

Martin County JOURNAL

Year Two, Issue Eleven

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15 Pages



-Photo by Courtney Hughett

Marilyn Kent, 29-year teaching veteran, will say goodbye to the classroom at the end of the school year to retire to farm life.

Shoals teacher set to retire after 17 years

The Shoals School Board accepted the retirement of Marilyn Kent effective at the end of the 2010-11 school year at their meeting last Thursday, March 10. Mrs. Kent has been a school teacher for 29 years with 17 of those years in Special Education at Shoals. Mrs. Kent said after the announcement, "I still love my job, I am just ready to stay home and be a farm wife."

The board also approved Misty Davis as head cook for next school year due to the retirement of Lois Robbins and Luke Allstott and LaTrisha McKibben to serve as substitute teachers during the 2010-11 school year.

In other business, the board discussed the cost associated with contracting grass mowing during the past two mowing seasons. They compared the cost of the contracted mowing with the cost of possibly hiring an additional maintenance assistant to do the

mowing as well as other needed assistance in the maintenance department. Dr. Nonte stated and the board agreed by consensus that with the current budget concerns taken into consideration, it is not feasible at this time to hire another full-time maintenance assistant. The board directed Dr. Nonte to advertise for contracted grass mowing for the 2011 season. They told him to make changes to the existing mowing specifications to require fewer mowings. The recommended changes included raising the minimum grass height to four inches and removing trimming from the contract specifications.

Dr. Nonte reported to the board the same information that was shared with members of the Shoals Teachers' Association at a recent meeting. They discussed the fiscal impact of funding projections that include possible ad-

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City grass mowing bids spark 40-minute debate on 'what if's'

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

An unusual debate broke out among Loogootee City Council members and, at times, members of the audience at Monday night's meeting. What is typically a mundane process of choosing a mowing bid became a detailed 40-minute conversation. Five mowing bids were received this year, many more than in year's past. Cutting Edge Lawn Care, who has done the city's mowing for the past several years, put in a bid for \$3,640 for the season. Chris Baugh submitted a bid for \$3,120, Randy Robinson Mowing's bid was \$2,600, Yard Sharks' bid was \$2,782, and Baker's Lawn Service's bid was \$2,500 for the season. The mowing includes the two water tower sites, the well field, and the water treatment plant.

Council member Rich Taylor questioned the weekly bid versus the seasonal bid asking whether that agreed with the wording in the bid request. He also noted that Randy Robinson Mowing did not provide proof of

insurance. Council member Joe Mattox read a note in Robinson's bid stating that insurance would be acquired if needed. Taylor questioned whether the insurance had to be provided with the bid. Utilities Manager Bo Wilson said he was not positive on the wording in the bid request but he thought that the insurance could be provided at any time prior to work beginning not necessarily at the opening of the bids.

Council member Sue Brewer asked how many of those who bid are actually in the mowing business. "They all are," replied a few members of the council in unison.

"We're just mowing grass, I think we can trust these people to mow grass," said Mayor Bowling.

Council member Rick Norris then made the motion to accept the low bid from Baker Lawn Service for \$2,500 - \$1,140 lower than the highest bid. Norris noted however that he still feels the city employees should be mowing the properties not contracting it out. Council member Taylor said that it has

(See 'CITY' on page three)

Effort to build county animal shelter continues

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Humane Society has been in existence for 35 years and has managed all this time without a shelter to house the county's unwanted dogs and cats. After serving for 25 years, Nancy Pannell turned over the reigns two and a half years ago to Don Greene, now president of the humane society.

For years Pannell and Greene, along with countless volunteers have taken in unwanted pets in their own homes. Unpaid and in most instances under-appreciated, volunteers of the humane society never gave up the fight to control the pet population in Martin County. Just last year, more than \$11,000 went to pay veterinarian bills to have dogs and cats cared for. From spaying and neutering to medical care and shots, the humane society has never given up. Now, this year, the dream of having a shelter will most likely become a reality.

The society was able to obtain non-profit status last February and for the past several months has been working diligently to raise money to build a shelter - the first of its kind in Martin County.

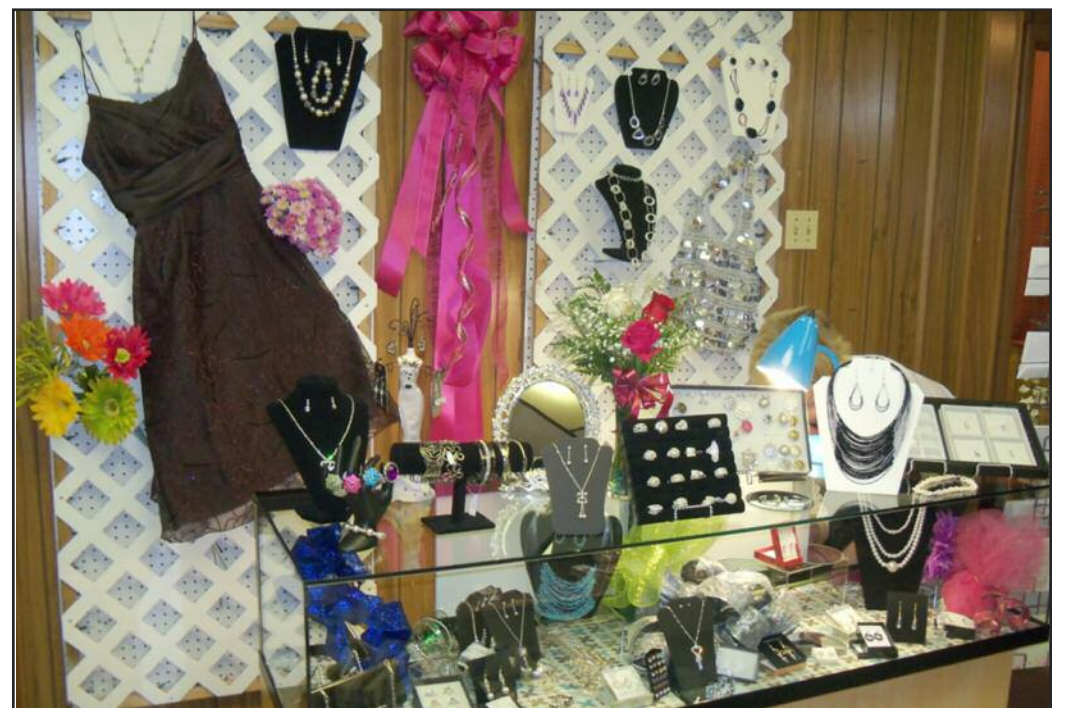
According to society president Don Greene, obtaining the non-profit status was

the first step. He said now grants can be obtained, taxes are exempt, and it is easier for people to make donations and use that donation as a tax write off. Greene said that over the past year the donations have increased as more people become aware of the society's mission and ultimate goal.

So far, around \$46,000 has been saved in the humane society's account. Greene said that \$100,000 would get a shelter built with the work done by volunteers and \$175,000 would get a shelter built by contractors. The goal is to begin construction before fall of this year if the fund amount can be secured. Volunteers of the humane society continue to look into the possibility of grant funds however Greene said that most grants are geared toward communities with a larger population - not the size of Martin County.

Donation jars have popped up all over town including at Pamida, RJ's in Shoals, Gasoline Alley, Smith's Sunoco, among other places. Greene said that any amount of money, even spare change adds up and ultimately helps the society reach its goal.

Other businesses in Martin County including Pizza and More and Loughmiller's have donated to the fund. An anonymous \$10,000 donation was also received from a former Loogootee resident. Road blocks in Loogootee (See 'SHELTER' on page two)



-Photo by Courtney Hughett

Design Inspired Gifts is now back in Loogootee in a new location on Main Street with a larger selection of items to choose from including jewelry handmade in Martin County.

Design Inspired Gifts returns to Loogootee in new location

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

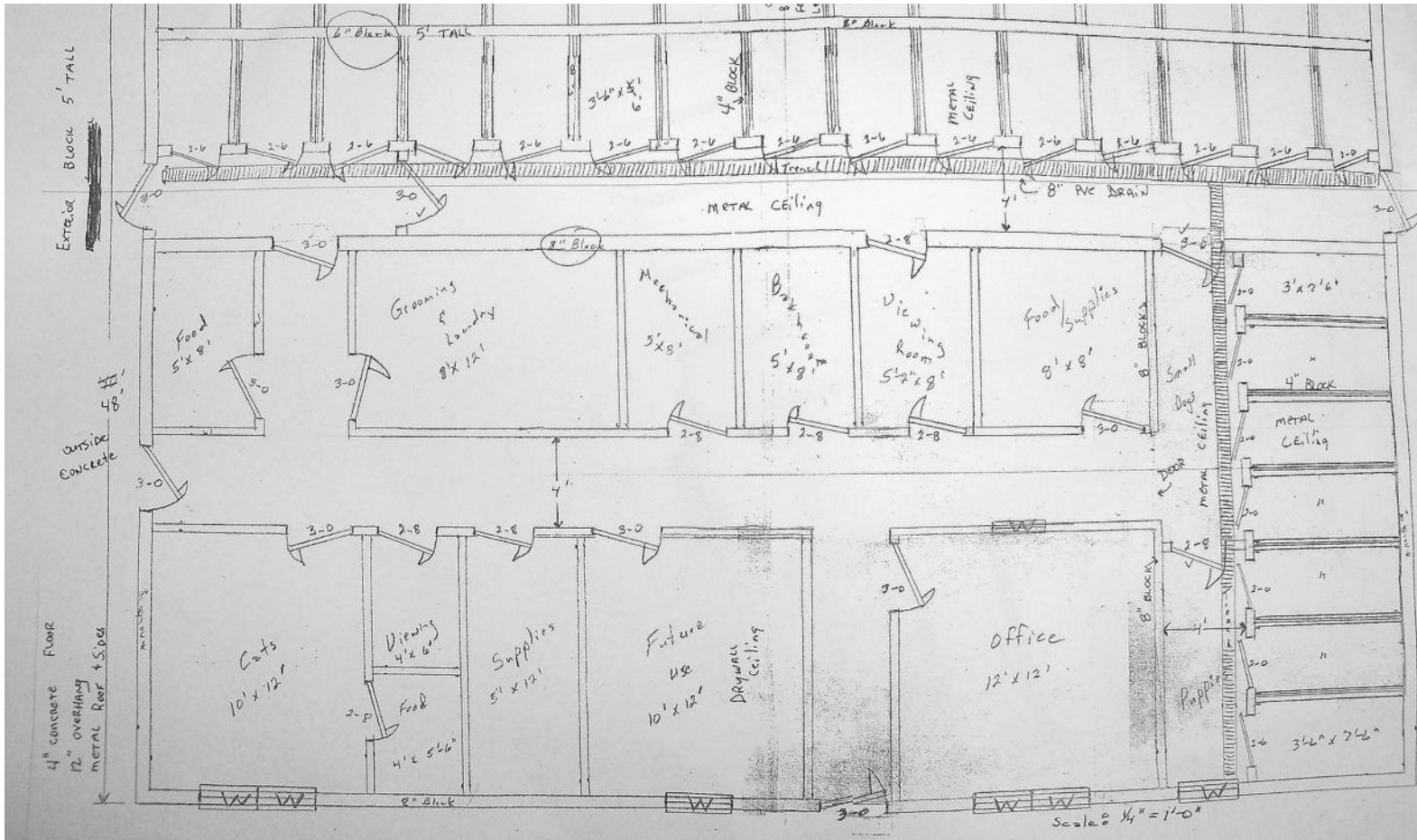
Loogootee businesses come and go over the years - one of those businesses came and went and then came back again in a new location. Design Inspired Gifts, owned by Sonja Sherfick of Shoals, has recently re-opened on Main Street in Loogootee. While the shop still stocks many of the same items as they did in their former location, new items have been added as well. The main addition to the store, and the most

popular, is the line of jewelry - many of the pieces handmade in Loogootee. Sonja's family handcrafts the rings, necklaces, and earrings for supply in her shop.

Taking some time off to spend time with her grandchildren, Sonja recently decided she wasn't done with the business and chose to re-open her store in a more shopper-friendly location. The store still offers silk flower arrangements but has now added the fresh flower department as well. Other new items in stock include purses and greeting

(See 'DESIGN' on page two)

SHELTER



-Drawing by

The above drawing is the layout of the future Martin County Humane Society Animal Shelter to be built on land donated by the City of Loogootee and located in Industrial Park.

(Continued from page one)
gootee, usually held twice a year, average \$800 to \$900 with Shoals roadblocks averaging \$400 to \$500. The humane society's annual yard sale nets around \$800.

Next weekend, the humane society will hold its first-ever dinner and auction. Organizers of the event are hoping that the success of the auction will put the shelter even closer to reality.

The benefit dinner begins at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 26 at the Loogootee United Methodist Church with soup and sandwiches for donation only. The auction begins at 7 p.m. A silent auction will be held along with a live auction with auctioneer Noel Harty.

Many items have been collected including a huge assortment of Dr. Phil and Robin McGraw hardback, softback, and audio books, signed photos of the couple, and VIP passes to a taping of Dr. Phil and the Doctors; Food Network's Paula Deen autographed books, apron, and spice rack, NASCAR items including signed crew shirts from Tony Stewart and Ryan Newman, tickets to Kings Island, Holiday World, Cincinnati Reds baseball, Indianapolis Indians baseball, Adventures Indoor Water Park, French Lick Indoor Karting, the Evansville Otters, Mesker Park Zoo, and more; a huge array of gift certificates, youth boy and girl bicycles, and hundreds more items.

TEACHER

(Continued from page one)

ditional reductions in revenue over the next two years. They also discussed the details of House Bill 1260 which concerns employee health insurance and benefits. Dr. Nonte assured the board that he would keep them updated on both issues as additional facts are known.

Dr. Nonte reported that school has been canceled seven times so far during the 2010-11 school year. He stated that if another school day is missed this year, it would mean having the students return after Memorial Day. He recommended to the board that this year's calendar be changed making Good Friday, April 23, 2011 as a make-up day if needed and any make-up days after that be on Saturdays, beginning with Saturday, May 7, 2011. This effort is being made to finish the school year prior to Memorial Day.

The board approved the 2011-12 school year calendar with the first student day being scheduled for Friday, August 12, 2011. The board agreed to set the graduation date for the Class of 2011 on Saturday, May 28, 2011 at 2 p.m.

The board approved a resolution for cash transfer totaling \$280,000 to the Rainy Day Fund as follows: \$100,000 to Debt Service, \$100,000 to Transportation Operating Fund, \$50,000 to Capital Projects Fund, and \$30,000 to Transportation School Bus Replacement.

The following field trip requests were approved:

- Academic team to South Knox High School on Thursday, March 10
- Afternoon ROCKS students to French Lick Springs Theatre on Tuesday, March 15
- Senior class trip to the Statehouse in Indianapolis on Wednesday, March 30
- High school band and chorus to contest at Castle High School in Newburgh on Saturday, April 9
- OCU Directions students to Oakland City University on Monday, April 11
- Sophomore Career Day at Washington High School on Wednesday, April 13
- OCU Directions students to Vincennes University on Tuesday, April 19
- Academic team to area competition on Tuesday, April 19
- Girls' track team to IU on Saturday, April 23
- 5th grade to Spring Mill on Friday, May 6
- 5th grade LEAD Program to Martin County Courthouse/Jail on Wednesday, May 18
- Girls' track team to take periodic trips to area locations for training
- Senior class to Indianapolis on Monday,

April 4

- Junior high academic team to Paoli on Tuesday, April 5
- English 10 Class to Beef N Boards in Indianapolis on Wednesday, April 6
- Junior high academic team to Seymour on Saturday, April 30
- Miss Crew's students to Holiday World on Thursday, May 12

Mary Lou Billings asked that it be noted that senior class students attending the field trip to the Statehouse be required to dress appropriately for the occasion as they are representing the school. She said she felt that blue jeans were not considered appropriate attire for the occasion.

