

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 15, Issue 3

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

Seven pages

Several residents speak out against raising solid waste fee

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Solid Waste Management Board held a public hearing last Thursday to hear comments on the proposed increase of the recycling center's "user fee". The recycling center currently collects \$24 a year from property owners in Martin County which amounts to around \$108,000 a year. The center wants to increase that fee to \$48 a year.

According to Director Janell Freeman, the recycling center is operating on a \$10,000 per month deficit. She said when she became director last August, there were several unpaid bills associated with paying companies their share for the recyclables they dropped off. She said she is working on paying back those share payments, incurred in 2022. "I can't start fresh and go forward," she said because she is trying to catch up on past bills.

Several taxpayers were present at last Thursday night's meeting, most against raising the fee. A few residents were in favor of doing what needed to be done to keep the center open.

Some residents questioned why the recycling center is still sending trucks and drivers to Dubois, Daviess and Orange counties several times a week to pick up cardboard, if the center can't pay for their current operating expenses. Director Freeman said they get several loads a week from other counties and cardboard has doubled in price over the past year.

Debbie Hackman, solid waste technical advisor for the state, gave information on solid waste districts in Indiana. She explained that in 1991, Indiana required each county to have a solid waste district or be a part of a solid waste district, with the focus on recycling. Indiana's goal was to get recycling up to 50 percent to limit the amount of trash going into the landfills. The state is currently at 17 percent for recycling.

The center moved from being on the

tax levy in 2012 to the "user fee" which generated less money. The solid waste board wanted to get the center back on the tax levy last year however there was not enough time to do that for this year. It is unknown whether it will be addressed again this year.

Resident Danny Bridgewater said he gets charged to use the recycling center and doesn't understand why he is also paying the user fee. Director Freeman replied that it costs the recycling center to dispose of trash and other non-recyclable items which is why they have to charge. Bridgewater said he understood the recycling center was supposed to support itself when it was started but it's being supported by the taxpayers. Freeman said they pick up trash along the road and it has improved the landscape of Martin County, along with increased the property values.

She said this is a service that is provided to the county which requires a fee. Bridgewater said he doesn't agree with it, and he would like to see the books to see where all the money is going.

Loogootee Mayor and Solid Waste Board Member Brian Ader said the recycling center was designed to handle recyclables and

not trash. He said there were not a lot of trash services back when it started in the 1990s. He said that's why they let residents who had a small amount of trash and didn't have a service to pick it up, bring it in for a fee.

A few residents suggested raising the fees for those who use the recycling center as opposed to increasing the fees for everyone in the county, who may never use the center.

More than one resident placed blame on the user fee increase and the budget issues on the "previous" solid waste board in place before the first of the year. Only two members of the board changed, Mike Engleman replaced Teresa Nolley as the Loogootee City Council appointment and Brian Ader replaced Noel Harty as the Loogootee Mayor. The other five mem-

(See 'SOLID WASTE' on page 2)

Solid waste meeting
The Martin County Solid Waste Management District Board will meet Thursday, January 25 at 8:30 a.m. in the Martin County Community Building on US Highway 50, Loogootee. The board will vote on the "user fee" increase proposed. The meeting is open to the public.

Filing period for Primary Election ends February 9

Filing period is for the Martin County Primary Election will end February 9, 2024, at noon. All registered voters in the county will be eligible to vote in the May 7 election. If you are unsure of your voting status, you may contact the Martin County Clerk's office, visit an Indiana BMV office, or go online at <https://indianavoters.in.gov/to> register or update your voter registration. You have until April 8, 2024 to update or register to vote in order to vote in the Primary Election.

The following are current local candidate filings:

Martin County Auditor
Michelle Norris (D)
Martin County Recorder
Sheri Crandall (R)
Martin County Treasurer
Rhonda Sanders (R)
Martin County Coroner

Tony Abel (R)
Martin County Surveyor
No filings to date.
Martin County Commissioner District 1
Retha Warner (R)
Martin County Commissioner District 3
No filings to date.
Martin County Council-at-Large (three seats open)
Warren D Albright (R)
Gerald D Montgomery (R)
Republican Precinct Committeemen
Carolyn Sue McGuire (R), Perry 1
Becky L. Sellers (R), Mitcheltree
Gerald D Montgomery (R), South Hal-

bert
Four Republican Convention Delegates-at-Large

Warren D Albright (R)
Gerald D Montgomery (R)

(See 'PRIMARY' on page 3)



LHS Homecoming candidates

-Photo provided

Loogootee High School will be crowning their Homecoming King and Queen on Saturday, January 20 between the junior varsity and varsity games against Bloomfield at Jack Butcher Arena. The candidates, who are all seniors, are shown above. In the front row, from left to right, are Ashlynn Gilbert, Abbigail Nonte, Alana Hedrick, Sydnee Wittmer, and Alivia Willis. In the back row, from left to right, are Cale Greene, Chance Carrico, Drew Walker, Reis Whitney, and Leighton Jeffers.

Loogootee School Board discusses building and remodel strategy

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee School Board met last Thursday afternoon, January 11. The board spent quite a bit of time discussing the upcoming building projects and contractors who may be involved in those projects along with issues that may arise.

Dave Henson, with Myszak & Palmer, the projects' architects, presented plans to the board for the middle school remodeling project. Superintendent Dr. Brian Harmon expressed the need to have the middle school work done prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year. Henson said most of the work should be completed but there may be some smaller projects that need to be done after the start of school but would not affect classrooms. There will be a clause in the contract that charges the contractor \$2,500 for each day they are late in completing the project. Henson said despite the late fee, the board needs to pick a company they are comfortable with because the late fee doesn't always affect the contractor. He said the lowest bid is not always the best bid to go with. He said it depends on the company and their reputation with getting projects completed on time.

The big project, the 22,087-square-foot activities center, will take more than a year to complete. The board and Dr. Harmon discussed the need to have a general contractor on the job who would stay on top of the construction. Harmon and Board Member Brent Courter mentioned the troubles they had with the high school remodeling a few years ago and having to hire a new contractor to finish the job. Dr. Harmon said he will talk to Chris Baugh about overseeing all the projects, with extra compensation. Baugh did the same during the school's last remodel project.

The board will officially vote at their January 18 meeting to put the projects out

for bids. Bids are expected to be received toward the end of February. Dr. Harmon recommended getting bids from as many local contractors as possible. It was noted that local contractors would have more of an investment in the project than those who are not affiliated with the area.

