

# Martin County JOURNAL

Year 15, Issue 5

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024

Eight pages



## New Primary filings

Filing period is for the Martin County Primary Election will end February 9, 2024, at noon.

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.

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)  
Mark Franklin (R)  
Martin County Surveyor  
Nathan Hoffman (R)  
Martin County Commissioner District 1  
J. Cody Roush (R)  
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)  
Stephen Shout (R)

The following positions will only be on the ballot if they are contested:

Republican Precinct Committeemen  
Carolyn Sue McGuire (R), Perry 1  
David A. Smith (R), Perry 5  
Becky L. Sellers (R), Mitcheltree  
Gerald D Montgomery (R), South Halbert  
Dean Crandall (R), South Center  
Adam Greene (R), South Center  
Bill Shaw (R), North Halbert  
Benjamin "Snoop" Shaw (R), North Center  
J. Cody Roush (R), East Memphis  
Four Republican Convention Delegates-at-Large  
Warren D Albright (R)  
Gerald D Montgomery (R)  
J. Cody Roush (R)  
Adam Greene (R)  
Mike Engleman (R)  
Two Democratic Convention Delegates-at-Large  
No filings to date.

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.

If you have questions, please call the Martin County Clerk's Office at 812-247-3651.

## Solid waste fee increase off the table for now

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
*Martin County Journal Publisher*

The Martin County Solid Waste District Board met last Thursday, January 25 to decide whether to increase the property tax user fee of \$24 to \$48 a year. The district has had financial issues for the past few years. Board Member Brian Ader said he is new to the board and is playing catch up pretty fast. He said he spent some time talking to district director Janell Freeman and going over options, since he has been on the board. He asked Freeman to explain one of those options.

Freeman said she spoke with John Mundy, with German American, and Mundy agrees that the recycling center's finances are looking better. Mundy suggested opening a line of credit for the district to use for operating expenses. Freeman said the recycling center took a hit last year when they replaced the cardboard baler. Costs associated with the rented baler and the installation of the new baler set them back. She said that was a one-time issue that they won't have to deal with again.

Board Member Aaron Summers asked if the loan the recycling center received from German American last year for \$90,000 could be extended to two years instead of one year. The current balance on the loan is \$65,000. Freeman said

Mundy said that is something that could be looked at as well.

Board Member Ader said he is not in favor of increasing the user fee because residents are getting hit hard on everything else. He said the \$24 increase wouldn't solve the center's problems anyway and they would have to raise it more than that to make a difference. He recommended the board vote to work with German American to open the line of credit instead. He noted that Freeman is working hard to find more clients to increase the center's income.

The board then voted to move forward with the line of credit and potentially adding on the \$65,000 remaining on the loan from last year so there is only one liability. Members of the audience asked how much the line of credit would be. Ader said they may go with a line of credit or may just go with a loan with repayment stretched out to a few years. He said if they did a line of credit, it could be as much as \$165,000 to include the current loan balance. He said the line of credit or loan could be paid off as soon as possible, without incurring penalties.

Director Freeman told the board that she would like them to consider selling the Shoals recycling building because it is losing \$264 a month. She said she has been tasked with finding ways to cut ex-

penses and this is one way they can do it. She said the county paid \$175,000 for that building and if they sold it, they could put that money back into the budget. Board Member Cody Roush said he disagrees with closing the Shoals building because it offers service to residents on that side of the county. Freeman said she doesn't have a problem sending trucks over to pick up Shoals recyclables and the only service Shoals residents would lose would be trash drop off. She said they can go to the Loogootee location to do that. Board Member Summers said he agrees with Roush that they need to provide services to Shoals residents but if they sell the Shoals building, the commissioners should be first in line to buy it. Freeman said she needs to be able to have some level of predictability with the recycling center's budget and with the Shoals location losing money every month, she doesn't have that.

Board Attorney Dave Lett asked what it would cost to put a dumpster in Shoals for recyclables. Freeman said it would be \$400-500 per month. She said they pick up two loads of cardboard from Shoals a week and those two loads do not "make or break" the center. She said they can still pick up cardboard without having the building. Board Member Roush again

(See 'SOLID WASTE' on page 3)

## Commissioners discuss the need for a wheel tax

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
*Martin County Journal Publisher*

The Martin County Commissioners met last Friday morning, January 26.

Highway Superintendent Scott Seals and Tara Damin, a representative from USI Consultants, submitted financial commit-

## Martin County's unemployment stood at 2.5 percent for December

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
*Martin County Journal Publisher*

Martin County's unemployment rate dropped to 2.5 percent for December, down from 3.1 percent the month before. The county had the 32<sup>nd</sup> lowest jobless rate in the state for December, tied with 11 other counties.

In December, the county had 5,241 residents in the workforce and 133 of them were unemployed. In November, there were 5,267 residents able to work and 164 of them were without jobs. In December of 2022, Martin County's jobless rate was 2.4 percent, with 5,452 residents in the workforce and 130 of them without work.

Daviess County's jobless rate moved from 2.5 percent in November to 1.9 percent in December. The county had the lowest unemployment rate in the state for December.

In December, the county had 16,761 residents in the workforce and 318 of them were unemployed. In November, there were 16,780 residents able to work and 420 of them were without jobs. In December of 2022, Daviess County's unemployment rate was 1.7 percent with 16,641 residents in the workforce and 278 of them without work.

Dubois County's unemployment rate edged down from 2.6 percent in November to 2 percent in December. The county had

ment letters for the Community Crossings grant for 2024. The letters need the commissioners' signatures. One letter is for the chip and seal projects and the other for blacktop projects. Commissioner George asked which one will be submitted first. Seals and Damin said that is up to commissioners however Damin noted it's typically the second lowest jobless rate in the state for December, tied with Clinton County.

In December, the county had 21,614 residents in the workforce and 441 of them were without jobs. In November, there were 21,618 residents able to work and 571 of them were without work. In December of 2022, Dubois County's unemployment rate was 1.9 percent with 21,986 residents in the workforce and 416 of them were unemployed.

Greene County's jobless rate also went down in December to 3.3 percent, from 3.9 percent the month before. The county had the ninth highest unemployment rate in the state for December, tied with four other counties.

In December, the county had 13,621 residents in the workforce and 445 of them were unemployed. In November, there were 13,771 residents able to work and 541 of them were without jobs. In December of 2022, Greene County's jobless rate was 3.3 percent with 13,567 residents in the workforce and 443 of them without work.

The top ten spots in the state for lowest jobless rate for December were Daviess County at 1.9 percent, Dubois and Clinton counties at 2 percent, and Pulaski, Posey, Montgomery, Hendricks, Hamilton, Gibson, Boone and Benton counties at 2.1 percent.

(See 'UNEMPLOYMENT' on page 2)

the worst rated roads first. The commissioners agreed that would be the blacktop projects.

Damin said the state, in December, raised the maximum amount for Community Crossings grant funds to \$1.5 million, \$500,000 higher than it has been. She said many counties are scrambling to come up with the extra matching funds and new roads to submit however Martin County doesn't have enough matching funds to go any higher for 2024. The matching amount is 25 percent.

The commissioners discussed the need for the county to have a wheel tax. Commissioner Cody Roush said the wheel tax would have covered that extra money needed and Martin County is missing out on a lot of grant funds. It was noted that most other counties have the wheel tax. Commissioner Aaron Summers asked if there had ever been a presentation to the county council to implement the wheel tax. Attorney Dave Lett and Commissioner George noted it has been done a few times, including a presentation by LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program).