The board approved Mike Newland to hold open gym in the new gymnasium on Sundays during the spring of 2011 with all fees waived and Shoals High School Alumni Association to use the main gymnasium, cafeteria kitchen, and a classroom on Saturday, June 25, 2011 for the annual alumni banquet with all fees waived.

The board also approved the Shoals Lions Club to use the school grounds on Saturday, April 23, 2011 for their annual Easter Egg Hunt with all fees waived.

An agreement was approved for participation in the Orange, Lawrence, Jackson, Martin and Greene Joint Services Special Education Co Op for 2012.

Dr. Nonte notified the board that he had received a request from the Shoals Teachers' Association to set meeting dates to begin the collective bargaining process for the 2011-12 teachers' association contract.

Dr. Nonte asked for permission from the board to advertise for one additional summer worker to be employed during the summer of 2011 along with the five corporation employees who have already expressed interest in working this summer. The board agreed by consensus.

Dr. Nonte asked for permission from the board to change the wording in the school bus route specifications for the 2011-15 contract on page two regarding the age of a school bus required to fulfill the contract specifications. He explained that there has been some confusion that has resulted in interpreting the age of a school bus by using the manufactured date. The board agreed by consensus to change the wording in the bus specifications from "manufactured" after January 1, 1999 to "titled" after January 1, 1999.

Denise Garrett, board secretary, read a thank you card from Ken Macy for a wreath sent following the death of his mother.

The board's next meeting will be a regular session on April 14 at 5 p.m.

DESIGN



-Photo by Courtney Hughett

Design Inspired Gifts has a huge selection of inspirational gifts including a vast assortment of crosses.

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cards.

Design Inspired Gifts is gearing up for their first-ever Prom Preview this Saturday at the store from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to showcase their jewelry line. The jewelry, fit for any occasion is crafted in rhodium, sterling silver, and cubic zirconium.

The store still offers candles, stationary, seasonal decorations, inspirational gifts,

memorial arrangements, yard decorations, and Abbott candies.

The shop will also soon bring in a line of ladies scarves.

For more information call 295-1293. The shop is located at 104 W. Main Street in Loogootee and is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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CHARLES GABHART

Charles Gabhart died at 7 p.m. Monday, March 14, 2011 died at the home of his daughter from complications associated with Leukemia. A resident of Jasper, he was 69.

**CHARLES GABHART**

He was born May 13, 1941 in Alfordsville; the son of Howard and Enid (Baker) Gabhart. He was married to Becky (Holman) Gabhart for 34 years and she survives.

He was an architectural/designer in Jasper since 1990. He along with his family operated the Winkler's Natural Foods in Jasper. Survivors include three daughters, Rachel Winkler of Redmond, Oregon and Landy Gabhart and Lydia Kluemper, both of Jasper; two sons, Eric Gabhart of Portersville and Kurt Gabhart of Jasper; 12 grandchildren, nine sisters, Margaret Kennedy of California, Amy Gardner of Alfordsville, Christina Roach and Georgia Prewett, both of Washington; Mary Frances

Bell and Martha Brammer, both of Cincinnati, Ohio; Lorna Cook of Duluth, Georgia; Annie Snyder of Springboro, Ohio; and Sarah Alvey of Washington; three brothers, Wyndham Gabhart of Washington, Thomas Gabhart of Greenbrier, Tennessee, and Phillip Gabhart of Alfordsville.

Visitation will be held beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 19 at the Becher & Kluesner North Chapel in Jasper with burial to follow at 2 p.m. in the Alfordsville Cemetery.

CLARENCE HARDER

Clarence C. Harder died at 12:30 a.m. Monday, March 7, 2011 at The Waters Nursing Home in Jasper. A resident of Loogootee, he was 100.

He was born January 25, 1911, in Martin County; the son of Edward and Anna (Huebner) Harder.

302651 He was a furniture repairman, salesman and a carpet layer. He was a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jasper.

He is survived by his wife, Imogene Harder; one daughter and son-in-law, Beverly and Robert Carney of San Diego, California; one stepson, Jerry Braun of

Washington; four grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; 19 step-great-grandchildren; and three step-great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Gleda (Braun) Harder, one brother and four sisters.

The Memorial Service was celebrated Saturday, March 12 at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jasper. Burial was to follow at Goodwill Cemetery in Loogootee at a later date.

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

MARY YARNELL

Mary Louise Yarnell died at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at her home. A resident of Loogootee, she was 75.

She was born February 18, 1936, in Daviess County; the daughter of John and Mary Opal "Minnie" (Patterson) Summers. She attended Montgomery High School and was a member of St. John Catholic Church in Loogootee.

She married Keith E. Yarnell on August 8, 1953 and he survives.

A homemaker, she had previously worked

at Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane, Crane's Chase Dental Chair Company and Family Dollar.

She is also survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Lynette and Gary Arvin of Loogootee; one sister, Janet Jones of Loogootee; two brothers, John C. Summers of Jasper and Thomas E. "Ed" Summers of Loogootee; three grandchildren, Christopher Carey Smith of Germany, Tyler Keith Cooper and Corbin M. Cooper, both of Loogootee; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents; two daughters, Donna Rene Yarnell on May 1, 1955 and Carla Jean Smith on January 30, 2008; one brother, Kenneth Leon Summers in 1985; and two sisters, Patricia Bowling in 1972 and Judith Ann Gregory on 2005.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Saturday, March 12 at St. John Catholic Church in Loogootee. Burial followed in St. John Catholic Cemetery in Loogootee. Brocksmith Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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

CITY

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been tried many times but pulling workers off other jobs to go mow and maintaining the larger mowers is not worth it. Bo Wilson agreed saying that contracting out the mowing has always been cheaper.

Mark Taylor who was in the audience representing Cutting Edge Lawn Care asked to make a comment. He said that he has mowed the locations for the last three or four years and said, "I can tell you that you can't do it for \$2,500, nobody can do it for that and if they can do it I'd let them do it," he said. "There's no way you're going to make any money doing it. Mowing isn't just mowing Mr. Bowling, it is doing the proper job and I think we've done a good job." He went on to say, "If I am the highest then there's a reason, it takes time. Nobody's making any money at \$2,500 and I'd let Baker Lawn Service mow it every time for that."

"Get up the next morning and we got grass thrown all over the streets and out in the gutters and down in the drains," said Taylor.

"I think that we can demand that they do a proper job," said Mayor Bowling. "I mean, they have a contract with us, they have to do it properly."

Bo Wilson then said that this is the reason for the bidding out for individual mowing, weekly mowing, and season mowing. He said if the city is unsatisfied they are free to release the person of the contract and go with a different company.

Cutting Edge's Mark Taylor from the audience said after asked by Taylor on whether their bid had increased from last year, that, no, it had stayed the same. He said that he recognized the city was upset last year when his bid increased by over \$1,000 going from \$2,070 to \$3,120. This year's bid did actually increase by \$520 however. "We've been at it seven years and we are going to continue doing it. Are these guys gonna just hit and miss, hit and miss?" asked Mark Taylor of the low bidder. He went on to say that the well field was mowed by his company twice as many times as was requested by the city in order to keep up with it.

Council member Taylor said he had a problem with some of the bidders, "I don't know them, and that's not saying anything bad against them, I don't know em' but I've had the experience at a lot of bid lettings that if they're not local sometimes you run into big problems."

Clerk-Treasurer Nancy Jones and Bo Wilson both said that a company's experience is not requested with the bid and the low bidder was from Alfordsville and does other mowing around the city.

After a flurry of discussions around the room Council member Phyllis Parker made a second to the previous motion to accept Baker's Lawn Service – the low bidder. The motion was denied with council members Taylor, Mattox, and Brewer voting it down.

Mayor Bowling then asked the council what they wanted to do – make another motion or table the discussion until next month. It was decided that it would be too late next month to approve a bid.

Council member Brewer said that she was like Rich Taylor and had a problem not knowing who the people were submitting the low bid. "Why isn't he here tonight if he really wants that bid whoever he is?" she asked. She suggested staying with Cutting Edge Lawn Care since the city had already paid them \$3,000 in the past and they have done a good job. Council member Parker asked why the city went to the trouble of advertising for bids then. Brewer said that Taylor with Cutting Edge was going to be mad if his bid was not accepted. "I'm not going to be mad even if you accept the lower bid, I understand it, but I do know that it can't be done for that, it can't be done for that," he repeated. He said it has been tried before by another company and there is no money in it without a little bit of a raise and so he raised his rate.

A reporter in the audience noted to the council that if the low bidder is not accepted then a reason must be stated in the minutes. He also asked why the city is concerned whether or not the low bidder would lose money or not. No answer was ever given as to why the low bid was not accepted. Don Greene, who was in the audience, noted that a representative from Yard Sharks, Joe Potts, was present and no one even spoke to him and he was the third lowest bidder. Council member Taylor then made a motion to go with Yard Sharks for \$2,782 saying "At least they're local." With no one choosing to make the second Mayor Bowling said, "Come on guys, let's do something here – you didn't want the first one."

Joe Potts with Yard Sharks said, "I'm with Yard Sharks but I think you need to accept the first one. I don't think you can base your decision on what they might do or what they might not do. I think you need to give them the opportunity and if it doesn't work out like Mayor Bowling said, you fire them and you move on."

It was decided to go back and start over making a motion for Baker's Lawn Service which Council member Parker did. The motion passed unanimously the second time.

In other business, the council also voted 4-1 to purchase a new SUV for the police department for \$23,000. The request first came up at last month's regular meeting of

the council and questions arose on where the extra money for the SUV would come from and why an SUV was chosen for purchase over a passenger car. A lengthy discussion ensued at last month's meeting regarding the need for an SUV. Police Chief Kelly Rayhill explained then that this kind of vehicle was needed to reach accident scenes during wintery weather conditions. He also said that an SUV allowed for more storage room for equipment. In the end, last month, the council voted down the purchase of the vehicle 3-2 but verbally decided to revisit the issue at a later date when more data had been brought forward. At Monday night's meeting little discussion was held. Prices for an Explorer and two quotes for Dodge Chargers were presented but not really discussed. It was explained that the car would be driven by Loogootee Police Officer and City Council member Rick Norris whose current car has 80,000 miles. An older spare vehicle would be used as a trade however and not Norris' current car. Norris did state that the new Ford Explorer would get the same gas mileage as his current car – seven to nine miles per gallon. The fund for the purchase of the car currently has \$18,200. Chief Rayhill said that \$3,500 could also be taken from the Continuing Education Fund leaving a little over \$1,000 remaining. Financing the remaining \$5,600 was then discussed to prevent depleting the police department's budget. Council member Sue Brewer made a motion to that effect. The balance would be financed at 3.75 percent interest and be paid from next year's budget. Prior to the motion being seconded council member Phyllis Parker stated that she still had a few questions acknowledging the fact that Norris had called her prior to the meeting to explain things.

"Did a lot of good to explain anything to her," Council member Rich Taylor commented.

Parker continued saying she still wondered why the city needed an SUV since the county had several and the vehicle would go to Norris who works third shift. She said she didn't see the justification on spending the extra money.

"You made a motion and it's on the table

are we going to vote on it or not," said Taylor to Council member Brewer during Parker's questioning of Police Chief Rayhill.

"The Mayor told us about 15 minutes ago about the economic downturn and the finances and everything and here we're wanting to finance this," continued Parker.

Council member Brewer told Parker that the money would be coming out of the police fund. The two discussed this and next year's payment from the budget. "I'm done," said Parker.

"We got a motion on the table," said Council member Taylor.

"We're still having discussion," said Mayor Bowling.

"That's what he asked for, that's what I was giving," said Parker regarding the continued discussion.

Parker voted against the purchase of the SUV with the remaining council members voting in favor. The motion passed with the majority.

Prior to the start of the regular agenda of the meeting, Mayor Bowling read a statement regarding city finances. He said in the statement that although the city is not broke future purchases will need to be made with a wary eye on finances. "We must remain frugal in our attitude on how we allocate funding," he said. He went on to say that the city has cut costs where they can but the services provided by the city to residents and employees have become increasingly more expensive. He added that Loogootee is in better shape than many cities in that they have watched their spending and not done "business as usual."

A building permit was approved for Kay Summers on Westwood Drive for a concrete driveway.

One item on the agenda, the city police dispatch program, was tabled for a later date. The Mayor stated that he felt a special meeting needed to be called because he felt it was going to be a long discussion and also, he thought representatives from the Martin County Sheriff's Department should be present. It was decided to discuss it at the next regular meeting in April.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

Monday, March 7

11:15 a.m. - Received a residential burglar alarm near Shoals.

12:11 p.m. - Received a request for a trailer inspection on Deep Cut Lake Road.

3:29 p.m. - Received a report of a cow on U.S. 50, near Max Warren's Curve.

5:30 p.m. - Received a report of a small pig on North Line Street in Loogootee.

8:50 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

Tuesday, March 8

3:55 a.m. - Received a report of possible gun shots heard south of U.S. 50, near the fairgrounds.

11:00 a.m. - Received a call about violation of a protective order.

1:25 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance at Martin County Healthcare. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:45 p.m. - A female called about violation of a protective order.

Unknown time - A call was received about an unknown man in front of a residence.

4:50 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle check.

6:19 p.m. - Received information regarding a violation of probation.

6:34 p.m. - Received a call about a property dispute.

8:00 p.m. - Received a residential burglar alarm in Loogootee.

9:05 p.m. - Received a report of cows out on Dover Hill Road.

Wednesday, March 9

1:55 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. No transport was necessary.

3:54 a.m. - Received information that Simmons Creek Road was impassable due to high water.

7:22 a.m. - Received a report of stolen clothing from the laundromat in Shoals.

7:40 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle running a stop arm on a school bus.

8:01 a.m. - Received a report of a tree

blocking the roadway on Mt. Calvary Road.

10:55 a.m. - Received a report of a deer caught in a fence on Windom Road.

1:44 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:46 p.m. - Received a report of a possible breaking and entering in progress on Brooks Bridge Road.

3:46 p.m. - A male caller advised that someone threw something from the side of the highway on U.S. 50 and broke his wife's car windshield.

3:54 p.m. - A female caller reported a cow on U.S. 50, near Max Warren's Curve.

4:32 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in the Trinity Springs area. The subject was transported to Bedford Regional Medical Center.

5:38 p.m. - A female caller advised her teenage son was out of control, threatening her and her daughter, and destroying property at their residence.

5:50 p.m. - A female caller advised of a possible impaired driver traveling southbound on U.S. 231, south of Loogootee.

Unknown time - A female caller in Trinity Springs area advised that people were shining lights into her residence.

Unknown time - A call was received about individuals in Shoals looking into windows at a business after hours.

Unknown time - A request was received for extra patrol near a residence in Loogootee.

11:24 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee to assist Loogootee Fire Department.