When asked what would happen if the bids came in higher than expected and if there is a priority list for projects, Dr. Harmon said the bus barn would be the project they would take away. The other three projects are the activities center, the middle school remodel and the elementary playground remodel. Harmon said they do believe the architects have done a good job at estimating the cost of all four projects and are hoping the bids come in a little lower than expected. They question the COVID effect however and if it will still be a factor.

In other business, the board approved the following personnel actions and appointments:

-Nicole Matthews as Lion Manufacturing & Engineering teacher
-Sandra LaMar as corporation treasurer and board recording secretary
-Georgia Templin as corporation deputy treasurer
-Dave Lett as corporation attorney
-Corey Julian as school safety specialist
-Dr. Harmon or his designee to the Twin Rivers Vocational board and the Daviess Martin Special Education Co-Op Board
-Jamie Wildman as high school and middle school extracurricular activities treasurer

-Lori Winger as elementary extracurricular activities treasurer

The board approved holding board meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. They approved the board pay at \$112 per meeting or \$2,000 a year.

The board accepted a \$2,816.77 donation from Loogootee Middle School Par-

(See 'LOGOOTE' on page 2)

SOLID WASTE

(Continued from page one)

bers remained the same. The discussion of raising the fee has come up a few times over the past few years. So far, it's been voted down.

Resident Dennis Dillon asked if the mandates regarding recycling were from the federal government or the state government. Hackman said all mandates came from the state. Dillon said his position is doubling the user fee. He said they are not talking about just raising it but doubling it. He asked if they could find other ways to raise income before taking the money from taxpayers. None of the board responded.

Several people in the audience referenced the property tax increase that the Loogootee School Corporation has voted to implement and how much that is going to affect residents. A few residents said overtaxing property owners is going to run people out of the county.

Resident Jenny Dearwester asked why the original plan to charge businesses in Daviess and Dubois counties a \$140 per month fee to pick up their cardboard was changed. Freeman said they reduced that to \$10 per pick up, as a fuel surcharge and most businesses pay \$40 per month. Board Member Cody Roush said a committee they formed had recommended the \$140 a month however the board voted to lower it. They are currently picking up cardboard at around 50 businesses in Du-

LOOGOOTEE

(Continued from page one)

ent Advisory Committee to go to the Loogootee High School and Middle School Activities account.

The next school board meeting will be Thursday, January 18 at 5 p.m. in the high school media center.

bois and Daviess counties.

Dearwester said she is against doubling the user fee and having taxpayers subsidizing the center. She said last year, the recycling center received help to the tune of \$30,000 from the county, \$15,000 from the city, a \$90,000 loan was taken out and the county paid for the recycling center employees' insurance for 6 months. She said they are going to have to figure out how to operate within their budget.

Several residents present questioned whether the district is still charging the user fee for empty parcels in the county. Board Member Paul George said he believes that was taken care of and now only properties with dwellings that would produce trash are being charged. Several audience members said they have not heard from their appeal process. Attorney Lett asked them to talk to him after the hearing.

Resident Casey Dearwester said he likes the recycling center, but they can't keep throwing money at an entity that can't make it. Director Freeman said they have cut employees down from 17 to 11 and they need all those workers. She said they have had multiple management changes since former director Laura Albertson left and the lack of consistency leads to problems. Dearwester said any other business losing \$10,000 a month would shut their doors. He said they are going to have to do something different.

Resident Becky Sellers asked if the fee could potentially be raised every year. Attorney Dave Lett said it could be. Sellers said the center could get in trouble again next year and raise the fee again.

Sellers also asked if they could look into combining with other counties solid waste districts. Attorney Lett said when they started the district, no other counties

were interested in working with Martin County and to his knowledge, no one has been asked since. Sellers said it may be something to look into.

Hackman said the only county around Martin County that has a good program is Lawrence County. She said Daviess, Dubois and Orange counties don't have much going.

Former board member Teresa Nolley said there is no negative to having a recycling center. She said out of county businesses have been charged, the market is going up. She said she believes the recycling center is on the way up. She said the solid waste district used to be on the tax levy and people were paying it but didn't know it. She said the user fee, implemented in 2012, has never gone up and everything else has. She said the recycling center has been operating on the same budget since 2012 and there is no other entity that has done that. She said at some point, everything has to go up.

Jenny Dearwester said the income at the recycling center has changed citing the fact that they now charge out of county businesses and cardboard prices that have gone up. She said doubling the user fee would still not cover the \$120,000 annual deficit so they will be requesting to raise it again when they are not making it. She suggested asking the out-of-county businesses to also pay more if they are asking Martin County taxpayers to pay.

Calvin Evans asked if they needed a big operation by helping out other counties or if the recycling center should just take care of Martin County. Brian Ader said they need to get more people in the county to use the recycling center.

Freeman said it's a \$1 million program they are trying to run on very little. She said the recycling center is a good thing

and they need to get more people to use it.

Jordan Dant said he is president of the county council, and it is his duty to make sure the tax money is being spent properly. He said the center has been mismanaged. He said the center received a lot of extra money in 2023 and still can't get by. He asked how there is a guarantee they won't need to raise the fee again next year. He said doubling the fee keeps the recycling center operating in the negative and there have not been enough cuts.

Brian Stoll said people in Dubois County would be doing what Martin County is doing if there was money to be made. He said it's clear there is no money. He said the recycling center needs to go back to the bare essentials and stop worrying about picking up cardboard from other counties. He said no other county is doing this and he guarantees if it was a money maker, they all would be doing it. He said other counties probably laugh at Martin County for all they do.

Hackman said no solid waste district in Indiana is making money. She said each come up with creative ways to bring in additional money. She said solid waste districts were not designed to make money. They are there to provide a service.

Stoll said Martin County is running all over the place to get cardboard. "I'm tired of being Dubois County's idiot," said Stoll.

Casey Dearwester said they need to have a plan just in case the price of cardboard bottoms out again. Freeman replied that having the increased user fee is what they are wanting, because that money is guaranteed if cardboard prices tank.

Board Member Brian Ader said he feels if the state is going to mandate what counties have to do, they need to help with the funding.

At Your Service

Local Professionals
Here To Serve You!

AUTO REPAIR



Greene's
BODY SHOP
Complete Collision Repair

106 Wood St., Loogootee
Adam Greene 812-295-9840

AUTO SERVICES



Preventative Maintenance
Brakes
Computerized Diagnostics
New & Used Tires
Tire Repairs
"Local Pickup & Drop Off Available"

8009 US Highway 50, Shoals
Josh Tinkle (812) 709-9590

FUNERAL SERVICE



BLAKE
FUNERAL HOME

300 Church Street, Loogootee IN 47553 • 812-295-2100

AVAILABLE SPACE

Advertise in this space for
just \$25 per month!
Email
courtney@martincountyjournal.com
for information.

