

# Martin County JOURNAL

Year 14, Issue 4

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

Eight pages

## Loogootee Schools looking to do another bond project

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
Martin County Journal Publisher

Loogootee Superintendent Dr. Brian Harmon talked to the school board at their meeting last Thursday, January 19 about doing another bond project for remodeling and expansion. The school administration would like to build an activities center, a bus barn, and remodel the middle school and elementary playground. At this time, the ideas are in the preliminary stage as Dr. Harmon would like to get public feedback before they proceed. There is no idea on cost or how much it will increase taxes for the district. With Loogootee Schools' declining enrollment each year, emphasis was given on the need to attract new students and compete with area schools. Loogootee's enrollment for all schools this year is 740 students and 20 years ago it was 1,100.

The school took out a 20-year bond in 2018 for \$11,890,000 (\$7,440,000 plus \$4,450,000 in interest) to remodel the elementary school and high school which included adding a media center and science lab. This bond increased taxes for a home with an assessed value of \$100,000 (without deductions) by \$140 per year, up from \$250 per year. The school also took out a \$2 million bond in 2015 to replace windows, the roofs of each building and lighting and doors in some areas. That bond will be paid off in 2026.

The plans at last Thursday's meeting were presented by Andy Myszak with Myszak & Partners, the architects who did the school's last remodel project. The biggest project planned is the addition of a 22,087-square-foot activities center to be placed between Jack Butcher Arena and the elementary school and connected to each. The activities center would have an upper mezzanine level which would include two classrooms/meeting rooms, two bathrooms, and two mechanical rooms. The lower level would include two full-size basketball courts with walking track around them, bleachers to seat

366 people, a storage room, weight room, boys' and girls' locker rooms, and boys' and girls' restrooms.

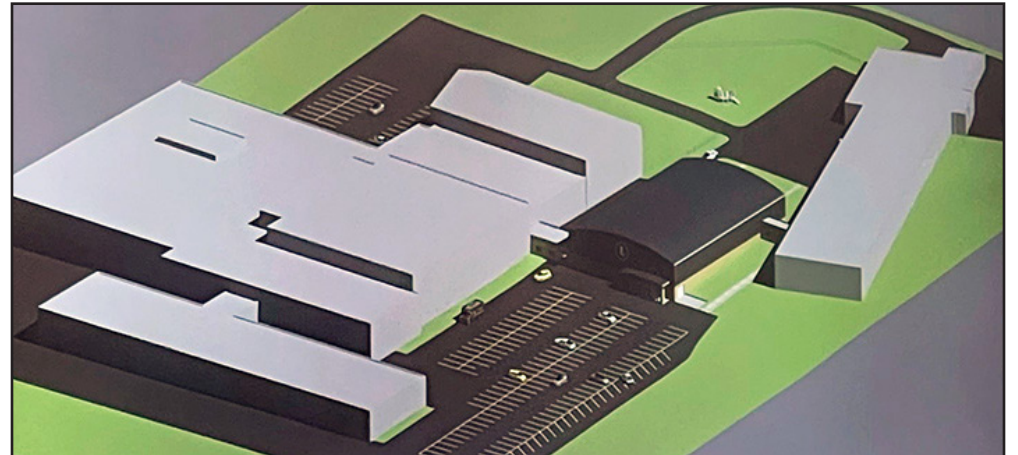
The bus barn would contain a 3,600-square-foot drive-through shop plus two offices, a restroom, janitor and mechanic areas, storage above the offices for the arts/theater programs, and six bus charging stations. The bus barn will also be fenced in.

The middle school, now 50 years old, will be completely remodeled including 31 new classroom doors, paint in all areas including the lockers, classroom casework for technology storage, science classroom furniture and casework, addition of trophy cases, complete office remodel, new plumbing fixtures, flush valves and toilet partitions in the bathrooms, new doors on each end of the building and 17 marker and tack boards.

Each principal gave their reasoning why the upgrades were needed. High School Principal Chris Walker said they have half a dozen to a dozen staff members who walk back and forth between buildings and on rainy days that makes things difficult. He said the activities center could be used every hour instead of having kids sharing Jack Butcher Arena for gym class and provide year-round activity. He said the middle school is dated and they have put a lot of money in it over the years, but some things are just past their life.

Assistant Principal Dana Campbell said building environment and climate affect education. She said the middle school is old and deteriorating and a more modern learning environment increases school pride and helps the students achieve academic success.

Elementary Principal Lacey Wade talked about the need for students to have an outlet for exercise and mobility which is why the playground and activities center are important. She said the current playground equipment is around 26 years old and the activity center will eliminate the need for inside recess in the classrooms, (See 'PROJECT' on page 2)



-Illustration by Myszak & Partners

Shown above is a rendering of the location of the proposed activities center to be placed between Jack Butcher Arena and Loogootee Elementary School.

## Commissioners discuss, approve several items at bi-weekly meeting

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners met Tuesday night, January 24.

Sheriff Josh Greene gave the commissioners a check for \$245,790 for housing of Vigo County inmates. Greene said they currently have 70 inmates in the jail with 36 of them from Vigo County. He said they are not expecting anymore from Vigo County right now but do not believe they will lose the ones they currently have. He said the Vigo County jail is at 90 percent capacity with 45 open beds, but they like to keep a buffer instead of filling up completely.

Greene said he will be down to two jail officers as of February 1. He said they are working to get applicants but not having much luck. He said he may have to pull deputies in from patrol to cover shifts.

The commissioners approved a bill presented by Ambulance Director Jeramey Osborn for spare tires for the ambulances in the amount of \$4,400.70. Osborn said they didn't want to run into supply chain issues if they have a need for a tire replacement. The money is to be paid from ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) funds.

Commissioner Paul George asked Auditor Michelle Norris for an update on the balance of ARPA funds. The county has \$315,000 left.

Osborn requested permission to move to Active Alert for ambulance paging. Osborn said he met with the sheriff's department, and they decided this would be the best route to go for better ambulance dispatch. Dispatchers put information into a text that goes out to the ambulance service within three seconds and shows where the ambulance is to go. Daviess Community Hospital uses the service as well. The cost is \$15 per device or \$250 per year. The commissioners approved.

Courtney Hughett, with the Martin County Humane Society, provided the commissioners with the animal shelter annual report for last year. The report stated the shelter took in 234 dogs and cats last year and had 200 adoptions. 16 dogs were claimed by their owner and zero cats. Shelter volunteers performed trap/neuter/release with 37 cats in Loogootee and Shoals. Hughett said they have spent the last several years working on the cat issue in the county and have now gotten behind on the dog problem. She said

there are residents in the county who have multiple dogs that are not being kept on their property and causing issues with the neighbors. There are also the same people, time and time again, who are surrendering dogs or letting them come in as strays without claiming them and then getting more dogs. "We've been at this for 12 years and it's the same people over and over and over," said Hughett. "I want it said publicly that if you can't keep your dogs at home or take care of your dogs, please stop getting them." Hughett said they have also had issues in the past year with residents from other counties tying dogs to the porch or leaving them in the shelter yard. She said luckily, they have been able to catch some of them. Hughett also noted the decrease in vet bills since the shelter now has a clinic. Dr. Alexan-

## 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: Ronald Gilbert (D); Floyd "Lonnie" Hawkins (D)

Loogootee City Council District 1: Mike Engleman (R)

Loogootee City Council District 2: (John) David Smith (R)

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

Loogootee City Council District 4: Rick Norris (D)

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.

