hopefully the next generation will benefit from it and continue unwearyingly to maintain, improve, and leave the land better than when they received it too. Be efficient with your time and have a happy new year!

Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!

Reminders & Opportunities
Northern Indiana Grazing Conference – February 3-4, 2023 - Michiana Event Center, Shipshewana, IN – More information coming soon!

Heart of America Grazing Conference – February 20-21, 2023 – Ferdinand, IN - www.indianaforage.org

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference – March 29, 2023 – Shiloh Community Center, Odon, IN – More information coming soon!

Please send comments or questions to grazingbites@gmail.com.



HAY FOR SALE
4x4 round bales and small square bales.
Contact: James Stoll
812-709-2224

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF EAST FORK WATER, INC.
The annual meeting of East Fork Water, Inc. will be held January 30th, 2023, commencing at 7:30 p.m. at the office, located at 213 S. Main Street in Shoals, Indiana. Directors for North Rutherford, Lost River, West Perry and South Center townships will be elected. Members are invited to attend.

Martin County Chamber of Commerce and Martin County Alliance
ANNUAL DINNER
Thursday, March 16 at 6 p.m.
St. John's Center Lower Level
Tickets: \$25
Tickets are available for purchase at German American Bank, Crane Credit Union and the Martin County Chamber Office



National unemployment down to 3.5 percent for December

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 223,000 in December, and the unemployment rate edged down to 3.5 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week. Notable job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, health care, construction, and social assistance.

This news release presents statistics from two monthly surveys. The household survey measures labor force status, including unemployment, by demographic characteristics. The establishment survey measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry.

Household Survey Data

The unemployment rate edged down to 3.5 percent in December and has remained in a narrow range of 3.5 percent to 3.7 percent since March. The number of unemployed persons edged down to 5.7 million in December.

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rate for Whites fell to 3.0 percent in December. The jobless rates for adult men (3.1 percent), adult women (3.2 percent), teenagers (10.4 percent), Blacks (5.7 percent), Asians (2.4 percent), and Hispanics (4.1 percent) showed little or no change over the month.

The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) declined by 146,000 to 1.1 million in December. This measure is down from 2.0 million a year earlier. The long-term unemployed accounted for 18.5 percent of all unemployed persons.

The employment-population ratio increased by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 60.1 percent. The labor force participation rate was little changed at 62.3 percent. Both measures have shown little net change since early 2022. These measures are each 1.0 percentage point below their values in February 2020, prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons, at 3.9 million, changed little in December. These individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part time because their hours had been reduced or they were unable to find full-time jobs.

The number of persons not in the labor force who currently want a job fell by 352,000 to 5.2 million in December and is little different from its February 2020 level of 5.1 million. These individuals were not counted as unemployed because they were not actively looking for work during the 4 weeks preceding the survey or were unavailable to take a job.

Among those not in the labor force who wanted a job, the number of persons marginally attached to the labor force declined by 231,000 to 1.3 million in December. These individuals wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but had not looked for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. The number of discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, numbered 410,000 in December, essentially unchanged from the previous month.

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 223,000 in December. Notable job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, health care, construction, and social assistance. Payroll employment rose by 4.5 million in 2022 (an average monthly gain of 375,000), less than the increase of 6.7 million in 2021 (an average monthly gain of 562,000).

In December, employment in leisure and hospitality rose by 67,000. Employment continued to trend up in food services and drinking places (+26,000); amusements, gambling, and recreation (+25,000); and accommodation (+10,000). Leisure and hospitality added an average of 79,000 jobs per month in 2022, substantially less than the average gain of 196,000 jobs per month in 2021. Employment in the indus-

try remains below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level by 932,000, or 5.5 percent.

Health care employment increased by 55,000 in December, with gains in ambulatory health care

services (+30,000), hospitals (+16,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+9,000). Job growth in health care averaged 49,000 per month in 2022, considerably above the 2021 average monthly gain of 9,000.

Employment in construction increased by 28,000 in December, as specialty trade contractors added 17,000 jobs. Construction employment increased by an average of 19,000 per month in 2022, little different than the average of 16,000 per month in 2021.

Social assistance added 20,000 jobs in December. Employment in individual and family services continued to trend up over the month (+10,000). Job growth in social assistance averaged 17,000 per month in 2022, compared with the 2021 average of 13,000 per month.

Employment in the other services industry continued to trend up in December (+14,000). Monthly job growth in other services averaged 14,000 in 2022, lower than the average of 24,000 per month in 2021. Employment in other services is below its February 2020 level by 174,000, or 2.9 percent.

In December, mining employment increased by 4,000, reflecting job growth in support activities for mining (+5,000). Since a recent low in February 2021, mining employment has grown by 104,000.

Employment in retail trade changed little in December (+9,000). Job growth in retail trade averaged 16,000 per month in 2022, less than half the average growth of 35,000 per month in 2021.

Over the month, employment in manufacturing changed little (+8,000), as job gains in durable goods (+24,000) were partially offset by losses in nondurable goods (-16,000). In 2022, manufacturing added an average of 32,000 jobs per month, little different than the average of 30,000 jobs per month in 2021.

In December, employment in transportation and warehousing changed little (+5,000). Air transportation (+3,000) added jobs over the month, while employment continued to trend down in couriers and messengers (-4,000) and in warehousing and storage (-3,000). In 2022, average job growth in transportation and warehousing (+17,000) was about half the average job growth in 2021 (+36,000).

In December, government employment was essentially unchanged (+3,000). Employment in state government education declined by 24,000, reflecting strike activity among university employees.

Employment in professional and business services remained little changed in December (-6,000). Employment in temporary help services declined by 35,000 over the month and has fallen by 111,000 since July. Job growth in professional and business services averaged 50,000 per month in 2022, roughly half of the average of 94,000 per month in 2021.