HEATING & AIR



American Standard
M&M ELECTRIC
HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING
• Geo-Thermal •
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
MARK & MARY FIELDS

107 West Main St. Office (812) 295-4699
Loogootee, IN 47553 Fax (812) 295-2487

INSURANCE



Kerns
INSURANCE

Bedford
812-275-5899

Loogootee
812-295-9737

AUTO LIFE HEALTH
HOME BUSINESS

www.kernsinsurance.com

INSURANCE



Terri Kelso
Insurance

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

Terri Kelso
OWNER
terrikelso@att.net
www.terrikelso.com

LAND SURVEYING



SUMMERS
Land Surveying
Summers Consulting Services

Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting

Travis Summers - 812-486-5697
Email - travissummers87@gmail.com

MONUMENTS



MARTIN COUNTY
MONUMENTS LLC
EST. 2020

Emma Letterman, Owner
812-709-2457 • emma.letterman@gmail.com

PHYSICIAN



Daviess-Martin Medical Clinic

David Nibel, MD
Daniell Summers, FNP

Lab & X-ray
Monday - Friday
8am - 5pm

Daviess Community Hospital

Call us today for an appointment!
812-295-5095

AVAILABLE SPACE

Advertise in this space for
just \$25 per month!
Email
courtney@martincountyjournal.com
for information.

STONE/GRAVEL



Fast Lane Farms

Stone • Ag Lime
Sand • Gravel

Randy Winingar
812-709-0383 • rvcwiningar@gmail.com
3201 St. Rd. 550, Shoals IN 47581

STUMP REMOVAL



STUMP HOG
STUMP GRINDING & REMOVAL

812-644-6294

TRASH PICK-UP



KRB Disposal
Pickup household trash weekly
NOW serving Martin & Daviess counties

812-247-3115 or
812-247-3604

OBITUARIES

Page 3

MARTIN COUNTY JOURNAL

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

JANET HEMBREE

Janet Sue Hembree passed away at 10:25 p.m. Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Poplar Care Strategies. A resident of Loogootee, she was 85.



She was born September 2, 1938, in Martin County; daughter of Helen (Street) Padgett.

Janet was the Rutherford Township Trustee for 21 years and retired in 2013. She also assisted the former Martin County Assessor for many years. Janet was a member of the Loogootee Revival Center Church. She loved to cook and participate in Operation Christmas Child.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Hembree Sr.; son, Jeff

Hembree; mother, Helen Padgett; siblings, Phillip (Virginia) Street, Robert Street, Ruth Meyer, and Sandra (Robert) Bleemel; brother-in-law, Dave Qualkenbush.

Janet is survived by her children, Pastor Debra (Greg) Davis of Loogootee and Becky (Tom) Robertson and John (Cindy) Hembree Jr., both of Haysville; 10 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren; siblings, Harold (Lila) Street and Vicki Qualkenbush; daughter-in-law, Paula Hembree; and brother-in-law, Gary Meyer.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, January 12 at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee. Burial followed in South Martin Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the South Martin Cemetery.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com.

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee is honored to serve the family of Janet Sue Hembree.

JORDAN LYNCH

Jordan Paul Lynch passed away Thursday, December 7, 2023, at Glenbrook Hospital with his mother and father by his side. A resident of Glenview, Illinois, he was 23.

He was born October 26, 2000, in Evanston, Illinois; son of Paul and Rhonda (Barber) Lynch.

Jordan attended Glenbrook South High School and graduated in 2019. He then attended Elmhurst University and Oakton Community College. Jordan was an avid runner in high school and college and had a great passion for being a runner.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Robert "Bob" Lynch.

Jordan is survived by his parents, Paul and Rhonda Lynch; sister, Jenna Lea



JORDAN LYNCH

son of Mooresville; cousins, Ashley, Austin, Abby, Carson, and Mariah; paternal grandmother, Dorothy (Salmen) Hendrick Kenosha, Wisconsin; uncles, Robert Lynch of Gurnee, Illinois and Kyle Hendrick of Portland, Oregon; and cousins, Grace, Margot, and Charlie.

A Celebration of Life will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 20 at St. John Lutheran Church in Loogootee.

Visitation will be held Saturday, January 20 from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

Daviess Community 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 who are currently 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 Monday, March 4, 2024.

The DCH Foundation annually awards scholarships to aspiring health care professionals in an effort to support and encourage those individuals to return to the community to fulfill the 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 \$750 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.

PRIMARY

(Continued from page one)

Two Democratic Convention Delegates-at-Large

No filings to date.

You must be a registered voter at the time of filing for one of the above positions. You may obtain the proper forms for filing 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.

School board offices will be on the November General Election ballot only. School board candidate filing period has changed. The filing period will run from Tuesday, May 21 through Thursday, June 20 at noon.

For more information, contact the clerk's office at 812-247-3651.



Originally published January 11, 2010

To listen to the weather people, you would think that anything below freezing is cause for mass panic. That we "might" get a few inches of snow (heaven forbid) should be met with drastic and emergency measures.

Like most people, I am not a big fan of cold temperatures. This past week reminds us that we live in the Midwest and winter weather is part of the climate here. But this past cold blast pales by comparison to the winter of 1978-79 which will forever (I hope) be the comparison year to any winter.

If you watch the weather channel you will see low temperature records for this time of year often being set in 1978-79. I vividly recall the frozen waterlines and efforts we expended trying to accomplish the necessities of caring for our livestock through that cold winter. The snow drifted, the roads closed for weeks and there was not enough of the right kind of equipment to clear them. Alternative routes to our barns were formed based on the depth of the drifts as we zigzagged across the high spots where we could, but eventually we had to turn lower, and the snow would be from three to ten feet deep. After a few days we adapted to doing business based on what

was possible and not what we would like to do. The livestock had to have feed and water, so that was a priority. Fuel for heating our homes and buildings became a nightmare as what would normally be a simple thing became a herculean task for our suppliers. In short, after that winter I think a lot of design changes were instituted in the Midwest to cope with extreme cold and snowy conditions. Fortunately, there has not been another like it in my lifetime (yet), and this latest cold snap would have been a balmy time compared to 1978-79, when it finally got above zero after about two weeks below it.