Only voters registered in Perry 1, Perry 2, Perry 3, Perry 4 will be eligible to vote. Loogootee Ordinance 2022-6 states that anyone elected in the 2023 Municipal Elections will serve a three-year term. All subsequent Loogootee Municipal Elections will run concurrent with the federal elections. Therefore, the next election will be in 2026.



## LHS Homecoming

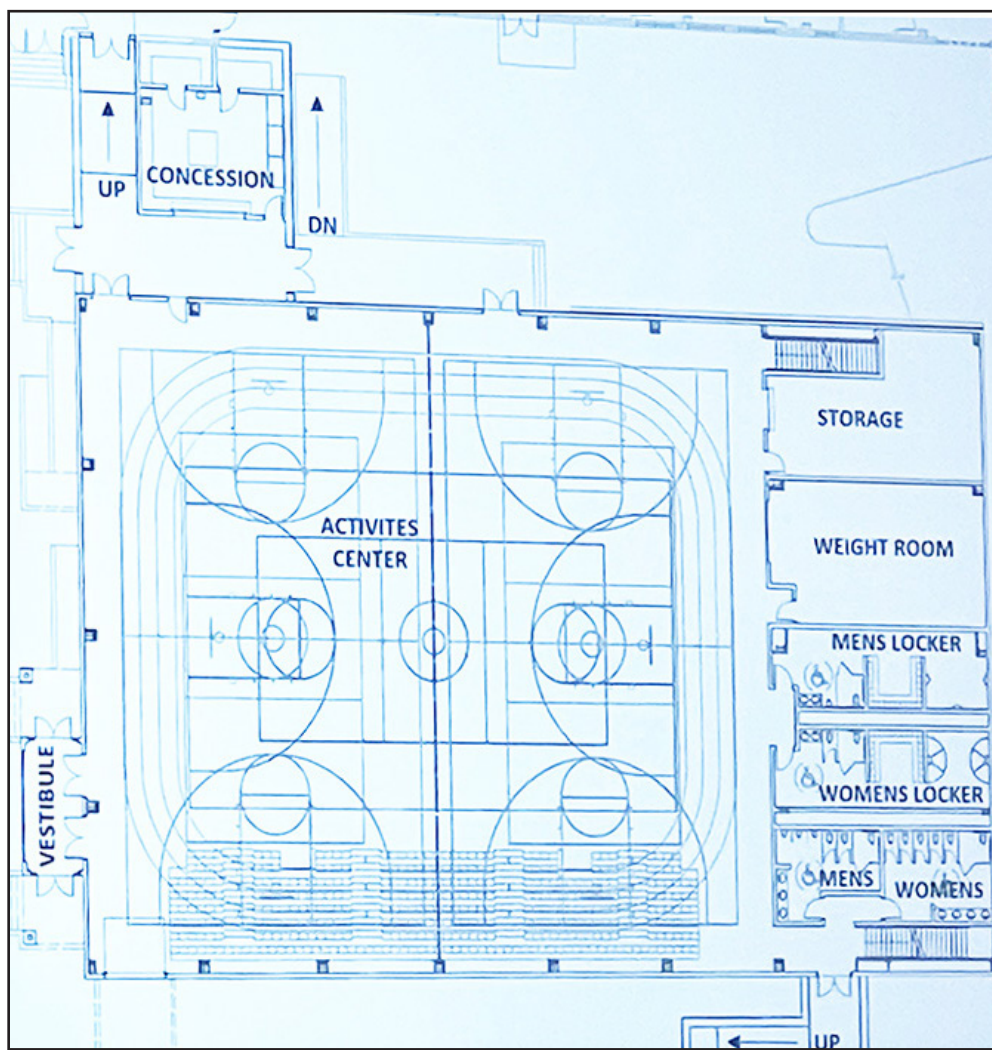
-Photo provided

Loogootee High School will be crowning their Homecoming King and Queen Saturday, January 28 between the junior varsity and varsity games against Evansville Mater Dei at Jack Butcher Arena. The junior varsity game will begin at 5:30 p.m. The 2023 senior candidates are, in the front row, from left to right, Brooklyn Summers, Bridget Like, CJ Walker, Kerrigan Napier, and Zoey Brassine. In the back row, from left to right, are Jacob Tedrow, Isaac Eagle, Parker Arvin, Jayden Denny, and Lucas Brittain.

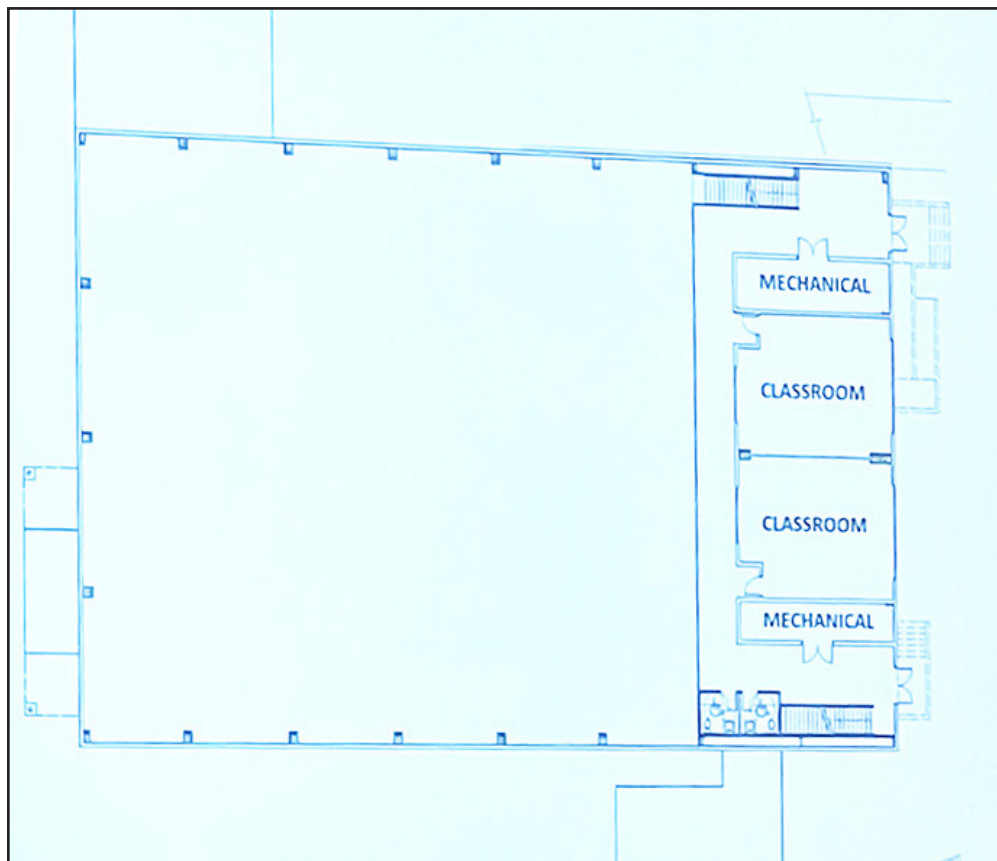
# PROJECT

due to the weather. She also noted the preschool students don't have age-appropriate equipment to meet their needs and what is currently available, will not last much longer. She said the safety involved with having the activities center connected to the elementary will provide the ability to get students to the auditorium safely. She said high physical activity provides students the ability to learn and engage better. She said they are seeing a lot of kids with sensory processing issues and having a place for them to engage would help them be ready to learn when they are in the classroom.