After more discussion, the commissioners voted to contact LTAP again and have them provide another presentation to the county council. Commissioner George said the wheel tax would bring in around \$250,000 a year which would cover the extra needed for the Community Crossings grant match.

Superintendent Seals said he received information from the state regarding an alternate route through Stiles Road for a box culvert replacement on Highway 50 which will cause it to be closed for two weeks in

(See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 3)

## County road weight limit

The Martin County Commissioners have declared that effective immediately there is a 10-ton weight limit on all county roads.



# SOLID WASTE

**(Continued from page one)**

said he is not in favor of shutting down the Shoals location. He said it seems unfair to those people on that side of the county who are also paying the asset fee every year. He said they can cut hours in Shoals without shutting down. Freeman said the Shoals location is only open 12 hours a week now so they can't really cut the hours. She said she cannot dig the recycling center out of the financial hole they are in when they are losing money in areas like the Shoals location.

Roush replied that the center needs to raise their fees. He said they can charge more for trash being dropped off and charge more to out-of-county businesses where they pick up cardboard.

Board Member Summers asked if raising the out-of-county pick up fees by \$5 to \$15 per pick up would help. Freeman said her only issue with that is they fear they will lose customers. She said in the last quarter of 2023, they brought in \$20,000 from out-of-county businesses with the \$10 per pick up fee. The center goes to Jasper twice a week and makes 30-40 stops. Summers said Jasper businesses will either want their cardboard picked up or they won't. Roush said they need to calculate how much the recycling center is spending on labor, gasoline, truck maintenance, etc. to go out of the county to pick up cardboard and then set the fees based on those costs. He said losing money to pick up cardboard in other counties is falling on the backs of Martin County taxpayers and to close the Shoals location would be even more of a hit. "It doesn't make sense," he said.

Freeman noted that Daviess and Dubois counties both gave the recycling center grant funds last year to help pay for the cardboard baler, so they have done

something to help.

Discussion ensued on why the board changed the original plan to charge out-of-county businesses \$140 per month for pick up. No one on the board knew how that got changed to \$10 per pick up. It was noted that a committee was formed back when those fees were discussed but the business plan that committee came up with cannot be found.

Attorney Lett explained they can put the solid waste district back on the tax levy which would be a set rate for every property owner in Martin County. The solid waste district went off the tax levy in 2012 and implemented the \$24 user fee instead. The levy back in 2012 was 0.0278. It was at its highest in 2010 at 0.0439. The county council would set the rate so the amount each property owner would pay would be determined by that levy set. Lett told the board that if they plan to go back on the tax levy and drop the user fee, they need to start that process now and not wait until the end of the year.

Board Member Roush asked if residents' property taxes would go up if they moved to the levy. Auditor Michelle Norris said that with the property tax caps, it could go up for some taxpayers but not for everyone.

Jordan Dant, who was in the audience, asked what the center can do to cut costs instead of making taxpayers pick up the tab. Board Member Ader said he plans to sit down with Freeman and go over the budgets. He said he and Mike Engleman are new to the board and there are things they plan to look into because he knows there has been some wasteful spending in the past that needs to be addressed.

Ader said they need to get with the auditor and see how much the center would make on the tax levy and what the rate

would need to be before pursuing it.

The board discussed whether Crane Base would consider allowing the recycling center to pick up their cardboard. Board Member Ader said waste management companies have that market and Martin County will not be able to get it back. He said the recycling center could not compete with the way they wrote the contracts for bids. Freeman said she went to the tech park, and many are not on board with recycling, but she is still

working on it. Freeman said they currently pick up cardboard at around 40 businesses in Martin County.

In other business, Freeman asked if she could replace an employee with "serious integrity issues". The board gave Freeman authority to hire and fire as needed since she is the manager of the center.

The board reorganized and voted to have Brian Ader serve as president, Mike Engleman as vice president and Cody Roush as secretary.

# UNEMPLOYMENT

**(Continued from page one)**

The top ten spots in the state for highest jobless rate for December were Howard County at 6.4 percent, Lake County at 4.7 percent, Miami County at 3.9 percent, Fayette and Starke counties at 3.8 percent, Cass, LaPorte, and Vermillion counties at 3.6 percent; and Blackford, Fulton, Greene, Newton and St. Joseph counties at 3.3 percent.

Indiana's unemployment rate in December stands at 3.6 percent, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. By comparison, the national unemployment rate for December stands at 3.7 percent.

In addition, Indiana's labor force participation rate stands at 63.2 percent for December, remaining above the national rate of 62.5 percent. This rate is the percentage of Hoosiers 16 and older that are either working or actively looking for work. Those not in the labor force include, primarily, students, retirees and other non-working populations, such as individuals unable to work due to a disability or illness, or adults responsible for their family's childcare needs.

Indiana's total labor force stands at 3,420,262 - a decrease of 2,989 from the

previous month.

"As core inflation abates and the economy normalizes, Indiana remains in a strong economic position," said DWD Commissioner Richard Paulk. "Private employment grew throughout the year and the Department of Workforce Development continues to partner with employers and our regional offices in connecting talent to jobs and providing necessary training to meet the state's employment needs."

Private sector employment in Indiana decreased by 200 jobs over the last month, resulting in a gain of 45,400 jobs from this time last year. Indiana's December private employment stands at 2,858,500.

Industries that experienced job increases in December included:

- Professional and Business Services (+600);
- Private Educational and Health Services (+400); and
- Manufacturing (+300).

As of January 16, 2024, there were 99,220 open job postings throughout the state. In December, 16,206 unemployment insurance claims were filed in Indiana.

Individuals looking for work, training or career information are encouraged to visit [in.gov/dwd/job-seekers](http://in.gov/dwd/job-seekers).

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# OBITUARIES

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MARTIN COUNTY JOURNAL

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

## DAVID BAKER

David Ray Baker entered into eternal rest on January 22, 2024. A resident of Hillham, he was 66.



He was born in Washington on August 5, 1957; son of Gene and Sharon (Jones) Baker.

Dave married Reva Darlene Qualkenbush on May 17, 1980, and she survives.

## DAVID BAKER

He was preceded in death by his father and son, David Shane Baker.

Dave was a 1975 graduate of Shoals High School and had been employed at the French Lick Resort.

He loved playing cards and watching westerns, but his greatest love was playing with his grandkids.

Dave is survived by his wife, Reva Baker of Hillham; son, Tyler Baker and Ambra of Nashville, Tennessee; grandchildren, Indie and Huck Baker; brothers, Sheryl Baker of Shoals and Shawn Baker of Lansing, Michigan; and sister, Sharlene Mueller and Ken of Foley, Alabama.

A funeral ceremony was held Friday, January 26 at Brosmer-Kemple Funeral

Home. A private burial was held at Emmons Ridge Cemetery.

Arrangements were handled by Brosmer-Kemple Funeral Home, in French Lick.

## ROY HOLLAND

Roy Dean Holland passed away Tuesday January 23, 2024, at Poplar Care Strategies in Loogootee, surrounded by his family. A resident of Loogootee, he was 88.

He was born February 5, 1935, in Loogootee; son of Roy Charles and Elizabeth (Smith) Holland.