This last Saturday morning provided one of the most beautiful winter mornings we will ever witness. The air was a little cold, but fresh and crystal clear. The snow provided a beautiful blanket of brilliant white over the land, that made it shimmer when the sun shone on it. It did feel a little cold, but with no wind, it really wasn't uncomfortable. The grandkids were out sledding on the pond dams and walked across the frozen surface of the ponds that only a few months back and a few months from now they will be splashing and swimming in, the cold days of this winter forgotten... or maybe even fondly remembered.



Corner Cafe

201 N JFK Avenue, Loogootee
812-295-4243

Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Saturday (Breakfast Only!) 6:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday (Breakfast Only!) 7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



RECENTLY UPDATED: This home boasts an open living & kitchen, updated kitchen has quartz countertops, island & pantry, Master BR & bath ensuite, plus addnl BR & bath on the main level. Upstairs you will find 2 BR & large attic for stg. Also includes an oversized 2-car grg w/large attic. \$314,900. MLS#202338172

CENTURY 21

Classic Realty

Loogootee ~ 812-295-2211
Noel Harty, 812-295-6506
Ed Schnarr, 812-295-6188
Billy Walker, 812-296-1807
www.century21classicrealty.com



QUEEN-LEE CHAPEL

GEORGE FUNERAL CARE, LLC

431 High Street
Shoals, Indiana 47581
812-247-3101

Martin County Sheriff's Department activity log

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

12:29 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

1:05 a.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded.

2:46 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a semi with brakes on fire north of Loogootee. Caller advised he has the fire out and does not need assistance.

3:42 a.m. - Received a report of a fire alarm in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

9:40 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

11:36 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle east of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

1:04 p.m. - Received a call requesting officers northeast of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Long and Captain Gibson responded.

4:02 p.m. - Received multiple 911 calls and 911 texts from an address north of Loogootee. Deputy Doane responded. Kids were playing with the phone.

7:01 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Officer Davis and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:06 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock southeast of Loogootee. Deputy Doane responded.

11:45 p.m. - Received a report of a possible dispute in Loogootee. Major Reed, Loogootee Officer Davis, Deputy Doane, ISP Trooper Watson, and Martin County Medic 1 responded. No transport was needed.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

6:05 a.m. - Received a call reporting an alarm going off at the Loogootee water treatment facility. Loogootee Chief Long and Bo Wilson were notified.

9:24 a.m. - Received a 911 call with no response north of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Long and Captain Gibson responded.

10:14 a.m. - Received a call from a Lawrence County address advising of a disabled semi. Contacted Lawrence County with information.

2:11 p.m. - Received a report of trucks not heeding signs and the signs are being knocked down north of Loogootee. Martin County Highway Department responded.

3:03 p.m. - Deputy Baumgart transported three inmates to court.

4:38 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Officer Davis responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:02 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:17 p.m. - Received an animal complaint south of Loogootee. Deputy Doane responded.

6:14 p.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard in Loogootee. Deputy Doane responded.

6:30 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down east of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

7:02 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a disabled vehicle south of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins and Deputy Doane responded.

9:48 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a tree down southeast of Shoals. Shoals

Fire Department responded.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

1:10 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible prowler in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Davis and Major Reed responded.

5:55 a.m. - Received a call from WH International advising of a residential burglar alarm south of Shoals. Was able to contact homeowner.

8:01 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting possible vandalism in Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

8:25 a.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Corporal Hawkins responded.

9:08 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock east of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

2:00 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

4:47 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Sergeant Wells, Corporal Hawkins and Maura Wilson responded.

6:20 p.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn southeast of Shoals.

7:53 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible missing person from Franklin that may be in our area. Deputy Erwin responded. Daviess County was also notified.

8:11 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting officers in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner and Deputy Shields responded.

8:32 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a welfare check in Indianapolis. Advised caller of Indianapolis Police Department number.

8:34 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded. No one was transported.

11:09 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Major Reed responded.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

12:33 a.m. - Received multiple 911 calls reporting a dispute and requesting officers in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner and Major Reed responded.

12:58 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded.

6:36 a.m. - Received multiple 911 calls reporting an accident south of Loogootee. Major Reed and Big John's Towing responded.

8:24 a.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn south of Shoals.

12:48 p.m. - Received a report from Loogootee High School advising of a fire drill today.

1:09 p.m. - Received an animal complaint north of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

1:55 p.m. - Received an animal complaint north of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

2:13 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

5:06 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible trespasser north of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells responded.

5:32 p.m. - Received a call requesting to file a complaint north of Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

6:35 p.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident south of Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

10:34 p.m. - Received a 911 text message from a Lawrence County address. Lawrence County was advised.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

6:31 a.m. - Received a 911 call report-

ing a tree down south of Loogootee. Haysville Fire Department and Deputy Erwin responded.

6:35 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting the same tree.

6:45 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a tree hanging over the roadway south of Loogootee. Haysville Fire Department and Deputy Erwin responded.

6:50 a.m. - Received a 911 call and multiple landline calls reporting trees down in Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

7:07 a.m. - Received a call from Care Center requesting a lift assist north of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

7:14 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree and powerline down south of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded. Frontier was also notified.

7:50 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down southwest of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded. Frontier was also notified.

8:30 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down Southwest of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

9:49 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down northeast of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

10:32 a.m. - Received a call reporting a scam phone call south of Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

10:58 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.

11:37 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

1:15 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

1:30 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department responded.

1:43 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down east of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

4:19 p.m. - Received numerous calls reporting a fire alarm in Shoals. Sheriff Greene, Sergeant Wells, Deputy Branham, and Shoals Fire Department responded.

4:30 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down east of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

4:31 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Shoals. Sheriff Greene, Sergeant Wells, Deputy Branham, Martin County Medic 1, Big John's Towing, and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:31 p.m. - Received a call reporting tree debris in the roadway south of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

4:47 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down northeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

4:55 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down northeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

5:16 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident north of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Davis, Loogootee Officer Wagoner, Martin County Medic 2, Loogootee Fire Department, and Big John's Towing responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:23 p.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. Deputy Branham and Big John's Towing responded.

5:33 p.m. - Received multiple 911 calls reporting the car-deer accident north of Loogootee.

8:04 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down south of Loogootee. Martin County Civil Defense responded.

8:14 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 Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:16 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

9:20 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down northeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department, Deputy Erwin and Martin County Highway Department responded. REMC was also notified.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

12:55 a.m. - Received a call reporting a power line hanging over the roadway south of Shoals. REMC responded.

