

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 14, Issue 6

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Eight pages

County council approves salary change request, continued overtime

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council met Monday night, February 6. A confirmation of reorganization had to be held due to Council Member Jordan Dant noting that there were not enough votes at the last meeting to make him president of the council. He said there were actually only three votes in favor and the county attorney said there should have been four. The council unanimously voted to have Dant serve as president. They also revoked on appointments made at the last meeting and any other business voted on.

Judge Isha Wright-Ryan requested an amendment to the salary and wage ordinance. She said she would like to be able to pay her court reporter two and court reporter four within a range of \$17.08 to \$18.72 instead of hiring in a new person at the top amount. She requested the same for the probation administrative assistant to be from \$14 to \$14.26. This is all within the judge's current budget. The council approved.

Sheriff Josh Greene reported they have 78 inmates currently in the jail with 41 of them from Vigo County. He said Vigo County has not yet backed off bringing their overflow of inmates. He requested the council continue to approve overtime for his jail officers through February. He said he has applicants that have to be interviewed and then trained, once hired, so it will be some time before they are fully staffed in that area. The council gave the okay. Greene said he believes they have paid out under \$3,000 for overtime for jail officers so far this year.

Courtney Hughett, with the Martin County Humane Society, provided the council with the animal shelter and spay/neuter clinic's annual report for last year. Discussion ensued on the spay and neuter clinic and how that has benefited not only Martin County, but many counties in Indiana. Some council members suggested the spay and neuter clinic charge out-of-county residents more than Martin County residents.

The council questioned why the City of Loogootee was not more inclined to help fund the shelter. Hughett said they have been back and forth with the city council and were not treated very well in those meetings, so they stopped fighting it. She said they put up with enough "crap" as it is from the public and don't need to add anymore to their plate. She was asked if the city offers a discount on the shelter's water and sewer costs. Hughett said they do not because they have said the state board of accounts does not allow that.

Hughett added that she and her husband would continue to provide free labor to the county running the animal shelter but didn't know how much longer they would last. She said the \$15,000 the county provides to run the shelter helps but they still have to find the remaining budget each year, of around \$40,000 and it's not easy.

The animal shelter took in 234 dogs and cats last year and provided spay and neuter for 877 dogs and cats, owned and shelter animals.



Red sky at night

-Photo by Jason Greene

Loogootee resident Jason Greene captured this beautiful sky above Loogootee last week. With the weather being all over the place the past few weeks, and the groundhog giving us six more weeks of winter, keep in mind the first day of spring is March 20.

Commissioners discuss maintenance payment for community building

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners met Tuesday, February 7. Commissioner Cody Roush questioned a claim from the extension office for \$7,500 for maintenance for the community building on the fairgrounds. He said the county doesn't own the community building so he is not sure why they are paying for the maintenance. He noted that the extension already receives \$4,000 from the county and he feels they need to start raising funding themselves.

Commissioner Paul George said they have always put money in the budget for the community building maintenance but the county council usually cuts it to \$3,500. He said, for some reason, it wasn't cut for this year. He asked Roush if there was any amount of money he would be comfortable paying. Roush replied that he hasn't really thought about that.

Commissioner Aaron Summers agreed that the amount they were getting this year was a substantial increase. He asked if they could just approve the \$3,500 instead.

Commissioner Roush said his concern was that salaries were going to cost the county a lot of money and they were supposed to be finding ways to cut. He said they need to cut, or they will end up having to raise taxes.

It was noted that the county uses the community building as a back up location for emergencies.

Council Member Jordan Dant, who was in the audience, said the county attorney needed to review the lease agreement with the fair board.

Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve \$3,500 toward the community building maintenance and Commissioner Roush made the second. All were in favor.

Andy Ringwald, with Civil Defense, talked to the commissioners about adding wi-fi capabilities to the civil defense building with a hot spot to allow the community building to have access, since they use the building for emergen-

cy situations. He said he was under the impression that the commissioners had approved \$5,000 from ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) funds but he may have been told wrong. He said he has \$700 for the project but is going to need an additional \$400-\$500. Commissioner George said they did approve the \$5,000 to get internet hooked up in that area since there was none. He and the other commissioners approved Ringwald to proceed with the ARPA money allocated.

Highway Superintendent Scott Seals said they are currently doing ditch work on County Farm Road. He said they also have two dump trucks out of service at this time.

Ambulance Director Jeramey Osborn said they are still working on getting medical director for the county and he was hoping to have it all squared away by Tuesday night's meeting but that didn't happen. He said they have had 128 ambulance runs so far this year. There were 108 in January with 66 of those patients transported to a hospital. He said billing will start soon and they are hoping those bills can be retroactive to when the ambulance service started in August of 2022. Commissioner Paul George said they will have a rough idea, in 30 to 45 days, what they are going to get back into the county from payments for ambulance service.

Auditor Michelle Norris said she received the contract from Air Evac to provide the medical helicopter benefit to all employees. She said there are around 110 employees, and the cost is \$65 for each. She said the county attorney has not had the opportunity to review the contract so she isn't looking for a vote at the meeting on whether the commissioners approve continuing the benefit.

Norris also reported that the Shoals Library expansion project request for proposals were due today and they only received one. They submitted the information to six companies but just the one responded.

The commissioners approved Dave Lett to serve on the SIDC (Southern Indiana Development Commission) board.



Loogootee Primary Election candidates set

The following candidates have filed for the City of Loogootee Primary Election on May 2, 2023. The filing period is now closed.

Loogootee Mayor: Noel D. Harty (D); Teresa Nolley (D); Brian T. Ader (R)

Loogootee Clerk/Treasurer: Lori D. Carrico (R); Roger Downey (D)

Loogootee City Council At-Large: Ronald Gilbert (D); Floyd "Lonnie" Hawkins (D); Jeremy "Buck" Holland (R); James (JD) Flynn (D)

Loogootee City Council District 1: Mike Engleman (R)

Loogootee City Council District 2: (John) David Smith (R); Tim "Biggin" Lawrence (D)

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

Loogootee City Council District 4: Rick Norris (D)

Only voters registered in Perry 1, Perry 2, Perry 3, Perry 4 will be eligible to vote. The address on the ID being used to verify identity at the poll MUST match the address on your voter registration and must be located in one of the Perry 1-4 precincts.

Voters may update and confirm their voter registration by no later than 11:59 p.m., Monday, April 3, 2023. You may do this by calling the clerk's office at 812-247-3651, or by going online at www.indianavoters.com.

Absentee ballot by mail applications can be submitted anytime through 4 p.m., Thursday, April 20, 2023. Any applications received after this time will not be accepted.