Dr. Harmon said they provide educational and extracurricular opportunities to the children of the community and said those children are the greatest asset. He said the school buildings of today, in order to provide a modern curriculum that is technology based, are completely different from 10 to 15 years ago. He said they are working to see the vision for the future to compete with area schools. He said they want to hear from the public to see what they think is wanted or needed. He said they also have to find out how much this will impact the taxpayers. More work sessions and meetings are planned for the future to iron out the details of what the school board will do. According to Dr. Harmon, anyone wanting to speak out for or against the bond project must attend the school board meetings. Watch *The Journal* for meeting dates and times.

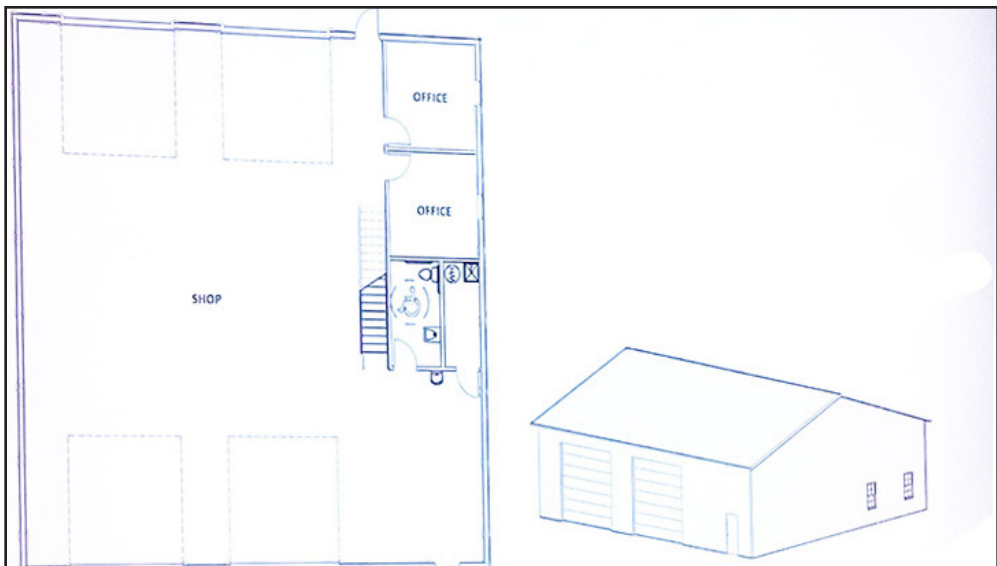


Shown above is the layout of the main floor of the activities center which will include two basketball courts, a weight room, two additional restrooms and locker rooms.



Shown on the left is the mezzanine level of the activities center which would include two additional classrooms/meetings rooms and two additional restrooms.

Shown below is the floor plan and design of the bus barn which would include the shop area, two offices, and a restroom, along with storage above the offices.



# COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

dra Loughmiller has been doing all the shelter's vetting for adoption including offering those services to the public. Dr. Loughmiller performed 877 spay and neuter surgeries last year.

Clerk Julie Fithian, who was in the audience, asked why the employees in the upstairs offices of the courthouse are required to have drug screens but the judge and probation departments are not. County Attorney Dave Lett said those offices, along with the prosecutor's, are state offices and do not have to follow the employee handbook, even though they are county employees. He said the commissioners do not have the authority to enforce the handbook with those offices.

The commissioners approved the agreement with the newly formed land bank initiative that will be buying dilapidated properties in Martin County and fixing them up for resale. The initiative was formed to bring in more housing to the area and several counties are participating. The cost for the county is \$5,000 per year with a two-year commitment. The commissioners had questioned at previous meetings whether there would be any benefit to Martin County for being a part of the land bank however after doing some research after the last meeting, they found 41 properties that could be purchased and those are not related to the tax sale. It was noted that those properties are privately owned and have the potential to be purchased by the land bank.

County Attorney Lett said under the direction of the sheriff, he negotiated with the Code Red program to get that contract ended. The sheriff's department has been using the program but is not seeing (See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 3)

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

**-Admiral Grace Hopper**

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# OBITUARIES

## LARRY HOWELL

Larry Edmund Howell passed January 22, 2023, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh. A resident of Shoals, he was 75.

He was born October 25, 1947, in Washington; son of Edmund and Catherine (McBride) Howell.

He was a graduate of Shoals High School, was retired from self-employment, and was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the United States Army.

Survivors include his children, Timothy Howell of Shoals, and Lori (Jim) Tinkle of West Baden; grandchildren, Brittany Tinkle, Amber Tinkle and Dylan Tinkle; one brother, John Howell of French Lick; and six nieces and five nephews.

Preceding him in death are his parents and three siblings, Jeraldine "Jeri" Nelson, Robert "Bob" Howell, and Kevin Howell.

Cremation was chosen with burial in the Spring Hill Cemetery at a later date.

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

## PENNY PRIDEMORE

Penny Jo Pridemore passed away Friday, January 20, 2023, at her home. A resident of Mitchell, she was 67.

She was born December 3, 1955, in Bedford; daughter of Lloyd and Stella (Sutton) Hicks. Penny married Alan Pridemore on December 28, 1991, and he survives.

Penny was a 1973 graduate of Mitchell High School and received her bachelor's degree from Oakland City University. She was a member of Tulip Street Christian Church. Penny was a housewife and enjoyed being one.

Surviving are her husband, Alan Pridemore of Mitchell; children, Amber (Tracy Brazzell) Pridemore of Mitchell and Jason Pridemore of Bedford; grandchildren, Linda (Zane) Parks of Mitchell, Devin Jamison of Mitchell, Derrick Eisele of Mitchell, Alexis Fehler of



**PENNY PRIDEMORE**

Shoals, Ashton Luman of Mitchell, Jaxon Brazzell of Mitchell, Haevyn Brazzell of Mitchell, and Devin Ball of Indianapolis; great-grandchildren, Kharsin Eisele, Kolten Eisele, Hadleigh Eisele, and Lucas Fehler; and siblings, Georgia (Dennis) Bohlman of Orleans, Jim Hicks of Mitchell, and Marvin (Yvonne) Hicks of South Carolina.

Her parents; daughter, Karena Allen; and brother, Lloyd Hicks, preceded her in death.

A funeral service was held this morning, Wednesday, January 25, in the Memorial Chapel of Chastain Funeral Home & Cremation Center with Pastor Dwight Dunbar officiating. Burial followed in Mitchell Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to Lawrence County Cancer Patient Services.

## PAUL BRUNER

Paul R. Bruner, formerly of Loogootee, passed away at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at the Villages of Oak Ridge in Washington. A resident of Washington, he was 93.