6:33 a.m. - Received a report of slick road conditions north of Shoals. INDOT was notified.

7:42 a.m. - Received a report of an accident northeast of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Sergeant Wells, Loogootee Officer Davis and Big John's Towing responded. No one was transported.

9:14 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down west of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

9:38 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down northeast of Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

10:47 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:00 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Sergeant Wells responded.

3:44 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible trespasser southeast of Shoals. Sergeant Wells and Deputy Shields responded.

5:16 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance west of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

5:22 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

5:49 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2, Loogootee Fire Department, Sergeant Wells, Duke Energy and Big John's Towing responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:49 p.m. - Received multiple 911 calls reporting the accident in Loogootee.

5:57 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down northwest of Shoals. Martin County Civil Defense responded. Martin County Highway Department was notified.

7:12 p.m. - Received a call reporting an accident with no injuries south of Loogootee. Deputy Shields responded.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

12:09 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Deputy Erwin, Deputy Shields, Shoals Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:19 a.m. - Received a call from ADT advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Davis responded.

9:05 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a medical alarm push in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Officer Davis responded. No transport was needed.

12:10 p.m. - Received a report of an urgent response medic alarm south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Haysville Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCINGS

January 8

Dayson Wright, convicted of operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 360 days with 360 days suspended. Defendant received 360 days of probation.

Aaron Padgett, convicted of possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 80 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 40 actual days previously served plus 40 Class A credit days.

January 9

Frank H. Sloan, convicted of dealing in marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 180 days with 172 days suspended and credit for 4 actual days previously served plus 4 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

Christopher Leon Richardson, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 90 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 45 actual days previously served plus 45 Class A credit days.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

January 8

David Byers, Jr., driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Dayson Wright, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

January 9

Brandon A. Crowder, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Frank H. Sloan, resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Christopher Leon Richardson, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

January 3

Absolute Resolutions Investments, LLC vs. Candace Clark, civil collection.

January 8

OneMain Financial Group, LLC vs. Toni Clifton, civil collection.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

January 3

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Midland Funding, LLC and against the defendant John M. Hill in the amount of \$8,001.99.

January 6

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Arvest Bank and against the defendants German American Bank, Krystal Baaker and Nicholas Baker for mortgage foreclosure in the amount of \$63,300.51.

CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

January 9

Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC vs. Donita Blackman, civil collection, dismissed.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suits Filed

January 4

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Robert E. Bough, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Toni R. Clifton, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Leslie J. Campbell, complaint.

January 5

Loogootee Community School Corporation vs. Matthew Clark and Candace Clark, complaint.

Loogootee Community School Corporation vs. Marjorie Alexander, complaint.

Christina Sandefur vs. Audra Young Lyon, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

January 8

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Aragam Ashby in the amount of \$2,000 and in favor of the defendant Apryl Parker in the amount of \$1,000.

ARRESTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

11:40 a.m. - Taylor Truitt, 37, of Loogootee, was arrested by Pike County on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond until initial hearing.

7:51 p.m. - Kevin Vandersloot, 28, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Wagoner on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond until initial hearing.

11:06 p.m. - Richard Diamond, 57, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Wagoner and charged with theft. He is being held on \$3,000 10% bond.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

12:05 p.m. - Jeremy Tharp, 44, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Branham for a community correction violation. He is being held without bond.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

5:02 p.m. - Zachary Pace, 22, of Loogootee, was arrested by Sergeant Wells and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated, operating a vehicle while intoxicated resulting in serious bodily injury, operating while intoxicated-refusal and reckless driving. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

4:40 a.m. - Johnathon Graham, 33, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Erwin and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment and operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a controlled substance. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

Martin County Redevelopment Commission

2024 Meeting Schedule

Each meeting begins at noon at the Martin County Alliance Office at 404 JFK Avenue in Loogootee, unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, January 18 (at 11:30 a.m. in the commissioners' room of the Martin County Courthouse)	Thursday, June 20
Thursday, February 15	Thursday, July 18
Thursday, March 21	Thursday, August 15
Thursday, April 18	Thursday, September 19
Thursday, May 16	Thursday, October 17
	Thursday, November 21
	Thursday, December 19

Martin County 4-H Council

2024 Meeting Schedule

Each meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the learning center on the Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds, unless noted.

Thursday, February 8	Thursday, August 15
Thursday, March 14	Thursday, September 12
Thursday, April 11	Thursday, October 10
Thursday, May 16	Thursday, November 14
Thursday, June 13	Thursday, December 12
Monday, July 8 (after fair set up, 8 p.m., in the community building)	

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

1:01 p.m. - Chief Long tagged a vehicle for tow, on Southwest Second Street.

1:36 p.m. - Chief Long tagged a vehicle for tow, on Dewey Street.

3:45 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a call on Blandy Street in Crane.

4:39 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call in Country Place Apartments.

4:42 p.m. - Officer Davis responded to a call on Oak Street.

5:39 p.m. - Officer Davis responded to a call at the Marathon gas station.

8:00 p.m. - An officer responded to a call at the Dollar General.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

6:05 a.m. - Chief Long responded to a call at the water treatment plant.

9:24 a.m. - Chief Long responded to a call on Clark Street.

9:31 a.m. - Chief Long responded to a call on US Highway 231 North.

1:08 p.m. - Chief Long responded to a call on Cooper Street.

4:24 p.m. - Chief Long and Officer Davis responded to a call on Queen Street.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

1:10 a.m. - Officer Davis responded to a call on East Main Street.

11:20 a.m. - Chief Long responded to a call on Washington Street.

11:47 a.m. - Chief Long responded to a call at Papa John's.

2:04 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Chief Long responded to a medical call on Broadway Street.

4:03 p.m. - Officer Wagoner responded to a call at Ruler Foods.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

12:36 a.m. - Officer Wagoner responded to a call on Oak Street.

11:19 a.m. - Chief Long responded to a call on Oak Street.

11:38 a.m. - Chief Long responded to a call at the BMV.

8:11 p.m. - Officer Wagoner responded to a call on Southwest First Street.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

11:01 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Chief Long responded to a medical call at Redemption Church.

Real estate transfers

Audrey D. Robinson and Michael A. Milligan and Eric J. Milligan, of Martin County, Indiana to **Joshua A. Kline and Jennifer D. Kline**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the south half of Section 30, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing 2 acres, more or less.