11:32 p.m. - Received a call from a concerned father about a juvenile son not returning home.

Thursday, March 10

3:45 a.m. - Received information that water was beginning to cover Spout Springs Road, River Road, off of Windom Road, Simmons Creek Road, and Abel Hill Road.

8:05 a.m. - Received a complaint of a vehicle driving through a school zone at a high rate of speed.

8:35 a.m. - Received a report of a cow on the roadway on U.S. 50 near Max Warren's Curve.

Unknown time - Received a call about a lost or stolen wallet.

7:28 p.m. - A female caller in Shoals reported a power outage.

11:58 p.m. - Received a complaint of a barking dog in Crane Village.

Friday, March 11

6:22 a.m. - An ambulance was request south of Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:06 a.m. - Received a dog complaint on Spring Hill Road.

9:45 a.m. - Received a call from a concerned parent about bullying.

10:22 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. No transport was necessary.

10:30 a.m. - Received a complaint about a property dispute.

2:00 p.m. - Received a report of possible identity theft.

2:30 p.m. - Received a request for assistance with a locked vehicle in Shoals.

6:03 p.m. - Received a commercial burglar alarm on U.S. 50, east of Loogootee.

6:10 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. No transport was necessary.

7:43 p.m. - Received a report of a violation of a protective order.

10:54 p.m. - Received a report of a residential burglar alarm in Loogootee.

11:50 p.m. - Received a report of a truck on its side on Wood School Road. The vehicle was located on Killion Mill Road stuck in mud.

Saturday, March 12

12:15 a.m. - Received a report of a possible reckless driver southbound on U.S. 231 from Crane.

12:35 a.m. - Received a report of possible prowlers attempting to gain entrance to a residence on Brooks Bridge Road.

7:10 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. No transport was necessary.

8:00 a.m. - Received a report of possible animal abuse on Old S.R. 450.

10:40 a.m. - Received a report that there was going to be a controlled burn on Sanders Lane.

11:51 a.m. - Received a request for assistance with a locked vehicle in Shoals.

2:50 p.m. - Received a report of a dispute at a foreclosure on Rama Dye Road.

2:56 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Crane.

3:58 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle on School House Lane.

4:06 p.m. - Received a report of a brush fire on S.R. 450.

10:30 p.m. - A ghost hunter club member called and advised that he would be in a cemetery if we receive any calls on him.

10:52 p.m. - A male caller in Shoals reported possible prowlers.

Sunday, March 13

1:00 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on U.S. 50, westbound from Martin State Forest.

11:19 a.m. - Received a report of property damage in Burns City.

12:00 p.m. - Received a report of mailbox damage on Beard Road.

1:01 p.m. - Received a report from a male caller in Trinity Springs about harassment by a neighbor.

1:44 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:57 p.m. - Received a report of mailbox vandalism on Tedrow Lane.

4:45 p.m. - Received a residential burglar alarm on Mt. Calvary Rd.

5:35 p.m. - Received a report of two males in an altercation outside of vehicles parked on U.S. 50, east of Shoals.

5:40 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious subject parked near Village Apartments in Shoals.

6:20 p.m. - Received a report of a battery.

6:30 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee.

7:41 p.m. - Received a report of a stolen cell phone.

Monday, March 14

7:10 a.m. - Received a report of a deer accident on U.S. 231, just north of the Alfordsville turnoff.

11:35 a.m. - Received a call from a subject requesting a deer permit for a deer that had been struck by a vehicle on U.S. 50.

12:32 p.m. - Received a request for an officer to respond to Shoals School for an incident there involving a juvenile.

1:52 p.m. - Received a report of a truck with a leaky load westbound on U.S. 50 from the U.S. 231 junction in Loogootee.

3:25 p.m. - Received a report of mailbox vandalism.

3:40 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on U.S. 50, westbound from Loogootee.

3:49 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on S.R. 450. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:37 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on U.S. 231, north of Loogootee. No transport was necessary.

7:04 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance at Loogootee Nursing Center. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:42 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. No transport was necessary.

Tuesday, March 15

8:18 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Shoals.

11:50 a.m. - Received a request for an emergency message to be delivered.

1:26 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

Jail booking

Saturday, March 12

8:13 a.m. - Daniel Meyer, 48, of Jasper, was arrested and charged with invasion of privacy.

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Loogootee Police log

Monday, March 7

2:46 p.m. - Florence Dant reported an item stolen from her vehicle while parked at a local business. Chief Rayhill filed a case report.

5:29 p.m. - Caller reported a potbelly pig running loose on North Line Street.

7:49 p.m. - Male caller reported threatening phone calls.

8:00 p.m. - Caller requested a vehicle ID check.

Tuesday, March 8

8:44 a.m. - Tim Bradley, of Loogootee, reported change stolen from his vehicle.

2:17 pm. - Female caller on Bloomfield Road reported a loud noise complaint.

Wednesday, March 9

4:07 p.m. - Caller reported drug related items were found on Industrial Avenue.

5:23 p.m. - Caller reported a potbelly pig loose on Brady Street.

6:15 p.m. - Caller reported a noise complaint in Shady Estates.

11:16 p.m. - Caller reported grease fire at 109 Cedar Street. Loogootee Fire was dispatched.

Thursday, March 10

7:00 a.m. - Caller requested extra patrol.

9:53 a.m. - Caller reported a vehicle fire at Hoosier Uplands. Loogootee Fire was dispatched.

10:03 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dis-

pute on Dewey Street. Sgt. Hennette responded.

Friday, March 11

3:06 p.m. - Jackie Edmondson reported damage to his vehicle. Capt. Akles filed a case report.

10:56 p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department reported a business alarm on Church Street. Sgt. Hennette responded.

11:37 p.m. - Caller reported trespassing in Redwing Trailer Court. Sgt. Hennette responded.

11:46 p.m. - Caller reported a vehicle in a ditch on Wood School Road. Martin County Sheriff's Department was notified.

Saturday, March 12

12:15 a.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department reported a possible intoxicated driver southbound from Crane.

12:58 a.m. - Caller from local business reported possible intoxicated subjects in a store.

11:27 a.m. - Daviess County Sheriff's Department requested additional manpower for a levee break. Loogootee Fire was dispatched.

Sunday, March 13

3:26 p.m. - Caller reported profanity written on school property.

4:50 p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department requested assistance with an opened door at a residence on Mt. Calvary Road.

Martin County real estate transfers

Gerald L. Sanders and Phoebe K. Sanders, of Martin County, Indiana to **Lois M. Payne**, of Martin County, Indiana, the west half of Lot 205 in the plat of Daugherty's Addition to West Shoals, now Shoals, Indiana.

Joe E. Estrada, of Martin County, Indiana to **Billie J. Groff and Joseph Edward Estrada**, of Martin County, Indiana, part of the west half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1 acre, more or less.

Bellgrade Developers, Inc., of Martin County, Indiana to **Adam M. Wallace and Kathy M. Wallace**, of Martin County, Indiana, part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, and containing 0.433 acres, more or less.

Tim Moffatt and Bill Moffatt, of Martin County, Indiana to **Chad A. Damon**, of Martin County, Indiana, the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, containing 40 acres, more or less. Except a part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 3 West containing 4.36 acres, more or less. Containing after said exception 35.64 acres, more or less.

Kevin M. Qualkenbush and Andrea M. Qualkenbush, of Martin County, Indiana to **Darin J. Lewis and Jennifer L. Lewis**, of

Daviess County, Indiana, a part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing 1.12 acres.

Douglas R. Lane and Christina A. Lane, of Martin County, Indiana to **Kevin M. Qualkenbush and Andrea M. Qualkenbush**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, and containing 5.50 acres, more or less.

Millstone Hollow Farm Corporation, of Martin County, Indiana to **Kevin M. Qualkenbush and Andrea M. Qualkenbush**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.19 acres more or less.

Carl Gibson, of Martin County, Indiana to **Angelia Chastain**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, containing 0.25 acre, more or less. More commonly known as Lot 38 Red Wing Trailer Court, Loogootee, Indiana.

Karl O'Harder, of Martin County, Indiana to **Hembree Properties, Inc.**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lots Numbered 51 and 52 in Keck's Addition to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Martin County Court News

Persons listed on criminals charges are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

CRIMINAL COURT

New Charges Filed

February 25

Abraham Lopez, operating a vehicle without ever being licensed, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Jeremy C. Helton, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor.

March 3

Jerrad VanMeter, operating a vehicle without ever being licensed, a Class C Misdemeanor.

March 8

Robert G. Roach, III, operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Mark A. Rose, possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Trista A. Strange, possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Daniel L. Meyer, invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Danny R. McKibben, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class D Felony.

Frederick W. Morgan, intimidation, a Class D Felony; disorderly conduct, a Class B Misdemeanor; domestic battery, a Class D Felony.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND

SENTENCING

February 25

Frank L. Fields, convicted of operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days in the Martin County Security Center with credit for time served of two days. Court suspends 361 days. Defendant received one year of probation.

Shane D. Norrell, convicted of operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 60 days in the Martin County Security Center with credit for time served of two days. Court suspends 56 days. Defendant received 8 months of probation.

Rodney Neil Finch, convicted of operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days in the Martin County Security Center with credit for time served of two days. Court suspends 361 days. Defendant received no probation.

February 28

John M. Seals, convicted of operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 359 days in the Martin County Security Center with credit for time served of three days. Court suspends 361 days. Defendant received 11 months of probation.

March 3

Tina I. Turpin, convicted of operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 60 days in the Martin County Security Center with credit for time served including three days. Court suspends 54 days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

March 3

Tina I. Turpin, operating a vehicle without ever being licensed, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

March 11

Courtney R. Matthews, operating a vehicle while intoxicated with prior within five years, a Class D Felony, dismissed.

March 4

Stephen B. Smith, operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

March 2

Danielle Bough vs. Tanner Bough, petition for dissolution of marriage.

March 3

Martina Scott vs. David Scott, petition for dissolution of marriage.

March 4

Midland Funding LLC vs. Carol Abel, civil collection.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Kurt Gross, civil collection.

March 8

Heidi Melton Morgan vs. Frederick W. Morgan, petition for dissolution of marriage.

CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

March 4

Donald Wells vs. Deborah Wells, legal separation, dismissed.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suit Filed

March 3

Hughes Paving vs. Gary Albright, complaint.

March 4

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. William A. Kidwell, II, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Tyson Winger, complaint.

March 7

Rheta Shaw vs. Ronald and Shaquille Crowder, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS DISMISSED

March 2

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Glenda and James Gallagher, complaint, dismissed.

March 7

G&M Auto Service, Inc. vs. Kent Smith, complaint, dismissed.

TRAFFIC TICKETS PAID

March 2 - March 8

Michael Butcher, Crane, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Raymond Clampet, Lawrenceville, Illinois, violation of 70-hour rule, \$119.

John Edwards, Orleans, violation of 70-hour rule, \$119.

Joshua Hurst, Loogootee, speeding 70 in a 55, \$119.

Curtis Kidwell, Shoals, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Todd Mehringer, Jasper, speeding 54 in a 40, \$119.

Trisha Moore, Loogootee, ignore stop sign, \$124.

Corrina Morrison, West Baden, littering, \$37.

Chad Norris, Oolitic, driving while suspended; false or fictitious registration; driving without proof of financial responsibilities, \$149.

Paul Salmon, Shoals, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Jenny Sargent, Loogootee, unregistered vehicle; expired plates, \$119.

Janet Tredway, Shoals, seatbelt violation, \$25.

Chad Worden, Nevada, Ohio, violation of 70-hour rule, \$119.

Walter Zelivetz, Fredericksburg, unregistered vehicle; expired plates, \$119.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

March 11

Charles Anthony Sergent of Loogootee and Tiffani Dawn Roberts of Loogootee.

March 14

Damian Troy Bruner of Odon and Rachel Ann Lythgoe of Loogootee.

Accident reports

Friday, March 11

3:26 p.m. - Keith D. Dillman, of Williams, was operating a 2008 Chevy on North Street approaching North Line Street when he entered the driving lane used by a 2002 Dodge operated by Dustin Fox, of Loogootee, and a collision occurred. No injuries were reported. Capt. Akles was the investigating officer.

Saturday, March 12

5:08 p.m. - Ashley N. O'Brien, of Loogootee, was operating 2007 Chevy in the Loogootee High School parking lot when she stated that her foot slipped off the brake while backing up causing her vehicle to strike a tree. No injuries were reported. Capt. Akles was the investigating officer.



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Week in Review at the Indiana General Assembly

The Senate continues its work on more than 100 House bills which were approved by that chamber last month. The House continues to be inactive due to a walkout by House Democrats brought on by the advancement of legislation that would negatively impact Indiana's labor force as well as public schools. Senators continue to work and hold committee hearings on bills that did make it through the House of Representatives before the walkout.

While two intermediate deadlines were extended so the Senate can continue to receive and act upon House bills, the legislature is still moving toward the regular session adjournment date of April 29.

The legislation containing the state's two-year budget proposal is among those bills currently stalled in the House. Senate budget negotiators are considering using the budget version that passed the House Ways and Means Committee as a base plan, and moving forward by amending their plan into a House bill currently under Senate consideration. Failure to pass a new state budget and new state and congressional districts by April 29 could cause the governor to call the General Assembly into a special session.

This brief summary includes highlights of Senate action and other activities taking place at the Statehouse throughout the week of March 7.

Worker rallies continue at the Statehouse. Despite a cold and rainy day, the Indiana State Teachers Association held a "Rally to Save Indiana's Schools" on the Statehouse grounds Saturday, March 5. More than 1,000 teachers, administrators, and students attended and showed their solidarity in the fight against legislation that will hurt public schools.

Labor representatives continued to gather each day at the Statehouse and rally against bills that would hurt working families and children throughout Indiana. On Thursday, a huge assembly of nearly 10,000 Hoosiers convened on the plaza west of the Statehouse to communicate their opposition to the anti-worker agenda being pushed by Republican majorities in the Indiana General Assembly.

Senate committee action

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Transportation and Veteran Affairs advanced several bills including one that would aid veterans. House Bill (HB) 1109 would require the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to include an indication on driver's licenses and state-issued identification cards specifying that a person is a veteran. Under this proposal, a veteran would need to provide proof of discharge from the armed forces to have the veteran status included on identification information issued by the BMV. Passage of this bill would eliminate

Additional contract approved for construction on I-69 in Gibson County

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) recently announced the awarding of a road contract for the Interstate 69 (I-69) Corridor in southwest Indiana. E.S. Wagner's \$36.9 million bid was under engineer's current estimates. The contract is for construction of 5.7 miles of the new interstate from just north of State Road 168 to State Road 64 in Gibson County.

Construction is anticipated to begin this spring. Currently ten of the fourteen construction contracts awarded for Sections 1 through 3 have been won by Indiana firms as the lowest bids. Federal guidelines prohibit geographic discrimination when awarding projects developed with federal funds. INDOT is required to allow all qualified companies to bid for the work, without consideration to their geographical location.

the need for veterans to carry their discharge paperwork or other military identification.

The committee also approved House Concurrent Resolution 8, a memorial resolution that would rename I-465, the interstate beltway circling Indianapolis, the USS Indianapolis Memorial Highway in honor of those who served on the ship. A critical Navy vessel in service during WWII, the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine and sunk in the Philippine Sea on July 30, 1945. Of the 1,196 aboard, 316 survived.