Roy Dean was a member of the Catholic Faith. He was a United States Navy Veteran. He married Shirley Sieh on April 14, 1956, and she survives. Roy Dean worked at Bethlehem Steel for over 25 years, he also worked at U.S. Gypsum for 7 years. He loved woodworking and created beautiful furniture. Roy Dean enjoyed fishing and spending time with his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Roy C. and Elizabeth (Smith) Holland; his brother, Carol Holland; and his sisters, Rita Ash and Margaret Ash.

Roy Dean is survived by his wife of 67 years, Shirley Holland; their children, Debra (Bob) Puckett, Mary Beth

(Terry) Wallace, Teresa (Terry) Reckamp, Robert (Melinda) Holland, Steven Holland, Tina Marie (Rich) Valenti, and Janet (Rick) Gagliardi, 12 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren, his brother, Christopher (Faye) Holland and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held this morning, Wednesday January 31 at Blake Funeral Home with the Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker officiating.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Martin County Humane Society and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

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

Blake funeral homes is honored to serve the family of Roy Dean Holland.

## BRANT BRUMLEY

Brant Brumley passed away at 8:02 a.m. Thursday, January 25, 2024, at Ascension St. Vincent Evansville with his wife by his side. A resident of Loogootee, he was 61.

He was born October 5, 1962, in Hammond; son of the late William Edward and Mary Jane (Raksanyi) Brumley.

Brant married Patti Seals on May 20, 2017, and she survives.



## BRANT BRUMLEY

Brant retired from USG after 25 years of dedicated employment. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved to hunt, fish and camp. Brant also loved beagles, especially his pup, Bonnie Mae Bean. He enjoyed watching the Indianapolis Colts.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Edward and Mary Jane Brumley and brother, Bruce Brumley.

Brant is survived by his wife, Patti Brumley of Loogootee; daughter, Beth Ann (Jamie) Day of Navarre, Florida; stepchildren, Chad Farhar of Indianapolis and Aimee (John) Harder of Shoals; grandchildren, Austin Day and Savannah and Paul Harder; brother, Brian (Darlene) Brumley of Hebron; and many nieces and nephews, and great-nieces.

Brant wished to be cremated and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Brant Brumley.

# COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

early 2025. Commissioner George asked what kind of traffic will be allowed to use the run around. Seals said since it's not going to be an official run around, semis should use other highways. George asked if traffic would instead go on a side road at the county line and come back out on Stiles Road. Seals said he thinks that is what will happen. Commissioner George said they will need to take pictures of the road and do some work on it before the closure takes place.

Alliance Director Jessica Potts provided updates regarding the county redevelopment commission. She said they are working with USI Consultants to come up with a community plan around the Mid-States Corridor project. She said she understands Martin County doesn't have a lot of say in the project right now but believes they can benefit from having a plan around what benefits Martin County the most. She said the City of Loogootee paid for half the plan with USI.

Teresa Harder, former director of Martin County Soil & Water, informed the commissioners that the recent new-hire director Michelle Grace has resigned to take a new job. Harder has been asked to come back as interim director until another person is hired. She requested the commis-

sioners' approval. Commissioner George said they will probably need additional appropriations again down the road when the new director is hired and wants to put that on the radar for the county council. Extra funds will be needed to keep Harder on to train the new director. The commissioners approved Harder serving as interim director.

Emergency Management Agency Director Monty Wolf discussed the solar eclipse meeting held Thursday, which was well attended. The meeting was led by Martin County Health Nurse Julia Albright with several department heads and other agencies in attendance. The meeting was held to discuss what each entity had planned for the solar eclipse on April 8. The next eclipse meeting will be Tuesday, February 27 at 2 p.m.

Director Wolf stated he talked with Tammy Humbert who is EMA Director of Dubois County regarding damage as a result of the house explosion in Dubois County recently. Humbert told Wolf she could not visually determine the damage of nearby homes. The state was supposed to provide information on the issue but that has not happened yet. It was noted that the Family and Social Services Administration will work with anyone needing assistance as a result of the explosion. Anyone affected

should dial 211 or 866-211-9966, or text your zip code to 898-211.

Deputy EMA Director Andy Ringwald reported the individual in the house at the time of the explosion has been recovered. He offered safety information for anyone who currently has a propane tank buried near their house to make sure the line comes out of the ground to a shut off valve before going into the house. He said one of the problems with propane is that if it runs through the ground, it strips the odor off the propane. Director Wolf added that since propane is heavier than air, if there is a furnace leak, the propane will fill the lowest spots in the house first. Ringwald said this is why he would suggest the line come out of the ground to a shut off valve, so if there is a leak, it will leak into the outside air instead of leaking into the basement. Wolf noted they have been told at pipeline meetings that wherever there is a leak, the propane will still follow the line and run into the house. He said in the Dubois home explosion, they do not know if it was an outside leak or interior leak. He said the cause is a bit of speculation, but at this point that is what sounds like happened. There will be an Indiana Pipeline Awareness meeting held at the Simon J. Graber building in Montgomery on Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Summers asked Attorney Lett if he had a chance to look into the ambulance advisory board. Attorney Lett said he needs to speak to Commissioner Summers to see what his parameters are and has not had the chance to do that. Summers stated he would like a small advisory board consisting of possibly the EMA director, auditor, and a local health provider. Attorney Lett said he will follow-up with

Summers to get more clarification.

Extension Educator Dena Held reported there is a UAV program which will be held at the Martin County Community Building on March 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for those who are flying drones and do not yet have a license. The test for the UAV program will not be given, but it does provide preparation for the test. The extension office will be recruiting at the schools because students 16 and older can take the test to fly drones.

Attorney Lett reported he has received a phone call back from the county's insurance regarding bridge #44 on Deep Cut Lake Road that was damaged by a truck driver and will contact them next week to have discussions. He said he has heard nothing from the other insurance company.

The commissioners approved the 2024-25 AirMed contract which provides county employees with free medical helicopter services. The contract amount per employee increased from \$65 to \$75. There are 117 employees who receive the service for a total cost of \$8,775.

Auditor Norris told the commissioners that Clerk Julie Fithian advised her that some of the commissioners' meetings will conflict with absentee voting held in the commissioners' meeting room. The four meetings are April 16, April 30, October 15 and October 29. The commissioners voted to move those meetings to 5:30 p.m. on those dates.

Commissioner George asked Auditor Norris if there was an email address that residents could send concerns or questions to the commissioners. Auditor Norris stated there isn't one currently, but she can contact Matrix and the host of the county's website to see if a link could be added.

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## Martin County Sheriff's Department activity log

### MONDAY, JANUARY 22

2:04 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible trespasser in Shoals. Major Reed responded.

3:41 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a basement fire in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department responded. Duke Energy and Red Cross were also notified.

6:48 a.m. - Received a 911 call on Crane base. Transferred call to Crane 911.

7:22 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:35 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

12:30 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Haysville Fire Department and Corporal Hawkins responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:00 p.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

2:13 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Hawkins responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:45 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver east of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

3:19 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:23 p.m. - Received a call requesting assistance locating a person in Crane. Chief Deputy Keller and a Crane officer responded.

4:25 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver on US 150, traveling west. Corporal Hawkins, Deputy Branham and Deputy Doane responded.

6:12 p.m. - Received multiple 911 and landline calls reporting an explosion southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department, Martin County Medic 1, Medic 2, Medic 3, Corporal Hawkins, Deputy Branham, Deputy Doane, REMC, and State Fire Marshall Supervisor Wells all responded.

6:28 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver on US 231 North, traveling south. Loogootee Officer Davis responded.

7:09 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Major Reed responded.