James E. Tedrow, of Martin County, Indiana to **James E. Tedrow and Andrew J. Tedrow**, of Martin County, Indiana, the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 28, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing one-half acre, more or less. Also, the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 28, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing in both tracts, 41.633 acres, more or less, with all exceptions.

Danny L. Riggins and Nancy J. Riggins, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Joey D. Riggins and Keriann M. Riggins**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West of the Second Principal Meridian, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 5 acres, more or less.

Kelly C. VanMeter, trustee of the David G. Qualkenbush and Victoria M. Qualkenbush Irrevocable Trust, and **Victoria M. Qualkenbush**, of Martin County, Indiana to **David Qualkenbush**, of Martin County, Indiana, part of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 5, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, containing 3.43 acres, more or less. More commonly known as 2997 Rutherford Road, Loogootee, IN 47553.

1:42 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a call on US Highway 231 South.

5:16 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department, Officer Davis and Officer Wagoner responded to an accident on US Highway 231 North.

8:14 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call at Country Court.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

10:16 a.m. - Officer Davis performed a funeral detail.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

9:08 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Davis responded to a call on Cedar Street.

9:50 a.m. - Officer Davis responded to a call at the Loogootee Nursing Center.

Stay safe; always assume you are on 'thin ice'

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers safely enjoy fishing, skating, hiking, or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice.

Don't let this happen to you or anyone around you.

Indiana Conservation Officers remind Hoosiers to be careful as they begin to partake in activities such as ice fishing, ice skating, or snowmobiling. Remember to put safety first. Take caution when going on frozen lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and retention ponds. And watch for others who may venture out on frozen waterways and find themselves in trouble.

Similar to needing to drive differently on snowy versus clear roads, safely having fun on ice may require you to adjust from what you have done in the past. The rule of thumb is to believe all ice is thin ice unless proven otherwise.

Here are a few tips to remember when considering standing on or walking on a frozen body of water:

- Assume no ice is safe ice.
- Test the thickness of the ice with an ice auger. At least 4 inches is recommended for ice fishing; 5 inches is recommended for snowmobiling.
- If you don't know the thickness of the ice, don't go on it.
- Wear a life jacket or flotation coat.
- Carry ice picks and rope gear.
- Before going on the ice, leave a note of your whereabouts with a friend or family member.
- Don't test the thickness of the ice while alone.
- Wearing a life jacket is especially important when on ice. If you fall through, a life jacket will keep your head above the water until help arrives.

Remember that a new coating of snow, while perhaps beautiful, can make for treacherous ice conditions. Snow can serve as insulation, causing water to freeze at a slower rate. When snow and rain freeze into ice, it is not as strong as solid, clear ice.

Another potentially dangerous situation is when you see a pet or other animal in distress on the ice. If that happens, do not go after it. Instead, contact local emergency response personnel, who are equipped to make a rescue.

A few more tips:

- Some bodies of water can appear to be frozen solid but still have thin ice in several unexpected areas.
- Avoid flowing water, such as rivers and streams, when covered by a layer of ice.
- Similarly, water surrounded by sand may freeze with inconsistencies in the thickness of the ice.
- Underground springs, wind, waterfowl, and other animals can also keep areas of ice thin.

Enjoy the winter weather but make safety a priority.

More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



An Airbus 380 is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h at 30,000 feet, when suddenly a Eurofighter with a Tempo Mach 2 appears.

The pilot of the fighter jet slows down, flies alongside the Airbus and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio: "Airbus, boring flight isn't it? Now have a look here!"

He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks through the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height, and then swoops down almost to sea level in a breathtaking dive.

He loops back next to the Airbus and asks: "Well, how was that?"

The Airbus pilot answers: "Very impressive but watch this!"

The jet pilot watches the Airbus, but nothing happens. It continues to fly straight at the same speed.

After 15 minutes, the Airbus pilot radios, "Well, how was that?"

Confused, the jet pilot asks, "What did you do?"

The AirBus pilot laughs and says: "I got up, stretched my legs, walked to the back of the aircraft to use the washroom, then got a cup of coffee and a chocolate fudge pastry."

The moral of the story is: When you're young, speed and adrenaline seems to be great. But as you get older and wiser, you learn that comfort and peace are more important.

This is called S.O.S.: Slower, Older and Smarter.

Dedicated to all my "older" friends ~ it's time to slow down and enjoy the rest of the trip.

People can keep a dog.

But cats keep people.

Cats find humans to be useful domestic animals.

THOUGHTS

*You know you're a teacher when you remember the names of 427 former students but you can't remember where you left your phone.

*I was not offended at all by dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb, and I also know I'm not blonde. -Dolly Parton

*I've reached the age where you really appreciate a nice handrail.

*This is my step ladder. I never knew my real ladder.

*My wife said I never listen to her, or something like that.

*I checked into the hokey pokey clinic, and I turned myself around.

*Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

SERIOUSISMS

*My goal is not to be better than anyone else, but to be better than I used to be.

*I love people that have no idea how wonderful they are and just wander around making the world a better place.

*People don't fake depression. They fake being okay. Remember that. Be kind.

*Life has no remote. Get up and change it yourself.

*No one warns you that one day as an adult you're going to get tired and then you're never going to be not tired again after that.

*I cannot stress enough how important it is to do silly, frivolous things that serve no other purpose than making you happy.

*Rearrange 2 letters in the word "SILENT" and you have "LISTEN."

*When you're young, your grandparents try to tell you their history, and you don't care because it doesn't interest you at the time. Later on, you wish you had written down that they said.

Make someone smile today!

~LETTERS TO THE EDITOR~

'Saving lives through blood donations'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

Scheduling has begun for the February 7 and 8 blood drives at the Shoals Christian Church and the Loogootee Methodist Church respectively. The Red Cross has issued an EMERGENCY appeal. New donors are welcome to join existing donors to "make a difference -- save a life". There is NO substitute.

You may schedule your donation through the ARC website, using your phone app, calling the ARC at 800-733-2767, or contacting me at 709-2579 or 247-3767 (please leave a message).

Please join the ARC family in "saving lives through blood donations". We never know when we or someone we know might need our donation.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Lynn Hawkins

American Red Cross Volunteer

'This is what the grassroots can do'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

I found it interesting that Curt Johnson, the MCCF Director, makes many of the same points about what "we, a small county" can do to make a difference. He quotes Aristotle about the "whole is greater than the sum of its parts", he says that

when we come together, we the little people, can accomplish great things (SMALL FOR BIG), that we should have a giving plan, not necessarily money but a little bit of our time, and "LITTLE BITS ADD UP" like drops in a bucket will eventually over fill it. This is what the grassroots can do to stop city hall.