He was born April 7, 1929, in Loogootee; son of the late David Edward and Edna (Robinson) Bruner.

Paul was a member of the Loogootee Methodist Church and sang in the church choir. He enjoyed antiques, refinishing furniture, gardening and taking care of flowers. Paul was an avid Chicago Cubs fan. He retired from Crane in 1987 after approximately 30 years of employment.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David and Edna Bruner; son, Paul Joe Bruner; siblings, Clarence Bruner, Harold Bruner, Harlin Bruner, Aline Darbutt, Charles Bruner, Donald Bruner, Mary Webster, David Bruner Jr., Edina Jackson, Audrey McNaughton, infant Orval Ralph Bruner and infant Esther May Bruner.

Paul is survived by his wife, Judith (Savage) Bruner, who he married December 26, 1987; children, Deborah McKibben of Washington, Shirley (John) Stangle of Vincennes, and David Bruner of Vincennes; grandchildren, Leslie (Charles) White, Ashley (Jerry) Burton, Adam (Nichol) Stangle, Brooke (Josh)

Patterson, Victoria (Scott) Salmond and David (Holly) Bruner; 12 great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild; three step-grandchildren; brother, Gerald Bruner; daughter-in-law, Patty Bruner; and bonus daughter, Amy (Steve) Caurro.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, January 20 at the Loogootee Methodist Church. Burial followed in the Goodwill Cemetery.

Condolences may be made online at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com)

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee is honored to serve the family of Paul R. Bruner.

## BECKY STRANGE

Becky A. Strange passed away Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at her home. A resident of Loogootee, she was 69.



**BECKY STRANGE**

She was born June 26, 1953, in Washington; daughter of Charles F. and Viola (Swartz) Summers.

Becky was a member of Loogootee Methodist Church. She graduated from Loogootee High School and then went on to attend Cosmetology School at Vincennes Beauty College. She married Lee Strange on December 27, 1975. Becky operated and retired from her own beauty shop, Becky's Beauty Shop, in Loogootee. In addition to her beauty shop, Becky started her "paid vacation" working at Loogootee Marathon. She worked there for over 16 years and loved working with her co-workers and seeing all the customers. Becky was an avid St. Louis Cardinals Fan. She loved to spend time with her family and friends and will be deeply missed by all that knew her.

Becky was preceded in death by her husband, Lee Strange who passed away on August 15, 2012; their infant son, Gib Lee Strange; her parents, Charles F. and Viola Summers; her grandchild, Emerson Strange; and her sister, Dianna Gregory.

She is survived by her sons, Matt (Liz) Strange of McCordsville and Jake (Shan-

non) Strange of Loogootee; her grandchildren, Emery and Easton, and Aliyah and Addyson; her brother, Richard (Nancy) Summers of Loogootee, and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Sunday, January 22 at Loogootee Methodist Church with Pastor Colleen Harden officiating. Burial followed in Goodwill Cemetery in Loogootee.

Memorial donations can be made to Loogootee Methodist Church in memory of Becky.

Online condolences can be made at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com).

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Becky Strange.

## COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page two)

the result expected. The company will end the contract now for \$10,108. The commissioners agreed to pay that money from the 911 fund.

Auditor Norris presented new quotes for the county website after having difficulties with the current hosting company. The State of Indiana, in partnership with NIC Indiana, can offer the same site, transferred over, for \$1,200 per year. They can have the site up in two weeks. The commissioners approved.

Auditor Norris also told the commissioners that the Air Evac benefit given to employees is almost up for renewal. The cost is \$100 per employee. She said they have been having a lot of difficulty with customer service from Air Evac but have found a representative that has agreed to be the direct contact. Since the plan renews in March, the commissioners decided to see if the customer service improves prior to renewing.

There was also question about the county's liability insurance and issues with getting claims approved. Sheriff Greene said they have been waiting to get a claim paid since November. The policy is due for renewal in a few months. The commissioners, Sheriff Greene, and Teresa Winger, with the auditor's office, discussed whether the issue was with the county's agent of record or with the liability insurer. They decided to find out more information.

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## Martin County Sheriff's Department log

### MONDAY, JANUARY 16

7:32 a.m. - Received an animal complaint northeast of Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

12:17 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

12:42 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident east of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson, Deputy Pressley, Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:00 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:09 p.m. - Received a call reporting an accident northwest of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson, Deputy Pressley, Martin County Medic 2, Shoals Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded. No one was transported. REMC was notified about the damaged pole.

6:21 p.m. - Received an animal complaint northeast of Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

12:37 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver heading south on US 231 North. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

2:21 a.m. - Received a call from Lawrence County reporting an accident in Martin County. Captain Reed responded.

5:22 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident west of Shoals. Captain Reed and Big John's Towing responded.

5:49 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded.

6:22 a.m. - Received a 911 call on Crane Base. Transferred call to Crane 911.

10:13 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

12:31 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check on a semi in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

1:00 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported three inmates to court.

1:15 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check southeast of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

2:30 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Sergeant Gibson responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

2:36 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

2:53 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 responded and transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

3:31 p.m. - Received a non-emergent 911 call.

3:55 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Orange County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded.

4:12 p.m. - Received an animal complaint northeast of Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett responded.

4:20 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

5:56 p.m. - Received a call reporting a theft east of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

6:05 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible domestic dispute in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins and Indiana

Conservation Officer Fuhrman responded.

7:55 p.m. - Received an animal complaint south of Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

9:52 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

12:44 a.m. - Received a call from Area One Protection advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Shoals. Captain Reed and Deputy Hawkins responded.

4:26 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver heading south on US 231 South. Captain Reed responded.

8:00 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

8:48 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Martin County Medic 3, Chief Deputy Keller, Loogootee Officer Seymour, Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Coroner responded.

8:55 a.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious vehicle south of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

9:00 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance northeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 2 responded and transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

9:12 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Daviess County EMS responded.

10:23 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

11:03 a.m. - Received a call reporting a theft southeast of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

11:25 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

11:32 a.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Transferred call to Daviess County 911.

1:25 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

2:52 p.m. - Received a call reporting a stop sign down north of Shoals. INDOT was notified.

5:21 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:10 p.m. - Received a call reporting a broken pole and power lines down south of Shoals. Martin County REMC, Deputy Hawkins and Lost River Fire Department responded.

10:10 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins and Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

10:55 p.m. - Received a report of a strange light at a business in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

11:39 p.m. - Received a call reporting a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

1:20 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:52 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance east of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

4:51 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a tree down south of Shoals near the Orange County line. Lost River Fire Department responded.

5:31 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down south of Shoals near the Dubois County line. Martin County Highway Department responded.

7:14 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down north of Loogootee. Martin County Highway Department responded.

ed.  
7:56 a.m. - Received a test 911 call from Zip Med.

9:34 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported three inmates to court.

11:42 a.m. - Received multiple accidental 911 calls.

12:15 p.m. - Received a call from Area One Protection reporting a commercial burglar alarm East of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

1:05 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down northeast of Loogootee. Martin County Highway Department responded.

1:14 p.m. - Received multiple 911 calls reporting a tree down east of Shoals on US 50. Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Wells responded.