Charter schools

The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development held its initial hearing on a controversial bill being pushed by the governor and the state's school superintendent that would allow for additional charter schools in Indiana. HB 1002 would allow mayors and private colleges and universities, and a new statewide charter school board to establish charter schools. Currently there are 60 charter schools in the state, most of which are operated by Ball State University or the Indianapolis Mayor's office. The bill would also redistribute some transportation funds from traditional public schools to charter schools, a move estimated to increase property taxes statewide by as much as \$50 million per year as it will likely force school corporations to seek additional funds for transportation costs. Since the measure has already been approved by the House, it could advance to the governor if it moves through the Senate with no amendments.

New laws

Two bills fast-tracked through the legislative process have been signed into law by the governor. Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 32 would allow vote centers in all 92 counties. A successful pilot program conducted over the past three election cycles in Tippecanoe, Cass and Wayne counties proved to be efficient, cost effective, and convenient for voters. Under the new law, county election boards would be required to consider public comment before vote centers could be established. If adopted by a county, at least one of the county's vote centers would be required to be open for early voting on the two Saturdays prior to an election day.

House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1450 will help rebalance the state's bankrupt unemployment insurance benefits system and repay more than \$2 billion borrowed from the federal government to cover benefits for unemployed Hoosier workers. Under the new law, the federal loan will be repaid through a 13 percent surcharge on businesses, and changes will be made to the schedule used to determine each employer's unemployment contribution rate. However, the calculation adjustment included in the legislation will also cut overall statewide benefits by about 25 percent annually. Average weekly benefits for unemployed workers are estimated to drop from \$283 to \$212. The U.S. average weekly benefit is \$295, and Indiana currently ranks 33rd in average weekly benefits. In addition, the law eliminates benefit eligibility for seasonal workers, plant workers affected by pre-announced temporary shutdowns, and those workers held on an on-call or as-needed basis.

Upcoming deadlines

April 8 - Deadline for Senate committee hearings on House bills

April 15 - Deadline for Senate to vote on House bills

April 29 - By law, session must conclude business and adjourn by midnight

To stay informed about bills moving through the General Assembly or to track legislation, log on to www.in.gov/legislative. From this site, you can also watch House and Senate committee hearings and session floor debate.

The Messmer Report

By District 63 State Representative

Mark Messmer



Putting students first to strengthen Indiana
A focus of the Strengthen Indiana Plan is to expand education opportunities for Hoosier children.

A number of bills were authored this session to help us create stronger schools and provide students with outstanding education opportunities. Three of those bills have made it through the first step this session, one in the House, and two in the Senate, that would help us create stronger schools and to improve on systems that have not been changed in over 25 years. House Bill 1002, Senate Bill 1 and Senate Bill 575 have made it through the first step in the process and are now ready to be heard by the opposite House they came from. My goal now is to dispel a few myths about the bills and to let you know my intention is to create the best possible education for children in Indiana.

HB 1002 will expand charter schools in Indiana. Charter schools are public schools and must accept all students. When more students apply to attend than the school can accommodate the charter must hold a lottery or other objective selection method. The average student population at Indiana public charter schools have mostly minority students, about 70 percent usually, and about 65 percent of the students are also eligible for free or reduced lunches. Traditional public schools in Indiana typically have about 27 percent minority students and 47 percent who are eligible for free and reduced lunches.

Charter schools are also at a disadvantage when it comes to funding. They receive no funding during the first six months of operation and will only receive local property tax dollars for transportation purposes. One of the most important aspects of HB 1002 is that it will increase charter school accountability to the levels that all public schools currently hold and to standards above those of traditional public schools by holding sponsors accountable for school performance. I do not believe that charter schools are silver bullet for all of our education problems, but I do believe that all children deserve quality options when it comes to their education.

SB 1 will require local school districts to develop teacher and principal evaluation systems that consider multiple measures, including student growth and student engagement. Students' academic growth and performance should be one part of a comprehensive evaluation system that examines multiple factors. While the bill calls for that data to be one component of evaluations, local leaders will determine what specific data should be used, such as student growth

data or teacher-developed assessment data, etc. Besides the data component, local evaluations should consider student's needs, teachers' level of responsibility and teachers' experience.

SB 1 does not mandate a one-size fits all process. The bill calls for local school corporations to use evaluations to offer meaningful feedback to all educators, develop targeted professional development, inform promotion and placement decisions, and create salary scales based on more than just seniority and degrees held. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is creating models for school systems to use, but the state will not mandate the use of these models.

A final point of clarification on SB 1: the bill will not decrease a current teacher's pay. Teachers currently earning a base salary that includes all of their years of experience and a master's degree will continue to make at least that much, and no less, going forward. I have heard arguments that the bill does not make that clear, so there is an amendment written to clarify that point. I would not support that bill without that amendment. SB 1 will change how pay increases are granted after July 1, 2012. From that point forward, pay increases could be based on factors such as years of experience, student achievement, leadership roles of teachers, and academic need within the district.

The last bill, SB 575, would clarify the existing laws concerning collective bargaining between teachers' unions and local school corporations to reflect a better focus on providing high-quality instruction to students. The bill would not eliminate teachers' collective bargaining rights; it would merely focus contracts negotiated between teachers' unions and school corporations on salaries and wage-related benefits.

In SB 575 teachers would still have the right to appeal and to be heard (with representation present) by both the superintendent and the school board. The bill does not allow the state superintendent to cancel any teacher's contract at any time, and current teachers will not lose tenure if they already have it.

These bills contain a lot of information, and I have only been able to highlight the issues I have heard about most frequently. If you would like to read more about the bills IDOE has excellent outlines of each bill individually. They can be found at www.doe.in.gov and Putting Students First. Or, if you'd like to see the bills in the House or Senate and follow their progress, you can visit www.in.gov/legislative and visit the Bills and Resolutions tab on the left side of the page.



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-Photos by Courtney Hughett

State representatives for Martin County, Senator Lindel Hume and State Representatives Mark Messmer and Matt Ubelhor were in attendance at last Saturday morning's Cracker Barrel session sponsored by Farm Bureau Inc. Through the several hour open forum the main subjects discussed were charter schools, collective bargaining, school funding, and the Democrat walkout with Hume and Messmer going back and forth on the issues. Ubelhor spent a little time discussing union voting and changing the way schools allocate per pupil funding per school. He said he feels the amounts should be more equal regardless of the school's location.



Hume, Ubelhor, Messmer stop in Martin County for Cracker Barrel Session

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

State Representative for Indiana House District 63 Mark Messmer, District 62 State Representative Matt Ubelhor, and Senator for Indiana District 48, Lindel Hume, visited Martin County last Saturday, March 12 to field questions from constituents in a Cracker Barrel Session sponsored by Farm Bureau Incorporated.

Each elected official took time to address the crowd going over their current bills in the legislature and future plans.

The recent walk-out of the Democrats at the Statehouse was also a topic of discussion with Hume and Messmer taking turns debating the reason for the walkout and the ramifications to current bills and the approval of the state budget.

A member of the audience asked Mr. Hume if there was ever a time when republicans walked out. Hume replied that politicians have different strategies to get their point across, but no, the republicans have not walked out.

Lost River Fire Station grant application ready to be submitted

The Martin County Commissioners met Tuesday, March 8.

Rhonda Rumble of SIDC presented the application to be submitted in the form of Resolution 2011-3 for the grant to obtain monies for the proposed fire station in Lost River. No actual county money will be used. The commissioners approved the resolution. Lost River Township Trustee Millie Brown wanted to publicly thank SIDC for their help on this project. There will be a public hearing later at the Bateman Community Center. Commissioner Gregory will compose a letter of recommendation on behalf of the Martin County Commissioners.

Don Greene and Theresa Abney with the Martin County Humane Society presented the final draft of the Dog Control Ordinance which will be Ordinance 2011-04. The commissioners approved the ordinance. According to state statute, it must be published once and read twice. Tuesday's was the first reading.

Judge Lynne Ellis came before the board to provide update on the work being done downstairs. One new update she requested was to have insulation in her office to help make it more soundproof. The commissioners agreed verbally and asked for estimates. Sheriff Rob Street reported the outside

Charter schools were also discussed. Several employees of the Shoals and Loogootee Schools were in attendance including both superintendents Larry Weitkamp and Dr. Tony Nonte. Weitkamp addressed Mark Messmer stating that he was elected to represent Loogootee and this area of Indiana and should be listening to the concerns of those constituents. He asked Messmer to support the people who elected him. Dr. Nonte spoke about the school's budget shortfalls and how difficult it will be to make up for the huge reductions handed down by the state.

Messmer and Ubelhor both explained that the purpose of charter schools was to give parents options for education. Messmer said he wanted to dispel the myth that charter schools and/or private would limit enrollment with the use of vouchers. He said that any school could not turn away students and if they were maxed out a lottery would need to be held for students on a waiting list. Messmer also noted that charter schools were approved by the Democrat governor in 2001 and are not new to Indiana. The state currently has 62 charter schools.

lighting on the jail will be repaired. He presented a contract with SRI, Inc. to conduct the sheriff's sales. It will be Ordinance 2011-5 and will be signed after the commissioners' names are added to the contract. Sheriff Street also proposed transferring the 1989 Dodge van to the Martin County Humane Society which was approved by the commissioners.

Assistant EMA/Civil Defense Director Andy Ringwald announced the weather spotter training will be March 24 from 6-8 p.m. at the learning center.

Highway Superintendent JIM Williams gave his two-week work report. Blesch Brothers were awarded the bid on the bi-directional tractor/loader for \$172,590. Payments will be for five years at 4 percent interest with payments of \$37,339.85. The payment money is presently in this year's budget.

It was noted by the President George that even with the financial crunch, the highway department and commissioners still have to keep Martin County in shape as best as they can.

Dale Tedrow came before the board with the dust control issue on his road. Dust control was applied last year but not enough. It was taken under advisement.

Martin County unemployment rate hovers around 7 percent

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Martin and the surrounding counties didn't see a whole lot change from December 2010 to January 2011 in the unemployment report released last week. What did change however was the numbers from January last year to January of this year.

Martin County had hardly any change in unemployment from December to January barely moving from 7.1 percent down to 7 percent. The slight change did however bump the county up two places in the state ranking for the lowest unemployment at 87th of the 92 counties but still not back into the top five lowest.

For January, Martin County had 5,437 residents in the workforce with 5,058 employed and 370 unemployed.

In January of 2010 the county sat at 8.3 percent for unemployment with 5,066 residents in the job market and 422 without work.

Daviess County's jobless rate also moved only slightly for January going from 5.3 percent to 5.6 percent. The county, however, continues to maintain the top spot in the state for the lowest unemployment.

In January of this year, Daviess County had 14,693 residents in the workforce with 826 of them without jobs. The number in the job market is down from 15,103 just a month prior.

In January of last year the county had a jobless rate of 7 percent.

Dubois County's jobless rate rose just .2 percent points from 6.4 in December to 6.6 percent in January but they did fall back in ranking from the second lowest in the state for unemployment at 91st to 88th.

In January, Dubois had 22,230 residents in the workforce with 1,458 jobless. In January 2010, the county's unemployment rate stood at 8.5 percent with 1,868 people without jobs.

Orange County's jobless rate also rose just slightly from 10 percent to 10.4 percent

for January. The county is tied at the 37th spot in the state with Whitley and Fountain counties.

In January of this year Orange County had 10,459 residents in the job market and 1,086 of them unemployed.

A year prior, the county's jobless rate stood at 13 percent with 1,342 unemployed residents.

The top five spots for the lowest jobless rate in Indiana go to Daviess County at 5.6 percent, Knox and Hamilton counties at 6.3 percent, Monroe County at 6.5 percent, and Dubois County at 6.6 percent.

The top five spots for the highest unemployment rate are Vermillion County with 13 percent, Fayette County with 12.9 percent, Crawford and Putnam counties with 12.7 percent, and Noble County at 12.3 percent.

Indiana's preliminary seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percent to 9.1 percent in January 2011, equal to the national decrease. This is the lowest unemployment rate since January 2009. The state added 10,600 private sector jobs in January.

"Indiana's private sector job growth has outpaced the nation's 2 to 1 since the low point of employment in October 2009," said Mark W. Everson, Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. "2011 is off to a good start with strong employment gains. We've seen increases in almost all areas of employment."

Employment by Sector
Sectors showing significant employment gains in January include: Construction (5,000), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (4,500), Manufacturing (3,100), Financial Activities (1,500) and All Other (1,400). Sectors showing significant declines are Professional and Business Services (-3,700) and Private Education and Health Services (-1,600). Total non-farm employment increased (13,900) in January.

This article was written in part with a press release from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

County council talks money with department leaders

The Martin County Council met Monday, March 7.

Judge Ellis presented her wage ordinance revision to the council. She asked that the GAL (Guardian Ad Litem) hourly rate be raised to \$80 per hour from the \$60 per hour in the previous Ordinance. After some discussion it was decided to leave it at the \$60 per hour. Judge Ellis also brought to the council's attention that the Level 4 court reporter/ CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Director had left her employ with the county. The county was paying \$300 per month for a director and had no CASA program and for \$350 per month they could "piggy back" with Daviess County's CASA program. Then they then would have a properly run and supervised program. This would also reduce the likelihood of having to pay a GAL and the extra \$50 could come from the L4 reporters vacated salary.

She also amended the Salary and Wage Ordinance from a Level 1 and a Level 4 Court Reporter to two Level 2 Court Reporters, dividing the "freed up" money from the Level 4 Court Reporter salary between the two. No motion was made but it was agreed that as long as she "lived inside her budget" that these changes would be fine.

Judge Ellis also brought to the council's attention that the prosecuting attorney would no longer be providing the T1 internet service and that most likely each office will be responsible for their own DSL internet service on their own phone bill. She also commented that it would cost slightly more on the phone bill but the service would be significantly faster and would include free long distance.

Sheriff Rob Street presented the council

with prices on repairing fifteen toilets. The total rebuild kit for a toilet was \$400 but he did not feel each one would need a total rebuild. It was verbally agreed to for him to go ahead with the repairs.

There are five lights on the outside of the jail not working. He received an estimate from M&M Electric. If the entire light needs replaced it would be \$247.50 and if it is only a bulb, \$35.00, which would be the worst and the best case costs for the repair. Currently, the jail is housing seven Department of Corrections inmates and Sheriff Street has asked for nine more.

Jim Williams, County Highway Superintendent, approached the council with a proposal to buy a brush cutter/loader that they are in need of at the cost of \$170,000. The money is already in the budget. The council agreed that "as long as you can live inside your budget go ahead".

Tim Kinder, Martin County Alliance Director, stated that things are happening. He is waiting on a press release but cannot elaborate at this time.

The Foreign Trade Zone was explained in detail and is coming along should be approved in July to September time frame.

Crane Industry Day will be held at the French Lick Resort on the 28th and 29th and was moved from Indianapolis. Kinder is also working on a revolving loan fund for businesses. This is a USDA program and would double money that could be available for businesses.

Council President Rich Summers spoke on the hand-outs with information on the Local Option Income Tax (LOIT). A lengthy discussion followed but no decision made at this time and will be discussed again.

Severe Weather Awareness Week offers Hoosiers opportunity to be prepared

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), in cooperation with the National Weather Service, Indiana State Police, Indiana Public Safety Commission, Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Broadcasters Association, the American Red Cross, Indiana Department of Transportation and the amateur radio community, will be observing severe weather preparedness this week March 13-19.