I recently wrote to each of the candidates for governor and asked two questions, "What is your position on the Mid-State Corridor?" and "What is your position on reversing the 2017 amendments to SB # 128?" To date, only Eric Doden has responded. He said he has not taken a position on the Corridor and ignored the reversal of SB # 128. He did say he has visited Loogootee several times and plans on visiting again this spring. I urge all to attend his gatherings and voice our concerns to him in person.

The Mid-States Corridor is a travesty to all small towns and farming/rural communities in our state. Although we are trying to beat city hall here in Southern Indiana, this same fight should be waged all over the state.

As 2024 unfolds let's not forget nor become complacent about the fact that we don't need another highway through our forests and farmlands.

Jim Arvin
Rutherford Township
Martin County

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Loogootee School Board meeting

The Loogootee School Board will meet Thursday, January 18 at 5 p.m. in the high school media center. The meeting is open to the public.

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.

Dog/cat Wellness Clinic

The Martin County Humane Society hosts wellness clinic for January has been cancelled. Dr. Loughmiller will not be available this month. The next wellness clinic will be Friday, February 16 from 5-6 p.m. at the animal shelter. No appointment is required.

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 third

Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.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 Fridays when it is closed. Visit www.martinswcd.com or call at 295-3149.

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign raises \$4,184

\$4,184 was donated to Salvation Army to help the people of Martin County during the recent Red Kettle Campaign conducted in Loogootee and Shoals. The following churches and organizations rang bells at IGA: Redemption Christian Church, Loogootee Methodist Church, Martin County Junior Leaders, New Beginnings Church, Loogootee Beta Club, St. John's Lutheran Church, Redeeming Grace CWM, and St. John's Catholic Church. Kettles were placed at the following businesses to collect money: Dollar General in Loogootee and Shoals, R.J.'s, Marathon, Faytastic Pizza, Biggin's Place, and H and H Hometown Hardware. A big thank you to all who made this Red Kettle Campaign a success.

Martin County JOURNAL

A weekly online newspaper published every Wednesday

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: FREE
BUT \$10 DONATION APPRECIATED

More than 3,000 weekly subscribers!
To advertise, contact Courtney at the phone or email below.

LOW-COST ADS TO FIT EVERY BUDGET!

Publishers/Owners:

Josh & Courtney Hughett and sons
courtney@martincountyjournal.com
josh@martincountyjournal.com

The Town of Shoals is accepting sealed bids for the contracted mowing of Springhill Cemetery for the 2024 & 2025 mowing seasons.

Mowing Season: April 1st through October 31st of each year.

Contract Terms:

MOWING: Mowing of grass to a height of 3.5 inches is desired.

- The expectations of the contractor is to mow the area once a week except in adverse weather conditions. For example, drought grass may not need mowing once a week in certain areas and wet and soft areas need plenty of time to dry to reduce the risk of making ruts in the cemetery.

TRIMMING: Trimming around headstones, trees, shrubs, etc. is to be done twice per month. Headstones are to be cleared of grass clippings after trimmings.

CLEANING: Cleaning out of the cemetery grounds is to take place five (5) times per year. This is preferred to happen during the following time through the season:

1. At the beginning of the mowing season April 1st.
2. The week before the Memorial Day holiday.
3. The week before the 4th of July holiday.
4. The week before the Labor Day holiday.
5. The week after the last needed mowing of the season.

Accepted contractor is required to furnish proof of \$1,000,000 liability insurance coverage prior to the start of the mowing season.

BID INFORMATION: Sealed bids will be accepted at the Shoals Town Hall at 221 Low Street Shoals, Indiana 47581 or by mail at P.O. Box 1078 Shoals, Indiana 47581 until Friday, February 9th, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. Bids will be opened at the regular scheduled meeting on Monday, February 12th, 2024 at 4:00 P.M. at the Shoals Town Hall. Bid should include: Bidder Name, address, phone number. Bid amount in total for each year. Upon awarding, the bidder will sign a contract with the Town of Shoals agreeing to all terms listed above.

The Town of Shoals reserves the right to refuse or deny any bid received.



Brrrrrrrr. Winter has arrived, with temperatures dropping to zero and below in parts of southern Indiana. Now you know why I have been reluctant to embrace the new hardiness zones. For years, most of southern Indiana was in zone 5, but the revised map has us in zone 6. I wonder how many of those zone 6 plants will survive this cold snap. To be honest, I have planted some zone 6 plants and even some zone 7 plants in protected areas at Sandhill Gardens. One may usually depend on the south side of a building, especially one with a stone or concrete foundation, to be several degrees warmer than an open area. The southeast side of a hill may also offer some protection. However, overall, I still buy plants that are rated for zone 5 and lower.

There is not a lot you can do to save those tender plants. Had you wrapped them in burlap or some frost cloth, you may have given them enough protection to get through the winter. Heavy mulch will protect the roots of some perennials that would not otherwise endure the sub-zero cold, but I honestly do not want to get out and spread mulch in this weather. I will just wait and see what makes it through the winter. I am sure some freeze damage will need to be cut out of shrubs, and I may need to replace some plants with something more hardy.

Stiff winds also resulted in broken limbs last weekend. When we get a little better weather, I will get out and pick up the fallen limbs, but there really is nothing that needs to be done now. On a nice day, I will take a saw and pruners and cut off jagged branches to the branch collar. This will make it easier for the plant to heal itself.

I have had several people asking about winter sowing of seeds for perennials and

Emergency Planning Committee meetings

The Martin County Emergency Planning Committee will hold its meetings for 2024 on February 27, April 23, June 24, August 27 and October 28 at noon at Stoll's Lakeview Restaurant. An alternate date at such other times as shall be duly authorized by act of the committee or its chairman. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. The Martin County Emergency Plan for Hazardous Materials Incidents may be reviewed during regular business hours (call 812-486-5235 for details) at the office of Martin County Emergency Management, Loogootee. All information filed by covered SARA Title III facilities in Martin County may be reviewed during regular business hours (call 812-486-5235 for details) at the office of Martin County Emergency Management, Loogootee. Copies of documents may be obtained at these offices, and the committee may charge a fee for copying. For further information on these matters, please contact Andy Ringwald, Chairman, at (812) 486-5235.

vegetables. There are several Facebook groups that are promoting various methods. However, if one reads all of the comments being made, it may be confusing. Opinions vary, so take it all with a grain of salt. I will not claim to be an expert, but I do have some experience and will explain my methods.