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

1:42 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down south of Loogootee. Martin County Civil Defense was notified.

1:44 p.m. - Received a call reporting an accident in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:45 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:59 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance southwest of Shoals. Daviess County EMS responded.

3:12 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

3:40 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

3:50 p.m. - Received an animal complaint northeast of Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

5:20 p.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard east of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department was notified.

5:36 p.m. - Received a call reporting a line hanging down at the stop light by Chuckles. Loogootee Police and Duke Energy were notified.

6:50 p.m. - Received a call reporting an accident with no injuries south of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

7:41 p.m. - Received multiple 911 calls reporting a power line down and on fire in Loogootee. Corporal Wells, Loogootee Officer Erwin and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

5:58 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:20 a.m. - Received a 911 call on Crane Base. Transferred call to Crane 911.

8:29 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:09 a.m. - Received a call reporting a semi jack-knifed east of Shoals. ISP Trooper Lents, Chief Deputy Keller and Storks Towing responded.

11:31 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

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

4:27 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver in Loogootee. Chief Means and Corporal Wells responded. Dubois County was notified.

5:41 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

8:50 p.m. - Received a call requesting officers south of Shoals. Deputy Long

and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

### SATURDAY JANUARY 21

5:28 a.m. - Received a call reporting the spotlight located at JFK Avenue and US 50 in Loogootee was not changing. Loogootee Officer Sims advised it is on a delay.

6:48 a.m. - Received a call from ADT reporting a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Keyholder was notified. Loogootee Chief Means responded.

6:50 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident west of Shoals. Deputy Long responded.

7:57 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.

8:22 a.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious vehicle south of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

9:08 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:23 a.m. - Received an animal complaint northeast of Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett responded.

11:11 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. Corporal Wells and Big John's Towing responded.

12:56 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock south of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

2:29 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

4:08 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible domestic dispute south of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means, Corporal Wells and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

4:48 p.m. - Received a call from ADT reporting a commercial burglar alarm east of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

6:34 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down and on lines south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded. Frontier was notified.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

7:15 a.m. - Received a call reporting State Rd 450 was becoming slick. Lawrence County was notified.

7:20 a.m. - Received a 911 call that was on Crane Base. Notified Crane Base Dispatch.

5:02 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

11:30 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

## ARRESTS

### MONDAY, JANUARY 16

2:15 a.m. - Christopher Allen, 37, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Erwin and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

4:42 a.m. - Arnold Heshelman, 43, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Erwin and charged with invasion of privacy. He was released on his own recognizance. Captain Reed assisted with the arrest.

10:41 a.m. - Joshua Arthur, of Bloomington, was arrested on a Martin County warrant. He was later released on his own recognizance.

11:30 a.m. - Kevin Willis, 36, was arrested by ISP Trooper Wilder on a Pike County warrant.

# COURT NEWS

## CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING

January 13

Jordan W. Gosciniak, convicted of driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 30 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 11 actual days previously served plus 11 Class A credit days.

## CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

January 13

Synchrony Bank vs. Tammy Maschino, civil collection, dismissed.

## SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suits Filed

January 17

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Mi-

chelle Cissell, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Lea M. Jones, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Michael F. Holt, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Lacey K. Dent, complaint.

## SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

January 11

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Tannya James and against the defendant Donnie Robbins in the amount of \$229.38.

## SMALL CLAIMS DISMISSED

January 13

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Jacie R. Moffatt, complaint, dismissed.

## Martin County real estate transfers

**Monty Holt**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Angelia Chastain**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: A part of the northwest corner of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West. Said real estate also designated at Lot 36. Tract II: A part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West. Said real estate also designated as Lot 37. Tract III: A part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, containing 0.25 acre, more or less. More commonly known as Lot 38 in Redwing Trailer Court, Loogootee,

Indiana.

**Dominia D. Truelove**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Marty Truelove and Dominia D. Truelove**, of Martin County, Indiana, the south half of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 34, Township 4 North, Range 4 West, containing 0.45 acre, more or less.

**Stacy L. Wagler**, of Tarrant County, Texas to **William T. Lucas**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 36, Township 4 North, Range 5 West, Second Principal Meridian, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.00 acre, more or less.

## FBI issues national public safety alert on sextortion schemes

The FBI, in partnership with Homeland Security Investigations and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, is issuing a national public safety alert regarding an explosion in incidents of children and teens being coerced into sending explicit images online and extorted for additional explicit material or money—a crime known as sextortion.

Over the past year, law enforcement agencies have received over 7,000 reports related to the online sextortion of minors, resulting in at least 3,000 victims, primarily boys. More than a dozen sextortion victims were reported to have died by suicide. The FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office, and our law enforcement partners implore parents and caregivers to engage with their kids about sextortion schemes so we can prevent them in the first place.

Sextortion schemes occur in online environments where young people feel most comfortable—using common social media sites, gaming sites, or video chat applications that feel familiar and safe. On these platforms, predators often use fake accounts and target minors.

Through deception, sextortionists convince the young person to produce an explicit video or photo. Once predators acquire the images, they often threaten to release the compromising material unless the victim sends additional sexually explicit material. Some of these criminals demand money or gift cards to keep them from releasing the compromising material in their possession. Often, these predators demand payment through a variety of peer-to-peer payment applications. In many cases, however, sextortionists release the images even if additional material is sent or payments are made. The shame, fear, and confusion that victims feel when they are caught in this cycle often prevents them from asking for help or reporting the abuse and may drive them towards self-harm.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Indiana prosecuted several "sextortion" related cases in recent years, including the following:

**United States v. Kyle Peterson:** Between March of 2020 and March of 2021, Kyle Peterson persuaded, induced, enticed, and coerced a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct. Beginning on March 20, 2020, Peterson used the social media

platforms Omegle and Snapchat to contact minors, including Victim 1. Victim 1 was twelve years old at the time of contact with Peterson. Knowing the victim was a child, Peterson began to groom her by sending her sexually explicit images and videos online. The material Peterson distributed to Victim 1 included an image depicting sadomasochistic behavior and images and videos depicting sexual abuse of animals.

Peterson engaged in sexually explicit video chats with the child and instructed her to send him sexually explicit videos of herself. When Victim 1 stopped complying with Peterson's continuous demands, he began threatening to disseminate her sexually explicit images and videos to her family and friends and post them on the Internet.

Peterson was convicted and sentenced to 22 years in federal prison in December 2022.

**United States v. Buster Hernandez:** In August 2017, Buster Hernandez was initially charged with sexually exploiting a minor, threatening to use an explosive device, and threatening to kill, kidnap, or injure another person. Those charges eventually extended to include 41 separate allegations including: production of child sexual abuse materials, coercion and enticement of minors, receipt and distribution of child sexual abuse material, the threatened use of explosive devices, extortion, threats to kill, kidnap or injure other persons, witness tampering, obstruction of justice and retaliation against a victim. The offense conduct included the actual or attempted sextortion of at least 375 victims including those from two foreign countries, threats to kill, rape, and kidnap hundreds, and threats to use explosive devices against Plainfield and Danville High Schools, the Shops at Perry Crossing, and a local Walmart.