Over the month, employment showed little change in other major industries, including wholesale trade, information, and financial activities.

In December, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 9 cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$32.82. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 4.6 percent. In December, average hourly earnings of private-sector production and non-supervisory employees rose by 6 cents, or 0.2 percent, to \$28.07.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls declined by 0.1 hour to 34.3 hours in December. In manufacturing, the average workweek for all employees was little changed at 40.1 hours, and overtime declined by 0.2 hour to 2.9 hours. The average workweek for

production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.1 hour to 33.8 hours.

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for October was revised down by 21,000, from +284,000 to +263,000, and the change for November was revised down by 7,000, from +263,000 to

Shoals Town Council holds year-end meeting

The Shoals Town Council held their year-end meeting Friday, December 31. Those in attendance were Council Members Cary D Albright, Clint D Hoffman, and Cecil L Ragsdale; Attorney Dave Lett, Shoals Fire Chief Jim Hamby and Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge.

Council Member Cary Albright requested a motion to approve the CCMG 2023-1 application approval. Albright said, with this application, five areas would be addressed, and the application amount was approximately \$275,977 with the town match portion being around \$69,000. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve the application with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

Albright said the council has been working for several months on pricing and quoting for the employee vehicles to always keep them in good condition vehicles. Albright stated the original plan was to swap them out approximately every three years. He had gathered quotes from Ford, Chevrolet and Dodge. Bill Dobson Ford provided a quote of \$19,325 total for two new Ford trucks with trade in of the two current trucks in the fleet. Uebelhor provided a quote of \$19,501 for two new Chevrolet trucks with trade in of the current trucks in the fleet. Both quotes included the government fleet discounts as well. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve the trade in and purchase of two new trucks with Bill Dobson Ford with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

Albright stated that the council had been in discussions for the last several months as well as met with a vendor about updating the backhoe front loader. Council Member Ragsdale stated he had spoken with a few individuals who own similar equipment on suggestions of what path to take with the upgrade and what to make sure of to keep a higher trade in value in the future. Albright stated Council Member Hoffman had contacted a handful of vendors to get quotes and the only vendor who could provide a quote for a backhoe was Diamond Equipment out of Evansville. It was noted that other vendors had different options, but the town wants to stay with a backhoe type for equipment. The quote provided from Diamond Equipment was \$83,990 after the municipal discount, regular discount and trade in of the current backhoe was figured in. Albright stated the town was also looking into different funding options to the upgrade. After discussion, Council Member Hoffman made a motion to move forward with the quote from Diamond Equipment with Council Member Ragsdale making the second pending the funding source being decided on.

Council Member Albright stated the council has had a lot of discussion about staying on track with ordinances. He said it has been decided to try and have a part-time ordinance enforcer to help distribute and follow up on ordinance violations. He said the council would like to try with a person who already has current knowledge of the town and the path they are trying to take to follow ordinances. He would like to see outgoing Council Member Ragsdale involved and to be the ordinance enforcer. Council Member Hoffman made a motion to appoint Cecil Ragsdale as the part time ordinance enforcer with Council Member Albright making the second and Council Member Ragsdale abstaining, and the motion

+256,000. With these revisions, employment gains in October and November combined were 28,000 lower than previously reported. (Monthly revisions result from additional reports received from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates and from the recalculation of seasonal factors.)

passed.

Albright presented salary & wage ordinance 2023 amendment #1 for approval, to include the ordinance enforcer and insurance contribution for the council members. Council Member Hoffman made a motion to approve with Council Member Albright making the second and the motion passed with Councilman Ragsdale abstaining. Albright asked for a motion to rollover four unused paid time off days for employee Caitlin Sanders as she was unable to use them due to circumstances beyond her control. Council Member Hoffman made a motion to approve with Council Member Ragsdale making the second and the motion passed.

Albright stated the Jug Rox Robotix Team RoxStars, that previously came to a council meeting and presented to the board their project of changing over the street lighting and wastewater operations over to solar power, had advanced at the State Championship and are now moving onto the national championship. He said fundraising for the team to be able to attend, as it will be out of state, will be necessary and he would like the town to show support. Albright requested a motion to approve a \$1,000 donation. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

Albright presented an updated contract for Quality H2O for the remaining installation of the electronic read water meters. He explained an updated contract had to be provided as the remaining meters are problem areas that will take more time and more work. A lot will have to be dug out, repaired, or do not have a shut off valve. The contract has a maximum not to exceed \$6,200. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve with Council Member Hoffman making a second and the motion passed. Albright stated the work was expected to resume in the spring.

Albright stated he would like a motion to approve to pay the Martin County Commissioners \$2,000 for the sidewalk project on Capital Avenue. He said he had met with the previous sheriff before the project started and agreed to partner to get the sidewalk back to safe conditions as it was very unsafe and heavily trafficked. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to pay the Martin County Commissioners for the work completed and Council Member Hoffman made the second and the motion passed.

Fire Chief Jim Hamby stated the department had an inspection by the Hoosier Forestry Department and all went well. He said the department is going to take back the large five-ton truck as they own it, but they will not haul it. He said he will be getting pricing quotes to have it hauled to Martinsville. Hamby said the brush truck is back in service and that the green brush truck was given to the department by the state, and it would be auctioned off at the Catfish Festival. He said the department is planning to apply for a federal grant through AFG for new turnout gear.

Council Member Albright presented plaques of recognition to Council Members Hoffman and Ragsdale for their years of service to the Town of Shoals as this was their last meeting. Albright thanked the council members for all of their hard work for the Town of Shoals and said he was proud of what the team had accomplished in four years as he felt like they had accomplished a lot of good things.