One of the popular methods is to sow seeds in containers made from milk and water jugs. Use only the opaque jugs, as the ones that are white will not let enough light in to sustain the plants. Since I have a small greenhouse where I start my vegetable transplants, I usually limit my winter sowing to perennials that need cold stratification to germinate. This includes most of the native flowers that we need to plant for pollinators. Drill some drainage holes in the bottom of the jugs and take the lid off. Use a knife to cut three sides of the jug just below the handle, leaving the fourth side to act as a hinge. (You may choose to cut it completely, but I find the hinging method easier.) Fill the bottom portion with a damp potting mix. Since the seed contains all of the nutrients needed for germination, it is better to use a potting mix that does not have fertilizer in it. The fertilizer may encourage rapid growth and result in spindly transplants. I often use screened compost for starting seeds, but you may also purchase special seed-starting mix that is sterile. That means that all of the plants that come up will be from the seeds you use, and not weed seeds that may be present in other soil mixes. Plant the seeds according to the packet instructions and water them to ensure the seed bed is moist, but not soggy. Use water-proof tape, such as painter's tape or duct tape, to close the cut edges of the jug. Place the jugs in a sunny location. The lid hole will likely catch enough moisture to keep the seed bed moist but check them every week to ensure they are damp. This method will give the seeds the cold they need for stratification, and the jugs act as miniature greenhouses when temperatures warm enough for germination. Once the plants start to grow, monitor them. If they start to look crowded, you may need to transplant them into the garden or into individual pots. Good luck with this. It will only cost you the price of some seeds and soil to try this, and you may get several new plants for your garden. With perennial plants costing more than five dollars per plant, the savings are significant, and you may have plants for gifts and trading with your fellow gardeners.

Other than sowing a few seeds, I plan to spend these cold days looking at the stack of gardening books and magazines that I never seem to have time to read. I will also be looking at the seed and nursery catalogues that have been pouring in. If only the Publisher's Clearing House people would call and tell me I am a millionaire, I could order everything I want. Enjoy this time to rest.

Soil and water districts announce new invasive species project

As we begin a new year, the Martin, Daviess, and Orange County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are happy to announce the beginning of a new grant project. The Tri-County Invasive Species Specialist Project is a collaborative effort between the three counties, with support from a Clean Water Indiana grant from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

Invasives such as Honeysuckle, Autumn Olive, Poison Hemlock, and Emerald Ash Borer are a significant resource concern in Indiana. They impact agricultural and non-agricultural lands, degrade wildlife habitat, displace native plants, and even disrupt soil and water microbiomes. Large economic impacts from uncontrolled invasive populations can lead to decreased land production, and control can be costly and complicated. The project will address this with a full time Invasive Species Specialist to conduct invasive species education/outreach in the area and provide direct technical assistance for landowners.

For Martin and Daviess counties, this project will continue and build upon two previous grants with the Dubois SWCD from 2018-2023. For the Orange SWCD, this offers a new opportunity to expand invasive species education at local events and provide increased technical assistance for landowners. While the project does not currently offer financial assistance to control invasives, the Specialist can provide one-on-one support identifying plants, drafting control recommendations, and helping landowners prioritize invasive management on their property. The SWCDs can also refer landowners to funding programs from partner agencies and hope to secure additional grants to increase invasive control cost share options as the project progresses.

Solar eclipse viewing glasses available at Hoosier National Forest Offices

New, protective, solar eclipse viewing glasses will be available in Hoosier National Forest offices in Bedford and Tell City starting Tuesday, January 16. The protective eye shields are being offered in preparation for the total solar eclipse which takes place on April 8. The glasses are marked to commemorate the rare event and are offered in partnership with the Eastern National Forests Interpretive Association (ENFIA), a non-profit organization which supports interpretive efforts on National Forests.

Up to 500,000 visitors are expected to visit southern Indiana to witness the total solar eclipse in early April. As those visitors look to the sky, protective eyewear is needed to safely view the event. Viewing the eclipse without proper protection may cause temporary or permanent vision damage. The glasses meet the standards suggested by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the International Organization for Standardization.

Given the high demand, it is expected the protective viewers will sell quickly.

gresses.

Stepping into the role of SWCD Invasive Specialist is Emily Finch, who previously held this same position from 2019-2023 with the Dubois, Daviess, and Martin SWCDs. Originally from Wisconsin, Finch holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin and sits on the board of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network. She spent several years in Wisconsin and Michigan managing invasive species and coordinating a five-county Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), before moving to Indiana in 2016. Since then, she has continued her passion for invasive species management by working for USDA Wildlife Services on their feral swine control project, and then as a Regional Specialist for the nonprofit State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM), before joining the Dubois SWCD in 2019. Finch lives near Patoka Lake with her husband Brian and their two dogs, Copper and Scout. While invasive species can feel like an overwhelming problem, she remains optimistic and enjoys working with landowners to find invasive management options that work for them.

To request a free invasive species site visit for your property, or for invasive ID and management questions, contact Finch at Emily.Finch@in.nacdn.net, or 812-329-0048. Her main office is at the Martin SWCD (404 JFK Ave Loogootee, IN), but she is available to help landowners anywhere in Martin, Daviess, and Orange counties.

Since invasive species education/outreach is another a major component of the project, you can also contact Finch for invasive species presentations and events, or to volunteer.

ly. Organized groups such as schools, educational programs, or other youth groups may order over the phone and schedule a pick-up time, while supplies last.

Interested organizations should call 812-275-5987 for more information. Additional locations for purchase may be available closer to the eclipse.

The ENFIA is a congressionally approved non-profit cooperating association. The association's purpose is to aid and promote the historical, scientific, and educational activities of the Forest Service.

A recent project funded in part by ENFIA on the Hoosier National Forest was an interpretive sign at Buzzard Roost Recreation Area detailing the Lewis and Clarke expedition on the Ohio River.

More information on the eclipse and Hoosier National Forest is available on the Hoosier National Forest website. More information on the Eastern National Forests Interpretive Association (ENFIA) is available at the association website.

PRICE REDUCED!!

This charming brick home located in Loogootee offers 4 bedrooms, 1 full bath, 1/2 bath upper level, and an unfinished basement. \$137,900 Now \$130,900!



Midwest Realty
Celebrating over 45 years
1704 E Natl Hwy Washington, IN 47501

CALL ALLIE!
812-709-0418
realestateallie@outlook.com



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	