Hernandez also sexually exploited and threatened several other minor victims in Hendricks County and other cities in Indiana. When victims stopped complying with his demands, he posted sexually explicit images and videos that the victim had sent against their will and often threatened to kill them and their families.

Hernandez was convicted and sentenced to 75 years in federal prison in March 2021. "Sexual exploitation of children is a de-

# Loogootee Police log

## MONDAY, JANUARY 16

12:28 p.m. - Chief Means responded to an accident on Highway 50 near Zehr Lane.

10:44 p.m. - Officer Sims responded to an alarm call.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

12:37 a.m. - Officer Sims responded to an erratic driver on Highway 231 North.

2:53 p.m. - Officer Wells responded to a medical call at Williams Bros. Pharmacy.

4:17 p.m. - Officer Wells assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a subject in Shoals.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

8:43 a.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on North Line Street.

12:50 p.m. - Officer Long investigated a reckless driver on Southwest Second Street.

4:05 p.m. - Officer Seymour assisted a stranded motorist on West Broadway Street.

8:36 p.m. - Officer Erwin responded to a complaint on Poplar Street.

10:10 p.m. - Officer Erwin responded to a civil disturbance on Vincennes Street.

10:55 p.m. - Officer Erwin investigated a strange light at the substation in Whitfield.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

1:39 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to an accident on Church Street.

1:50 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to an accident in Ruler parking lot.

2:20 p.m. - Officer Seymour investigated an accident in Ruler parking lot.

5:16 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department responded to a downed power line on West Broadway Street.

7:38 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department responded to a power line down and on fire on Butcher Boulevard.

1:20 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department was requested for a lift assist on Vine Street.

9:07 p.m. - Officer Sims and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to a fire alarm on Cooper Street.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

11:08 a.m. - Chief Means assisted with traffic control for a funeral procession.

2:25 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department and Chief Means responded to a medical call at Loogootee IGA.

4:21 p.m. - Chief Means investigated a reckless driver on Highway 231 North.

9:05 p.m. - Officer Sims assisted Deputy Long on Highway 550.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

5:28 p.m. - Officer Sims investigated malfunctioning stop lights at Broadway Street and JFK Avenue.

6:48 a.m. - Chief Means responded to an alarm on Pine Street.

8:02 a.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Boston Street.

12:05 p.m. - Chief Means responded to a stranded motorist on the railroad tracks on JFK Avenue.

2:52 p.m. - Chief Means responded to a complaint on West Broadway Street.

4:08 p.m. - Chief Means assisted Deputy Wells on a civil complaint on Highway 231 South.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

1:03 p.m. - Chief Means provided traffic control for a funeral procession.

4:39 p.m. - Chief Means investigated a report of stolen medication on North Oak Street.

11:23 p.m. - Officer Sims investigated a possible intoxicated driver at Marathon.

11:33 p.m. - Officer Sims investigated a civil disturbance on Vincennes Street.



## HAY FOR SALE

4x4 round bales and small square bales.

Contact: James Stoll  
812-709-2224

## 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.

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## Breast cancer awareness grants to benefit Martin County residents

Daviess Community Hospital Foundation has been awarded \$7,387.38 in grant funds to provide breast cancer screening and diagnostic services to area women for 2023. The program for lower-income, medically underserved women, age 40+ that reside in Daviess, Martin and Pike Counties in Indiana will be administered by the Radiology Services Department at Daviess Community Hospital. The funds are awarded through the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust Grant Program.

Funds have been designated for the delivery of breast cancer screening and diagnostic services. The goal is to increase the number of low-income, medically underserved women receiving mammograms at Daviess Community Hospital, then to increase the follow-through rate of those patients who are called back for diagnostic mammograms.

Lower-income women age 40+ who reside in Daviess, Martin, and Pike counties are encouraged to contact the Radiology Services Department at Daviess Community Hospital for more information about the application process and guidelines.

The Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust, Inc. receives funds through the sale of breast cancer awareness specialty license plates. These monies are then used to provide grants throughout Indiana to help address unmet breast health cancer needs.

Since the Breast Cancer Awareness special group recognition (SGR) license plate was first made available in 2002, nearly \$6.5 million has been distributed by the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust (IBCAT) through competitively awarded grants to organizations through-

## New cancer support group formed

Our community has several individuals who are fighting a battle against cancer. This terrible disease has touched so many lives while creating a need for patient and family support. A group of individuals came together and created the non-profit Martin County Cancer Patient Services. This service will be funded by donations to help those who are facing the diagnosis of cancer. The group's mission statement is to assist people impacted by cancer, who reside in Martin County, so that no one faces cancer alone.

MCCPS needs individuals willing to

out Indiana for innovative projects for breast cancer screening, diagnostic and support services not otherwise available to medically underserved populations in Indiana. In addition, over \$117,000 has been awarded in scholarships to high school seniors who have lost a parent to breast cancer or have a parent currently battling the disease.

The mission of the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust, Inc. is to increase awareness and improve access to breast cancer screening, diagnosis and support services throughout Indiana. Indiana residents may purchase an Indiana breast cancer awareness special group recognition license plate by visiting any Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch, online at IN.gov/BMV, or on a BMV Connect kiosk for an annual \$40 fee, \$25 of which is a direct tax-deductible donation (to the extent of the law). The plate may be purchased for display on passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, trucks with a declared gross weight of not more than 11,000 pounds, and recreational vehicles.

The Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness SGR license plate was the brainchild of the late Nancy Jaynes, a Plymouth (IN) High School family and consumer sciences teacher. Nancy lost her battle with breast cancer in March of 2008. Her vision that the license plate be a traveling billboard and reminder about the importance of early detection of breast cancer is alive and making a difference to thousands of Hoosiers.

For more information or to make a direct donation to the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust, please visit our website at [www.BreastCancerPlate.org](http://www.BreastCancerPlate.org).

volunteer and/or make donations. Items needed at this time include gas cards or monetary donations. If you are interested in donating, please send to Martin County Cancer Patient Services c/o Doverhill Christian Union Church 15581 N St Rd 450, Shoals IN 47581.

The next meeting of the group will be held Tuesday, February 7 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church (lower level), at 128 High Street in Shoals. The public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Rheadawn Street at 812-276-5857 or Catina Cannon at 812-709-1631.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Free community meal

The Loogootee Christian Church, at 206 Sherman Street, is having their monthly free meal for the community on Thursday, February 2 from 6-8 p.m. at the church. This month they will be having soups, sides, rolls, desserts and drinks. All members of the community are invited to attend.

### Public records meeting

The Martin County Commission of Public Records will have a meeting Wednesday, February 15 at 10:30 a.m. in the commissioners' room of the Martin County Courthouse.

### 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](mailto:echristmas@youthfirst.org) or [toddamy@iu.edu](mailto: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](http://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.

## ANIMAL SHELTER

### Pet of the Week



**FLUFF** is a male longhaired orange tabby kitty, around 7 months old. He is very sweet and playful. He is neutered and up to date on all shots. An approved adoption application is required to set up an appointment. Adoption fee is \$45. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit [www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org](http://www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org).