Absentee voting in-person for the Primary Election will be April 17-April 28, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays, April 22 and April 29, 8 a.m.-noon, and the last day to vote in-person at the Martin County Clerk's office will be Monday, May 1, 8 a.m.-noon

The Martin County Clerk's Office is located at 129 Main St, Shoal, 47581.

Forest Service seeks comments on U.S. Gypsum proposal

The Forest Service has received a proposal to issue a short-term special use authorization to the United States Gypsum Company (USG) located in Shoals for the purpose of exploratory core drilling on National Forest System (NFS) lands. USG owns the subsurface mineral rights while the Forest Service owns the surface rights to these lands located within the Hoosier National Forest.

In 1997 the U.S. Government conveyed to U.S. Gypsum 1,162-acres of federal subsurface rights for mining gypsum deposits, while the surface of these acres was retained under US Forest Service management. The Forest Service in return received five non-federal tracts (subsurface rights included with all five tracts) totaling 684 acres of land that is highly valuable from a conservation and recreation perspective. Tract 1 included 40 wooded acres in the Nebo Ridge backcountry area in Brown County. Tract 2 included 97-acres on the Lost River in Martin County. Tract 3 was a 20-acre wooded private inholding within the Charles C. Deam Wilderness in Monroe County. Tract 4 contained 189-acres in Wesley Chapel Gulf, a National Natural Landmark in Orange County. Tract 5 contained 338-acres on a large peninsula of the Lost River in Orange County. The exchange of the subsurface mineral rights to gypsum deposits made acquisition of these lands possible.

Shoals Elementary to hold Kindergarten Round-Up

Shoals Elementary School is conducting its annual search for potential kindergarten students in preparation for their upcoming 2023-24 Kindergarten Round-Up. The Round-Up will be held Friday, March 3 and Monday, March 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., by appointment only. A child must be five years old on or before Tuesday, August 1 to enroll.

A physical, complete immunization record, certificate of birth and proof of residency are all required for entry into school. Physicals will be offered at school on Friday, March 3 only. Immunizations will be administered at the Martin County Health Department on March 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact 812-247-3303 with questions regarding immunizations.

Parents will use door 2 (near the flagpole) to enter. Signs will be posted. Each session will last approximately 20 minutes.

Parents are asked to pre-register by visiting shoals.k12.in.us and choose Friday, March 3 (physical needed) or Monday, March 6 (no physical needed) with your preference. After registering, the kindergarten teacher will contact you by email or phone to discuss a scheduled time. Please contact 812-247-2085 with questions.

south of the Shoals USG plant ahead of future mining activities that would occur from the plant. The USG drilling proposal is for two years beginning in the spring of 2023. The Forest Service decision to allow this exploratory drilling for gypsum on most of this land was made in 1995 as part of the land exchange process described above, with the exception of a 140-acre tract the United States acquired in later years that became NFS lands. The proposal to install four drilling pads and temporary access roads on the 140-acre tract, located in part of the east half of the southeast Section 2 & part of the west half of the southwest Section 1, Township 2N, Range 3 West, is now undergoing environmental analysis pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The Forest Service is now accepting public comments related to the proposal for the 140-acre tract.

Commentors should note that U.S. Gypsum has ownership rights to the subsurface mineral deposits, and therefore the U.S. Forest Service cannot legally deny access to those deposits in our decision. The Forest Service is evaluating the impacts, and potential mitigation measures, from access routes and methods of drilling on natural and cultural resources of the Hoosier National Forest.

Comments on the proposal would be most helpful if received by March 13, 2023. Please mail your comments to: Hoosier National Forest, Attn: US Gypsum Exploratory Core Drilling Project, Hoosier National Forest, 811 Constitution Avenue, Bedford, IN 47421.

Comments may be made electronically to: comments-eastern-hoosier@usda.gov, include the following information when commenting:

Title of the project (Hoosier National Forest US Gypsum Exploratory Core Drilling Project) on which the comment is being submitted (in the subject line for electronic comments)

Name, address, telephone number, organization represented and title
Specific concerns, facts and supporting reasons regarding your comments

Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection.

Additional information about this project can be found on the Hoosier National Forest webpage: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63525. To view "A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA - Having Your Voice Heard", visit: https://go.usa.gov/xMHxP.

For additional information about this project, please contact Joseph Jaspersen, Realty Specialist at (812) 547-9228 or at joseph.jaspersen@usda.gov.

Vincennes University's Project ASPIREE TRIO Talent Search Grant adding more local schools

Project ASPIREE (Achieving Success through Participation in Reaching Educational

Excellence), sponsored by Vincennes University, has announced it is adding two new schools to their federally funded grant program. Project ASPIREE is currently funded to serve nearly 600 students attending North Central Jr/Sr High School, Barr-Reeve Middle/High School, Dugger Union Junior/Senior

High School, Shoals High School, Shoals Middle School, Loogootee Middle School, Loogootee High School and Southwest Detention Center in Indiana. Project ASPIREE is adding underrepresented students who have the potential to succeed in higher education at Washington Catholic Middle School, Washington Catholic High School, and North Daviess Jr/Sr High School to the program.

Project ASPIREE identifies and assists individuals from income-eligible backgrounds or potential first-generation students. It is a federally funded TRIO Talent Search Program supported by the Department of Education. This opportunity is free to parents, students, and participating schools.

The program offers students ACT/SAT fee waivers, SAT/ACT prep, test registration assistance, college application fee waivers, assistance with filling out college applications, cultural/educational activities, general financial literacy, college exploration/campus visits, academic advising/course selection, scholarship/financial aid information/assistance with filling out FAFSA, career exploration, goal setting, educational and cultural field trips, notification of tutoring opportunities or tutoring, study

skills, instruction in time management and organization, and personal counseling. Workshops are also offered to students and their families.

"Project ASPIREE prepared for me multiple opportunities to go visit colleges," 2022 North Central High School graduate Jaden Hege-Caddell said. "It has helped me to learn about my future and career. Without Project ASPIREE, I would be lost on the steps to become a lawyer and dentist. Project ASPIREE has given me knowledge for my future and knowledge for my college and my career."

Middle school and high school students in Daviess, Martin, and Sullivan counties interested in academic, personal, career, and financial counseling are encouraged to apply for Project ASPIREE.

According to Project ASPIREE Director Kim Fields, "Project ASPIREE staff work together as a team to provide services to income-eligible and first-generation college students at our member middle and high schools. We are proud of the work we do assisting students and their families with exploring career and post-secondary opportunities related to career interests. We help them find ways of making their dreams come true."