7:37 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a disabled vehicle southeast of Shoals. Major Reed and Reserve Deputy Dorsey responded.

8:06 p.m. - Received a report of an injured deer south of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

8:07 p.m. - Received a report of a car-dog accident in Shoals. Major Reed responded.

9:55 p.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn southeast of Shoals.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

8:08 a.m. - Received a call reporting a lost or stolen license plate southwest of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

10:44 a.m. - Received a call reporting vandalism and trespassing southeast of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

12:04 p.m. - Received a call requesting a residential check north of Loogootee. Corporal Hawkins responded.

12:15 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle south of Loogootee. Captain Gibson responded.

12:33 p.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident east of Shoals. Cor-

poral Hawkins responded.

1:07 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:20 p.m. - Received a call reporting a water issue south of Shoals. East Fork water was notified.

7:25 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident with no injuries east of Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

10:47 p.m. - Received a call reporting possible harassment north of Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

1:39 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded but did not transport.

6:42 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

8:35 a.m. - Received a call reporting a traffic hazard west of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

8:55 a.m. - Received a request to speak with an officer. Corporal Hawkins responded.

10:41 a.m. - Received a call reporting an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Long responded.

11:19 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance southeast of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:40 p.m. - Received a call advising of a medical issue east of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Health Bloomington.

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

2:40 p.m. - Received an animal complaint west of Loogootee. Advised caller this was in Daviess County.

3:25 p.m. - Received a call reporting a vehicle disregarding a school bus with stop arm out. All on duty officers were advised.

7:14 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a power line down south of Loogootee. Deputy Doane, Haysville Fire Department and REMC responded.

8:06 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible missing person from Orange County. All on duty officers were advised.

11:56 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible gas leak south of Loogootee. Haysville Fire Department responded.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

6:06 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Long responded.

7:09 a.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Transferred call to Daviess County 911.

11:45 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

3:04 p.m. - Received a call requesting a VIN check south of Loogootee. Corporal Hawkins responded.

3:26 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a tree across the roadway south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Hawkins responded.

3:30 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, ISP Trooper Lents, Loogootee Chief Long, and Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded. No one was transported.

3:51 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down north of Shoals. Shoals Fire De-

partment and Daviess Martin REMC responded.

4:06 p.m. - Received a call reporting a stranded motorist east of Loogootee. Corporal Hawkins, Chief Deputy Keller, and Conservation Officer Mann responded.

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

5:44 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to a deputy. Deputy Shields responded.

7:08 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a lift assist in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department, and Martin County Medic 1 responded. No one was transported.

7:27 p.m. - Received a call requesting a lift assist south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Medic 2 responded. No one was transported.

8:41 p.m. - Received a call reporting a blown transformer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner, Deputy Shields, and Duke Energy responded.

11:57 p.m. - Received a call reporting suspicious activity in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

7:37 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance west of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department, Martin County Medic 1 and Deputy Branham responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:20 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Harmon responded.

10:29 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

11:42 a.m. - Received a call requesting officers in Shoals. Deputy Branham, ISP Trooper Lents, Deputy Doane, Chief Deputy Keller, and Conservation Officer Mann responded.

1:05 p.m. - Received a call reporting a stop sign down north of Loogootee. Martin County Highway Department responded.

6:17 p.m. - Received an accident 911 call.

5:33 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

7:06 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner, Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw, and Deputy Erwin responded.

8:06 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Deputy Erwin, Loogootee Officer Wagoner, and Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw responded.

8:52 p.m. - Received a call requesting assistance north of Shoals. Deputy Erwin responded.

10:59 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

6:56 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down south of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department and REMC responded.

7:12 a.m. - Received a call requesting assistance from a deputy north of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

8:28 a.m. - Received a report of vandalism north of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

10:35 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance northwest of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department, Martin County Medic 1 and Deputy Branham responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:15 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

5:22 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin

County Medic 1, Deputy Shields and Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:28 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down east of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

7:35 p.m. - Received a call reporting another tree down east of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

8:32 p.m. - Received a request to speak with an officer concerning a possible theft. Deputy Erwin responded.

8:35 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious person in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded.

9:07 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-tree accident east of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department, Shoals Fire Department, Deputy Erwin, Deputy Shields, Loogootee Officer Wagoner, Martin County Medic 1, and INDOT responded. No one was transported.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

7:01 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Corporal Hawkins responded.

7:46 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible traffic hazard east of Loogootee. Corporal Hawkins responded.

7:49 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.

8:50 a.m. - Received a call reporting cows in the roadway south of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded. Owner was notified also.

4:58 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Loogootee. Martin County Civil Defense and Deputy Doane responded.

7:32 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident east of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

7:35 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

## Letter to the editor

### ‘Let’s all stay vigilant to those who want to rush the process’

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

We all know that we are in the Tier 2 phase of the RDA’s and INDOT’s approval process for the Mid-States Corridor. This phase is studying the area from I-64 to Haysville. People in that study area are being approached about selling their land. These inquiries are premature as the study is not complete.

Just for your information, Tier 3 is the area from Haysville to Loogootee, Tier 4 the area surrounding Loogootee and Tier 5 is from Loogootee to I-69. Be aware that soon “officials” will be approaching us to convince us to sign contracts for our land.

We are still in the phase where public opinion can influence the outcome of the Corridor. This is an election year, and the politicians will want to be on the winning side of the Corridor issue. We, the people of Martin, Daviess and Dubois counties, know which is the winning side; and it’s not in favor of the Corridor.

This should not be a partisan issue; but a local community issue. Let’s all stay vigilant to those who want to rush the process. Remember, we can influence the Corridor’s fate at the ballot box.

Jim Arvin  
Rutherford Township  
Martin County



# COURT NEWS

## CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCINGS

### January 17

Christopher Richmond, convicted of intimidation, a Level 6 Felony and resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced on the first count to serve 2 ½ years at the Indiana Department of Corrections with 180 days suspended and credit for 269 actual days previously served plus 269 Class A credit days. Defendant received 180 days of probation. Sentenced on the second count to serve 180 days with 180 days suspended. Defendant received 180 days of probation.

**January 22**  
James Davis Wallisa, convicted of intimidation, a Level 5 Felony. Sentenced to serve 1,552 days with 1,095 days suspended and time served credit for 457 days.

## CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

### January 17

Jose Fransisco Garcia, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Christopher Richmond, two counts of intimidation, Level 6 Felonies, dismissed;

## Shoals man arrested for child molesting

Indiana State Police initiated a criminal investigation in October 2023 after receiving information that Jeremy L. Sanders, 48, of Shoals, had allegedly molested a child.



Indiana State Police Detective Tyler Matthew and Martin County DCS conducted the investigation and submitted the findings to the Martin County Prosecutor's Office. After reviewing the investigation, the Martin County Prosecutor's Office filed criminal charges against Sanders, and an arrest warrant was issued.

Friday evening, January 26, 2024, at approximately 4:30 p.m., Sanders was arrested at his place of employment without incident. He was taken to the Martin County Jail where he is currently being held on bond.

Charges: child molesting - Level 4 Felony (2 counts)

Investigating officer: Detective Tyler Matthew, Indiana State Police

Assisting Agency: Martin County DCS

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

missed; direct laser pointing at a public safety officer, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; criminal recklessness, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; reckless driving, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed; resisting law enforcement, a Level 5 Felony, dismissed.