## The Town of Shoals is accepting sealed bids for the contracted mowing of Springhill Cemetery for the 2023 & 2024 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 10th 2023 at 3:00 P.M. Bids will be opened at the regular scheduled meeting on Monday, February 13th 2023 at 5:59PM 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.*

*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 • Table Sponsor \$250  
Guest Speaker: Denny Spinner, Director of OCRA  
Tickets are available for purchase at German American Bank, Crane Credit Union and the Martin County Chamber Office






A blanket of snow on Sunday reminded us that it is winter in southern Indiana. However, I was fully aware that beneath that white blanket, there were hellebores, aconite and crocus in bloom. I had spotted the blooms of those tough flowers last week. It really is not unusual to have those blooms in January at Sandhill Gardens, but they always bring a smile on a winter day. It is as if they have come to remind us that winter will not last forever.

A cold winter day is a good time to plan for the next year's garden. With the increase in interest in gardening in recent years, plant breeders have been busy creating new cultivars. It is important to realize that new does not mean better, and I caution gardeners to do their homework before investing heavily in a lot of new plants, especially since new cultivars often command a premium price.

Fortunately, there are some trustworthy organizations that run trials to determine the best of the new offerings. Perhaps the most trusted of these organizations is the All American Selection Association. Breeders and nurseries submit their plants for consideration. They are then planted in test gardens across the country. Some go to the gardens of professional gardeners, others to universities and others to botanical gardens. Plants are evaluated for a few years, and those deemed worthy are awarded the All American Selection.

Recently, the selection committee has announced the awarding of the AAS label to five plants as national winners and one has been selected as a regional winner for the Midwestern area. Three of the selections are ornamental plants and the

## Monroe Lake hosts origami cranes workshop

Monroe Lake will host an origami cranes craft workshop at Paynetown State Recreation Area on Friday, February 24 at 10 a.m., in conjunction with the International Crane Foundation (ICF).

This free, 90-minute workshop is limited to 14 people, ages 16 and up. Registration is required by February 21 at [bit.ly/origamicranes2023](http://bit.ly/origamicranes2023).

Following a short presentation about cranes in culture, ICF's Katelyn Garrett will teach participants how to fold origami cranes and assemble them into a decorative chain.

Entrance to Paynetown SRA is free during the winter season. Questions about the workshop should be directed to Jill Vance, Monroe Lake's interpretive naturalist, at [jvance@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jvance@dnr.IN.gov).

other three are in the edible category.

A new coleus, dubbed Sun Coral Candy was selected for its multi-colored foliage on compact plants. It has serrated leaves, adding texture to a container or in a flower bed. It tolerates more sun than other coleus varieties and shows good disease resistance. Many people grow coleus for the foliage and cut off the flowers. This selection does not produce many flowers, so pruning is rarely necessary. This coleus is offered by Pan American Seed Company.

Hem Genetics submitted the award-winning Double-Shot Orange Bi-color snapdragon. The stems on this plant are stocky and well-branched, resulting in better flowering than older snapdragons. The plant also is less prone to disease and will flower until the first frost.

The last of the ornamental selections is indeed a stand-out plant. Not only has it been awarded the AAS, but was also chosen as a Green Thumb Award winner by the National Garden Bureau and was touted as a new plant to watch in an American Horticulture Society publication last year. This celebrated plant is an elephant ear dubbed Colocasia Royal Hawaiian Waikiki. It has waxy dark green leaves with white and flamingo pink veins. The plant is disease resistant and has a compact, clumping habit. At three feet tall, it is a good selection for planting in the ground or in a container. In our area, it must be lifted and taken in during the winter or grown as an annual. This plant was developed by Plant Development Services, Inc.

A pepper, a squash and a tomato round out the AAS selections. Jalapeno San Juaquin is a determinate plant, setting an abundance of thick-walled peppers at one time. The peppers are mild, with just a little heat. Bejo Seeds offers this new plant. The squash is a single-serving sized kobocho squash. Sweet Jade, from Johnny's Selected Seeds, will hold fruits on the vine well and will store for several months. The regional winner is a tomato called Zenzei. It is a Roma type, great for sauces. The plants are compact, growing to only about four feet tall. They will need cages, but no pruning is necessary. Despite the compact size, they plants are indeterminate, and will continue to set fruits until a killing frost.

If you want to grow any of these plants this summer, begin searching for them soon. Award-winning plants often sell out quickly and command premium prices, but the AAS award is a guarantee of the plant's value.

## USDA announces additional assistance for dairy farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the details of additional assistance for dairy producers, including a second round of payments through the Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program (PMVAP) and a new Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP). The update to PMVAP and the new ODMAP will enable USDA to better support small- and medium-sized dairy operations who weathered the pandemic and now face other challenges.

"The Biden-Harris administration continues to fulfill its commitments to fill gaps in pandemic assistance for producers. USDA is announcing a second set of payments of nearly \$100 million to close-out the \$350 million commitment under PMVAP through partnerships with dairy handlers and cooperatives to deliver the payments.," said USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. "USDA is also announcing new assistance targeted to small to medium size organic dairy farmers to help with anticipated marketing costs as they face a variety of challenges from weather to supply-chain challenges."

**Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program**

PMVAP assists producers who received a lower value due to market abnormalities caused by the pandemic and ensuing Federal policies. As a result of the production cap increase, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will make PMVAP payments to eligible dairy farmers for fluid milk sales between 5 million and 9 million pounds from July through December 2020. This level of production was not eligible for payment under the first round of the PMVAP. Payment rates will be identical to the first round of payments, 80 percent of the revenue different per month, on fluid milk sales from 5 million to 9 million pounds from July through December 2020.

USDA will again distribute monies through agreements with independent handlers and cooperatives, with reimbursement to handlers for allowed administrative costs. USDA will contact handlers with eligible producers to notify

them of the opportunity to participate.

As part of the first round, PMVAP paid eligible dairy farmers on up to 5 million pounds of fluid milk sales from July through December 2020. The first round of payments distributed over \$250 million in payments to over 25,000 eligible dairy farmers. These dairy farmers received the full allowable reimbursement on fluid milk sales up to 5 million pounds.

More information about the PMVAP production cap increase is available at [www.ams.usda.gov/pmvap](http://www.ams.usda.gov/pmvap).

**Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program**

The new ODMAP, to be administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), is intended to help smaller organic dairy farms that have faced a unique set of challenges and higher costs over the past several years that have been compounded by the ongoing pandemic and drought conditions across the country. Many small organic dairy operations are now struggling to stay in business and FSA plans to provide payments to cover a portion of their estimated marketing costs for 2023. Final spending will depend on enrollment and each producers projected production, but ODMAP has been allocated up to \$100 million.

The assistance provided by ODMAP will be provided through unused Commodity Credit Corporation funds remaining from earlier pandemic assistance programs. The assistance will help eligible organic dairy producers with up to 75 percent of their future projected marketing costs in 2023, based on national estimates of marketing costs.

This assistance will be provided through a streamlined application process based on a national per hundred-weight payment. The payments will be capped at the first five million pounds of anticipated production, in alignment with preexisting dairy programs that target assistance to those smaller dairies that are most vulnerable to marketing challenges. This program is still in development.

Details about the Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program will be available and updated at [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov) as more details are released in a Notice of Funds Availability later this year.