Severe weather frequently accompanies the arrival of spring. Historically, Indiana has experienced some of the worst thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding incidents during the spring months.

Planning and preparedness help minimize weather related deaths, injuries and property damage.

Today, Wednesday, March 16, a test of the Emergency Alert System was sounded between 10 and 10:30 a.m. EDT, and another test will be held between 7:30 and 8 p.m. EDT on commercial radio, television networks, and all hazards alert radios. Thursday, March 17 is the make-up drill day if severe weather postpones Wednesday's



drill. "Every family, school, and business should take time now to review or create a weather safety action plan, said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. "The March 16th tornado drills are an excellent time to practice these plans."

In addition to knowing what to do during a severe weather emergency, it's also important to be prepared in advance. "Being informed is an essential first step, but Hoosiers must also join the effort of being prepared," said Wainscott. "During a disaster, emergency services may be stressed and

in high demand. Being able to take care of your own needs - for even a short time - will help responders assist those needing it most."

All citizens are encouraged to prepare or update a disaster preparedness kit.

Ten important items to include in your family's disaster kit are:

1. Food and water for three days (includes three gallons of water per person, per day)
2. Battery-operated all-hazards radio
3. Flashlight
4. Extra batteries for radio and flashlight
5. First aid kit
6. Extra clothing, sturdy shoes, rain gear, blankets, and personal hygiene items
7. List of emergency phone numbers
8. Important documents (copies of photo ID, social security card, insurance and banking information)
9. Cash (Small bills. Power outages can limit ability to use ATMs and credit cards)
10. Special items (baby formula, insulin, life sustaining medication)

To find out more about preparing for severe weather, visit www.GetPrepared.in.gov.



LYDIA LENEH HAWKINS

Hawkins family welcomes first child

Dr. Brooke and Jordan Hawkins are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Lydia Leneh Hawkins. Lydia was born on January 31 at 4:23 a.m. at Indiana University Health, Bloomington she weighed 7 lbs 7 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Her maternal grandparents are Clay and Helen Dearwester and paternal grandparents are Phil and Donna Hawkins. Lydia's maternal great grandparents are Cecilia and the late Edward Nolley and Lois and the late Al Dearwester. Her paternal great grandparents are Henry and Mary Lou Swartzentruber and the late William and Bonnie Hawkins.

Humane Society PET OF THE WEEK

The Martin County Humane Society has recently rescued this very nice terrier. She is 11 months old and would fit in great with your family. If you are interested in adopting her, call Don at 812-296-0952.

The humane society will be holding a benefit dinner and auction on March 26 at the Loogootee United Methodist Church. The dinner will be held from 4-7 p.m. with the auction to follow. The dinner will be a donation only.

The society has collected a lot of very nice items for the auction including a Colts' football, NASCAR collectibles, Paula Deen items, Dr Phil and The Doctors VIP show tickets, Kings Island and Holiday World tickets, a new Cherry filing cabinet, new rocker recliner, a new Nike youth baseball mitt, new girls' and boys' bicycles, gift cards and certificates and a lot of gift bas-



kets and other items.

Stay tuned to this newspaper next week and local radio for more information. Channel 10 News' Mike Grant will be featuring the humane society next week.

Renowned CBS journalist to speak at VU

Multiple Emmy award winning journalist Byron Pitts will present "Step Out on Nothing: An Evening with Bryon Pitts" on March 30, at 7 p.m. (EDT), at Vincennes University's Red Skelton Performing Arts Center. The speaker will be available for book signing following his presentation. The Skelton Center is located at 20 Red Skelton Blvd. on the VU campus.

Known for his thought-provoking coverage and his commitment to exceptional storytelling, Pitts is a news veteran with over 20 years of experience. As the chief national correspondent for CBS Evening News with Katie Couric, Pitts was an embedded reporter covering the Iraq War and was recognized for his work under fire. He was also CBS's lead correspondent at Ground Zero immediately following the September 11 attacks and won an Emmy for his coverage. Other major stories include the war in Afghanistan, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the military buildup in Kuwait, and the refugee crisis in Kosovo, to name but a few. Pitts realized a life-long goal when he was named as a contributing correspondent to CBS's 60 Minutes program in 2009.

These achievements are all the more extraordinary when Pitts tells of the many obstacles he faced as a child. Raised by a single mother in a working class neighborhood in Baltimore, Pitts was illiterate until the age of 12 and had a persistent stutter. Capitalizing on his desire to play football, his mother mandated he receive Bs or above in school in order to play. With that focus, Pitts learned to read and went on to attend Ohio Wesleyan University.

With the help of his roommate and a college professor, Pitts found the support and encouragement necessary to pursue a ca-

reer in broadcast journalism - a field that demands excellence in writing and speaking. By staying focused, setting simple and achievable goals, and finding strength in faith, Pitts overcame powerful odds and his disability. He graduated in 1982 with a BA in Journalism and Speech Communication.

Calendar of Events

LHS Prom Parents meeting

LHS Post Prom Parents will be selling Hometown IGA C.A.R.E coupon booklets. Volunteers are needed to sit in front of the store, two per shift on April 2 and 3. Anyone interested should contact Michelle Duncan at 270-836-9501 for further information or to sign up for a shift. Mark your calendars for the next meeting, which will be at Loogootee Elementary East on March 20 at 6:30 p.m. The prom parents will be working on decorations and the layout for the event. If you are a committee chair please plan on attending so that you can give a status update.

Walking for fitness at LUMC

Walking for fitness is held each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Loogootee United Methodist Church in the Family Center. The program will follow school weather closings. There are devotion discussions every Wednesday at 8:30. All ages are invited, and it is free. Call Sandy Haseman at 295-9822 with any questions.

Humane society meetings

The Martin County Humane Society meets on the third Tuesday of the month at Loogootee Municipal Building, at 7 p.m. To become a member, contact Martin County Humane Society, P. O. Box 537, Shoals, In-

diana 47581, call Don at 296-0952.

Youth football meetings

Martin County Youth Football League meets on the first Wednesday of the month at Pizza Junction at 7 p.m. Questions, call Audrey Robinson at 295-4773.

Recovery support group

The Overcomers Recovery Support Group meets every Tuesday night at 6 p.m. at the Martin County Community Learning Center.

4-H Shooting sports

The Martin County 4-H Shooting Sports will have meetings in April. Participants will be instructed on using rifles, archery, muzzle-loaders, and shotguns before going to the range to try their skills. Part of the second day will also have instruction on tomahawk and atlatl (an ancient spear). Lunch will be provided each day. Everyone should dress for appropriate weather conditions as they will be outside most of the day. The first session is April 2 at the fairgrounds. The second session will be April 16 at the American Legion club across from the White River Co-Op on Hwy 50. Both sessions will start at 9 a.m. and last until approximately 4 p.m. Parents should plan on being there by 3:30 in case of early dismissal. For questions and to sign-up please call Jonathan Stevens at 812-295-2412.

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New Beginnings Church WEEKLY MESSAGE

BY ERNIE CANELL
Pastor, New Beginnings Church

The word of God does what?
 Psalm 19:7-14

This day and age is filled with uncertainty and lack of something that be of sustenance that we can hang on to and be sure of. God's word can fill that need.

The need is great to understand the inerrancy of Scripture- it is without error, the completeness of Scripture- no new revelation, The relevancy of scripture that it is relevant to today and the sufficiency of Scripture- it is really enough for every need, and the clarity of scripture- we can know what it means. It's not a mystery to those who love God.

Psalm 19 defines God's word for us. First, he says the Law is for man's conduct, to show us how to reach the fullest potential of man. It is perfect in the sense that it is complete. The law of the Lord is everything included, nothing is needed to add to it to make it complete; it is complete for everything that has to do with human conduct. The effect of it being the law and perfect is that it will restore the soul. It can totally transform the human heart.

Second, the witness of who God is and what He is about is sure. It is something we

can put our trust in and have confidence that it is true. There is nothing else in the world today that can give that promise. The effect of the word being about God and it being trustworthy is that it makes the simple wise. Simple being those that are open minded like a child. Wisdom allows us to close the mind so that we have discernment and discretion that teaches us to distinguish what we put in and take out. This helps us make right decisions and choices.

Thirdly, the precepts of the Lord (those are the words from God that governs man's conduct) are right. Always right! They are right for all people at all times in all situations. The effect of them governing and being right is that we can have great joy. Not the kind of joy or happiness that comes from our surroundings or circumstances but a deep seated joy that nothing can move.

Fourthly, the commandments of the Lord (which again is His word) are not a book of suggestions, but commands from the Lord that are there for our benefit. They are pure or clear. The Bible wasn't written to be confusing but to be a clear word of the Lord for us to understand. If you don't have a personal relationship with God then it is impossible to understand them. The benefit of knowing they are clear and pure is that our eyes are enlightened. We understand they

are a road map for us to follow because we understand who God really is.

Fifthly, the fear of the Lord (still describing the word) is a manual on the way we worship God. The word is clean, without blemish. It has no error. The effect of knowing how to worship God by His word and that it is without error is that it endures forever. It was here before time began and it is here now and it will be here forever. The way we treat the Bible is the way we worship the Lord so, it isn't difficult to determine if we have a right relationship with God.

Lastly, the rules (judgments) of the Lord give us God's judgment on everything. It is true. It is the measuring stick we use to know what is true and what is not. The effect of that is the righteousness that we have through knowing Jesus as our Lord and Master. John 8:47, Whoever is of God hears the words of God, the reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.

Why should we desire the word of the Lord so much? Because there is great reward in knowing who God is and living what is pleasing in His eyes. How wonderful is God's word that it can transform even the inner person, can make us have skills for living, let us know God, and give us great joy.

John MacArthur says: "Joshua 1:8, listen

to this, 'This book of the law Scripture shall not depart from your mouth. But you shall meditate on it day and night. So this book of the law doesn't depart from your mouth and you meditate on it day and night.' And that's exactly what he just said. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight. And what is an acceptable word and an acceptable meditation? That which is directed to this book of the law, 'so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. Then you will make your way prosperous. Then you will have success.'

Talk the word and meditate on the word all the time. And then you will be acceptable in the sight of God who is your rock and your redeemer.

The worship Sunday was awesome, God's presence could be felt in the place. If you are looking for answers, we invite you to church service beginning at 10 a.m. This week we will have men's breakfast on Saturday at 9 a.m. and Sunday will be woman's meeting at 5 p.m. Come and be encouraged to know God better. The U.S. ministry now has another location for drop offs of new sock and underwear: Cindy Lagle, American National Insurance office. If you have any questions about how you can know God, please call Pastor Ernie at 709-0258

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Intermediate Mathlete Champs

-Photo provided

The Loogootee Intermediate Math Bowl team traveled to Paoli to compete in the Area Math Bowl Competition on March 10. The team scored 26 out of 28, winning their division and the local competition. The score also earned the team a 5th place finish in the state. Coach Tim Sanders notes that the teams finishing above Loogootee all also scored 26 of 28, with the places determined by the four tiebreakers used in the state-wide competition. Team members shown in the front row, from left to right, are Blake Ziegler, Justin Wagler, Tyler Lythgoe, Dylan Dant, Dylan Arthur, Lane Keller, and Martina Stevens. In the middle row, from left to right, are Haley Burch, Dometery Riker, Carson Rayhill, Chase Carrico, Tristan Jones, Eden Jenkins, and Sara Bailey. In the back row, from left to right, are Coach Tim Sanders, Cade Wilcoxon, Jody Seals, Kenadi Rumble, Anaya Carrico, and Josh Cook. Not pictured was Proctor Ron Gilbert.



LOGOOTE ELEMNTARY Breakfast

Thursday, March 17

Cereal, sausage, fruit

Friday, March 18

Ham, egg, biscuit, juice

Monday, March 21

Cereal, toast, juice

Tuesday, March 22

Breakfast pizza, egg, fruit

Wednesday, March 23

Biscuits and gravy, sausage

Lunch

Thursday, March 17

Grilled chicken sandwich, French fries, pears

Friday, March 18

Fish sticks, scalloped potatoes, peaches, bread

Monday, March 21

Hamburger, corn, pineapple, cottage cheese

Tuesday, March 22

Chicken nuggets, green beans, pears, bread

Wednesday, March 23

Macaroni and cheese, peas and carrots, applesauce, bread

LOGOOTE INTERMEDIATE AND JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL Lunch

Thursday, March 17

Popcorn chicken or pizza, tossed salad, fruit, corn, salad plate, milk

Friday, March 18

Spicy chicken or pizza, French fries, peas,

fruit, salad plate, milk

Monday, March 21

Breaded tenderloin or pizza, scalloped potatoes, peas, fruit, salad plate, milk

Tuesday, March 22

Country fried steak or pizza, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit, salad plate, milk

Wednesday, March 23

Beef n' noodles or pizza, tossed salad, fruit, green beans, salad plate, milk

SHOALS SCHOOLS Breakfast

Thursday, March 17

Cereal, muffins, cheese sticks, milk

Friday, March 18

Breakfast pizza, hash browns, milk

Monday, March 21

Spring Break - No School

Tuesday, March 22

Spring Break - No School

Wednesday, March 23

Spring Break - No School

Lunch

Thursday, March 17

Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, California-blend vegetables, roll, milk; choice

4-12: pepperoni pizza

Friday, March 18

Chili soup (last time this year), crackers and cheese, garlic bread, peaches, milk

Monday, March 21

Spring Break - No School

Tuesday, March 22

Spring Break - No School

Wednesday, March 23

Spring Break - No School

Loogootee Kindergarten registration announced

Kindergarten registration will be held at Loogootee Elementary on Friday, April 8. The schedule is as follows:

9:30 -10:15 a.m. - Last names beginning with A-G

10:15-11:00 a.m. - Last names beginning with H-M

12:40- 1:25 p.m. - Last names beginning with N-S

1:25- 2:10 p.m. - Last names beginning with T-Z

Parents and children should report at the starting time for their name group. Please do not come early.

Parents will drop children off in room 103, and then proceed to the library to complete enrollment forms. While the parents are in the library, children will be screened for beginning kindergarten skills. Parents may pick their child up after they have completed the enrollment forms.

Children must be five years old by August 1, 2011 in order to register for kindergarten. Please be sure to bring a birth certificate and shot record with you to registration. It is helpful if you can have copies made before registration; however if this is not possible we will make copies for you.

All kindergarten classes at Loogootee Elementary are all day, every day.

According to Indiana law, every child residing in Indiana who enters kindergarten or grade one must have the following immunizations:

5 doses of DTaP/DTP/DT

4 doses of polio

2 doses of MMR

3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine

2 doses of Varicella vaccine (chicken pox)*

*If your child has had chickenpox, a physician's statement documenting a history of chicken pox disease including the month and the year of the disease is acceptable.

Parents will have the opportunity to order their child a kindergarten t-shirt during registration. Students are encouraged to wear these shirts on the first day of school. A sample shirt will be available for preview during registration, and orders will be taken at that time. The shirts are \$8, and must be paid for when ordering. Shirts may be picked up at registration in August. Current kindergarten students will not have class on April 8.