**January 22**  
James Davis Wallisa, domestic battery, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; criminal trespass, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

## CIVIL COURT New Suits Filed

### January 22

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Amy Quinn, civil collection.

Rachelle J. Jones vs. Mark E. Jones, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Planet Home Lending, LLC vs. Katie Lynn E. Pulis, mortgage foreclosure.

**January 23**  
LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Tina Shaw, civil collection.

Cheryl J. Lake vs. Jeffrey K. Lake, petition for dissolution of marriage.

## CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

### January 17

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Gateway Financial Solutions and against the defendant Rene Albright in the amount of \$3,919.61.

## CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

### January 23

Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC vs. Peggy Stoll, civil collection, dismissed.

## SMALL CLAIMS DISMISSED

### January 17

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Mark E. Jones, complaint, dismissed.

# ARRESTS

## MONDAY, JANUARY 22

1:22 p.m. - Lisa Lemons, 35, of Owensboro, Kentucky, was arrested on a Martin County warrant. She is being held without bond.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

12:30 p.m. - James Colson, 38, of Ellettsville, was arrested by Monroe County on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

6:44 p.m. - Lisa Lindsey, 60, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Shields and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia. She is being held without bond.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

12:57 p.m. - Waylon Wininger, 35, of Loogootee, was arrested by Patrol Officer Tooley and charged with parole violation. He is being held without bond.

4:12 p.m. - Jeremy Sanders, 48, of Shoals, was arrested by ISP Trooper Matthew on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

# Loogootee Police log

## MONDAY, JANUARY 22

3:41 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a call on Kentucky Avenue.

3:20 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Locust Street.

6:28 p.m. - Officer Davis responded to a call on US Highway 231 South.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

No calls to report.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

10:40 a.m. - Chief Long responded to an accident on Sheridan Street.

10:52 a.m. - Chief Long responded to a vehicle unlock at the post office.

1:42 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Chief Long responded to a call on Terrace Drive.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

6:06 a.m. - Chief Long responded to a call on US Highway 50.

11:46 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on 700 North.

3:30 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department, Chief Long and Officer Davis responded to an accident at US Highway 50 and Highway 231.

7:08 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Church Street.

## Martin County real estate transfers

**Doyle Miller to Miles Manifold, Jr. and Katrina Manifold**, a part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1 ¼ acre, more or less.

**Charles Andrew Kline**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Charles Andrew Kline and Carla S. Kline**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 18, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, containing 1 acre, more or less.

**Alan L. Mattingly**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Christopher D. Mattingly and Vicki L. Mattingly**, of Daviess County, Indiana, Parts of Lots Numbered 75 and 76 in Keck's Addition to Loogootee, Indiana.

**KRA Holdings, LLC**, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Glenn Ray Herschberger and Lillie Marie Herschberger**, of Daviess County, Indiana, all that part

responded to a medical call on Church Street.

8:41 p.m. - Officer Wagoner responded to a call near Redemption Church.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

9:23 a.m. - Officer Stivers responded to a call on US Highway 231 North.

7:06 p.m. - Officer Wagoner and Officer Shaw responded to a call on North Line Street.

8:06 p.m. - Officer Wagoner and Officer Shaw responded to a call at Taco Bell.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

5:22 p.m. - Officer Wagoner responded to a call at Country Place Apartments.

8:35 p.m. - Officer Wagoner responded to a call on Clark Street.

9:07 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Wagoner responded to a call on US Highway 50.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

6:41 a.m. - Officer Davis responded to a call on Mulberry Street.

11:11 a.m. - Officer Davis responded to a call on North Line Street.

11:43 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Davis responded to a medical call on Cedar Street.



## 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.

## HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER



Quality built and cared for older home with all the great original woodwork and doors. New walk-in shower, vanity and floor in bath, newer carpet in dining room and living room. Partial unfinished basement, great porches and patio with an additional storage building and dream 3-car garage. Appliances included and move-in ready. Great place to call home!

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**Local owner, call or text 812-610-9804**


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## More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



This is the true story of George Phillips of Meridian, Mississippi, who was going to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the shed. George opened the door to go turn off the light but saw there were people in the shed in the process of stealing things.

He immediately phoned the police, who asked, "Is someone in your house?" and George said, "No," and explained the situation.

Then they explained that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be there when available.

George said, "Okay," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I've just shot them all."

Then he hung up. Within five minutes three squad cars, an Armed Response unit, and an ambulance showed up. Of course, the police caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them."

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available."

### PET THOUGHTS

\*Why do we love our pets so much? Because they're living proof that good still exists in the world.

\*Do you know why God didn't allow our pets to speak? To teach us that love and loyalty are demonstrated by actions and not words.

\*One dog won't fix all of your problems. But three might. Or they might just cause enough problems you forget all

## Midwestern Engineers names Trey Kidwell as newest shareholder

Midwestern Engineers, Inc. announces that Trey Kidwell, P.E., has been named the corporation's newest shareholder.



TREY KIDWELL

Kidwell joined the civil engineering and consulting firm in 2017 and serves as a Senior Project Engineer. He is an accomplished structural engineer, with extensive experience designing municipal buildings, parks and recreation structures, treatment plants and critical utility infrastructure. Trey is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Indiana. He holds an associate degree in architectural drafting from Vincennes University and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Southern Indiana. Kidwell and his family are residents of Loogootee.

Established in 1959, Midwestern Engineers, Inc. specializes in the water resources industry and provides civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering and consulting for local governments, utilities, and the private sector. The firm has offices in Loogootee, Santa Claus, and Indianapolis.

about your old problems.

\*Sit with animals quietly, and they will show you their hearts. Sit with them kindly, and they will help you locate yours.

\*I look normal, but believe me, I talk to dogs.

\*A house without pets is like a garden without flowers.

### PET RIDDLES

1. What do dogs get after they graduate from obedience school?

2. Why didn't the dog want to play football?

3. When the dog went to the flea circus, what happened?

4. Why do dogs tend to run in circles?

5. What breed of dog can jump higher than a building?

### PEOPLE THOUGHTS

\*At my age, rolling out of bed in the morning is easy. Getting up off the floor is a whole other story.

\*Getting older has some benefits. Call it a "senior moment" and you can get away with pretty much anything.

\*Yeah, I dusted once. It came back. Not falling for that again.

\*After a certain age, your body is like a garage sale...some stuff looks old, some stuff doesn't work, and some stuff you can't even identify.

### ANSWERS

1. Their Masters, 2. It was a Boxer, 3. He stole the show, 4. Because it's really hard to run in squares, 5. All breeds can, since buildings can't jump.

Make someone smile today!

## Daviess/Martin Retired Teachers meet

The Daviess/Martin Retired Teachers met at the Gasthof restaurant on Friday, January 19. President Ramona Lennen gave a brief welcome to all in attendance. She led the group in the pledge of allegiance, then proceeded to conduct the meeting. The minutes of the November meeting, submitted by Nancy Adams, were approved as printed. David Lennen gave the treasurer's report and read a thank you note he received from Backpack Blessings, the fall Pennies from Heaven recipient. Community Service Director Lawana Hand thanked members for turning in their service hours.

Ramona Lennen gave the Area 8 director's report. She presented information about the IRTA Foundation which is the philanthropic arm of the IRTA. The foundation provides help to retired teachers through the "Hands Up" program. They also give out active teacher grants and provide one \$2,000 scholarship per area for a student who is going into their junior or senior year in the field of education and who is enrolled in an Indiana college or university. Applications for this scholarship are due by April 1. The Connecting Virtually Workshop will be Wednesday, January 24. The 2024 Representative Assembly will be Wednesday, June 12.