**Last Saturday Of Every Month!**

**at the Loogootee VFW Post 9395**

**300 W. Vine Street, Loogootee IN 47553**

**We start serving at 5 p.m.**

**Grilled Ribeye \$25 or Grilled Chicken Breast \$18  
Served with: Salad Bar, Baked Potato, Green Beans & Dinner Roll**

**Call to reserve your steak - 812-296-4188**

**PUBLIC WELCOME!**



**Poplar**  
CARE STRATEGIES

**313 Poplar Street  
Loogootee IN 47553  
812-295-4433**

*"To enrich the lives of loved ones by providing a caring, compassionate and safe home environment"*

- Private Suites and Semi-Private Rooms
- Long-term Care
- Respite Care
- Short-term Care
- Hospice Care
- Rehabilitation Therapy Services
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Outpatient Therapy Services

**CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

## Martin County Right to Life announces Marvin Arvin Memorial Scholarship

Martin County Right to Life has announced they are offering a \$500 scholarship in honor of Marvin Arvin to a Martin County High School Senior who presents the best essay to the theme "What is happening to America because of abortion".

Marvin Arvin served for many years as president of Martin County Right to Life and served as pastor for various Christian churches in our area. He touched many lives and accomplished a great deal in the pro-life movement, and he will long be remembered. This scholarship is one way the local Right to Life Organization would like to see his legacy carried on.

### The scholarship is open to all high school seniors in Martin County, and they must also be a resident of Martin County and will need to verify the college of their choice for the fall of 2023. Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, April 7, 2023.



Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life essay developed from the theme: "What is happening to America because of abortion". The essay must be at least 500 words in length and not more than 550.

Applications are available from your local Martin County High School Guidance Counselor.

When completed, applications can be mailed to Martin County Right to Life, P.O. Box 11, Loogootee, Indiana 47553.

## Loogootee Pickleball Committee looking for members

The Loogootee Pickleball Committee is now accepting membership. Pickleball is a game that is for every age and skill level. It's a sport that's been around for years but has recently grown in visibility and popularity throughout the nation, as evidenced by the TV specials and famous athletes (e.g., Tom Brady) investments in pickleball leagues.

To help grow this sport in Loogootee, the committee is starting a pickleball membership drive. The ultimate goal is the construction of a four-court pickleball complex located in the vicinity of the Loogootee City Pool. This pickleball complex location has been approved by the Loogootee City Council.

The membership costs and associated benefits are:

\$25- Provides voting rights during the pickleball meetings; dates of which are posted on the Loogootee Pickleball Facebook page. Provides the right to schedule yourself to play during the outdoor pickleball play scheduled times and indoor pickleball play scheduled times at Whitfield (if a member of the St. John's Catholic Parish). The Pickleball play scheduled times are found on the Loogootee HEJA app.

\$50- Above benefits as well as tournament, event, and clinic discounts AND a free Loogootee Pickleball t-shirt.

To join or get further information, please contact Linda Stoll by phone or text at 812-787-0857 or Robin Hart at 812-295-6739. You can pay by cash, check, or Venmo account.

## USDA announces signup for 2023 assistance for on-farm food safety expenses for specialty crop growers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds specialty crop producers of available assistance to help cover certain costs of complying with regulatory and market-driven food safety certification requirements. Applications for the Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) program for eligible 2022 costs are due by Jan. 31, 2023. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept applications for 2023 costs from February 1, 2023, to January 31, 2024.

FSA is making available up to \$200 million through the FSCSC program, which is part of USDA's broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small-scale agricultural operations and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.

USDA first announced and opened this program for signup in 2022, delivering critical assistance for specialty crop operations, with an emphasis on equity in program delivery while building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions.

"Specialty crops growers experienced many challenges meeting regulatory requirements and accessing additional markets due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "Many of these producers had to pivot quickly as demand shifted away from traditional markets, like restaurants and food service, and many continue to feel the impacts of those abrupt changes. By helping mitigate the costs of on-farm food safety certification, the Food Safe-

ty Certification for Specialty Crops program will help create new markets and opportunities for small-scale producers. In turn, these producers will have another tool to leverage as they work to become more nimble and more resilient in the face of unforeseen challenges, serve their local and regional economies, and support fairer and more transparent markets.

### Program Details

FSCSC assists specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 and 2023 for certifications issued on or after June 21, 2022. For each year, FSCSC covers a percentage of the specialty crop operation's eligible costs of obtaining or renewing their certification, as well as a portion of their related expenses.

To be eligible for FSCSC, the applicant must:

Be a specialty crop operation. Meet the definition of a small business or very small business.

Have paid eligible expenses related to certification.

Specialty crop operations may receive assistance for the following costs:

Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.

Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.

Food safety certification.

Certification upload fees.

Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water.

Training.

FSA calculates FSCSC payments for each category of eligible costs. FSA set a higher payment rate for underserved farmers and ranchers, which includes socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning and veteran producers who have a CCC-860 on file with FSA.

FSA will issue payments at the time of application approval for 2022 and after the application period ends for 2023. The 2023 application period opens February 1, 2023 and closes January 31, 2024. If calculated payments exceed the amount of available funding, payments will be prorated.

### Applying for Assistance

Interested specialty crop producers can apply by completing the application, FSA-888. The application, along with other required documents, can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery or via electronic means. Producers can visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find their local FSA office. Specialty crop producers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to assist.

Producers can visit farmers.gov/food-safety for additional program details, eligibility information and forms needed to apply.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## HELP WANTED

### 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.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR QUALITY MINDED AND MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS. MUST BE WILLING TO TRAVEL OVERNIGHT.**

Apply on our website:  
www.qualitybuiltpergolas.com  
(317) 840-7469

or in-person at:  
JOE STUTZMAN  
AMISH SAW MILL  
7412 N. CR 200 W  
Orleans, Indiana 47452  
OR  
ANANIAS MILLER SAW MILL  
4732 N County Road 300 W  
Paoli, Indiana 47454-9814

### Part-Time Field Officer Position

Martin County Community Corrections is accepting applications for the following position: Part-Time Field Officer

Field Officers are responsible for monitoring home detention clients by way of conducting random (and scheduled) visits to client's homes and places of work; conducting random searches and administering random alcohol and drug screens; recording field visit information (including possible program violations).

#### Minimum Qualifications include:

- High School Diploma/HSE
- Valid Indiana Driver's License
- Willingness to submit to background check and employment drug screen
- Ability to work evenings and weekends and on-call (as needed)
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office programs and Google platforms
- Previous experience is a plus, but not required

Pay: Up to \$15.30 per hour

Weekly Hours: depending on Case Load - up to 28 hours per week with current average being 10-15 per week

**TO APPLY: Email Danielle Murphy (MCCC Director) at dmurphy@martincounty.in.gov with statement of interest in the position.**

## NOTICE

### Martin County Humane Society WELLNESS CLINIC

No Appointment Needed  
Open to all counties, not just Martin



Payment by Credit Card or Cash  
No personal checks

**Friday, February 17 • 5-6 p.m.**  
507 N Oak Street, Loogootee IN 47553

## Advertise in the Martin County Journal

Email courtney@martincountyjournal.com