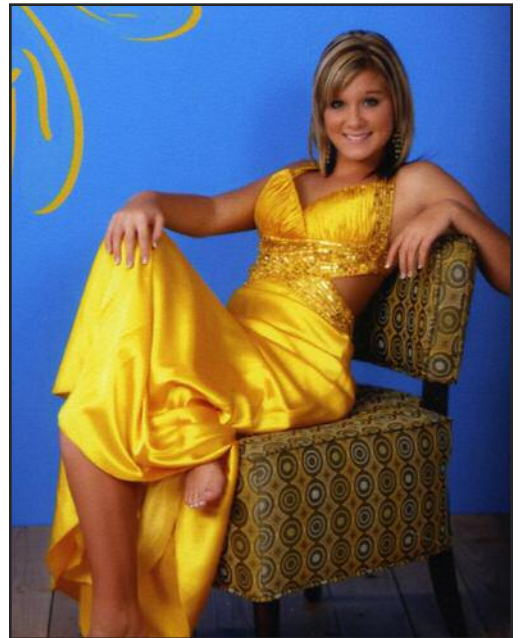
If you have any questions, you may call the Elementary West office at 295-2833.

Spring campus visitation days are March 18 and 19

Vincennes University spring visitation PreVU days are March 18 and 19. Additional PreVU Days are scheduled for April 8, 9, and May 13, 14. PreVU Days provide high school students and their parents an opportunity to tour campus and meet with faculty, staff, and students. There are also sessions about the college application process, financial aid, scholarships, student services, academics, and housing.

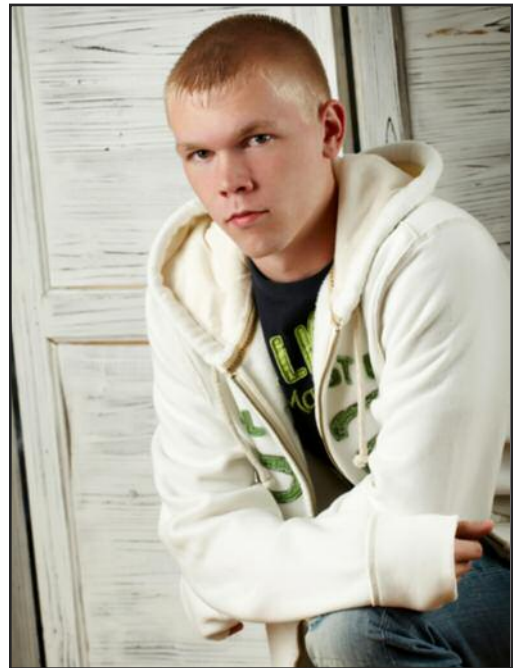
Check-in is at 8:30 a.m. (EST) at the Beckes Student Union, located on Second Street, and walking tours of campus follow the information sessions. The program is free and lunch is provided with advance registration. After March 13, PreVU Days will begin at 8:30 a.m. (EDT)

To register or for more information call toll-free, 800-742-9198, or visit the VU website www.vinu.edu.



AMBER ROYSTON

Amber Lea Royston is the daughter of Ri-onna Royston, Cody Hovis, Courtney Royston, and Ryan Osbourne. Her favorite hobbies include tanning, texting, and hanging out with her friends and Garrett. During school she was involved in cheerleading, SADD, and media. One of her best memories was when she was awarded All American Cheerleader at cheer camp over the summer. Another memory she will hang onto was when Tyler Atherton was chewing on the bus on the way to Dracula and he spit out the window and it went all over her and Jess. After graduation, Amber plans to go to college to become a physical therapist assistant.



MIKE SHARTZER

Charles Michael Lee Shartzter is the son of Charlene Briedenbaugh and Jesse. His favorite hobby is playing basketball. During high school he was involved in basketball, soccer, cross country, SADD, Beta Club, Student Council, media, and Spanish Club. After graduation, Mike plans to attend USI for occupational therapy.

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Challenge Party

featuring

Body by Vi with Ashley Nolt
Sunday, March 20 at 3 p.m.
at the Pizza Junction Party
Room in Loogootee

RSVP: Ashley Nolt 812-486-8413
or email theshakelady@yahoo.com

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Spring classes, programs at the Martin County Learning Center

USAJOBS Workshop (Resume Builder)
The USAJOBS workshop is provided by Bramble Consulting (Darlene Ridgway). USAJOBS is the Federal government's official web site and provides access to more than 30,000 job listings world-wide. This is an online resume training session and will provide applicants with information and advice needed to apply for a government position. USAJOBS Resume Builder allows you to create one uniform resume that provides all the information required by most government agencies. The next workshop will be held on March 17 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and cost is \$40. Call Kathy to sign up!

Résumé writing and career planning
Need help with your résumé? Darlene Ridgway with Bramble Consulting will offer Résumé Assistance-Level One on March 22. The class is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and cost is \$25. This is a basic course designed for an applicant needing help with the application process for government civilian and/or government contractor positions, specifically for NSWC Crane. Applicants need to pre-register no later than the Friday before the scheduled class date. Contact Kathy at the learning center to pre-register.

Sign language class
Anyone who has completed the Intro to Sign Language class and would like to continue learning this beautiful language can contact the learning center about starting the next level class. If you still remember the basics from the intro class, you are welcome to join. When there is enough interest in the class, we will set the dates.

Storm spotter training
The National Weather Service, along with the Martin County Civil Defense, will con-

duct a severe storm spotter's training Thursday, March 24, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A certified meteorologist will describe cloud and wind patterns associated with severe weather, how to interpret weather radar data, and how to remain safe during severe weather. The training session is free and is open to the general public. Registration will be at the event.

Overcomers' Group
Indiana Drug Education and Awareness Solutions are conducting an ongoing Overcomers' Recovery Support Group at the center. Meetings are held every Tuesday evening from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and newcomers are invited. There is no cost for participation. For further information, contact Jason Underhill at 812-653-1908.

Adult literacy and education
Do you know someone who could use some help with his or her reading skills? Anyone interested is encouraged to contact SOAR! at 812-709-1618 for further information.

For GED-Adult Basic Education, call Vicki Conrad at 812-936-2881.

Free Biotechnology Classes - Ivy Tech Bloomington

Ivy Tech Bloomington will offer free training in Biotechnology. Sessions start in March, August, and October. Classes are completely free-no tuition and fees, no books! Earn a certificate and three college credits in as little as eight weeks! Contact Sarah Cote for more information at scote@ivytech.edu or 812-330-6310.

Contact
Kathy Kerr, Coordinator, 812-295-2674 or email kkerr8@ivytech.edu

Office hours
Monday through Thursday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Navigating Life's Highway Transition Fair

A Navigating Life's Highway Transition Fair will be held Tuesday, April 12, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a Medicaid waiver workshop presented by Amy Wells, ARC Advocate from 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. The fair will be held at the Loogootee High School and is free and open to the public. The goal of the transition fair is to bring together persons with disabilities and their families with the resources needed to map their journey to success.

Those who are planning to attend are asked to please come early to visit with the many representatives regarding services available for people with disabilities. Some of the representatives will be Vocational Rehabilitation, Vincennes University, Ivy Tech, Bureau of Developmental Disabilities, Four Rivers, Daviess-Martin Special Education Co-op, and many more.

Refreshments will be provided by DMSEC's Life Skills Class. If you have any questions, Daviess-Martin Special Education Cooperative (812)254-1530

INDOT engineer scholarship applications due April 30

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is again offering competitive engineering scholarships valued at \$3,125 per semester for up to five years. Full-time students accepted or currently enrolled in a qualifying civil engineering program are encouraged to learn more and download the scholarship application at www.indotscholarship.in.gov/. Applications for the 2011-2012 school year must be postmarked by April 30, 2011.

INDOT's scholarship program leverages federal transportation funding to offer civil engineering scholarships to college students enrolled at one of Indiana's Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) certified engineering schools. Eligible university programs include Purdue University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Trine University, University of Evansville, University of Notre Dame, Uni-

versity of Southern Indiana, and Valparaiso University.

Scholarship recipients will receive as much as \$3,125 per semester for up to five years of post-secondary education, including a maximum of two years of graduate school. Scholarship funds can be applied to educational expenses such as tuition, fees and books. In return, recipients will work at INDOT in full-time, paid positions during their summer breaks. Upon graduation, scholarship recipients must work six months at INDOT for each academic semester they received a scholarship.

More information on the INDOT Engineer Scholarship program and an application form are available on the Web at <http://www.indotscholarship.in.gov/>. Applications for the 2011-2012 school year must be postmarked by April 30, 2011.

Classified ADS

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FOR RENT: Nice, clean 2-bedroom mobile home in Whitfield. 295-4384.

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WANTED: Serious buyer looking for 1 acre +/- to build home on. In/near Loogootee. Buyer can pay cash if necessary. Please call 709-0048.

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(All Shifts)

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Friday 9-11 a.m.

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PHILIPS PORTABLE DVD player for sale. Like new. \$50. 296-0510.

WOOD FOR SALE \$35 a load - you haul Tom Downs 812-787-1442

SIMILAR TO GRACO and Pack 'n Play, this Fold 'n Go play yard has a matching sheet and removable newborn napper and changing table. Packs small for travel. Works as crib or playpen. Excellent condition. Navy blue. \$60 295-5217

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PORCH SWING, card table and chairs, 13" color TV. Call 295-3436

LADIES SIZE 9.5 Nike golf shoes, worn once \$15 295-5217.

INTERESTED IN HOSTING a 31 Party? Contact Shanelle Kline, Consultant. 812-678-4072 or thirtyoneskline@yahoo.com.

HELP WANTED

SEEKING PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Seeking individual for full-time employment as Program Director. Report directly to Advisory Board and attend all meetings; certification in I.D.O.C. programs must be updated and maintained; experience in supervision of staff and daily Program operations, including 24/7 monitoring of client activity; responsible for preparing and maintaining I.D.O.C. reports (including financial records) and ensuring grant applications are completed and submitted in timely manner. Applicant must possess ability to work well with office personnel and clients; have extended computer knowledge; and ability to organize and implement new programs and changes to existing programs as needed.

Two year college degree preferred.

EMAIL RESUME TO lbrittain@martincounty.in.gov OR MAIL TO

Martin County Probation Department,

P.O. Box 370, Shoals, IN 47581. Resumes accepted until 3/25/11.

♥ Thank You ♥ Thank You ♥ Thank You

We would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their donations and support with the dinner and dance we had last Saturday to benefit Shoals Prom. It was a great success and a lot of fun. Thank you all for making this possible. The Prom is going to be amazing!

Carla's Catering
Crossing Over, from the Church of the Cross
Bill Bauer, Mike Allbright, Carol Baker, Dale Allbright, Tawni and Brad Ridgley, and Sherri Gallian
Paul and Dana George for their generous donation of the building
Audie Downs- Audie's Kitchen
Brenda Rodgers - Avon
Chris & Rainelle Cushman and Jasper Group
Bill and Lisa Bauer
Linda Bauer- Country Lace
The Martin County Journal

And to our generous community, thank you for the donations, and for joining us for a fun night of food and music.

~The Shoals Junior Class~

♥ Thank You ♥ Thank You ♥ Thank You



Prepping for prom

-Photos by Joshua Hughett

The Shoals Prom Committee held a fundraiser last Saturday at the community building on the fairgrounds to help raise money for this year's Shoals Prom. Shown in the photo above, Christian rock and country band "Cross Over" performed for the crowd. In the bottom photo, supporters enjoyed the food and socializing. The menu for the evening consisted of BBQ, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, and cole slaw.



Trio of factors pushing food prices higher, economist says

BY STEVE LEER
Purdue University News Service

Grain shortages, Middle East turmoil, and extreme weather in critical crop-producing regions have combined to send retail food prices higher this year, said a Purdue University agricultural economist. Prices could climb further if commodities markets continue their upward march.

American consumers can expect to spend about four percent more for food this year than in 2010, said Corinne Alexander. Beef, pork, and poultry products likely will see even greater price hikes, she said.

U.S. food price inflation reached 7.5 percent in September 2008 before falling 10.5 percent by November 2009. It's been moving back up ever since.

"We're returning to a period of food price inflation after coming off a period where we saw food price deflation," Alexander said. "We don't expect this to be a long-term, permanent higher food price period. We'll see these higher food prices until we rebuild global stocks of the primary crops."

Shortages in corn, soybean, and wheat stocks have pushed prices to their highest levels this decade. Corn and soybeans are used for food products, animal feed and in biofuels production, while wheat is the principal ingredient in breads and cereals.

Since mid-2010, corn futures prices have more than doubled to more than \$7 per bushel and could exceed the \$7.65 record set in 2008. Soybean prices are up 40 percent from one year ago, to just over \$13 a bushel. Wheat futures have risen more than 50 percent since this past July, to \$7.75 per bushel.

"With higher grain costs, the biggest food inflation price impacts we expect to see are in the livestock area," Alexander said. "Because those feed costs are up, we're expecting beef prices to be up on the order of 5.5 to 6.5 percent in the coming year. Pork

prices will be up on the order of 7 to 8 percent. Poultry prices will rise more moderately because it doesn't take near as much grain to get a pound of chicken as it does a pound of pork or beef, so chicken prices will be up about 3 to 4 percent."

Oil markets also are affecting food prices. Recent uprisings in Egypt and Libya have sent oil soaring to more than \$100 a barrel. Food companies have absorbed some of those price shocks but will have to charge more for their products should oil markets surge higher, Alexander said.

"We're in a world today where food companies operate on the assumption that crude oil prices are going to be \$85 to \$95 a barrel," she said. "Current prices are somewhere around \$105 to \$110 a barrel."

Weather has played havoc with food production, as well. Drought devastated Russia's 2010 wheat crop, leading Moscow to ban wheat exports. Freezing temperatures this winter cut into Mexico's production of tomatoes and bell peppers.

Storms have battered the sugar industry, sending prices to more than double what they were in 2009.

"Brazil didn't have a great crop," Alexander said. "Add on top of that Australia, the third largest exporter of sugar in the world. Queensland, which is their sugar-growing area, had massive floods and then got hit by a cyclone."

Not all the news is bad for consumers. Milk production remains high, despite the poor prices dairy producers are receiving. And the total amount the average U.S. family spends on food continues to be about 10 percent of their take-home income, compared with 40 percent to 50 percent in developing countries such as Bangladesh.

"When you see massive food price inflation and food is half of your family's budget, it hurts substantially more," Alexander said.

Hoosiers cautioned to be wary of scammers

Reports of a potential scam artist in Knox County have prompted The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), Indiana State Police (ISP) and the Indiana Attorney General's office (AGO) to remind anyone who sustained storm damage during recent severe weather incidents to be cautious of frauds and scams.

"Identity theft and building scams are two schemes con-artists sometimes use to defraud individuals recovering from manmade or natural disasters," said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. "While most service providers in the building industry are honest, it is particularly important to be alert after disasters because these situations of widespread damage can attract scam artists and identity thieves."

Individuals should be especially alert for solicitors who promise to speed up the insurance or building permit process and those who ask for large cash deposits or advance payments in full.

Some con-artists may even pretend to be employed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or other government agencies.

You can protect yourself from such impersonators and dishonest individuals by following a few precautionary guidelines.

Always:

Ask for ID. If someone represents themselves as a federal employee, such as an inspector, but does not produce identification, ask to see it. A FEMA or U.S. Small Business Administration shirt or jacket is not absolute proof of someone's affiliation with the government. Federal employees carry official photo identification.

FEMA representatives are never allowed to accept money. If someone claiming to be a federal employee or federal contractor attempts to collect money for their help, report the person and their license plate number to your local police department.