For more information or to apply, go to www.vinu.edu/project-aspiree.

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martincountyjournal.com

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of JASPER

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**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
www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org
info@humanesocietyofmartincounty.org • 812-295-5900

OBITUARIES

MARILYN GEE

Marilyn Joy Gee, formerly of Shoals, passed away Friday, February 3, 2023 at Westview Nursing and Rehabilitation in Bedford. A resident of Bedford, she was 80.

She was born January 16, 1943, in Greenville, Indiana; daughter of John and Katherine (Solsberry) Tobias. She married Paul Gee, and he preceded her in death in 2001

Marilyn attended Shoals Schools. She worked as a homemaker.

Surviving are grandson, Tre Gilbert; great-grandson, Gregory Gilbert; great-granddaughter, Sierra Kidd; and many siblings, nieces, and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and daughter, Betty Smith.

Cremation was chosen and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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

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

MARGARET WALTON

Margaret Esther Walton passed away Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at Parkview Village Christian Care in Odon. A resident of Loogootee, she was 95.



MARGIE WALTON

She was born April 25, 1927, in Loogootee; daughter of the late Walter and Beatrice (Seals) Burch.

Margie was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

She enjoyed gardening and sewing. Margie loved to attend her grandchildren's sporting events and watching the Indiana Pacers, Indianapolis Colts, and Indiana University basketball. Margie was a greeter at Blake Funeral Home for many years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Loren Walton on June 30, 1995; parents, Walter and Beatrice Burch; siblings, Tommy (Edith) Burch, John (Olive) Burch, Joe (Eileen) Burch, Charles (Bernice) Burch, Rita (Gil) Abplanalp, Jim Burch and Eleanor (Omer) Wildman; son-in-law, Randy Abbott; and daughter-in-law, Lana Walton.

She is survived by her children, Elaine (Mike) Wade of Loogootee; Beverly (Larry) Christley of Crane, Larry Walton of Loogootee, Patsy (Shorty) Knepp of Montgomery, Roger (Beth) Walton of Westfield, Joy Abbott of Arizona, Mark (Mary Ann) Walton of Ellettsville and

Steve Walton of Loogootee; 22 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, one great-great granddaughter; sisters-in-law, Marilyn Burch and Janet Walton, both of Loogootee; and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker on Monday, February 6 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee. Burial followed in St. John Catholic Cemetery.

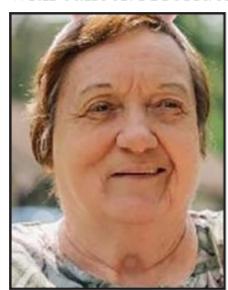
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. John Catholic Cemetery or Barr-Reeve Scholarship Foundation.

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

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee is honored to serve the family of Margaret Walton.

DONNA SANDERS

Donna Sue Sanders sadly left us on January 26, 2023, following a brief battle with cancer. A resident of Hayes, Virginia,



DONNA SANDERS

she was 80. She is now in heaven with her mother, Beatrice Chattin and father, Raymond Chattin, as well as her sister, Barbara Boyd and husbands, Kenneth Richardson and Jerry Sanders.

She is survived by her daughter, Julia Yarbrough; two brothers, Norman Chattin of Virginia Beach, Virginia and John Chattin of Shoals; aunt, Ruth Young of Leland, North Carolina; grandchildren, Chantel Cruz, Christopher Carroll and Sydney Yarbrough; great-grandchildren, Isabella Cruz and Gianna Cruz; nieces, Kathy Collins, Becky Taylor, and nephews, Kurtis Richardson, Kirby Richardson, Brian Boyd, Kevin Boyd, Wesley Boyd, Timothy Chattin, Randall Chattin and Corey Chattin.

Among her many friends and Gloucester Church of Christ family as well as closest friends like Opal Countiss, Lenny Jenkins and Julia Cox, we will all mourn her kind and gentle spirit. I cannot be sad because she is now with departed family members and is under the watchful eyes of God.

A memorial service will be held in her honor at 10 a.m. February 11 at Gloucester Church of Christ, Hayes, Virginia.

COREY IVEY

Corey Dwayne Ivey, formerly of Shoals, passed away Tuesday January 31, 2023, at his home. A resident of Tell City, he was 49.

He was born May 29, 1973, in Bedford;



COREY IVEY

son of Charlotte (Williams) Mundy. Corey was of the Baptist Faith. He attended Shoals High School. Corey loved to spend time with his friends and family. He was a member of the American Legion Post 61, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Fraternal Order of Eagles #2442, all of Shoals. Corey had a mind for technology, he worked with computers, satellites, and robotics. He most recently worked for ATTC Manufacturing Inc. in Tell City. Corey liked to take pictures of Hindostan, the Overlook, and other local scenery. He studied Architectural/CAD at Vincennes University. He had an eye for photography and was a good artist. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Corey is preceded in death by his father, Norman D. Mundy; his grandparents, Charles and Doris Williams; and his grandmother, Blanche Mundy.

He is survived by his mother, Charlotte Mundy of Loogootee; his siblings, Laura (Dane) Barber of Hudsonville, Tracy Winkler of Mitchell, Tricia Hodges of Mitchell, and Trent (Sandra) Mundy of Iowa; his aunts, Becky (Melvin) Lee of Loogootee and Debbie (Dave) Bledsoe of Loogootee, and several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and many friends.

A funeral service was held Tuesday February 7 at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee with Bro. Chase King officiating. Burial followed in Albright Cemetery in Shoals.

Memorial donations can be made to the Martin County Humane Society in Corey's memory.

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

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Corey Ivey.

CAMILLA SUMMERS

Camilla A. Summers passed away Wednesday February 1, 2023, surrounded by her family at Poplar Care Strategies in Loogootee. A resident of Loogootee, she was 91.

She was born February 5, 1931, in Bramble; daughter of Roscoe and Ella (Williams) Strange.

Camilla graduated from St. John's High School in 1949. She was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, a St. John Quilter, and she was a Right to Life member. Camilla married Benjamin W. Summers on January 21, 1950. They were married for 57 years before he passed away on July 30, 2007. Camilla always put her faith and family first. She will be missed by all that knew her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Benjamin W. Summers; her parents, Roscoe and Ella Strange; her infant son, William J. Summers; her daughter, Jennie (Summers) Boyd; and her siblings, Frances Trout, Gordon Strange, Andrew Strange, Ann Strange, Doris Strange, and Phil Strange.

Camilla is survived by her children, Beverly (Scott) Moore of Bedford, Benjamin (Pamela) Summers of Loogootee, Rachel (Brian) Terry of Shoals, and Wayne (Diana) Summers of Jasper; her grandchildren, Miki Philips, Leslie (Trevor) Guy, Joe (Stephanie) Kern, Stephanie (Rob) Powell, Erin Like, Kevin (Jodi) Fuhrman, Jeff Fuhrman, Michael (Melissa) Summers, Matthew (Tonya) Summers, and Heather Summers; 17 great grand-

children, two great-great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker on Tuesday February 7 at St. John the Evangelist Church. Burial followed in St. John Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to Right to Life in memory of Camilla.

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

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Camilla Summers.

BRIAN HAWKINS

Brian Drew Hawkins passed away February 1, 2023, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes. A resident of Shoals, he was 56.

He was born March 14, 1966, in Washington; son of William H and Bonnie (Osborne) Hawkins.

Brian graduated from Shoals High School with the class of 1984.

He worked for the state highway garage, White River Co-Op, and various farmers in Martin County.

Surviving are his children, Courtney Hawkins, Lindsey Hawkins, Lacey Hawkins, and Brook Hawkins; the mother of their children, Candace Hawkins; grandchildren, Vera Hawkins, Ava Hawkins, Elsa Hawkins, Lyle Hawkins, Tyson Hawkins, Drew Hawkins, Anthony Hawkins, Shaylee Hawkins, Bryson Hawkins, Braxton Hawkins, and Owen Hawkins; siblings, Richard (Linda) Hawkins, Sandra Emery, Timothy (Joyce) Hawkins, Phil (Donna) Hawkins, Joni Blaker, and Toni (Larry) Craney; sister-in-law, Deborah Hawkins; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, William Hayden Hawkins and Kristie Hawkins; and brother-in-law, John Emery.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 9 at the Queen-Lee Chapel of George Funeral Care with Mike Strawn officiating.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until the service hour on Thursday at the funeral chapel.

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

STEVEN RAGSDALE

Steven Dean Ragsdale passed away Monday, February 6, 2023, at his home, surrounded by his family. A resident of Shoals, he was 70.

He was born August 11, 1952, in Washington; son of Orville Cecil and Edith (Earl) Ragsdale. He married Mary Schwager on August 12, 1995, and she survives.

Steven graduated from Shoals High School with the class of 1970. Steven owned the Shoals Package Store for many years. He was an avid Indiana University basketball fan and enjoyed watching westerns.

He was a member of the Shoals Church of Christ.

Surviving are his wife, Mary; children, Crystal Bosell, Eric Scott Ragsdale, Aaron Ragsdale, David Brown, and Lisa Sanders; grandchildren, Logan Turner, Rachel Bosell, A.J. Bosell, Caitlin Sanders, and Cody Sanders; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and many siblings.

The funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Friday, February 10 at the Queen-Lee Chapel of George Funeral Care with Stan Day officiating. Burial will be in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the service hour on Friday at the funeral home.

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

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

-Admiral Grace Hopper

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



QUEEN-LEE CHAPEL

GEORGE FUNERAL CARE, LLC
431 High Street
Shoals, Indiana 47581
812-247-3101



Derek George

Owner & Funeral Director

Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

5:51 a.m. - Received a call from Area One Protection advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Keyholder was notified.

9:12 a.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

9:14 a.m. - Received a call reporting they will be testing fire alarms at Loogootee nursing homes today.

9:45 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

12:50 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means responded.

3:20 p.m. - Received a call reporting property damage in Loogootee. Loogootee Dispatch was notified.

8:19 p.m. - Received a call reporting a trespasser in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

9:08 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle slide off on Highway 231 South. Notified INDOT due to roadways in county becoming slick.

9:22 p.m. - Received a call reporting a trespasser in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

10:04 p.m. - Received a 911 call from Crane Base. Transferred call to Crane 911.

10:15 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims and Deputy Hawkins responded.

10:25 p.m. - Received a call reporting a vehicle slide off south of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins, Loogootee Officer Sims and Big John's Towing responded.

10:27 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious male north of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

10:42 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Dispatch was notified.

10:59 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a stolen dog in Loogootee. Loogootee Dispatch was notified.

11:17 p.m. - Received a call reporting a vehicle slide off on Highway 231 South. Captain Reed and Big John's Towing responded.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

1:09 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Crane Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

3:50 a.m. - Received a call reporting State Rd 450 was extremely slick. Notified INDOT.

5:18 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a slide off on State Rd 450. Caller was in Lawrence County. Notified Lawrence County.

5:40 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident without injuries on State Rd 450. Captain Reed and Big John's Towing responded.

6:04 a.m. - Received a call from Shoals Community School advising they will be closed today.

6:27 a.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Transferred call to Daviess County 911.

9:28 a.m. - Received a report of a road closure in Shoals.

9:57 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported three inmates to court.

10:47 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

11:20 a.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

12:35 p.m. - Received a call reporting damage to a mailbox east of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson responded.

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

4:33 p.m. - Received a call reporting a trespasser in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins and Sergeant Gibson responded.

5:20 p.m. - Received a call from Area One Protection advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

6:32 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock southwest of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

6:39 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

7:41 p.m. - Received a call reporting suspicious activity in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

8:40 p.m. - Received a call reporting Shoals Community Schools would be on a two-hour delay on Wednesday.

11:34 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious person southeast of Loogootee. Captain Reed and Deputy Hawkins responded.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

2:09 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

2:28 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

8:17 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:29 a.m. - Received a call reporting an accident, with no injuries, northeast of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

11:01 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

1:09 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Chief Deputy Keller and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:08 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2, Sergeant Gibson and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:13 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:23 a.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

9:22 a.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver in Loogootee heading west on US 50. All Martin County Law and Daviess County were notified.

9:43 a.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn in Daviess County.

10:05 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported three inmates to court.

12:51 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

2:00 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

3:02 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a house fire north of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department, Corporal Wells and Martin County Civil Defense responded.

3:15 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller, Corporal Wells and Martin County Medic 2 responded. No transport was needed.

3:30 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

7:32 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

8:35 p.m. - Received a 911 call advising the house fire north of Loogootee had

reignited. Loogootee Fire Department responded.

11:34 p.m. - Received a call reporting a disabled vehicle west of Shoals. Deputy Long responded.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9:17 a.m. - Received a 911 call from an Orange County address. The call was transferred to Orange County 911.

12:50 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:10 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check east of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

1:15 p.m. - Received a call reporting trespasser on property on Morgan Curve Road. Deputy Branham and Conservation Officer Kendrick Fuhrman responded.

2:25 p.m. - Received call advising of a controlled burn on U.S. 50.

4:42 p.m. - Received call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

5:21 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, Deputy Branham, and Loogootee Officer Sims responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

5:21 a.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Contacted Daviess County with information.

7:35 p.m. - Received call from Daviess Community Hospital advising of a patient reporting they had an accident east of Shoals.

7:37 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check on a camper east of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

7:49 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

10:39 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Haysville Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:38 p.m. - Received a call reporting a lost or stolen driver's license in Shoals.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

2:18 a.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. The call was transferred to Daviess County 911.

9:11 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible traffic hazard on U.S. 50, just west of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

10:03 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:24 a.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check at a Daviess County address. Contacted Daviess County with the information.

10:52 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

11:00 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

3:44 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

5:20 p.m. - Received a call reporting stolen property southwest of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

5:58 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

8:43 p.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. The call was transferred to Daviess County 911.

10:00 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious vehicle in Shoals. Deputy Long responded.

10:52 p.m. - Received a report of a dog bite in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Deputy Long responded. No one was transported.

10:52 p.m. - Received call reporting a burglar alarm in Loogootee. Deputy Long responded.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

2:04 a.m. - Received call reporting a burglar alarm in Crane. Contacted Greene County with information.

6:58 a.m. - Received 911 call reporting an alarm at a business in Loogootee. Deputy Long responded.

1:02 p.m. - Received 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

1:45 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

3:45 p.m. - Received 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.

3:57 p.m. - Received a call reporting hay bales on fire north of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department, Sergeant Gibson and Deputy Hawkins responded.

5:39 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

6:49 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

7:19 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson, Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department and Loogootee Officer Sims responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:16 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a stalled vehicle south of Loogootee. Captain Reed responded.

ARRESTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

3:24 p.m. - Sherry Gibson, 48, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Erwin and charged with possession of methamphetamine. She is being held without bond.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9:09 p.m. - Casey J Matthews, 50, of Vevay, was arrested by Corporal Wells and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated refusal and operating while intoxicated endangerment. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

1:50 a.m. - Joshua Phillips, 42, of Crane, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Erwin and charged with resisting law enforcement. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

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COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING

January 25

Larry G. Holt, Jr., convicted of resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 Felony and resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor with habitual offender sentence enhancement. Sentenced to serve 3 years with one year suspended on probation. Defendant received credit for 138 actual days previously served plus 138 Class A credit days.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

January 26

Jessica J. Nelson, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

January 31

Jessica Jo Allen, domestic battery committed in the presence of a child less than 16 years old, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

demeanor, dismissed; disorderly conduct, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; criminal mischief, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; two counts of failure to appear, Level 6 Felonies, dismissed; invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

January 25

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Jonie R. Day in the amount of \$1,204.80.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Milan T. Eckert in the amount of \$1,158.21.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Dirk M. Fahey in the amount of \$6,339.58.

Indiana 211 Day raises awareness of resources for Hoosiers

Governor Eric J. Holcomb has proclaimed Saturday, February 11, 2023, "Indiana 211 Day," as Indiana joins states and cities across the country raising awareness about 211: an important, free resource, available to all Hoosiers. In 2022, Indiana 211 helped connect more than 150,000 callers throughout Indiana with housing, utility assistance, health care, food and many other important resources.

"In 2022, assistance locating housing was the number one concern of callers to Indiana 211, along with utility assistance and help feeding their families," said Tara Morse, executive director of Indiana 211. "But what many Hoosiers don't realize is that they can call for everyday information like where to take their child for developmental screening or how to locate job training or find free tax filing support."

Experienced, responsive and compassionate community navigators at Indiana 211 can quickly help connect Hoosiers to resources and services they need. During winter months and the early part of the year, the 211 team also enhances its database to include specific resources such as energy assistance programs, warming centers on subfreezing days or tax assistance during tax season.

February 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the first call accepted by Indiana 211. Indiana 211 connects Hoosiers with thousands of health and human services agencies and resources in their local communities quickly, easily and confidentially. Anyone can call 211 and connect to a navigator who can assist them. There are no eligibility requirements or income standards, and Hoosiers can call on behalf of themselves or for other Hoosiers in need. Many Hoosiers called 211 during the pandemic to schedule or reschedule a vaccine or find a testing site.

Indiana 211 is a free and confidential statewide service that helps Hoosiers find local resources they need, including housing, utility assistance, health care and food. In 2020, Indiana 211 became a part of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, helping to simplify the process of connecting people to the many services in our state and placing the power of Indiana state government behind this convenient resource. Information and resources are available at IN211.org, including an in-depth data dashboard that shows call volume, caller demographics, county breakdowns, caller needs and other information.

Martin County real estate transfers

Thomas R. Flynn, of Martin County, Indiana to **Emily N. Walton and Thomas R. Flynn II**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter and part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter, all in Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, containing 1.45 acres, more or less.

Charles E. Dunn, Jr., of Martin County, Indiana to **Pamela Walton and Joshua Lewis**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lots Numbered 152 and 153 in Tract E, a subdivision of the original Town of Crane, Indiana. More commonly known as 152 Blandy Street, Crane IN 47522.

Gregory O. Johnson and Carolyn Johnson to The Gregory O. Johnson and Carolyn T. Johnson Irrevocable Land Trust, Erin F. Bateman, trustee. Tract I: A portion of the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.491 acre, more or less. Tract II: A portion of the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.58

acre, more or less. Tract III: A portion of the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.56 acre, more or less. More commonly known as 837 Bellgrade Drive, Loogootee IN 47553.

James T. Roush and Candace S. Roush, of Missoula County, Montana to **Barbara Szkliniarz**, of Cook County, Illinois, Lot Number 32 in Doe Run Subdivision.

James D. White to Land of Indiana, Inc., the east half of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 20 acres, more or less. Also, a part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of said Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 11 acres, more or less.

Tammy L. Maschino, of Delaware County, Indiana to **Ross A. Maschino**, of Virginia, a part of the north half of the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, City of Loogootee, Indiana, containing 0.57 acre, more or less.

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COMMUNITY & EVENTS

Consumer alert: Products recalled in January

Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers of important consumer protection concerns for products recalled in January. Attorney General Rokita encourages consumers to take advantage of opportunities available for those who purchased the recalled items.

“Hoosiers deserve protection from products that, for whatever reason, are not reliable or may even cause injury, especially when they involve items our children use every day,” said Attorney General Rokita. “If you have one of the recalled products, stop using it and pursue resolution from the manufacturer.”

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

- FRIGG Silicone Pacifiers from Mushie & Co
- Textron-Specialized-Vehicles from E-Z-GO
- Youth-All-Terrain-Vehicles from EGL Motor
- Infant Bath Seats from Karmas Far
- Bicycles from Giant Bicycle
- Residential Elevators from Savaria Corporation
- Wood Wagons from Colony Brands
- Carbon Handlebars and Bicycles from Quality Bicycle
- Children’s Pajamas from P.J. Salvage Sportsman and Scrambler 1000 S
- All-Terrain Vehicles from Polaris Recalls
- Rocking Sleepers from Kids2
- Rock ‘n Play Sleepers from Fisher-Price
- Honda Talon 1000 ROVs from American Honda

Cordless Multi-Surface Wet Dry Vacuums from BISSELL

Free-Standing 86-Inch Smart Televisions and Stands from LG

Vinyl Single-Hung Impact Windows from MI Windows and Doors

Headlight Sealant from Meguiar’s

Vanessa Fire Tables from Ove Decors

Children’s Robes from Vaenait Baby

Hot Chocolate Pots from Lifetime Brands

Multi-Purpose Helmets from Sakar International

NewCosplay Children’s Sleepwear from Mianzhu Ye Xin Trading

NewCosplay Children’s Sleepwear from Weihai Juanhai Decoration Material

NewCosplay Children’s Sleepwear from Hainan Chong Yu Industrial

NewCosplay Children’s Sleepwear from Shanghai Jing Cheng Landscape Engineering Company

NewCosplay Children’s Sleepwear from Shanghai Jinhui Gardening Center

Children’s Pajama Sets from Selfie Craft Company

NewCosplay Children’s Sleepwear from Shanghai Xunao Elevator

Taylor and Finch Six-Wick Scented Candles from Ross Stores

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Merit board meeting

The Martin County Sheriff’s Merit Board will meet in executive session beginning at 5:30 p.m. (EST) on Monday, February 13, at the Martin County Sheriff’s Office. The purpose of the meetings is for job performance evaluation of one or more individual employees as authorized under I.C. §5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (9) and to receive information about and interview prospective employees as authorized by I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(5). The executive meeting is closed to the public. The board will meet in open session at 6:30 p.m.

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 or toddamy@iu.edu.

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

St. Vincent Food Pantry

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

Free lunch for kids

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

SOAR Tutoring

Need Skills? SOAR tutors can help! Free and confidential. Call or text Karen at 812-709-1618 to learn more. Located in

the Martin County Community Learning Center Improve Your Skills, Improve Your Life!

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Solid waste board

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

Soil and Water meetings

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

Local recovery meetings

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

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



MAGGIE is a female bulldog mix, around a year old. She is very sweet, a total lap dog and wants to be around you as much as possible. She is fine with other dogs and doesn't care about cats. She weighs 60 pounds. She is spayed and up to date on all shots. Adoption fee is \$100. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.

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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





Regardless of the prognostication of a certain rodent, we have now crossed the half-way point of the winter season. Daylight increases a little more each day. Winter is far from over, but the promise of spring is showing a little more each time I walk through the gardens. I had blooms of early daffodils to take to church on Sunday. Last year, there were no daffodil blooms in February, and the hellebores were also later in the season. This year, the hellebores started blooming in January, and there are more blooms each day. These early bloomers are tough plants and will take whatever the weather throws at them. I am also seeing foliage for the later spring ephemerals poking through the soil. If we get some very cold temperatures, we could see some damage to said foliage, but we will still have blooms when spring finally gets here.

I was recently given a box of produce that was past prime. The donor knew I would take it for the compost bin, but I am using part of it to start some plants for the spring. In the past, I have shared how my grandmother taught me to start a rose from a cutting using a potato. It is a pretty simple process. One simply uses a sharp, pointed object to poke a hole in the potato. Take a cutting from the rose bush at a leaf junction. A little rooting hormone on the cutting increases the likelihood of success. Put the cutting in the hole, bury the potato in compost, peat or some other medium. Cover the plant with a plastic tent or a glass jar to increase humidity. The moisture in the potato will supply the moisture needed for roots to form. In a few weeks, roots will form, and the cutting will sprout leaves.

Recently, I have been seeing videos of people using this same method to start succulents. Most succulents root fairly easily anyway, but one could put several cuttings in a large potato. Fortunately, while the potatoes I was given are beyond human consumption, they are still solid enough to allow me to do some

experimenting in the greenhouse. I plan to try some succulents and also to take some cuttings from some shrubs in the landscape. It will be a good way to spend a winter day, and I may just get some extra plants for the garden. It will only cost me some time and a little rooting hormone. I will let you know how my experiment works.

Valentine's Day is coming up, and colorful potted plants are showing up in garden centers, supermarkets and department stores. There are a lot of choices, and an informed choice may give your Valentine a remembrance for a long time. It is important to remember that most of the blooming plants have been forced in greenhouses, using artificial lighting to trick the plants into blooming out of their normal bloom seasons. No matter what the plant, the blooms will eventually fade and drop, but some of the plants will survive to bloom again, but not necessarily for Valentine's Day next year. The forced tulips, daffodils and other bulbs may be planted outside in the spring. Forcing takes a lot out of such bulbs, so they may not return, but if you have a place where you can experiment some, go ahead and plant them. You may get blooms again in a year or two. The miniature rose bushes are hardy and may be added to the landscape or kept as a houseplant. It may take a while to see blooms, but they should return for several years.

Some of the plants are tropical plants meant to be grown indoors. My greatest advice for such plants is to re-pot them soon. If they are in decorative pots for the holiday, it is likely the roots have been crowded. Many of these pots do not have drainage, which is essential to almost all plants. Do some research and find out how the plant needs to be treated, and your gift of love will last for many years.

Another way to give flowers is to buy a packet of seeds for each of your Valentines and tell them to grow their own!

Registration opens for Patoka Lake's Women's Wilderness Weekend

Registration has opened for Women's Wilderness Weekend, a women's-only event for learning outdoor skills in a relaxed environment to be held at Patoka Lake on Friday, April 21 through Sunday, April 23.

The event will start at the Patoka Lake Nature Center and include overnight camping for the duration of the weekend. Women age 16 and older can participate in activities that include in-depth archery lessons, kayaking, Dutch oven cooking, basic bush craft, hunting 101, wilderness

first aid, trap shooting, rifle, boat operations, and self-defense, to name a few. Meals will be provided on Saturday and Sunday. Camping will take place in the modern electric campground.

Advance registration, including a fee of \$75 per participant, is required by April 10. For more information or to register, email dreckelhoff@dnr.IN.gov and vnelson@dnr.IN.gov for a registration packet.

Patoka Lake (on.IN.gov.patokalake) is at 3084 N. Dillard Road, Birdseye, IN 47513.



The best thing about winter is it, eventually, passes and gives way to spring. I think I'm already ready for it. Each day is a bit longer than the previous and the light at the end of the tunnel is green! I walked over some pastures earlier this week and there certainly was now more brown than green. Snow, ice and some bitter cold spells have taken most of the color from forage unless you carefully peel back the cover and look closer. There it is, bits of green, waiting for a warmer day.

Most years I really like the month of February. The sod is usually firm enough to get around on and do some needed maintenance. The weather doesn't always cooperate, but quite often yields several nice sunny days that are perfect for cleaning fence rows, trimming back limbs over fences and repairing or building fences. It is quiet and peaceful with the only noise being whatever tool I'm using and the dog rooting and digging after a mole or mouse. After the forage starts to grow, everything speeds up and it's harder to find the time to do maintenance tasks.

I find this type of work relaxing and just a good time to think. It is always a good idea to be thinking about where you will start your grazing system come spring. It is usually a good thing to not start in the same field each year. If the pasture was grazed fairly close or hard the previous fall it could ideally use more rest to build up reserves. Using the same field year after year will sometimes really thin down those early pastures. I like to rotate which field is used first and, if at all possible, leave some stockpiled forage on it.

There are multiple items to consider when choosing the field to start in. How much forage is left? How dense is the sod? If you can see much bare soil or little residual forage, then grazing should be delayed in the spring until the stand has bounced back and thickened up.

If you run any sheep, you will notice that fields that are utilized earlier in the year by the sheep will usually tend to have less weeds in them later in the growing season. It is certainly easier to keep lambing ewes closer to home and utilize the same fields every year, but if you have weed issues, you might want to consider trying to do early grazing of sheep in those areas instead.

Goats can also do a good job of weed control but tend to eat from the top down and don't take out the weeds quite as early as sheep do. Grazing a small ruminant with cattle can also work quite well as long as you don't crowd them up too much. I occasionally run them together as a herd.

How much you used your stockpiled forage in the winter can also impact where you start in the spring. The bitter cold period we had a few weeks back changed my plans due to lack of a sufficient windbreak and later wet soil conditions. Because of that, I still have a little stockpiled forage left that could be

Free Fishing Days 2023

Indiana's Free Fishing Days for 2023 will be May 7, June 3-4, and September 23. Residents can fish on the state's public waters for free. During these days, Indiana residents need neither a fishing license nor a trout/salmon stamp to fish. All other rules such as seasons, bag, and size limits apply.

utilized. If we don't get back there, we'll just hit that area first in the spring.

It is also the time frame for frost-seeding clover onto fields that need it. If you paid attention during the last season, you should know what fields are lacking sufficient legume. I like to see at least 30 percent of the stand being legumes. Legumes, such as clover, increase the quality of a pasture and can also fix nitrogen to help the grass component of the pasture. When fertilizer is expensive, you want as much natural nitrogen produced as possible.

Red and white clover both are fairly easy to frost-seed this time of year and generally that is the least expensive way to enhance legumes in the pasture. It is basically the process of broadcasting the legume seed onto the soil's surface during the winter dormant months and allowing the freezing and thawing of the soil to help move the seed into the soil.

It is best to plan if you decide to frost-seed. You may have wanted to graze the pasture down a little shorter than normal to reduce competition and help that seed find its way to the soil easier. If the field is being stockpiled, you can either wait until after it is grazed or broadcast it just prior to grazing and let the seed be "hoofed" in. If there is too much cover then it makes it hard for the seed to reach the soil and makes it less likely to thrive.

I usually recommend slightly higher seeding rates for frost seeding than for conventional seeding. White clovers can be seeded at 1-1.5 lbs. per acre, remembering that it is a much smaller seed than red clover and will be around longer. Red clover should be seeded at 6-8 lbs. per acre, birdsfoot trefoil at 5 lbs. per acre and common lespedeza with hulled seed at 10 lbs. per acre.

All legumes should be inoculated with the appropriate inoculants (rhizobia) for that species to make sure proper bacteria, good germination and growth. Coated seed, when available, can solve a lot of problems including seed size, the inoculants and it can even help the pH for the seedling. Coated seed should be used the same year that it is purchased, mainly due to the inoculant - it has a slightly shorter storage life.

I think the main points for a successful frost seeding of legumes are grazing the pasture down before seeding to lower the amount of litter and spring competition, seeding during freezing and thawing conditions to help move the seed down into the soil and then keeping the grass growth under control during early spring to give the seedlings plenty of sun and a fighting chance to survive.

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

Reminders & Opportunities
Northern Indiana Grazing Conference - February 3-4, 2023 - Michiana Event Center, Shipshewana, IN. For more information go to NIGC | lagrangeswcd.com (lagrange-swcd.wixsite.com)

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

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference - March 29, 2023 - Shiloh Community Center, Odon, IN - For more information call 812-254-4780, Ext 3 or register online at <https://sigc2023.eventbrite.com>

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



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Improvement in farmer sentiment carries over into 2023

BY KAMI GOODWIN

Purdue University News Service

Following a sharp increase to close out 2022, the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer had only a modest increase in January, up 4 points to a reading of 130. The rise in sentiment was primarily attributable to better expectations for the future, as the Future Expectations Index improved by 5 points to 127. The Index of Current Conditions rose only 1 point to a reading of 136. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted from January 16-20.

"Although producers were a bit more optimistic about the future this month, they again reported expectations for tighter margins in 2023 than in 2022," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

The Farm Capital Investment Index was up 2 points this month to 42; however, it remained 7 percent lower than a year earlier. Just over 7 out of 10 survey respondents said they think now is a bad time to make large investments in their farm operation. Among respondents who felt now is a bad time, 39 percent said high prices for machinery and new construction, 25 percent said rising interest rates, and 12 percent said uncertainty about farm profitability was the primary reason. Interest rates are becoming a bigger concern for farmers. As recently as November, just 19 percent of farmers in the monthly barometer survey chose rising interest rates as a key factor impacting their perspective on investments.

Each January, starting in 2020, the survey has included a question asking respondents if they expect to have a larger operating loan compared to the previous year and, if so, the reason for the larger loan. In January, 22 percent of respondents said they expect to have a larger 2023 farm operating loan compared to 2022, down from 27 percent last year. Among respondents who expect to have a larger operating loan, 80 percent indicated it was due to increased input costs, while only 5 percent said it was due to carrying over unpaid operating debt, which according to Mintert is important to note. The percentage of respondents who attribute their need for a larger loan to unpaid operating debt has fallen sharply since the question was first posed in January 2020. At that time, just over one-third of producers who anticipated needing a larger loan said it was because of unpaid operating debt. That percentage fell to 20 percent in 2021 and to 13 percent in 2022 before declining again to just 5 percent in 2023.

"The sharp decline in the percentage of producers expecting to carry over unpaid operating debt is important," said Mintert. "It supports the idea that the vast majority of producers are entering 2023 in a strong financial position despite the rise in production costs."

Producers' expectations for short-term and long-term farmland values were mixed in January. The Short-Term Farmland Index fell 4 points to 120, down 15 percent when compared to one year earlier, as more producers said they expect values to hold steady over the coming year instead of increasing. The Long-Term Farmland Values Index rose slightly to 142 from 140 in December. Over the last year, the long-term index has declined just 2 percent, as producers continue to retain a more optimistic long-term than short-term view of farmland values. Among producers who expect to see farmland values rise over the next five years, the top reasons for their optimism continue to be non-farm investor demand (63 percent) and inflation (23 percent).

This month's survey also included questions about leasing farmland for carbon sequestration, and U.S. farmers continue to express interest in carbon contracts. During the first quarter of 2021, approximately 7 percent of survey respondents said they had engaged in discussions with companies about being paid to capture carbon on their farms. When we repeated the question about carbon payments in August 2022 and again in January 2023, the percentage of producers who said they had discussed a carbon contract with a company rose modestly to 9 percent of respondents. However, relatively few farm operators have chosen to sign a carbon contract, with just 1 percent of January's survey respondents indicating they had signed a contract.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report at <https://purdue.ag/agbarometer>. The site also offers additional resources – such as past reports, charts and survey methodology – and a form to sign up for monthly barometer email updates and webinars.

Each month, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture provides a short video analysis of the barometer results, available at <https://purdue.ag/barometer-video>. For more information, check out the Purdue Commercial AgCast podcast available at <https://purdue.ag/agcast>, which includes a detailed breakdown of each month's barometer and a discussion of recent agricultural news that affects farmers.

The Ag Economy Barometer, Index of Current Conditions and Index of Future Expectations are available on the Bloomberg Terminal under the following ticker symbols: AGEGBARO, AGECCURC and AGECCFTEX

National unemployment little changed for January at 3.4 percent

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 517,000 in January, and the unemployment rate changed little at 3.4 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week. Job growth was widespread, led by gains in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and health care. Employment also increased in government, partially reflecting the return of workers from a strike.

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

Household Survey Data

Both the unemployment rate, at 3.4 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, at 5.7 million, changed little in January. The unemployment rate has shown little net movement since early 2022.

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (3.2 percent), adult women (3.1 percent), teenagers (10.3 percent), Whites (3.1 percent), Blacks (5.4 percent), Asians (2.8 percent), and Hispanics (4.5 percent) showed little change in January.

The number of persons jobless less than 5 weeks decreased to 1.9 million in January. The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was essentially unchanged at 1.1 million. The long-term unemployed accounted for 19.4 percent of the total unemployed in January.

In January, both the labor force participation rate, at 62.4 percent, and the employment-population ratio, at 60.2 percent, were unchanged after removing the effects of the annual adjustments to the population controls. These measures have shown little net change since early 2022 and remain below their pre-pandemic February 2020 levels (63.3 percent and 61.1 percent, respectively).

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons, at 4.1 million, was little changed in January. These individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part time because their hours had been reduced or they were unable to find full-time jobs.

The number of persons not in the labor force who currently want a job was 5.3 million in January, little changed from the prior month. These individuals were not counted as unemployed because they were not actively looking for work during the 4 weeks preceding the survey or were unavailable to take a job.

Among those not in the labor force who wanted a job, the number of persons marginally attached to the labor force, at 1.4 million, changed little in January. These individuals wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but had not looked for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. The number of discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, was also little changed over the month at 342,000.

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 517,000 in January, compared with an average monthly gain of 401,000 in 2022. Job growth was widespread in January, led by gains in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and health care. Employment also increased in government, partially reflecting the return of workers from a strike.

Leisure and hospitality added 128,000 jobs in January compared with an average of 89,000 jobs per month in 2022. Over the month, food services and drinking places added 99,000 jobs, while employment continued to trend up in ac-

commodation (+15,000). Employment in leisure and hospitality remains below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level by 495,000,

or 2.9 percent.

In January, employment in professional and business services rose by 82,000, led by gains in professional, scientific, and technical services (+41,000). Job growth in professional and business services averaged 63,000 per month in 2022.

Government employment increased by 74,000 in January. Employment in state government education increased by 35,000, reflecting the return of university workers after a strike.

Health care added 58,000 jobs in January. Job growth occurred in ambulatory health care services (+30,000), nursing and residential care facilities (+17,000), and hospitals (+11,000). In 2022, health care added an average of 47,000 jobs per month.

Employment in retail trade rose by 30,000 in January, following little net growth in 2022 (an average of +7,000 per month). In January, job gains in general merchandise retailers (+16,000) and in furniture, home furnishings, electronics, and appliance retailers (+7,000) were partially offset by a decline in health and personal care retailers (-6,000).

Construction added 25,000 jobs in January, reflecting an employment gain in specialty trade contractors (+22,000). Employment in the construction industry grew by an average of 22,000 per month in 2022.

In January, transportation and warehousing added 23,000 jobs, the same as the industry's average monthly gain in 2022. Over the month, employment in support activities for transportation increased by 7,000.

Employment in social assistance increased by 21,000 in January, little different from the 2022 average gain of 19,000 per month.

Manufacturing employment continued to trend up in January (+19,000). In 2022, manufacturing added an average of 33,000 jobs per month.

Employment showed little change over the month in other major industries, including mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; wholesale trade; information; financial activities; and other services.

In January, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 10 cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$33.03. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 4.4 percent. In January, average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees rose by 7 cents, or 0.2 percent, to \$28.26.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 0.3 hour to 34.7 hours in January. In manufacturing, the average workweek increased by 0.4 hour to 40.5 hours, and overtime increased by 0.1 hour to 3.1 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.2 hour to 34.1 hours.

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for November was revised up by 34,000, from +256,000 to +290,000, and the change for December was revised up by 37,000, from +223,000 to +260,000. With these revisions, employment gains in November and December combined were 71,000 higher than previously reported. (Monthly revisions result from additional reports received from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates and from the recalculation of seasonal factors. The annual benchmark process also contributed to the November and December revisions.)



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