It was decided that the group will once again deliver candy to teachers in area schools. No decision was made at the meeting on what organization will be the recipient of the spring Pennies from Heaven donations. Jason Williams spoke briefly about cancer insurance available

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Right to Life drives

The Right to Life Aluminum Can Drive will be Saturday, February 3 in the Tractor Supply parking lot in Washington. This is the main location for this drive with hours from 9 a.m. to noon. No newsprint will be accepted. If you have questions, call Louie Kavanaugh Jr. at 812-486-3658. Martin County Right to Life will have their newspaper/aluminum can drive on Saturday, February 3 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Martin County Recycling Center. Martin County does continue to recycle newsprint.

### Free community meal

The Loogootee Christian Church, at 206 Sherman Street, is having their monthly free meal for the community on Thursday, February 1 from 6-8 p.m. All members of the community are invited to attend.

### Tourism meeting

The Martin County Tourism Council will meet Tuesday, February 20 at 5 p.m. at 404 JFK Avenue in Loogootee. 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 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 needed.

### 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 through AMBA.

The program was presented by Andrea Huff, Superintendent of Barr-Reeve Schools. She spoke about the Regional Opportunity Initiatives Program which is being implemented not only at Barr-Reeve, but also at schools in 10 other counties in this area. She mentioned that the counties involved are "leaning into each other" for a common goal which is getting every student ready for success. This program starts with kindergarten so students can learn early on (through hands-on experiences) who they are and what their strengths and interests are. This can help meet the workforce needs of local communities. The goal of the program is "Happy kids, healthy relationships on a path to gainful employment."

Door prizes were provided by Donna Keller and Alana Thompson and were won by Arlene Owens, David Lennen, and Ken Macy. Pat Brochin and Peg Neidigh will furnish the door prizes for the next meeting.

Attending the meeting were Donna Keller, Arlene Owens, Alana Thompson, Ruthanne Burkhart, Linda Strosnider, Lawana Hand, Rob McCormick, Andrea Huff, David Lennen, Ken Macy, Ramona Lennen, Patricia Brochin, Jason Williams, Marian McCracken, and Nancy Adams.

The next meeting will be March 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Gasthof. All retired teachers living in Daviess and Martin counties and the surrounding area are invited to attend. After the blessing was sung, the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

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](http://www.martinswcd.com) or call at 295-3149.



## Councilman's Corner

By Shoals Town Council President  
Cary D. Albright

"Indiana University Hutton Honor College Collaborates with Town of Shoals for Community Development"

The Town of Shoals is thrilled to announce its ongoing partnership with Indiana University Hutton Honor College, where top-performing students are dedicating their skills to benefit our community. Currently, the spring class is actively engaged in the Shoals project, showcasing the town's commitment to progress.

Comprised of college students who ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class and demonstrated exceptional SAT scores, these talented individuals have earned their place in this prestigious program at Indiana University. A selected group of honor students are spearheading the development of a new website for Town of Shoals.

The primary goal of this initiative is to enhance user-friendliness and increase transparency in our town government. Acknowledging the challenges posed by the existing website, the collaboration aims to create a platform that is not only accessible but also easy to maintain.

The Hutton Honors groups are involved in diverse projects for the Town of Shoals, ranging from healthcare services to the planning of recreational areas and parks. This hands-on experience provides students with valuable insights into rural engagement while offering the town cost-effective solutions. By leveraging the expertise of these students, Shoals can bypass the need for external services, saving resources that can be redirected towards essential projects, grant applications, and state programs that will further benefit our community.

This collaboration marks a significant step towards a brighter future for Shoals, where the synergy between academia and community fosters growth, learning, and progress.

Shop Shoals: H&H Hometown Hardware





Cold winter days may be the perfect time to increase your collection of houseplants. With a little knowledge, a few simple tools and some technology, you may become an expert at cloning your favorite plants.

There are two types of plant reproduction. In most cases, plants reproduce sexually when pollen is carried from one plant flower to another, resulting in pollination. Eventually, the flower will produce seeds, which may or may not be encased within a fruit. Those seeds may drop to the ground and germinate, resulting in a new plant. When a plant reproduces in this way, resulting offspring will have DNA from both of the parent plants. It may result in a flower that is different from those of the original pollinated flower.

However, if you want to get exactly the same plant you had before, you must do this asexually. There are various ways to accomplish asexual reproduction, or cloning, but we will leave that tutorial for next week's column. This week, we will talk about the various parts of the plant that may be used in such cloning. For many of you, this may be a review, but it will make next week's column easier for everyone to understand.

The process of asexual plant reproduction is usually known as vegetative propagation. This simply means that a new plant may be produced from a portion of the mother plant. Professional nurseries often produce plants in this way using only a few cells from the plant. This allows them to get enough plants from a desirable new specimen to sell them. This is usually the method used when trying to reproduce a sport. A sport is a plant or even a portion of a plant that exhibits desirable new traits. For instance, a white-flowering tree may for some unknown reason have one branch that bears pink flowers. If one wishes to produce trees with all pink flowers, the best chance is by propagating

the tissues of that one branch. To make it profitable, one must produce enough to sell, so the new plants are grown from very small samples. This type of cloning must be done under exact conditions, and it is not likely that a home gardener would be able to create such a laboratory.

Still, there are many plants that will reproduce from cuttings. These cuttings must produce roots to become a plant. Such roots are known as adventitious roots. You may have seen some succulent plants that produce adventitious roots on their own. You will see buds on the parent plant that have roots growing from them. Eventually, those buds drop off and the roots begin to nourish the new plant, taking moisture, minerals and sugars from the soil.

The portion of the plant that is attached to the root and to which the rest of the plant is attached is the stem. The stem contains the vascular system of the plant to carry moisture and food to the rest of the plant.

Along the stem are various nodes. A node is a place where buds, leaves and branch stems attach to the main stem. All plant nodes contain some hormones to promote adventitious root production. The amount of this hormone varies greatly from one plant to another, and that is the reason some plants will reproduce more easily than others.

A leaf axil is the place along a stem or shoot where leaves develop. The petiole is the smaller stem that extends from a leaf axil to the actual leaf.

Buds are the growth areas. A terminal bud is the cluster of leaves at the end of a stem. An auxiliary bud is a bud that appears elsewhere along the stem, usually at a leaf axil.

You may wish to keep this column handy. Next week, we will be using these terms to explain the process of plant propagation by asexual reproduction.

## Purdue agricultural economists provide economic forecast for 2024 amid farm bill uncertainties and global dynamics

BY ERIN ROBINSON  
Purdue University News Service

Despite recession warnings and adverse precursors in 2022, the United States' economy performed better than predicted in 2023. Purdue University Department of Agricultural Economics experts now look to 2024 and provide insights into the national economy, trade, policy and food prices. These findings were recently published in the Purdue Agricultural Economics Report's annual outlook, including potential outcomes of a delayed farm bill.

"As we enter 2024, the complexities surrounding the farm bill debate persist. With federal spending cuts in focus, the projected cost of the farm bill will likely take center stage in agricultural committee deliberations this year," said Roman Keeney, associate professor of agricultural economics at Purdue University and co-editor of the report.

"The Purdue Agricultural Economics Report will closely monitor the evolving farm bill situation through its policy brief series, offering insights into critical legislation impacting farmers nationwide."

Inside the issue, Purdue agricultural economists predict an overall positive outlook for 2024 with modest GDP growth, low unemployment, decreasing inflation

### Recreation advisory committee members wanted

The USDA Forest Service's Eastern Region is seeking volunteer committee members to advise the agency on recreation fee changes at national forests throughout the northeastern United States.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at federal recreational lands. The Eastern Region reinvests those fees into the improvement, operation, maintenance, and management of approximately 380 recreation fee sites. The majority of fees, approximately 80-95 percent, remain on the units were collected and are used for fee site improvements and management.

REA also requires the secretary to establish Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) in each region for federal recreational lands managed by the USDA Forest Service. Recreation RACs make recommendations on implementing or eliminating standard amenity fees, expanded amenity fees, and non-commercial individual special recreation permit fees; expanding or limiting the recreation fee program; and increasing or decreasing fee levels. Currently, the Eastern Region does not have a functioning RRAC.

The committee of 11 volunteers who serve for 2-3 years meet once or twice a year to provide recommendations on recreation fees for national forest. Members receive travel, food and lodging costs for regularly scheduled meetings, but do not receive pay or other compensation.

Candidates are being recruited to represent one of the following recreation interests:

- Summer motorized, summer non-motorized, winter motorized, winter non-motorized, and hunting and fishing.
- Motorized outfitter and guides, non-motorized outfitter and guides, and local environmental groups.
- State tourism official, a person who represents affected local government interests, and a person who represents af-

and a potential lowering of interest rates.

"The Federal Reserve increased their policy rate at the end of 2023 but has kept it stable since August. Recession is a possibility, but it would be sheer stubbornness to continue predicting recession in the face of so much good news," said Larry DeBoer, professor emeritus of agricultural economics. "My guess: There is no recession in 2024."

To read the full Purdue Agricultural Economics Report, visit <https://purdue.ag/paer>. This year's annual outlook provides insights covering the following topics:

- The U.S. economy
- Trade and trade policy
- Predictions of a new farm bill
- Food prices
- Economic impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war
- Generational gaps in rural communities
- Dairy markets
- Purdue Crop Cost and Return Guide
- Agricultural credit
- Farmland and cash rents

The Purdue Agricultural Economics Report is a quarterly publication from the Department of Agricultural Economics. Articles in the annual outlook issue are intended to provide a road map for understanding challenges facing the agricultural economy.

fectured American Indian tribes.

The Eastern Region RAC provides recommendations for the Forest Service and BLM on recreation fee matters in the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

The Recreation RAC recruitment process is in alignment with USDA equal opportunity policies and will consider demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

Nomination packets and details are available at: [www.fs.usda.gov/main/r9/workingtogether/advisorycommittees](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r9/workingtogether/advisorycommittees) or by contacting Krystal Fleeger, Regional Recreation Fees & Reservations Coordinator by e-mail: [sm.fs.r9\\_rrac@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.r9_rrac@usda.gov)

Submit completed nomination forms by Friday, March 1, 2024, to: Forest Service Recreation RAC, Eastern Regional Office, 626 E. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53202 or email [sm.fs.r9\\_rrac@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.r9_rrac@usda.gov). Letters of recommendation are welcome, but not required.

Once the advisory committee is seated, all Recreation Advisory Committee meetings will be open to the public and include opportunities for public input.

### TOY'S AUTO PARTS, INC.

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### HELP WANTED

### NOW HIRING

#### Full-Time Soil & Water Conservation District Coordinator

The Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is seeking to fill a full-time (30 hrs. wk.) SWCD District Coordinator position. This position provides administrative and office management support to the SWCD board.

This position requires a minimum of 3 year's office experience. Proficiency in QuickBooks, Microsoft Office, Publisher, Excel and Word is a must.

Full job description and application can be obtained by emailing (see email below) or visiting the SWCD office during office hours.

Applications with cover letters and resumes will be accepted until February 15, 2024.

Please email application with cover letter to [martinswcd@yahoo.com](mailto:martinswcd@yahoo.com) or mail to Martin County SWCD, PO Box 142, Loogootee, IN 47553

### Martin County JOURNAL

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# Making A Difference

By Curt Johnson  
MCCF Director



-- SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE --  
The scholarships offered by the MCCF come from one of the five types of funds we hold. I have talked about the types of funds in other columns: unrestricted, designated, field-of-interest, donor-advised, and scholarship funds.  
Below are the MCCF scholarships currently announced for our Martin County graduating seniors who are pursuing higher education. Some are specific to the Loogootee High School and some to the Shoals High School. Here are summaries for each scholarship.  
-- LOOGOOTE HIGH SCHOOL --  
- Ann Jones Burch Tennis (Two \$1000)  
A scholarship to both a male and a female student that has a commitment to tennis, has participated in other school activities, and shown that they are a good citizen, well rounded and civic minded.  
- Ben Trout Memorial Student Athlete (\$2500)  
Earned an academic honors degree and

a varsity athletic letter. Shows outstanding mental attitude, team spirit and sportsmanship. Should not be a recipient of a full-tuition scholarship.  
- Gerdon Jones Memorial (\$2620)  
Participated in high school athletics and showed improved skills. Displays a positive mental attitude.  
- Lester Page (\$935)  
Displays good citizenship, gentleness, easy to speak to, and participates in school activities. Be one of humility, and unwavering belief in the dignity and aspirations of those they touch, commitment to their fellowman and the strength of self-discovery and individual growth.  
- Robert Scott Waggner Memorial (Two \$500)  
A scholarship to both a male and a female student that has a good attitude, work ethic and performed well academically. Has participated in sports, extracurricular activities, and/or is an active community or school member and is a supporter of their

school and others.  
- Saint Vincent de Paul Society (\$1184)  
Must have financial need as determined using standard financial need discovery instruments.  
- William McGovern II Fund  
Provides scholarships to seniors planning to pursue higher education at a college, university, or trade school.  
-- LHS (SELECTED BY MCCF) --  
- Rita and Jack Butcher Loogootee Basketball Family (\$1500)  
Has a good attitude, work ethic and performed well academically. Has participated in sports and/or other extracurricular activities.  
- Wilma L Bateman Memorial (\$1135)  
Must be a female senior who has participated in high school athletics for at least two years. Has shown leadership qualities and been involved in community activities.  
- George M and Barbara Cropp (possibly up to \$2500, TBD)  
For up to three eligible students. Must

have a GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale). Financial need and/or special circumstances may be a consideration. This scholarship may be renewed for up to three subsequent years (possibly up to \$2500 each year) if criteria are met for a total of up to \$10,000.  
-- SHOALS HIGH SCHOOL --  
- Faye Shobe Memorial (\$823)  
Preference will be given to a student seeking a degree in the field of Elementary Education.  
- Saint Vincent de Paul Society (\$1219)  
Must have financial need as determined using standard financial need discovery instruments.  
-- SHS (SELECTED BY MCCF) --  
- George M and Barbara Cropp (possibly up to \$2500, TBD)  
For up to three eligible students. Must have a GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale). Financial need and/or special circumstances may be a consideration. This scholarship may be renewed for up to three subsequent years (possibly up to \$2500 each year) if criteria are met for a total of up to \$10,000.  
- John Hission Family (possibly \$900, TBD)

For up to two eligible students. Academic achievement, good citizenship, financial need and/or special circumstances are considerations for this scholarship. This scholarship may be renewed for a second year (possibly up to \$900) if criteria are met for a total of up to \$1800.

-- LHS or SHS (SELECTED BY THE MCCF) --  
- Terri Sullivan Callaway Scholarship (\$2486)

Must be pursuing a career in the field of nursing and a member of a Christian faith church. Priority will be given to members of St. John Catholic Church in Martin County, Indiana.

-- HOW TO APPLY --  
Most of the scholarships are available through the Loogootee and Shoals High School counselors (contact Heather Hawkins or Amanda Hannah, respectively) and selected by each school.

The exceptions, as noted above, are the Butcher Loogootee Basketball Family, Wilma L Bateman Memorial, George M & Barbara Cropp, John Hission Family, and the Terri Sullivan Callaway scholarships. These scholarships are selected by the MCCF, and applications are available and processed online at [www.cfpartner.org/](http://www.cfpartner.org/) scholarships and ARE DUE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15th at 3 p.m.

-- MORE INFORMATION --  
For more information about the MCCF, please contact the Director, Curt Johnson, at [mccf@cfpartner.org](mailto:mccf@cfpartner.org), 812-295-1022, or at 2668 US Hwy 50 (on the Martin County fairgrounds), PO Box 28, Loogootee IN 47553. You are also welcome to visit the MCCF webpage at [www.cfpartner.org](http://www.cfpartner.org) and follow the MCCF Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/mccommunityfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/mccommunityfoundation).

## ANIMAL SHELTER *Pet of the Week*



DECEMBER is a female tabby and white cat, 2+ years old. She is very sweet, talkative, loving and fine with other cats. She is spayed, up to date on shots and litter box trained. Adoption fee is \$0. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit [www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org](http://www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org).

SECTION 001000 - INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Plans and Specifications:

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids in duplicate for the Loogootee Community School Corporation –New Activities Center, 201 Brooks Avenue, Loogootee, IN 47553 will be received by Loogootee Community School Corporation at the Superintendent’s Office, until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 21st, 2024.

Informalities:

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or waive any informality or errors in bidding.

Method of Bidding:

1. Bid Package No. 1: – Total Construction Work associated with Drawing Sheets and Specifications

Pre-Bid Meeting:

Wednesday, January 31st at 2:00 p.m. EST at the Project Site. Meeting will be held in the High School Auditorium. Attendance is not mandatory, but highly recommended.

Preparation and Submission of Bids:

Bids shall be executed in accordance with the provided bid forms, Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities and with Indiana State Board of Accounts Form 96 (revised 2013), a completed AIA Form G705 must be included stating “none” if there are to be no sub-contractors, and accompanied by a satisfactory bid bond, payable to Loogootee Community School Corporation for not less than 5% of the total bid price. Contractor shall acknowledge all addenda on bid forms.

Withdrawal of Bid:

Should bidder withdraw his bid within 45 days date of opening without written consent of the Owner, the Owner may declare the bid deposit forfeited as liquidated damages.

Contract Security:

Contractor receiving award shall furnish an approved Performance Bond in an amount of at least equal to 100% of the contract price and also a Labor and Material Payment Bond in an amount at least equal to 100% of the contract price or in a penal sum not less than that prescribed by law; as securities for the faithful performance of the contract and for the payment of all persons performing labor and furnishing materials on this project.

Plans and Specifications:

Performance of the work shall be in accordance with plans and specifications on file at the following locations:

ARCHITECT

Myszak+Partners, Inc.

903 Broadway Street, Vincennes, IN 47591

MEP - ENGINEER

Heinz Associates, LLC

CIVIL - ENGINEER

The Lochmueller Group

STRUCTURAL- ENGINEER

Hodge Structural Engineers

CMD GROUP

Document Processing Center

30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 500, Norcross, GA 30092-2912

(630)288-8329

CONSTRUCT.CONNECT.COM

3825 Edwards Road Suite 800, Cincinnati, Ohio 45209

(897)794-8056

Dodge Construction Network

34 Crosby Drive Suite 202, Bedford, MA 01730

(877)784-9556

BUILDERS EXCHANGE OF LOUISVILLE

2300 Meadow Drive, Louisville, KY 40218

(502)459-9800

Obtaining Drawings and Specifications:

Plans and Specifications are available for download in pdf format for a \$20.00 non-refundable fee payable to Myszak+Partners.

General Contract bidders may obtain bidding documents from MACO Evansville Blue, 600 Court St, Evansville, Indiana (812.464.8108) for a deposit of \$200.00 for each complete set. A separate \$20.00 check made payable to MACO Evansville Blue is required for shipping charges.

END SECTION 001000 1/1

SECTION 001000 - INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Plans and Specifications:

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids in duplicate for the Loogootee Community School Corporation –Loogootee Middle School Renovation Project, 201 Brooks Avenue, Loogootee, IN 47553 will be received by Loogootee Community School Corporation at the Superintendent’s Office, until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 21st, 2024.

Informalities:

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or waive any informality or errors in bidding.

Method of Bidding:

1. Bid Package No. 1: – Total Construction Work associated with Drawing Sheets and Specifications

Pre-Bid Meeting:

Wednesday, January 31st at 3:30 p.m. EST at the Project Site. Meeting will be held in the High School Auditorium. Attendance is not mandatory, but highly recommended.

Preparation and Submission of Bids:

Bids shall be executed in accordance with the provided bid forms, Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities and with Indiana State Board of Accounts Form 96 (revised 2013), a completed AIA Form G705 must be included stating “none” if there are to be no sub-contractors, and accompanied by a satisfactory bid bond, payable to Loogootee Community School Corporation for not less than 5% of the total bid price. Contractor shall acknowledge all addenda on bid forms.

Withdrawal of Bid:

Should bidder withdraw his bid within 45 days date of opening without written consent of the Owner, the Owner may declare the bid deposit forfeited as liquidated damages.

Contract Security:

Contractor receiving award shall furnish an approved Performance Bond in an amount of at least equal to 100% of the contract price and also a Labor and Material Payment Bond in an amount at least equal to 100% of the contract price or in a penal sum not less than that prescribed by law; as securities for the faithful performance of the contract and for the payment of all persons performing labor and furnishing materials on this project.

Plans and Specifications:

Performance of the work shall be in accordance with plans and specifications on file at the following locations:

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903 Broadway Street, Vincennes, IN 47591

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END SECTION 001000 1/1

SECTION 001000 - INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Plans and Specifications:

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids in duplicate for the Loogootee Community School Corporation – Loogootee Schools Playground Project, 201 Brooks Avenue, Loogootee, IN 47553 will be received by Loogootee Community School Corporation at the Superintendent’s Office, until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 21st, 2024.

Informalities:

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or waive any informality or errors in bidding.

Method of Bidding:

1. Bid Package No. 1: – Total Construction Work associated with Drawing Sheets and Specifications

Pre-Bid Meeting:

Wednesday, January 31st at 3:00 p.m. EST at the Project Site. Meeting will be held in the High School Auditorium. Attendance is not mandatory, but highly recommended.

Preparation and Submission of Bids:

Bids shall be executed in accordance with the provided bid forms, Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities and with Indiana State Board of Accounts Form 96 (revised 2013), a completed AIA Form G705 must be included stating “none” if there are to be no sub-contractors, and accompanied by a satisfactory bid bond, payable to Loogootee Community School Corporation for not less than 5% of the total bid price. Contractor shall acknowledge all addenda on bid forms.

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