Safeguard personal information. Never give personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers or

credit card numbers to individuals claiming to be affiliated with the federal government. FEMA inspectors never require this information.

When hiring a contractor:

Research. You may also check with the local Better Business Bureau, homebuilders' association or trade council to independently confirm the legitimacy of a contractor.

Check references. Contractors should be willing to provide names of previous customers. Call several former customers who had similar work done to make sure they were satisfied with the job.

Ask for a written estimate and check to make sure it includes all the work you expect to have done, as well as taxes and other fees. Keep in mind that some contractors charge for an estimate.

Be wary of high-pressure sales tactics. Take your time. Don't let the contractor rush your decision.

Before signing a contract:

Get a written contract. Indiana law requires home improvement contracts exceeding \$150 to be in writing. Before signing the contract, make certain it includes the price of the job, payment schedule, a detailed description of the work and materials (including colors, brand names and patterns), estimated start and completion dates, the contractor's name and address, a name and telephone number of the person to contact if problems arise, and the contractor's signature.

Never pay for the entire project before the work begins. Do not pay more than 1/3 of the total cost as a down payment. Remaining payments should be tied to completion of specified amounts of work.

Hoosiers who believe they may have been a victim of a home improvement scam can file a complaint with the attorney general's Consumer Protection Division. The complaint form is available for downloading at www.IndianaConsumer.com or call 1-800-382-5516 to request a form by mail.

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~LETTERS TO THE EDITOR~

'The Governor and the Chamber are putting out misinformation'

To the editor of the Martin County Journal,

Stand-up, the Attack Is Against YOU. Not the Schools, Not the Unions, Not Local County Government. Our Current Governor is trying to divide and destroy/control the middle class. The most powerful UNION in this state/country is not the AFL-CIO, not the NEA, but the International Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber Union represents companies/businesses' interest. They bring a business into our state and try to get them local and state tax breaks, low or no utilities cost and the lowest labor cost. If they can't get those lower cost local/state then they will look elsewhere, even in another country. The only way for the Chamber to keep the work in our country is suppress the working middle class. If their membership does not pay or will not pay less in taxes, utilities, THEN WHO WILL? You're right, The Middle Class Worker.

This is an attack to destroy/control any group of employees that may give a voice to workers in any county, city, or town. Also, to those who serve the public, Federal and State Employee's, Teachers, Police, Fire Fighters and any Public Service Worker. They want to take away or reduce their pay and benefits, which will leave more of the tax dollars for the groups the Chamber represents. (Businesses)

The Governor and the Chamber are putting out misinformation. If they can pass a right to work law, it will reduce wages for ALL workers over time. That would be each and everyone of the working class, therefore bringing in more low paying jobs, with low or no benefits. This is the Chamber's mission. If they can control the Teacher, then they can contract out their jobs (Charter Schools).

The only way they can do this is through misinformation and dividing, pitting workers against one another. It's all about control of the tax dollar, which you pay. Look at their budget, tax breaks for the businesses, cuts for Education, Counties, Cities, any public service.

It can get worse, Mr. Governor could be the next President of the U.S.A. Seems to me he may be leading the charge now from

Indiana. He, they, are not telling the truth.
Roy E. Pannell
Loogootee

'Mr. Lugar's votes over the past few years have been very disturbing.'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

I have voted for Richard Lugar from the beginning of his political career . . . for Mayor of Indianapolis back when . . . and since, and each time he has run for Indiana's Senate Seat.

Mr. Lugar always seemed to be a competent and sincere public servant. More than that, I felt he listened to his fellow Hoosiers and that Mr. Lugar's judgment was guided by values similar to my own such as:

-People have a right to own firearms to protect family and property.

-Anyone can come to this country and make a better life, as long as they do so legally.

-Government should not run up debt to pass on to the next generation.

Mr. Lugar's votes over the past few years have been very disturbing. I think he has forgotten his Hoosier values.

Richard Lugar has voted for two Supreme Court justices that would likely vote to limit gun rights (Mr. Lugar earned a "D+" rating from the NRA and a "F" from the gun owners of America for his voting record on gun legislation.

In 2006 Lugar voted for illegal aliens (a/k/a undocumented immigrants) to be able to participate in Social Security. In 2008, he voted to fund sanctuary cities to protect illegal aliens. In 2010, he supported the "Dream Act" which had many perks for illegal aliens (a/k/a undocumented immigrants). The Dream Act has not come to pass yet but it is still there to be brought up again.

Mr. Lugar voted to support the bank bailouts along with the Big Three/UAW bailout of 2008 and voted to not support the banning of earmarks early this year . . . no wonder he is President Obama's favorite Republican!!

Given his record, I can no longer give Mr. Lugar my vote. I urge every voter to examine Mr. Lugar's voting record.

Patricia Jones
Loogootee

My Point of
VIEW

By Courtney Hughett Owner, MCJ

Before I start this column I would like to say that anything I write here is completely my opinion. I welcome disagreements or clarifications, however, it is still ultimately how I feel and not much would change that – I am fairly stubborn. We all have opinions and you are all welcome to submit yours for this publication right along with mine.

I did a story a few weeks ago on township trustees. That story was just facts from the trustees' annual reports – this is my opinion.

To be blunt, I don't understand why we keep the township divisions of government. Township governments were created way back when to help those who lived in the country have access to their government when travel was difficult. Think about it, traveling from Burns City to Loogootee back in the horse-drawn wagon days was probably an all-day affair. It was easier to set up six township offices so folks didn't have to travel so far for help. Now it takes about eight to ten minutes.

Nowadays, in my opinion, township offices are obsolete. We have cars. Anyone who doesn't have a car personally, most likely has a friend or family member who does. We also have telephones – landlines and cells and email and good old-fashioned postal mail. Communication is no longer something that is impossible or slow. I send out *The Journal* on Wednesday and within a few seconds it has made it to Afghanistan. Today's technology is amazing and pretty much anything and everything is available online. And before I get emails reminding me that not everyone has a computer or the internet, I know . . . but regular old-fashioned communication is still available as well.

Having six township governments with six trustees, six trustee assistants, 18 advisory board members, office rent, telephones, supplies, etc. is just a waste of money that could be utilized elsewhere.

Around \$230,000 was spent last year in township government. Of that, around half, or \$111,000, was spent just to pay the employees and board members and keep the offices open. There are only a little over 10,000 people in Martin County including adults and children; that's around \$23 per person (adults and children). Only \$63,000 of what was spent was actually given for poor assistance and over \$40,000 of that assistance went to Perry Township residents alone. That means that the other five townships averaged about \$4,000 each. Yes, the fire departments and the libraries benefit as well, but why can't this money be distributed in one centralized location? Why does there have to be six of them?

As far as I know, and please correct me if I'm wrong, these offices are all located in the township trustees' homes for which they are paid rent for. A few of the township trustees' offices are family-run.

A lot of the documentation required by law to be filed at the county auditor's office is not there – I went looking for it. So how do we hold these elected officials accountable? And, please, let me make it very clear, I am NOT suggesting that any one of these trustees or their families is being dishonest; I'm just saying that it's not right when they can't be checked up on. This is our tax money and we should be allowed to know who and what it is going for at any time for whatever reason we want to – it is one of the few rights we have as voters/citizens. Even if the vouchers are filed, which are essentially the carbon copies of checks that are paid out on behalf of the poor, we are unable to see who benefited from the assistance. No names are released – just who receives the money and how much. In some

townships the voucher copies never make it to the auditor's office. No, I don't necessarily think that anyone in the public should be allowed to go see who needed assistance, we all have hard times, but how am I or you to know that it's being done correctly? Are the same people seeking assistance month after month, are the trustees 'helping out' a family member, are the required check and balances in place? Again, I'm not saying this is the case, what I'm saying is that we have no way of knowing. I like transparency in government but township trustees' records are unchartered territory for me – I'm not used to not being able to see it in black and white. I called the state trustees' office last year and asked them why I couldn't find certain records and/or didn't find them readily available where by law they are supposed to be filed. They had no clue. They said they check in, or audit, township offices ever so often, however they could not provide me with a year when Martin County was last done. Not even a rough estimate.

On the other side of spending there is the roll-over, or the amount of money that just continues to pile up in each trustee's budget. Over a half a million dollars currently just sits in these trustee's accounts. The state doesn't take that money and give it back to the taxpayers or possibly put it in our county budget for roads or even give it toward education. They just let the townships keep it and draw interest. Meanwhile, we struggle to keep roads passable, schools open, teachers employed, and our state unemployment afloat. I sat through the budget hearing of the county council and watched them take thousands of dollars away from departments and department heads give back money they could have used to cover the shortfall. Money was taken away from the historical society, the humane society is having a hard time getting funding, and the 4-H program's budget was on the chopping block briefly during budget hearings. Why are the townships not required to do what every other government department is asked to do?

I did receive an email from Lost River Township Trustee Millie Brown. They will be using a chunk of their surplus fire department money to build a new fire station for Lost River which is wonderful and much needed. This is what I'm talking about. This money needs to be used for the things we need the most not sitting in an account to possibly never be used. The townships pretty much never use what they are allocated every year so that balance just grows. How about lowering our tax levy then? I, for one, could stand to pay less tax if the money is just going to sit there.

These are just a few questions I have and I'm not faulting the township trustees necessarily. It's a job for them. What are they going to do, refuse their pay? I'm honestly not sure what I want them to do. I guess, if it were me, I would find out how I could give the money locally somehow and stop ending each year with a surplus. When the solid waste district started making money their tax levy was cut. I guess I just don't understand why these things work the way they do.

I know that a few of the trustees do not like me very much – and I understand that but the only thing I am doing is what I should be doing, what all of us should be doing – questioning our government, trying to make things better. If you want to fault me for that then I'll take it. No one person or office is perfect, there is always room for improvement and with our budget woes, now is the perfect time for that.

WHERE TO WRITE OR CALL

STATE AND FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT

District 48 Indiana Senator Lindel Hume
Mailing address: Statehouse, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-232-9523 or call toll-free: 800-382-9467, ext. 2-9523
Email: s48@iga.in.gov

District 63 State Representative Mark Messmer

Mailing address: 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 800-382-9841
Email: h63@in.gov

District 62 State Representative Matt Ubelhor

Mailing address: 200 W. Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 800-382-9841
Email: h62@in.gov

U.S. Senator Richard Lugar

Mailing address: 1180 Market Tower Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-226-5555
Fax: 317-226-5508
Form to email available online at <http://lugar.senate.gov/contact/contactform.cfm>

U.S. Senator Daniel Coats

1650 Market Tower, 10 West Market Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-554-0750
Fax: 317-554-0760

U.S. Congressman District 8 Larry Buc-

shon

101 NW Martin Luther King Blvd. #124, Evansville, IN 47708
Phone: 812-465-6484
Fax: 812-422-4761
Form to email available online at <https://bucshon.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

MARTIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COUNTY COUNCIL

Lynn Gee

Mailing address: 101 Southeast Third Street, Loogootee, IN 47553

Randy Winingger

Phone: 812-295-3527
Email: fastlane@dmrtc.net

Lonnie Hawkins

Phone: 812-709-0496
Email: snu0266@live.com

COMMISSIONERS

Dan Gregory

Mailing address: 2011 Lumpkin Road, Loogootee, IN 47553

Home phone: 812-695-5131
Cell: 812-631-2635
Fax: 812-644-7400

Email: gregoryd@psci.net

Paul George

Home: 812-388-7149
Cell: 812-653-2771

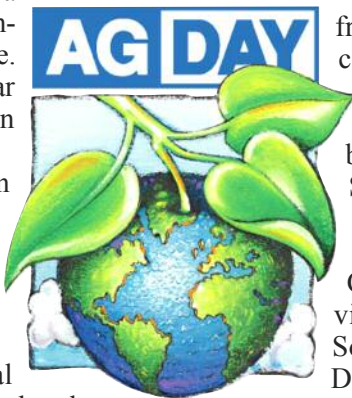
15th Annual Ag Day to be held next weekend

2011 will mark the 38th year we celebrate National Ag Day in America with producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies, and countless others across America gathering to celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. It will also mark the 15th year Martin County will host its own Ag Day celebration.

The public is invited to join in saying thanks to the family farm on Saturday, March 26, for Martin County Ag Day. The event is taking shape to be an excellent event.

Twenty ag and educational related businesses will be on hand to display and showcase what they do for the community from 8 a.m. to noon.

The event will be held at the Martin County Community Building beginning with a breakfast of eggs, sausage, potatoes,



biscuit, fruit, and beverage for only \$3. Breakfast will be served by the Martin County Jr. Leaders from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Events for the day include free lipid profile, blood glucose, PSA and GRF (kidney function) testing by Good Samaritan Hospital, free books provided by Indiana Soybean Alliance, petting zoo sponsored by German American Bancorp and the Ag Day Committee, free trees provided by the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District, door prizes, and more.

Please check the ad in next week's *Martin County Journal* for a list of vendors and sponsors. For more information call David Gregory at 644-7599 or Teresa Harder at 295-3149 or check the ad on the SWCD website www.martinswcd.com.

Martin State Forest staff to be at Ag Day

Martin State Forest staff will be present at the Martin County Ag Day on Saturday, March 26, from 8 a.m. to noon to answer questions and provide information about the state forest. A display will provide details about recreational activities, budget information, staffing, major projects, invasive species control, and forest resource management. State nursery tree order forms, "Call Before You Cut" packets, and other items will also be available to the public. "We've held open houses at the state forest for the past several years," said forest manager Jim Lauck, "but this year we hope to reach more people by teaming up with the Ag Day event."

Interested Hoosiers can come and share their views on the operation, funding and staffing of this forest, as well as any of Indiana's other state forests. Guests can talk directly with DNR personnel, or if they prefer, submit written comments concerning forest and recreation management policies and pro-

grams.

"These events provide Hoosiers with a chance to receive first-hand information about how the state forests are working to provide diverse wildlife habitat, forest products and recreational opportunities," said State Forester John Seifert. "They also allow us to receive valuable feedback from our neighbors and users about state forest management issues."

Those who cannot attend can review management guides and comment online. All tract management guides are posted at www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3635.htm. Click on the link to "Indiana State Forests," then "Public Comment."

Ag Day will be held at the Martin County Community Building, which is located between Shoals and Loogootee, on US Highway 50. The Ag Day program will include agribusiness displays, demonstrations, and breakfast served by the Martin County Junior Leaders.

Changes on using live gizzard shad, threadfin shad, and alewives as bait

Rule changes regarding the use of live gizzard shad, threadfin shad and alewives as bait, and the size of cast nets used in collecting such bait, take effect March 22.

The rules changes answer a request from striped bass anglers to be able to use gizzard shad as bait in selected waters where striped bass are prevalent and gizzard shad are present but stipulate that gizzard shad cannot be moved from the waters in which they were caught. Shad collected anywhere else will have to be killed immediately upon capture. The intent is to prevent the moving of shad to other waters.

Currently, live shad can be used only at Brookville Lake. This dates back to when Brookville was Indiana's only striped bass water body. With the changes, gizzard shad can be collected from the designated waters, possessed while on that water body, and used only on that water body.

Use of live shad as bait has been restricted previously because of concerns it would lead to establishment of shad populations in lakes where the shad would compete with and harm existing sport fisheries. Since then, the DNR has created new striped bass and hybrid striped bass fisheries at several other places.

The changes also standardize cast net regulations statewide and allow larger mesh for taking shad. The rule also allows use of the look-alike smaller cousin of gizzard shad, the threadfin shad, at these selected waters, and the collection and use of live alewives as bait on Lake Michigan.

The rule changes are summarized as fol-

lows:

- Live gizzard shad and threadfin shad may be collected, possessed and used on the following waters only but may not be transported away from these waters: Brookville Reservoir, Cecil M. Harden Reservoir, Monroe Reservoir, Patoka Reservoir, Lake Freeman, Lake Shafer, Hardy Lake, Ohio River mainstem, excluding all embayments

- Any unused shad must be killed while at these water bodies.

- Live gizzard shad or threadfin shad collected at other water bodies will need to be killed immediately upon capture and cannot be possessed live.

- Live alewives may be collected, possessed and used on Lake Michigan only, and may not be transported away from Lake Michigan. Any unused alewives must be killed. A person must immediately kill alewives collected from waters other than Lake Michigan.

- The maximum cast net diameter is increased to 20 feet for both the Ohio River and the rest of the state. Mesh size remains at 3/4 inch stretch mesh for normal minnow/crayfish collection statewide. However, cast nets used at the eight named live shad water bodies listed above will be able to have a maximum mesh size of 2 inches stretch mesh. Stretch mesh is the distance between two opposite knots of a net mesh when the net is stretched tight. This will allow for more practical use in collecting live gizzard shad, threadfin shad or alewives, which school in open water.



-Photo provided by Roger Huntzinger

Rep. Mark Messmer (far right) is shown above presenting the Distinguished Hoosier Award to Al (at right) and Ida Meyer (at left).

Representative Messmer recognizes Distinguished Hoosier award recipient

Hoosier conservationists Al and Ida Meyer were presented with the Distinguished Hoosier award last week for their service to Indiana through their tree conservation efforts and educational outreach regarding forestry and wildlife conservation. The Meyers were nominated by State Rep. Mark Messmer (R-Jasper).

The Distinguished Hoosier award is one of the highest awards given to Indiana citizens by the governor. It is awarded to those who have brought honor to the state through their character and accomplishments.

Al Meyer has received numerous awards for his efforts, including the Hoosier Heartland Outstanding Forestry Stewardship Award, the Indiana Wildlife Foundation's Forest Conservationist of the Year award, and a Certificate of Recognition from the United States Senate for he and his wife's contributions to the State of Indiana.

"The Meyers have devoted much of their life to forest conservation and are invaluable to the state for their dedication to protecting forestry and educating future generations about the necessity and merits of forest conservation," said Rep. Messmer. "It is certainly an honor to be given the opportunity to present them with this prestigious award."

A native of Ohio, Al Meyer grew up

planting trees on his great-grandfather's farm; he came from a family of German foresters. Meyer served three years in the U.S. Air Force before returning to the States and obtaining a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's degree in plant science. Meyer moved to Indianapolis in 1950, where he met his wife Ida, and they eventually settled in Johnson County. The Meyers have acquired over 950 acres of land, providing the state with vast amounts of lumber, pulpwood, and Scotch pine trees over the years.

Al and his wife have also devoted much of their time to conservation education. The Meyers have opened their tree farms to the public to view and learn about conservation and wildlife. They have held "conservation camps" for Indiana teachers so that they may teach their students about forestry practices, and the Meyers have worked with various Indiana state universities to educate students and aid in herbicide studies. Al has also been a founding member of the Hoosier Heartland Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association, the Johnson County Park System, and the Johnson County Park Tree Farm.

Meyer and his wife Ida received the award on March 8, 2011.

DNR launches iPhone app; free download

People who enjoy any of the DNR's wide variety of properties across Indiana and own an iPhone can benefit from a new phone application.

The application can be downloaded at no cost to the user at <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/indiana-dnr/id395591679?mt=8>.

The DNR iPhone app provides virtually all the information needed when planning an outdoor activity at one of these sites. DNR properties include fish and wildlife areas, forests, historic sites, state park inns, and nature preserves, as well as 24 state parks and eight reservoirs.

"Indiana has a great wealth of natural and cultural resources, and we are always looking for new ways to connect Hoosiers to those resources," said Dan Bortner, director of the DNR Division of State Parks and Reservoirs. "We're glad to be a part of DNR's efforts to use today's technology."

The Indiana DNR iPhone application features:

- Location mapping for state parks, where to hunt or fish, and additional properties of interest

- Distances to park or fishing/hunting areas in relation to the user's current location

- Fees and regulations for all state properties and outdoor recreation sites

- Links to camping or state park inn reservation sites

- Links to fishing or hunting license purchasing sites

- Reserved hunt registration

- Nature brochures and Indiana fishing species guide

- RSS feeds of Indiana DNR news

- Links to Indiana DNR websites

DNR director of communications Phil Bloom said this is one more example of the many options of staying informed about DNR activities.

"We live in an increasingly mobile society in which people have a variety of ways to gather the information they need," he said. "This continues DNR's effort to stay connected with our customers and for our customers to stay connected to us."

The application was developed by the DNR web team in the Division of Communications and Indiana Interactive. They welcome user feedback about the app, which should be sent to dnrwebmaster@dnr.IN.gov. Applications for Blackberry and Android phones are under development.

March 20th is the first day of Spring!

ALL ABOUT THE USA

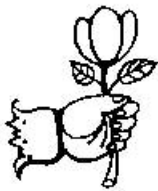
Hey kids, we are still working our way through all the U.S. Presidents and all of the states. Have a suggestion for something you want to see on this page? Email me at courtney@martincountyjournal.com



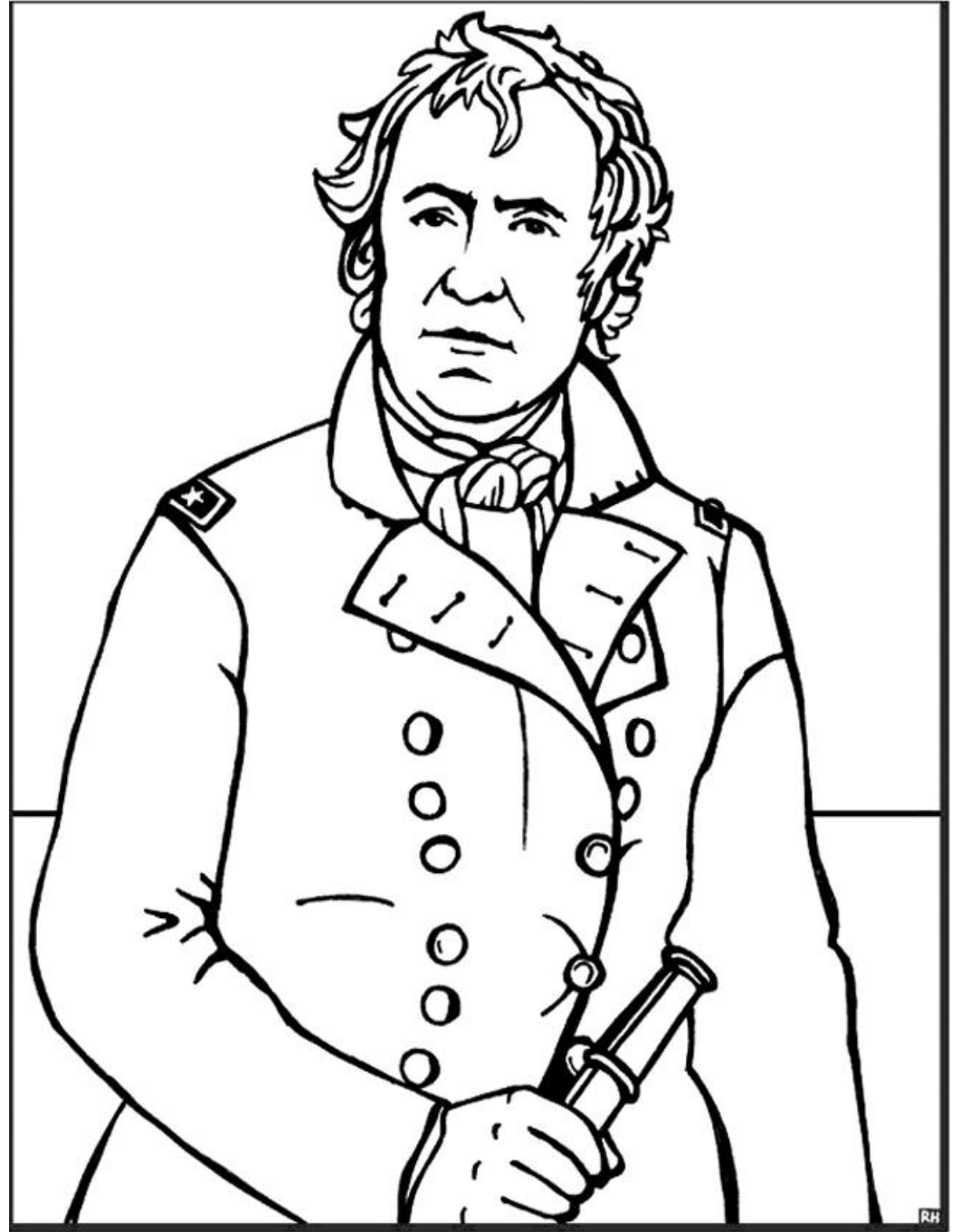
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Spring Flowers

- ANEMONE
- BLUEBELLS
- BUTTERCUPS
- COLUMBINE
- CROCUS
- DAFFODILS
- FORGET ME NOTS
- GLORY OF THE SNOW
- HYACINTH
- IRIS
- JACK IN THE PULPIT
- LADYS SLIPPER
- LILY
- MARSH MARIGOLD
- MAY APPLE
- MAY FLOWERS
- NARCISSUS
- PHLOX
- POPPY
- PRAIRIE ROSE
- SHOOTING STAR
- SNOWDROPS
- SPRING BEAUTY
- TULIPS
- VIOLETS

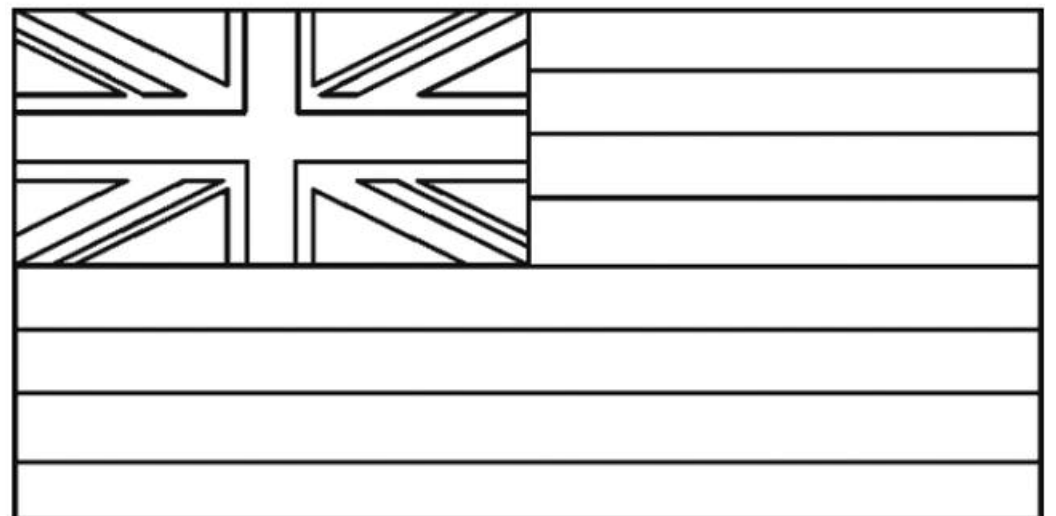
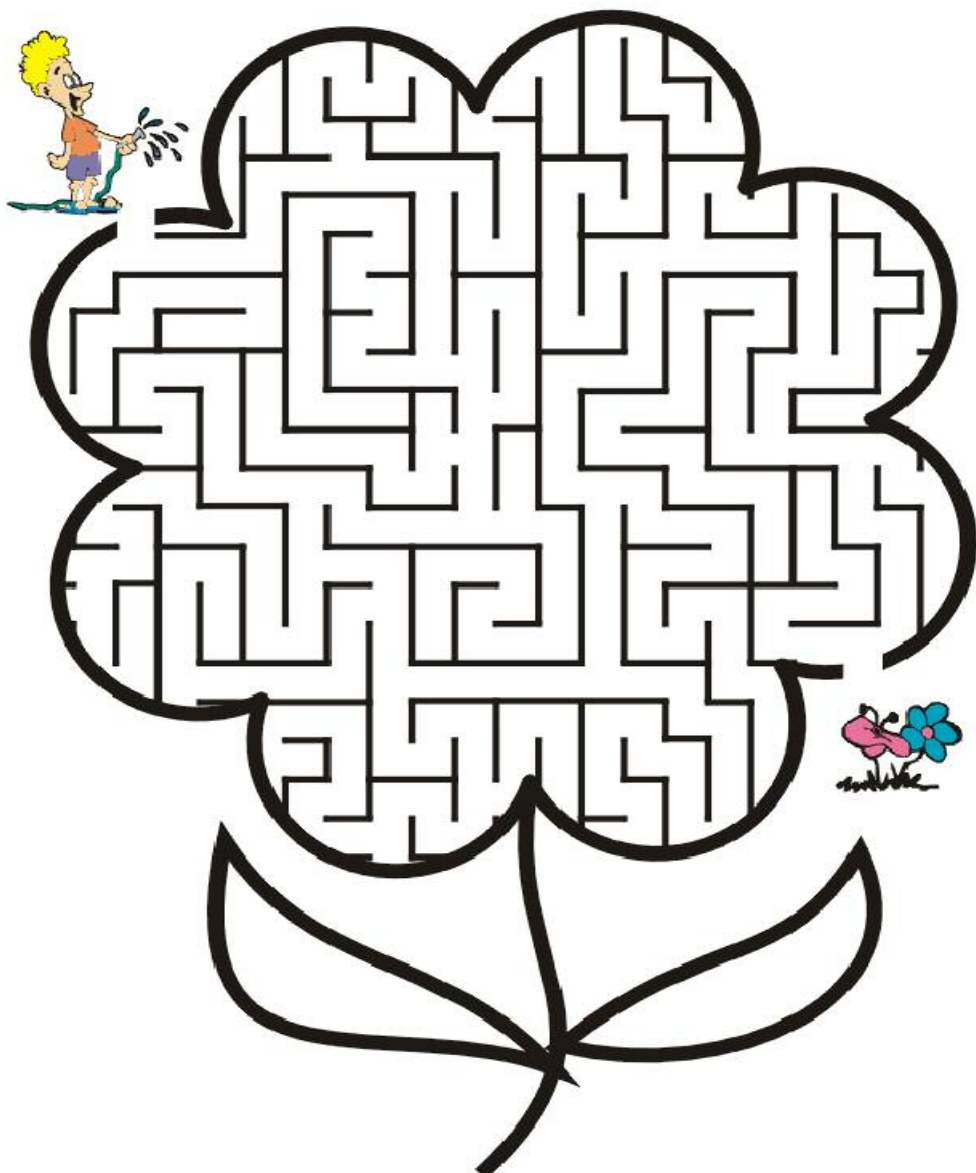


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12. Zachary Taylor 1849-1850

Hawaii



Nickname:

Aloha State

Motto:

The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness