

Shoals School Board torn on how to make up snow days

The Shoals School Board deliberated on how to make up the seven missed snow days for the current school year at their meeting last Thursday, March 12. Lorna Troutman made a motion to allow make-up days to extend until June 1 and not remove any days from spring break. The motion was seconded by Eva Neeley and the vote was 2-3 with Dianna Ragsdale, Jim Bruner, and Mary Lou Billings opposing. Dianna Ragsdale made a motion to allow one day of spring break to be used as a snow make-up day to allow all students to be finished before graduation. Dianna recommended Monday, March 23 become a snow make-up day, seconded by Jim Bruner, and a vote of 3-2 was given with Lorna Troutman and Eva Neeley opposing.

After the meeting, on Tuesday, Superintendent Candace Roush released the following statement: The Shoals Community School Board voted last week to have school in session on Monday, March 23 during spring break to make up one missed snow day. On the afternoon of March 16, the Indiana Department of Education released a memo giving schools another option to make up missed snow days. This option would allow schools to extend the length of their school day. The school board will meet this Thursday evening at 6 p.m. for a special board meeting to discuss the possibility of extending our school day by thirty minutes after spring break in order to make up one or possibly two snow days. If the school board decides for extended time, spring break will begin after-school dismisses on Friday, March 20 and run through Sunday evening, March 29. Parents will be notified by the school reach system on

Thursday evening after the board has made a decision. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding.

Mrs. Roush recommended the board change the ending dates for the current grading period at both the elementary and junior/senior high levels due to days school was cancelled. The 5th six-week grading period in the junior/senior high would then be scheduled to end on April 10, 2015 and the 3rd nine-week grading period in the elementary would end on March 20, 2015. The board approved.

A motion was made by Jim Bruner to set the graduation date for May 30, 2015 at 2 p.m., seconded by Dianna Ragsdale, and a 5-0 vote was given.

Ann Stewart reported that 182 children were served by the Angel Tree Program this past Christmas and she is very happy with the continued success and community support of the program.

Lucas Calhoun, junior/senior high school principal, reported on the following:

- Spring sports are all nearly in full-swing.
- ISTEP testing round-one of mathematics and two components of English/Language Arts is primarily complete. Special thanks to Larry Sherfick, Pat Keefe, Scott Fishback, Jonathan Holt, Cassie Phillips, Mary Ellen Baker, and Jeff Gee for their diligence. Additionally, thanks to Rachel Fields (See 'SHOALS' continued on page two)

Weight limit on county roads

Effective immediately, the Martin County Board of Commissioners have placed a 10-ton load limit on all Martin County roads until further notice.

Loogootee School Board discusses bus contracts, technology plan

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Tim Hudson came before the Loogootee School Board Tuesday night, March 17 ask the board not to sign the bus contracts because he didn't think they were fair. Hudson is a bus driver for the corporation and said he enjoys driving the bus but he doesn't think it is fair that some bus drivers get paid tens of thousands more than him. He was asked if the other drivers were driving more miles than him and Hudson replied that he has the longest route.

Superintendent Keller said that the contracts were made back in October and she wished Hudson would have said something back then. Hudson replied that he has been trying to speak to Keller about this for three months. Keller replied that yes, she has spoken to him a few times but it was too late by that point.

Board member Tim Bradley said he understood Hudson's frustration and he doesn't like that any driver is upset. Keller said she agreed but there was nothing that could be done about it now except bid out the bus route. Bradley replied that he didn't think it was fair that Hudson's route would be bid out while everyone else gets their routes automatically.

Hudson asked they board if they realized that some bus drivers are being paid \$45,000 a year to drive the bus.

Mike Tippery said that the reason the bus contracts were not bid out is because it may have ended up costing the school

more money. He said by doing contract extensions, they were able to negotiate the stipends with the drivers.

Bradley said that when the bus contracts are put out for bid, it opens them up for competition which could drive down the cost per route. He said Hudson had bid on six routes during the last bid process and ended up with one.

The board moved on without any decisions being made but Bradley thanked Hudson for coming forward.

Tippery gave the board an update on the school's technology plan. He said he spoke to several teachers and the overall consensus was that the school needed more devices and more training on those devices. He said the plan he has come up with would almost double the number of computers and devices the school has, for next school year. He said it would not be enough for every student to have a device and textbooks would remain. He said including increased bandwidth, the cost is estimated at \$118,000. He said he has around \$55,000 in the technology budget to pay for a portion of the cost and the rest can either come from the common school fund loan or the rainy day fund.

Tippery added that he has a plan for year two but wants to wait and see how year one works out before going any further. Part of the plan for year two would be to go one-to-one for grades nine through 12. The board approved the plan for next year and the money to come from the rainy day fund.

The board approved Brandi Tippery for (See 'LOGOOTE' cont. on page two)



Youth Art Month

In celebration of Youth Art Month, local high school students will have their work displayed at the Martin County Courthouse in Shoals. Drawings, paintings, photographs, and three-dimensional work from Loogootee and Shoals High School students will be featured. The Martin County Courthouse is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Shown above left is the work done by Ashleigh Powell of LHS. Above right are various students' artwork from both schools.

-Photos by Courtney Hughett



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SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

from Bedford Joint Services for special assistance.

-Student Success! On Saturday, February 28, Alex Tedrow, sophomore member of the Shoals High School Band, participated in the state level solo/ensemble contest at North Central High School in Indianapolis. Alex performed "Sicilienne and Allegro" by Johann Sebastian Bach on the alto saxophone and earned a gold medal for his performance. Alex qualified for the state level contest after receiving a gold rating in division 1 at the district level contest at Southridge High School on January 31.

-Edmund Neeley and Tyler George were invited to play in the 4th Annual Indiana Elite North vs. South Basketball Event. This event will take place on Saturday, April 11 at Danville High School.

-Shoals FFA Chapter is in full-swing. Special thanks to Jim Bruner, Miles Orwig, Tom Elliott, and Candace Roush for their help getting this up and running.

-Junior high and high school academic teams are preparing for spring season. High school academic team is competing in a meet at Barr-Reeve this evening. Junior high academic team is preparing for a meet at Paoli in early April. Tina Rue, Wes Stephenson, Pat Keefe, Ken Macy and Teresa Heckard have been instrumental in keeping the students academically and nutritionally fed.

-Health and wellness professional development session recently was well attended and very informative.

-Preparations for next year's schedule is under way with planned modifications in the English Department. The Ag program is moving forward with preparing content and material needs for next year.

-Additional upcoming events - CTE students planning to attend a career and technical education fair in Odon. Basketball team members attending Martin County Chamber of Commerce event that includes keynote speaker Kent Benson.

-Special thanks to: Lorna Troutman for the ISTEP refreshments; The Art Institute of Indianapolis Chef and Museum Curator Speakers; and Odon Lions Club for hosting boys' basketball team and cheerleaders for a meal prior to sectional.

Austin Malone, elementary principal, reported on the following:

-ISTEP and IREAD-3 Testing is completed for round one.

-AAU Track All-Stars - 10 members of the Shoals Track Team competed at the AAU National Championships at Eastern Michigan University last weekend. Shoals students received 20 All American Medals for placing in the top 8 according to event and age group. Levi Pendley was National Runner Up in the long jump and 800-meter race and was only three seconds away from the school record. Silas Bauer was National Champion in the long jump. Thanks to all parents for providing transportation and lodging that allowed the students to have this great experience.

-A spring break send-off "Disney Day" is planned on Friday March 20 with lots of fun planned.

-Looking Ahead - kindergarten round up scheduled on April 10. ISTEP multiple choice window April 2-May 15, 2015. School Smiles group to be at the elementary Thursday, May 14. Mobile theater community night on Friday, May 15.

Thank you for your help during ISTEP testing! Lorna Troutman for snacks and recess equipment. Etta Franklin, Mary Smith and Melody Turner for helping to keep the hallways quiet. Special thanks to Pat Keefe, Larry Sherfick, Lucas Calhoun and Reuben Montgomery.

Candace Roush, superintendent, reported on the following:

-The cafeteria received a grant from the National School Lunch Program Equipment grant in the amount of \$20,000 to help purchase new ovens.

-Would like to thank REMC for donating 76 new cloth folding chairs to the school.

-Collecting names of personnel who are interested in being on the summer cleaning and mowing crew and they will be brought to the April board meeting for approval.

-Thank you to Old National Bank for their collaboration with the school and offering an increased interest rate.

-Still looking at the preschool options and trying to determine if it is possible to outsource the program and still use their facilities. Also starting the process to become a licensed center.

-Looking at the possibility of using bonds to help fix some of our facilities and roofs. More about this will be presented at a future board meeting.

-The school is trying out a new automated substitute software system.

-Thank you to National Gypsum for donating funds to reserve a table for our bas-

ketball players to attend the Martin County Chamber of Commerce Dinner.

The board approve board policy series 6000.

Mrs. Roush reported to the board that one quote was received from Jim Graber Logging in the amount of \$8,251 for the purchase of standing timber on school property. Mrs. Roush recommended the board award the sale of said timber to Jim Graber Logging at the quote price. The board approved.

The board accepted the resignations of Dave Qualkenbush and Cory Roach from the position of boys' JV/varsity assistant track coach for the 2014-15 school year.

The board approved Mitch Green as boys' JV/varsity assistant track coach for the 2014-15 school year and Brad Peterson as an ECA bus driver upon receipt of his CDL license.

The board approved posting the following coaching positions: boys' 5th grade basketball, boys' 6th grade basketball, boys' 7th grade basketball, boys' 8th grade basketball, boys' varsity basketball, girls' 5th grade basketball, girls' 6th grade basketball, girls' 7th grade basketball, and girls' 8th grade basketball.

The board approved Bobbi Bledsoe as 7th grade volleyball coach and Erin Medina as volunteer junior high volleyball coach for the 2015-16 school year.

The board approved Kyle Troutman, Dylan Erwin, Danny Roush, Josh Sexton, Mike Steiner, and Luke Harmon to serve as volunteer baseball coaches for the 2015 season.

The board approved the following field trips:

-Senior class to Indianapolis for Statehouse Tour on March 31

LOOGOOTEE

(Continued from page one)

a volunteer in the middle school tennis program, Liam Hollihan for volunteer in the track program pending criminal background check, and Michelle Wesley as junior high assistant track coach.

The board accepted the resignation of Kenny Taylor.

Members of the Global Teacher Exchange Program gave a presentation to the board on the benefits of working with the Sweden school in the exchange program.

The board approved students to go to the National Beta Convention from June 29

-Kindergarten students to French Lick Scenic Railway on April 9

-Ag sciences students to West Gate @ Crane on April 10

-Junior high band to Tecumseh High School for Contest on April 11

-High school band/chorus to Castle High School for Contest on April 18

-Academic Team to Crane Westgate Academy for Science Fair on April 22

-Varsity basketball teams to Martin County Chamber of Commerce Dinner on March 17, 2015.

-3rd grade to Lincoln Boyhood National Park on May 1, 2015

Mrs. Roush presented a fundraiser application from the Class of 2020 to hold a "Glow in the Dark" junior high dance fundraiser on April 10, 2015.

The board approved the Shoals United Methodist Church to use the main gymnasium for a public Good Friday service on April 3, 2015 at 6 p.m. with setup prior; the Shoals Lions Club to hold Easter Egg Hunt on School Grounds April 4, and the high school baseball program to hold practice and games at the school March-July, 2015.

Mrs. Roush explained that the school will be using capital project funds to help support the technology plan. They are going to slow the process down and look at implementing the plan over a period of two years. This will allow them to get some of the infrastructure and wi-fi updated and allow teachers time to get their devices and have an additional year of professional development and training before they look at purchasing the student devices in year two.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. The next meeting of the board will be a regular session on April 9, 2015 at 6 p.m.

through July 2 in Nashville, Tennessee.

The board voted to name the tennis courts at the high school be named the Rick Graves' Tennis Complex. Graves' record is 460-179 as coach and was inducted into the Indiana Tennis Hall of Fame this year.

Superintendent Keller said the recommended snow make up days are planned for April 6, May 21, 22, 26 and 27. Graduation will still be held on Friday, May 22. The board also voted to allow the valedictorian and salutatorian to be chosen on May 1 to allow for publication time and for the students to write their speeches.



Martin County Humane Society's 5TH ANNUAL AUCTION

**Saturday, March 21
at Simon J. Graber Complex, Odon**

Item viewing starts at 6 p.m. Auction starts at 7 p.m.

Items to be in the auction so far include:

Indiana Beach - (2) Funday passes
Holiday World - (2) admission tickets
University of Evansville - (4) men's basketball tickets
Sybaris Pool Suites - (2) gift certificates for discounts on stay
Bark magazine - (5) subscriptions
Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra - (2) concert tickets
Indiana Caverns - (2) passes
Disney theme parks - (4) park hopper passes
Comedy Sportz Indianapolis - (4) tickets to a comedy sportz match on Thursday, Friday or Saturday
Andretti Autosports Autographed - photos of Ryan Hunter-Reay, James Hinchcliff, Marco Andretti, Michael Andretti, and Carlos Munoz
Mesker Park Zoo - (4) tickets
Arby's (Huse Incorporated) - (12) free combo meals
French Lick/West Baden Indoor Karting - (4) arrive and drive heat races
Indianapolis Motor Speedway - (4) tickets to Indy 500 Qualifiers & (4) tickets to Indy 500 Hall of Fame Museum
Indianapolis Zoo & White River Gardens - (2) admission tickets and (1) parking pass
Greg Biffle Foundation - Nascar Pets 2015 calendar, autographed photo of Biffle, window decal
Isha Wright-Ryan Law Office - Will combo package
Bradley's Bar & Grill - \$30 gift certificate
Kong - box of products
Rising Star Casino Resort - One night getaway, dinner for two, and breakfast or lunch for two
Sentry flea/tick - 50 packages of flea/tick medicine, varying sizes of dog
Evansville Otters - Family Fun Pack (12 general admission tickets) can be split
Indianapolis Colts - Autographed Chuck Pagano photograph
Chicago Bears - Laser autographed Brandon Marshall canvas print
Redbox - 25 one night rentals

Earthrathed - gift bag of products
Horseshoe Casino - One night stay (Sun-Thurs), dinner for two, \$20 in casino cash
Mellow Mushroom - (2) \$25 gift cards
Wendy's - (2) combo meals
Children's Museum of Indianapolis - (2) admission tickets
St Louis Cardinals - (2) reserved seats Mon-Thurs home game during 2015 season
Wacky Wings (French Lick) - \$15 gift card
33 Brick Street Restaurant (French Lick) - \$25 gift card
French Lick Scenic Railway - (2) adult train tickets
Shotz lazer tag, mini golf (French Lick) - (2) game tickets
City BBQ - \$25 gift card
DeBrand Fine Chocolates (Ft. Wayne) - (6) tickets for 2-person tour of DeBrand Chocolates
Big Splash Water Park - (2) passes
AMC Theatres - (5) movie passes
Six Flags St. Louis - (2) tickets
Raging Waves Water Park (Illinois) - (2) passes Monday-Friday
Purdue University - (2) tickets to Purdue vs. ISU football on Sept. 12, 2015
Otterbox - \$60 gift certificate
Indy Eleven soccer - (2) tickets to any home game
Cincinnati Reds - (4) view level OR (2) terrace line tickets
Annie Bullock - handmade cat quilt
JewelScent by Tyra - three gift baskets
Martin County Journal - 52 weeks of service directory ads
Christine Hemmerlein - 13 pet themed charm necklaces
Charlotte Bell - (2) baby hats and (2) diaper covers, crocheted
Wildtree - Best of Wildtree 8-pack set
Courtney Hughett - (8) rings, various values, various sizes
Chick-fil-A - (2) adult meals, (2) kids meals, and promotional items
Indiana University - Autographed photo of baseball coach Chris Lemonis

The Lodge of Loogootee - Gift certificates
Fire Ring King - camp fire ring
Sue David - handmade blanket
Indianapolis Indians - (4) reserved seats to a home game in April or May
Charlie Bridgewater - (6) handmade bird houses
Dairy Queen - (2) \$25 gift certificates
Bowling Massage - 30-minute massage
Dutch Pantry Odon - gift card
Faytastic Pizza - (2) \$10 gift certificates
RJ's Food Mart - (2) \$25 gift cards
Megan Crays - Tupperware gift basket
Sentry - (50) boxes of flea/tick medicine
O'Reilly's Auto Parts - air tank
Builders Best - Drill, hex key set, lighted screwdriver, table
Samantha Heironimus - three handmade pet-themed wooden signs
Candy's Creations - handmade wooden sign
Cheryl Hovis - (3) scenic canvas prints
Kentucky Wildcats - (4) tickets to college baseball game against Tennessee
Loogootee Marathon - (4) \$25 gift cards
China Wok - \$30 gift card
Stoll's Lakeview Restaurant - \$40 gift certificate
Mutts Comics - autographed comic strip
Tony Holt - handmade cabinet
Indiana Pacers - autographed Lavoy Allen hat
West Boggs Park - gate pass and camping pass
Greene's Body Shop - gift certificate
Jayme Thompson - workout DVD, cup and Shakeology
Printing Express - 10 free comb bindings
The Candy Mill - gift basket
Carolyn Howard - (3) gift baskets
Blake Car Wash - car wash tokens
MORE ITEMS COMING IN EVERY DAY!

OBITUARIES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

HAROLD GREEN

Harold L. Green passed away Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at Jasper Memorial Hospital. A resident of Loogootee, he was 88.

He was born on March 8, 1927; son of the late Dan and Mabel (Kendall) Green.

He was a well-known businessman in Loogootee for over 60 years. He loved the challenge of running a business and was involved in several successful companies. His adventure began in a donut shop in Petersburg and evolved into motels, convenience stores, skating rink, pre-school and various other businesses.

He and his brother, Charles, owned the Loogootee Tribune for over 45 years. They also owned newspapers in Petersburg and Dale.

If his health would have stayed strong, he would have been working on a new project up to his last days.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Eileen (Strawn) Green of Loogootee; daughter, Karla (Jim) Vest of Pittsboro; son, Dennis (Julie) Green of Loogootee; grandchildren, Kyle Green of Colonial Heights, Virginia, and Mitch and Kasie Green, both of Loogootee; and niece, Gloria (Green) Lamon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dan and Mabel Green and brother, Charles Green.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 22 at Loogootee

United Methodist Church, officiated by Pastor Greg Davis. A private burial will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Loogootee United Methodist Church.

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

BETTY LOU HARDING

Betty Lou Harding, 85, formerly of Shoals, passed away unexpectedly on March 7, 2015 at her home. A resident of Carson, California, she was 85. Betty had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's since 2007.

She was born September 9, 1929 in Shoals; the daughter of the late Cecil and Minnie (Trimble) Holt. She married James E. "Gene" Harding on April 9, 1950 in Louisville, Kentucky and he preceded her in death on October 7, 1998.

She attended Shoals School and the Marinello School of Beauty in California. She worked as a cosmetician for many years. In addition, she also sold Avon, worked with the PTA and volunteered as playground supervisor in the early 1960's. While residing in Shoals, she was active for many years in the Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary Aeries #2442 and while living in California, she was a member of the Torrance Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #785.

She is survived by two sons, one daughter and one grandson; Jerry and wife Karyn Harding of Prescott Valley, Arizona; grandson, Lee Harding of Long Beach, California; Gary Harding of Los Angeles, California; Linda Harding, Carson, California; brother, Jackie Holt of Shoals; sister, Suzy Hopkins of Shoals, along with several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, brothers, Robert and Larry Holt and sister, Patty Hert.

The funeral will be held Saturday, March 21 at 1 p.m. at the Queen-Lee Funeral Home in Shoals, with visitation held the evening prior, Friday, March 20 from 4 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Queen-Lee Funeral Home.

Burial will be made in Spring Hill Cemetery.

WALLY MITCHELL

Wallace E. "Wally" Mitchell, III, passed away Tuesday, March 10, 2015. A resident of The Villages, Florida, for the last 10 years, he was 81.

He was an executive in the travel industry for 45 years and held the Certified Travel Counselor status. He retired from AMR Corp as Manager of Leisure Marketing. He founded The Interline Club of Chicago, was Past President of SKAL, an international travel executive organization and was an officer for numerous travel organizations.



His hobbies were bridge, reading, pickleball and golf. He enjoyed travel, cooking, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his children, Anne Marie Crays (John), Tracy Burch and fiancé, Tom Mitchell; Margaret Mitchell and fiancé, Mark Adams; and Barbara Graber, all of Indiana, and Wally Mitchell of Texas; 12 grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; fiancée, Shirley Halloran; brother, Robert Mitchell; sister, Alice Clauss; and six nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his first wife and mother of his children, Mary Ann Mitchell; parents, Wallace E. Mitchell Sr. and Lucille; and son-in-law, Paul J. Burch.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, March 16 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee, officiated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Brocksmith-Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee was in charge of arrangements.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions in Wally's memory be made to the charity of your choice or St. John Catholic Cemetery Association.

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

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, MARCH 9

7:46 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

9:35 a.m. - Sheriff Roush transported an inmate to court.

10:42 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance northwest of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene, Shoals 1st Responders, and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:30 a.m. - Deputy Dant took four inmates to court.

1:12 p.m. - Received a report of an abandoned vehicle in Loogootee. LPD officer Hennette responded.

4:30 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:02 p.m. - Received a report of a dead deer in the roadway on US 231, north of Loogootee. Sgt Keller responded.

9:15 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident on US 231 north of Loogootee. Sgt Keller worked the accident.

9:40 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:20 p.m. - Received report of a break-in at a residence in Loogootee. LPD officer Norris responded.

10:25 p.m. - Received report of a domestic situation east of Shoals. Sgt Keller responded.

11:09 p.m. - Received report of someone peeping into windows in Shoals. Sgt Keller responded to the incident.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

12:27 a.m. - Received a complaint about dogs on SR 550. Sgt Keller was advised.

6:07 a.m. - Received a request for a welfare check on an individual north of Loogootee. After further investigation, the subject was found to be alright.

9:30 a.m. - Deputy Dant took three inmates to court.

11:00 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene took an inmate to court.

11:30 a.m. - Deputy Dant took two inmates to court.

1:00 p.m. - Deputy Dant took three inmates to court.

Accident report

MONDAY, MARCH 9

9:15 p.m. - Tamara Dickens, 47, of Loogootee, contacted the Martin County Sheriff's Department reporting a vehicle crash involving a deer on US 231 north of Day Road. Dickens stated she was northbound on US 231 just north of Day Road when a deer entered the roadway. Dickens was unable to avoid striking the deer. Dickens' vehicle struck the deer causing minimal damage to the front end of her 2007 Pontiac G6. The investigating officer was Sergeant Keith Keller with the Martin County Sheriff's Department.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

7:50 p.m. - Hannah Flynn, of Loogootee, was operating a 2007 Chevy on Broadway Street stopped and attempting to turn onto SW 1st Street. Dakota Simmerman, of Shoals, was behind the Flynn vehicle in a 2000 Chevy. At this time, Jennifer Clark, of Loogootee, operating a 2010 Nissan, failed to see the stopped traffic ahead of her. Clark's vehicle struck the rear of the Simmerman vehicle, which caused the Simmerman vehicle to strike the rear of the Flynn vehicle. No injuries were reported. Officer Nolan investigated.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

7:15 p.m. - Austin Mesarosh, of Loogootee, was operating a 1999 Chevy on East Main Street when the vehicle veered to the right and struck a parked vehicle owned by Harold Flanagan, of Loogootee.

2:50 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on US Highway 231 North. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:00 p.m. - Received a complaint of cars being parked illegally in Loogootee. LPD officer Hennette responded.

5:47 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital by Martin County Ambulance.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

9:00 a.m. - Sheriff Roush took an inmate to court.

10:15 a.m. - Deputy Dant picked up an inmate from Pike County for court.

10:30 a.m. - Sheriff Roush took an inmate to court.

11:15 a.m. - Deputy Dant took two inmates to court.

11:30 a.m. - Sheriff Roush took an inmate to court.

12:45 p.m. - Deputy Dant transported an inmate back to Pike County.

4:40 p.m. - Received a report of a dog complaint in Crane Village. Major Burkhardt answered the complaint.

11:34 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic problem in Loogootee. LPD officer Nolan responded.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

12:49 a.m. - Received a report of a dog complaint in Loogootee. LPD officer Nolan took the call.

4:54 a.m. - Received a report of a house fire on Hwy 150. Shoals Fire Department, Martin County Civil Defense, and Martin County Ambulance responded.

7:26 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:34 a.m. - Received a report of a stranded motorist on US Highway 50. Sheriff Roush and the Shoals Fire Department responded.

7:57 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident on US Highway 50. Deputy Dant responded.

10:30 a.m. - Deputy Dant took an inmate to court.

11:20 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene took two inmates to court.

11:08 a.m. - Received a report of a car in the water east of Shoals. Sheriff Roush went into the water to help the gentleman.

3:36 p.m. - Received a report of a yard on fire north of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department responded.

7:53 p.m. - Received a report of a two-vehicle accident in Loogootee. LPD responded.

7:58 p.m. - Received a report of a fire on Highway 150. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded.

10:25 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport the subject.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

12:48 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

3:02 a.m. - Received a report of prowlers on Highway 150. Deputy Baker responded.

11:28 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled car in Loogootee. LPD Captain Akles responded.

11:38 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle in Loogootee. LPD Captain Akles responded.

1:00 p.m. - Major Burkhardt took three inmates to court.

1:48 p.m. - Received a report of a tree across US Highway 50, east of Shoals. Major Burkhardt removed the tree.

2:30 p.m. - Received a report of large rocks on Highway 150, east of Shoals. The state highway department was notified.

5:09 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Martin County Am-

balance responded.

5:55 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver east of Shoals. Deputy Baker responded and the driver checked out okay.

7:15 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. LPD responded.

8:45 p.m. - Received a report of suspicious activity near Trinity Springs. Deputy Baker responded and all checked okay.

9:50 p.m. - Received a report of an accident north of Loogootee. Deputy Baker responded.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

1:05 a.m. - Received report of a disturbance in Shoals. Deputy Baker and Shoals Town Marshal Eckert responded.

3:52 a.m. - Received a report of someone knocking on doors in Loogootee. LPD officer Nolan responded.

9:36 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute near Shoals. Sgt Keller responded.

11:27 a.m. - Received a report of a pedestrian struck by car north of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee 1st Responders, and Sgt Keller responded. Victim was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

12:09 p.m. - Received a report of trespassing east of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

1:14 p.m. - Received a report of a tree in power lines on Highway 150. Shoals Fire Department responded.

3:28 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee 1st Responders and Martin County Ambulance responded. Subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:37 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee 1st Responders and Martin County Ambulance responded. Subject was transported subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

4:28 p.m. - Received a report of a battery in Loogootee. Sgt Keller and LPD Captain Akles responded. Subject was transported to Vincennes.

6:44 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident near Shoals. Deputy Harmon responded.

8:08 p.m. - Received a report of a truck in the water north of Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded.

10:18 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Town Marshal Eckert, Deputy Harmon, Shoals 1st Responders, and Martin County Ambulance responded. Subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

10:28 p.m. - Received a report of an accident north of Shoals. Deputy Harmon responded.

11:42 p.m. - Received a report of a disturbance east of Loogootee. Deputy Harmon, Chief Deputy Greene, Marshal Eckert, and Martin County Ambulance responded. Subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

1:42 a.m. - Received a report of a truck

in the water north of Shoals. Deputy Harmon took the call.

2:15 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic situation in Loogootee. LPD Officer Norris responded.

3:02 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Shoals 1st Responders and Martin County Ambulance responded. Subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:05 a.m. - Received a report of an incoherent person in Loogootee. LPD Captain Akles responded. Subject was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital.

2:33 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:08 p.m. - Received a report of stolen articles in Loogootee. LPD Captain Akles responded.

3:36 p.m. - Received a report of a stolen wallet in Loogootee. LPD Captain Akles responded.

6:50 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Shoals. Deputy Harmon responded.

7:05 p.m. - Received a report of a property dispute near Shoals. Deputy Harmon responded.

9:04 p.m. - Received a report of car in the water east of Shoals. Deputy Harmon responded.

MONDAY, MARCH 16

3:46 a.m. - Received a report of a personal injury accident east of Shoals. Deputy Baker, Martin County Ambulance, Shoals 1st Responders, and Lawrence County EMS responded. Subjects were transported to IU Health in Bedford.

6:16 a.m. - Received a report of an object in the roadway on US 231 north of Loogootee. Deputy Dant responded.

JAIL BOOKINGS

MONDAY, MARCH 9

8:52 p.m. - Tiffany M. Ritter, 31, of Loogootee, was arrested and charged with battery resulting in bodily injury and attempted battery by bodily waste. Ritter was transported to the Martin Co. Security Center. Captain Hennette was the arresting officer.

11:31 p.m. - Jill Bradley, 22, of Shoals was arrested by Sgt. Keller for battery. There was no bond set.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

10:45 p.m. - Travis Salmon, 22, of Shoals, was arrested by Shoals Marshal Eckert on charges of criminal trespass and intimidation. His bond was set at \$20,000 or 10%.

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Martin County Court News

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

CRIMINAL COURT New Charges Filed January 29

Kevin B. Streete, two counts of dealing in methamphetamine, Class 2 Felonies; dealing in methamphetamine, a Class 5 Felony; dealing in methamphetamine, a Class 4 Felony; and habitual offender, sentence enhancement.

Michael T. Kline, three counts of dealing in methamphetamine, Class 2 Felonies and two counts of dealing in methamphetamine, Class 3 Felonies.

Sheila J. Taylor, two counts of dealing in methamphetamine, Class 4 Felonies; possession of methamphetamine, a Class 6 Felony.

Franklin G. Nolley, possession of methamphetamine, a Class 5 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance, a Class 6 Felony; possession of paraphernalia, a Class A Misdemeanor.

James C. Mesarosh, dealing in methamphetamine, a Class 5 Felony.

Tiffany Baugh, dealing in methamphetamine, a Class 5 Felony.

February 3

Leia D. Epperson, domestic battery, a Class 6 Felony.

February 4

Charles E. O'Connor, driving while suspended, a Class A Infraction; driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Tarah L. Morey, operating while intoxicated, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Tonya Graves, residential entry, a Class 6 Felony; two counts of criminal mischief, Class B Misdemeanors.

February 9

Jondavide W. Hopkins, operating while intoxicated, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Jemimah B. Tharp, operating while intoxicated, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor.

February 11

Phillip A. Freeman, operating while intoxicated, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Angela K. Killion, assisting a criminal, a Class 5 Felony; false informing, a Class A Misdemeanor.

February 12

Jayland M. Baker, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

February 13

Glenn A. Richardson, public intoxication, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Darren K. Breedlove, auto theft, a Class 6 Felony; theft, a Class 6 Felony.

February 20

Robert T. McCutcheon, criminal mischief, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Robert F. Neal, battery resulting in bodily

injury, a Class A Misdemeanor.

February 23

Michael P. Cundiff, child molesting, a Class 4 Felony.

Jessica A. Lampert, neglect of a dependent, a Class 6 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance, a Class 6 Felony; dealing in marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Dustin D. Campbell, neglect of a dependent, a Class 6 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance, a Class 6 Felony; dealing in marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

February 25

Jason W. Baylis, two counts of driving while suspended, Class A Infractions; two counts of driving while suspended, Class A Misdemeanors.

Nicholas J. Gress, domestic battery, a Class 6 Felony.

Ashley P. Webster, domestic battery, a Class 6 Felony.

February 26

Ryan Mattingly, dealing in methamphetamine, a Class 2 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Class 4 Felony; possession of chemical reagents or precursors with intent to manufacture a controlled substance, a Class 6 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance, a Class 6 Felony.

Julie E. Lents, battery on a person less than 14 years old, a Class 5 Felony; battery on a person less than 14 years old, a Class 6 Felony; criminal confinement, a Class 6 Felony.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & SENTENCING

February 25

Justin R. Truelove, convicted of maintaining a common nuisance, a Class 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 1 years in the Martin County Security Center with 125 days suspended and credit for 110 actual days previously served and 110 good time credit days. Defendant received 2 years of probation.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

February 18

Robin Colleen Russell, check deception, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT New Suits Filed

February 25

Tina M. Osgatharp vs. Chad O. Osgatharp, petition for dissolution of marriage.

February 26

Ally Financial, Inc. vs. William Oliver, civil collection.

March 9

Hannah Tincher vs. Jesse Tincher, petition for dissolution of marriage.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

March 2

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Citi-Mortgage, Inc. and against the defendants John and Jennifer Fraley for mortgage foreclosure in the amount of \$80,350.63.

March 9

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Brenda Lamar and against the defendant Crystal Trambaugh in the amount of \$689.62.

March 10

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff LH & JM Enterprises d/b/a Builders Best Lumber and against the defendant Mark G. Arvin in the amount of \$2,372.71.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff LH & JM Enterprises d/b/a Builders Best Lumber and against the defendant Adnan Dhahir in the amount of \$4,271.28.

March 11

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC and against the defendant Greg Isaacs in the amount of \$1,665.03.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

March 2

Rosemary Harder vs. Melanie Fraley, complaint.

March 4

Crosscreek Holdings, LLC vs. Deanna M. Carpenter, complaint.

March 6

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. William L. Fenton and Christi C. Fenton, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Danial T. Branham, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Jerry R. Reisinger, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Harold M. Brown, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. David C. Johnson, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Lacey L. Hawkins, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Drew M. Atkinson, complaint.

March 9

Rutila Ayres vs. Collin M. Patton, complaint.

Personal Finance Company, LLC vs. Russell J. Purlee and Georgia R. Purlee, complaint.

Christopher R. Peek vs. Rebecca L. Striegel, complaint.

March 10

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Austin B. Lentz, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Joshua D.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. William L. Fenton and Christi C. Fenton, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Danial T. Branham, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Jerry R. Reisinger, complaint.

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Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Danial T. Branham, complaint.

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Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Harold M. Brown, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. David C. Johnson, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Lacey L. Hawkins, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Drew M. Atkinson, complaint.

Rutila Ayres vs. Collin M. Patton, complaint.

Personal Finance Company, LLC vs. Russell J. Purlee and Georgia R. Purlee, complaint.

Christopher R. Peek vs. Rebecca L. Striegel, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Austin B. Lentz, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Joshua D.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. William L. Fenton and Christi C. Fenton, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Danial T. Branham, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Jerry R. Reisinger, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Harold M. Brown, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. David C. Johnson, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Lacey L. Hawkins, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Drew M. Atkinson, complaint.

Rutila Ayres vs. Collin M. Patton, complaint.

Personal Finance Company, LLC vs. Russell J. Purlee and Georgia R. Purlee, complaint.

Christopher R. Peek vs. Rebecca L. Striegel, complaint.

Edwards, complaint.

Crane Federal Credit Union vs. Keeli N. Mayes, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

February 24

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Dennis Stepanek and against the defendant Jeremy Knight in the amount of \$860.15.

March 4

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff West Boggs Sewer District and against the defendant Raymond Yoder in the amount of \$171.

March 9

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Deanna Bauernfiend and against the defendants Betty Edmondson and Monty Murphy in the amount of \$1,671.65.

March 13

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Renewing Management, Inc. and against the defendant Cory Roach in the amount of \$1,331.27.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

March 16

Paul Louis Hunter of Shoals and Mindy Renae Holt of Shoals.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, MARCH 9

9:45 a.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted with a funeral procession.

11:40 a.m. - Male came on station to request a vehicle identification check on a trailer.

12:45 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless vehicle on US 231. Captain Hennette located the vehicle and spoke with the driver.

1:40 p.m. - Female caller requested to speak with an officer regarding a vehicle on her property.

4:50 p.m. - Female requested a male removed from her property.

5:14 p.m. - Male caller reported someone getting into his mailbox.

9:36 p.m. - Loogootee Fire was paged out to the odor of natural gas on Mulberry Street.

10:20 p.m. - Female caller reported someone had been in her home and vehicle, Sgt. Norris responded.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

3:00 p.m. - Caller reported a parking violation.

8:03 p.m. - Captain Hennette responded to a 911 hang-up on Cedar Street.

11:26 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious male on Queen Street. Officers were unable to locate.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

9:08 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless vehicle on US 231.

11:34 p.m. - Caller reported two people fighting on SW 1st Street. Officer Nolan responded.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

12:49 a.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

8:00 a.m. - Caller requested an officer check a residence on Cedar Street. Caller stated the front door has been open for a few days.

12:30 p.m. - Caller requested a vehicle identification check on a boat and trailer.

3:36 p.m. - Loogootee Fire was paged out to a grass fire on US 231.

4:17 p.m. - Caller reported being involved in a hit-and-run accident.

4:27 p.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

9:22 p.m. - Caller reported a theft of fuel from Chuckles.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

3:52 a.m. - Caller reported she believed someone was in her home. Officer Nolan responded.

4:17 a.m. - Officer Nolan responded to a 911 hang-up on Park Street.

11:28 a.m. - Caller reported a vehicle in the road on Sheridan Street.

11:38 a.m. - Caller reported her vehicle was broke down on Hwy 50.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

11:27 a.m. - First responders were requested on US 231 for a pedestrian that had been struck by a vehicle.

3:38 p.m. - First responders were requested on Acton Street for a medical call.

3:40 p.m. - First responders were requested on Cedar Street for a medical call.

4:40 p.m. - Captain Akles assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department on a call for a subject out of control on US 231.

5:35 p.m. - Caller reported possible drug activity.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

9:05 a.m. - Captain Akles transported a female to Good Samaritan Hospital for a mental evaluation.

3:08 p.m. - Caller reported a theft of medication.

3:36 p.m. - Male caller reported a theft of a wallet.

8:24 p.m. - Sgt. Norris responded to a business alarm.

The Loogootee Police department would like to remind citizens that in order to operate a golf cart in the city limits, the vehicle must be registered with the city. Violators can be cited and the vehicle could be towed.

Real estate transfers

Edgar A. Lewis and Norma J. Lewis, of Martin County, Indiana to **David Whorral**, of Martin County, Indiana, a tract of land in Section 14, Township 2 North, Range 4 West containing 33.23 acres, more or less.

Old National Bank, an Indiana corporation to **Darrel Miller, Deborah Miller, Kristoffer Miller and Amanda Miller**, a part of the south half of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 3, Township 1 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 10.42 acres, more or less. Also, a part of the north half of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 3, Township 1 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 2.60 acres, more or less.

David W. Whorral, of Martin County, Indiana to **Thomas R. Lake**, of Martin County, Indiana, part of the northwest quarter of Section 30, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.47 acres, more or less.

Donald E. Hembree and Edna M. Hembree, of Martin County, Indiana to **Christine M. Hembree and Tammy J. Hembree**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 6, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, in Rutherford Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1 acre.



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In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser
Purdue University Master Gardener

Last week, our Disability Awareness Month column dealt with accessibility in the garden. This week, we will take a look at the tools that help persons with disabilities garden.

Ergonomics is the science of altering work conditions to fit the person. In offices, this may involve improved desks and seating, and even modified computer keyboards.

There are many ways in which gardening tools have been modified to make the tools fit the person, and when a person has a disability, it is important that the tool makes the job easier. There is no one modification that fits every gardener, so it is important to try a variety of tools to find the ones that are best for you. We will look at some of the options available.

Gardening stools and “scoots” are often helpful for persons who have difficulty bending down. These items allow one to garden from a seated position. Some are built on wheels to allow the gardener to move down a row. Others are built on a pedestal, allowing the gardener to lean over to plant or cultivate. Others double as a kneeling pad, allowing the gardener to kneel in comfort and use the legs as supports to stand.

Handles are often modified to fit the person. I have used rakes with curved handles that make the job easier. The length of the handle must also fit the person. Often, persons gardening from wheelchairs find that tools make for children have shorter handles and are easier to handle. Grips also make handles easier to grasp. There are many types of grips on tools. Try several before deciding which is best for you. If you have a tool without a grip, slipping a piece of foam pipe insulation over the handle and

taping it with duct tape will make the tool easier to handle.

The pipe insulation may also be used on hand tools, such as trowels and cultivators. Depending on your disability, you may find that longer handles are needed to allow you to garden. For persons who have trouble gripping a tool, there are modifications that strap the tool to the forearm, with a grip perpendicular to the tool handle.

Pruners are often challenging for persons who have lost grip strength. The solution for this is to purchase pruners which make cutting easier. Ratcheting pruners allow one to make a cut by repeatedly squeezing the handles. These are available in both hand pruners and in loppers. It takes a little getting used to making the gradual cuts, but once you master that action, you will love the ease of using ratcheting pruners.

Helen Trueblood, southern Indiana’s senior Master Gardener, recommends a tool called a “trake” for gardening with ease. The tool is made of light-weight molded aluminum, so it is not heavy. There is a trowel at one end of the angled handle and a rake at the other end. It is sturdy enough to be used as a crutch to get up from a kneeling position. Helen says she does not go out into her garden without her trake.

My late mother’s favorite weeding tool was a dandelion digger with a rocker on the back. This served as a fulcrum to allow the tool to be used by rocking it, thus pulling the weed by pushing down.

Many modified tools may be seen on a variety of tool websites, but it is important to try them out at a local garden center. It is not a case of “one tool fits all”, but finding the tool that is right for you will make gardening easier and more enjoyable.

Purdue ag economist: Hog prices expected to be lower this year

BY EMMA HOPKINS
Purdue University News Service

Consumers can expect to pay less for their bacon this year with pork prices forecast to be down 23 cents per pound, Purdue University agricultural economist Chris Hurt says.

As a result, however, pork producers are expected to see less profit per head.

Hurt noted that hog prices last year reached record highs, with the national live prices reaching \$100 per live hundred-weight - \$4.22 per pound - because consumers feared that great shortages would result from the deadly porcine epidemic virus, or PEDv. The actual drop in production, however, was only 2 percent.

“The market adage ‘buy the rumor and sell the fact’ has played out once again,” Hurt said. “The inability to refute the rumors of massive death losses a year ago contributed to prices overshooting to the upside.”

The amount of pork produced in February was expected to be up by 3 percent, but ended up at 7 percent. Hurt said the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s inventory count in its December estimate appears to have undercounted young pig numbers. As of January, pork was at \$3.99 per pound. By the end of this year, it is estimated that pork supplies will be up an average of 6 percent to 7 percent.

The increase in pork supply mirrors other meats such as beef and chicken. Hurt said prices might be down in meat industries this quarter because of the weak world economy and the slowdowns in the West Coast ports, which account for nearly half of all pork exports. Exports are expected to stabilize in coming weeks.

Hurt also said the costs of pork production are expected to be down this year, especially in soybeans. Despite that, modest profit losses are anticipated in the first and fourth quarters of the year, resulting in an average year profit of about \$8 per head, compared with last year’s average profit of \$53.

Hurt advises pork producers to wait on expanding their farms until more information can be gathered this year.

For more information on the economic outlook for hog production, see Hurt’s article on the subject at www.farmdoc.illinois.edu/marketing/weekly/html/030215.html.

Free turkey hunting workshop in Bloomington this month

Spots are still open for a free turkey hunting workshop in Bloomington beginning March 23.

DNR’s Hunt, Fish, Eat program is geared toward new hunters ages 18 and older. The program focuses on laws and regulations, firearms and safety, locating a hunting spot, and preparing your harvest for the table.

Each session includes an opportunity to sample wild game recipes from instructors and examine a variety of hunting gear and resources.

Participants will improve their self-reliance skills and learn to harvest a delicious source of fresh, local meat.

The program is a three-session series. Sessions are Monday, March 23, and Monday, March 30, in the evening; and Saturday morning, April 4.

Participants should attend all sessions. All equipment is provided. A hunting license is not needed.

Register at bit.ly/1Fwnm5I



How many cardinals do you see?

-Photo by Leo Kiesel

After the last snowfall, Leo Kiesel spotted all these cardinals on and near his bird feeders outside his home on Doyle Avenue in Loogootee.

Indiana state forest to host open houses

People interested in how Indiana’s State Forests operate can share their views at a series of open houses starting this month.

At each event, the DNR Division of Forestry will provide information about recreational activities, major projects, forest resource management and planning. Attendees can talk with DNR personnel or submit written comments. Some open houses will include a tour of facilities or a woods walk.

“These open houses provide Hoosiers with a chance to receive first-hand information about how state forests provide diverse wildlife habitat, forest products and recreational opportunities,” State Forester John Seifert said. “They also allow us to receive valuable feedback from our neighbors and users about state forest management. I encourage everyone who has an interest to participate.”

Events and open houses are (all times are Eastern):

— Martin State Forest: Saturday, March 21, 8-11:30 a.m., at Martin County Ag Day at Martin County Community Building at the fairgrounds in Loogootee, (812) 247-3491.

— Greene-Sullivan State Forest: Thursday, April 9, 2-6 p.m., at the property office on State Road 159, approximately 1.5 miles south of Dugger, (812) 648-2810.

— Yellowwood/Morgan-Monroe state forests: Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Yellowwood property office, 7 miles southwest of Nashville off State Road 46, (812) 988-7945.

— Owen-Putnam State Forest: Wednesday, April 29, 3-7 p.m., at the property office, 5 miles west of Spencer and less than 1 mile north of State Road 46, (812) 829-2462.

— Clark State Forest/Deam Lake State Recreation Area: Monday, May 11, 3-6 p.m. at Deam Lake Forest Education Center off State Road 60, approximately 5 miles east of Borden, (812) 246-5421. A hike will begin at 6 p.m.

— Jackson-Washington State Forest/Starve Hollow State Recreation Area: Thursday, May 14, 3-6 p.m., at the Jackson-Washington property office off State Road 250, approximately 2 miles southeast of Brownstown, (812) 358-3464. A forester-led tour of a recent timber harvest will begin at 4:30 p.m.

— Selmer State Forest will have a booth at the Jennings County Fair, July 6-11. The fair is on State Road 3, approximately 3.5 miles north of North Vernon. Call (812) 346-2286 to learn when the booth will be manned.

— Harrison-Crawford State Forest: Thursday, September 17, 4-7 p.m., at the

property office off State Road 462, just past the gatehouse for O’Bannon Woods State Park, (812) 738-7694.

— Ferdinand/Pike state forests: Thursday, Sept. 24, 3-7 p.m. at the Ferdinand State Forest office off State Road 264, approximately 4 miles northeast of Ferdinand, (812) 367-1524.

Property staff also is available during normal business hours. Go to dnr.IN.gov/forestry for contact information or to schedule a visit.

The Division of Forestry promotes and practices good stewardship of natural, recreational and cultural resources on Indiana’s public and private forest lands. This stewardship produces continuing benefits, both tangible and intangible, for present and future generations.

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More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



I have a good friend and former student named Ali Summers. When she posted the following, my thought was that she's got this teacher thing down pat. She's an excellent teacher doing a great job in difficult circumstances, but the teaching profession needs people like her. Love ya, Ali.

19 THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN YOU'RE A TEACHER

1) You buy things and have them shipped to the school so you don't have to lug them from your house.

2) You can easily spot the difference between someone reading a book in their lap and texting. Nobody smiles at their lap.

3) You find yourself going into 'teacher mode' outside of school. Or at least wanting to. For instance, I spoke to quite possibly the rudest pharmacist in the history of rude pharmacists on Tuesday morning, and I was very, very close to issuing her a lunch detention.

4) Your classroom becomes more and more like a separate apartment. My students joke that I live at school, since I have a microwave, mini fridge/freezer, Keurig, a couch, lamps, pillows, blankets, and cleaning supplies. It's one of those jokes that is both funny and sad.

5) You are able to have extremely enthusiastic conversations about microwaveable meals, discounts, and shoes with no heels.

6) You do your grocery shopping before school now at the grocery store near your school. And you run into other teachers there.

7) People say you're patient, but you know that really you're almost completely desensitized to the frustration of nobody listening to you or doing anything you ask.

8) The people who work the cell phone, skin care, and makeup kiosks at the mall don't even bother approaching you because you have perfected 'teacher walk', a gait whose velocity and solemnity is exceeded only by military marching.

9) Being able to fix the copier gives you a profound sense of purpose.

10) Not being able to fix the copier makes you want to rear back and kick it, no matter who's watching.

11) You dread Valentine's Day and Halloween. And if either of them falls on a Friday, GOD HELP US ALL.

12) Stress makes you hallucinate. Like when I saw a dumpster rising above the school rooftop to be emptied and I thought it was a dinosaur, or when I saw this whatever-it-is in the faculty parking lot and for weeks thought it was a dead baby squid.

13) You find yourself using bad words outside of school way more than you normally would just because you can.

14) You don't realize until you get weird looks from strangers in public that you:

a. Are still wearing a macaroni necklace/tie-dye faculty t-shirt/binder clip in your hair that you were using in place of a hair tie

b. Have stray pen marks covering your forearms, making you resemble an overzealous kindergartner

c. Have one or more articles of clothing on backward

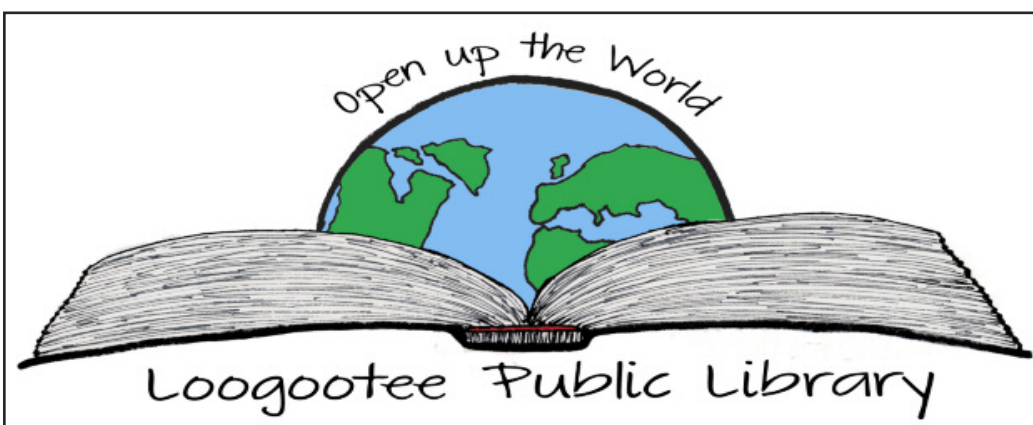
15) You've gone to more sports games, concerts, competitions, and shows than anyone you know this year. FOR FREE.

16) You can have an angry parent eating out of the palm of your hand in less than fifteen minutes. Or you can have an angry parent continue to hate you and be emotionally unaffected, both of which are admirable.

17) You find texts on your phone in the morning that people sent you at 9:14 p.m. You were probably well into REM by then.

18) You start wondering what the adults you know were like when they were the ages of your current students. And sometimes it scares you.

—
Carry on fellow educators, AND
Make someone smile today!



BY DARLA WAGLER
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

Carolyn Howard, Indiana author, presents "Bring Your Ancestors to Life" at the library on Tuesday evening, April 14 at 7 p.m. Please call and pre-register for this event. The presentation will help you know your ancestors for the people they were, instead of just cold facts and meaningless numbers. As an 1800s biographical fiction novelist, Ms. Howard is knowledgeable in genealogy as well as 1800s history and lifestyle. She will be available after the presentation for questions and to offer guidance to those who are doing their family trees. This program is sponsored by Friends of Loogootee Public Library.

National Library Week starts April 13th and we will have prize drawings, activities, crafts and a book sale. Please, mark this down on your calendar and plan to celebrate National Library Week with us. Follow us on Facebook and watch for the April calendar for dates and times of all activities.

dar for dates and times of all activities.

New Books
Mystery Fiction: "NYPD Red 3" by James Patterson.

Inspirational Fiction: "When Grace Sings" by Kim Vogel Sawyer.

Children's Books: "Those Darn Squirrels" by Adam Rubin, "The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art" by Barb Rosenstock, "The Mitten" by Jim Aylesworth, and "Dragons Love Tacos" by Adam Rubin.

Calendar of Events

Commissioners' meeting change

The Martin County Board of Commissioners has rescheduled the Tuesday, March 17 meeting to Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m. The date change is due to the chamber of commerce dinner scheduled for Tuesday night.

Bingo for Bags

Bingo for Bags, sponsored by Sutton's Renegades and Relay for Life teams and Lisa Ader 31 consultant, will be held Friday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Country Club in Loogootee. \$10 donation to play and extra cards can be purchased for \$5 each, up to four cards per person. Light snacks will be available. All proceeds will be donated to Relay for Life of Martin County.

Goodwill Cemetery clean-up

Goodwill Cemetery will be holding its annual spring clean-up this Saturday morning, March 21. The cemetery board is asking if you have a Christmas grave blanket, to please have it removed by the end of March and any items such as landscape timbers, statues, etc. must also be removed. Flower arrangements must be on a shepherd's hook or in grave stone vases or on top of grave marker. The cemetery board is in the process of getting ready for the upcoming spring mowing season and grass trimmers need to be able to move quickly down each row. Objects can be a danger to them. The board thanks everyone for their help and they welcome any help sprucing up the cemetery this Saturday.

Soup luncheon

The Loogootee United Methodist Church will hold their annual soup, sandwich, drink, and dessert luncheon on Wednesday, March 25, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church located at 208 W. Main Street. Patrons may dine in, carry out or call 295-3049 or fax 295-4532 for delivery in the city limits of Loogootee.

Odon Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Odon Business Alliance, will be held Saturday, March 28 at 10 a.m. at the Odon Park. 5,000 eggs will be hidden for three age groups. A pancake and sausage breakfast will also be held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., or while supplies last, at the Odon Community Building that morning. Rain date is April 4.

Easter Bunny to assist Santa

The 2015 edition of the Easter Bunny Express will depart the Indiana Railway Museum French Lick Station at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 29. This special train is a benefit for the Springs Valley Optimist Club Clothe-a-Child Project. The Optimists buy new clothing for disadvantaged children at Christmastime each year, but the Easter Bunny is one of the major fundraising activities that help the Optimists reach the annual goal. This past Christmas, the Optimist Club spent over \$7,000 on clothes for children in the Springs Valley area. The Easter Bunny Express will travel to an area just outside the town of Cuzco, where the Easter Bunny will be waiting to greet the riders. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt, with the area divided into sections for different age groups. There will also be opportunities for pictures with the Easter Bunny. Tickets for the Easter Bunny Express are at the regular Indiana Railway Museum prices, but reservations are suggested, since seating is limited. You may

contact the Indiana Railway Museum at 1-800-748-7246. No discounts apply to the Easter Bunny Express trip.

Public test of election equipment

Notice is hereby given that the public testing of Accu-Vote OS Tabulators and Accu-Vote TSX units, to be used in the 2015 Municipal Primary Election, will be conducted in the commissioners' room at the Martin County Courthouse located at 129 Main Street Shoals, IN 47581 on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 11 a.m. This public test is open to the public in accordance to (IC 3-11-13-22).

Boy Scouts

Boys interested in Boy Scouts, call 295-6652 or 854-7837 for information on joining.

Cub Scout meetings

Cub scout meetings are held at Loogootee United Methodist Church on the first, third, and fourth Monday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Bryan Adams at 812-854-7837.

SOAR Tutoring

Need Skills? SOAR tutors can help! Free and confidential. Call or text Beverly at 812-709-1618 to learn more. Located in the Martin County Community Learning Center Improve Your Skills, Improve Your Life!

Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the recycling center located at 500 Industrial Park Drive in Loogootee. The meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

Humane society meetings

The Martin County Humane Society meets on the third Friday of the month at the animal shelter at 507 N Oak Street in Loogootee, at 7 p.m. Members of the humane society are invited to attend. To find out how to become a member, call the shelter at 812-295-5900 or email mchs@frontier.com.

Tourism meetings

The MCCC Tourism Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Martin County Community Learning Center on the fairgrounds.

Soil and Water meetings

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

Animal Shelter featured pet



Bo Jangles is a three-year-old collie mix, very sweet, gets along better with female dogs than male. He loves to play fetch and loves people. He walks well on a leash. He is neutered and has had all his shots. Adoption fee is \$60. If interested in adopting, stop by the animal shelter at 507 N. Oak Street in Loogootee. There are several dogs and cats to choose from! Shelter hours are Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appt.

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Loogootee (812) 295-2312	Shoals (812) 247-3321	Jasper (812) 634-2222	Washington (812) 254-2540
Sullivan (812) 268-5252	Martinsville (765) 342-6623		
Jasonville (812) 665-3969	Bicknell (812) 735-3545		

Shoals athletes honored

The Shoals Jr.-Sr. High School Winter Sports Banquet was held Tuesday, March 10. Teams honored were junior high and varsity girls and boys, junior high and senior high cheerleaders and dance team. Coaches for the teams were as follows: junior high girls' coaches, Scott Hert & Ken

Miller; 7th grade boys, Clarence Brown; 8th grade boys, Tim Sorrells; varsity girls, Tim Sanders; varsity boys, Matt Wolfgang; junior high cheer coach, Ashley Hawkins; and varsity cheerleader and dance coach, Melissa Hawkins.

-Photos provided



The varsity boys' basketball team members honored at the banquet are shown above. In the front row, from left to right, are Enoch Redmon (Free Throw Percentage), Tyler George (Most Assists), and Michael Hawkins (Co-Mental Attitude) In the back row, from left to right, are Zen Salmon (Co-Mental Attitude), DJ Hart (Most Rebounds), Edmund Neeley (Field Goal Percentage), and Logan Harker (Hustle & Desire). Not present was Landon Clark (MVP).



The varsity girls' basketball team members honored at the banquet are shown above. In the front row, from left to right, are Kenady Bratton (Most Assists), Ashton Albright (Mental Attitude), and Ashley Boyd (Most Improved). In the back row, from left to right, are Hope Self (Miss Hustle & Desire), Allison Boyd (Free Throw Percentage), and Megan Hawkins (MVP, Field Goal Percentage, Most Rebounds and Blue Chip All Conference Honorable Mention).



Members of the seventh and eighth grade boys' basketball teams that received awards are shown above. In the front row, from left to right, are seventh graders Max Fischer (MVP), Ethan Wagler (Free Throw Percentage), Dalton Roush (Most Rebounds), and Robert Sullivan (Mental Attitude). In the back row, from left to right, are eighth graders, Ryan Hawkins (Most Rebounds), Klayton Tichenor (Field Goal Percentage), and Kenyon Sorrells (Free Throw Percentage).



The members of the junior high girls' basketball team honored are shown above. From left to right are Abbi Haviland (Most Rebounds), Maggie Shaw (Free Throw Percentage), and Hannah Davis (Co-Mental Attitude). Not pictured is Katrina Sipes (Co-Mental Attitude Award).



First place finishers

-Photo provided

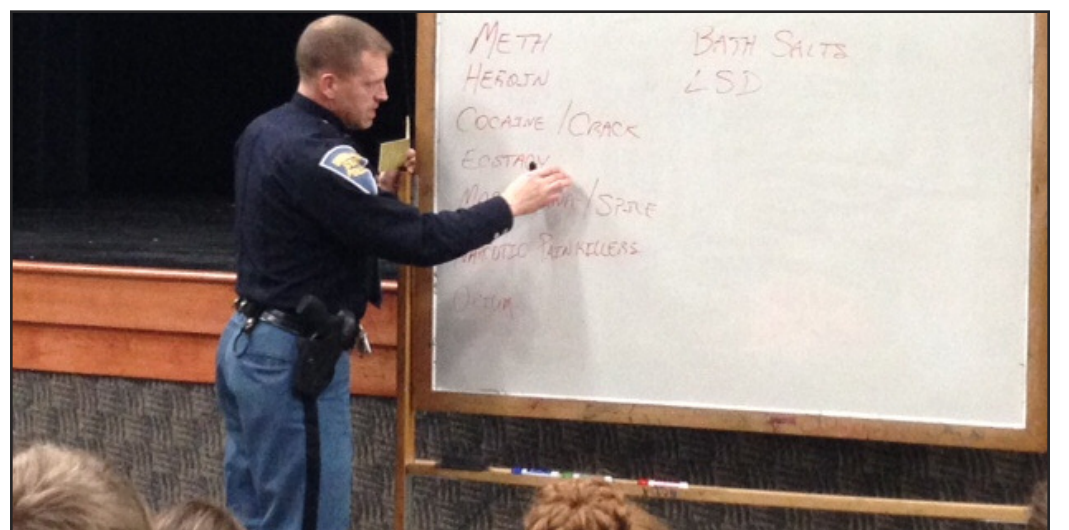
The Loogootee Elementary Math Bowl team competed at Throop Elementary School Paoli on February 26. Other area school brought teams from Perry Central, Mitchell, Paoli, and Shoals. The fourth grade students answered tough math questions about number sense, computation, algebra and functions, and word problems. They were able to score an impressive seventeen points and finished first in their division. Students selected to participate on the team were (shown above) Mallorie Sutton, Ashley Nail, Bridgett Like, Lacey Arthur, Parker Arvin, Abbey Fischer, Ethan White, Lucas Brittain, Kortni Rumble, Kage Lyon, Euan Graves, Symphony Lantz, Talan Hayes, Noah Knight, and Kyleigh Courter. The team was coached by Mrs. Tracie McAtee.



Loogootee Middle School mathletes

-Photo provided

On February 26, 521 elementary school teams participated in the M.A.T.H Bowl competition across 51 sites statewide. The competition consisted of four rounds with each round consisting of eight multiple-choice questions which were read to the students and projected on the screen simultaneously. After consulting with the other team members at the table, the team captain answered each question by circling the chosen response on the answer sheet. At the conclusion of the allotted time, (30-60 seconds) a proctor graded each response before the next question is read. Loogootee Middle School's fifth and sixth grade math bowl team met on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school to practice. They were coached by Mrs. Sarah Knepp. They participated in Paoli and received second place in their division. Shown above in the front row, from left to right, are Anna Wilson, Rachel Lents, Grace Gingerich, and Samantha Cook. In the second row are Matthew Poole, Lexis Overton, Zane Cropp, Reece Tippery, and Rory Tippery. In the third row are Miracle Stinson, Kylie VanHoy, Aiden Kain, Logan Moffatt, Nick Keller, and Grace Foddrill. In the back row are Isaac Arvin, Coach Mrs. Sarah Knepp, Tessa Bradley, Jalynn Stoll, Caylin Wagoner, and Abbey Lindsey.



Trooper visit

-Photo provided

Indiana State Police Master Trooper Gavin Wilson visited sixth grade students at Loogootee Middle School. The topic of discussion was illegal drugs. Trooper Wilson covered the different kinds of illegal drugs student might encounter. In addition, Trooper Wilson talked with students about how choosing a drug free, A+ life will help them make good choices about their education, job and life after high school. "I really enjoy listening to Trooper Wilson when he comes to talk with us. I always learn something that will help me in my future," stated a student in Ms. Nicole Wade's class.



Loogootee Elementary February honorees -Photo provided

Loogootee Elementary has chosen their February Students and Staff Member of the Month. The students are Anderson Williams, kindergarten; Nicholas Sutton, first grade; Luke Williams, second grade; Ashlee Arvin, third grade; and Kylie Courter, fourth grade. Students have been chosen by their teachers because they possess positive character qualities of respect, caring, integrity, responsibility, and self-discipline as well as their perfect or outstanding attendance for the month of February, no detentions or loss of recess for behavior issues, they exhibit good effort daily, and they also work well with classmates with a cooperative attitude. The staff member of the month is nominated by the school staff. The staff member of the month chosen this month was Mrs. Amber Smith. Her and her husband, Phillip, have two children, Jaxon, four, and Emerson, nine months. She is a graduate of LHS and University of Southern Indiana. She later obtained her Master's in Education from Olivet University. This is her twelfth year working for Loogootee Schools. In addition to teaching third grade, she coaches the Lionettes' Dance Team. When time allows, she says her favorite time of the work day is working in small reading groups. She says it allows her to dig into her students' needs a little better. Her favorite quote is "Life isn't measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." She says it's a reminder to slow down and enjoy life because we never know what tomorrow will bring.



Teacher exchange -Photo provided

The Global Teachers Exchange Program (GTEP) at Loogootee High School is excited to host six teachers from Vallentuna Gymnasium in Stockholm, Sweden. These educators will be visiting Loogootee March 20-29. There are many events planned for them including time visiting classrooms, interacting with students, visiting local attractions and spending time with their host families. Members of the community are invited to meet them at a welcome dinner to be held on Monday, March 23 at 6 p.m. at Lakeview Restaurant. There will be a short presentation by the LHS chorus and band, followed by the meal. If you would like to join, the cost of the dinner is \$11.50. Please RSVP to Nicole Wade at 812.295.3254 x 316 by March 20. Shown above are the Loogootee and Swedish GTEP teams. In the front, from left to right, are Rhannon Graves, Angelica Grandqvist, Nicole Wade, Mia Cedervall, and Ronetta Bough. In the back row, from left to right, are Dave Smith, Rickard Engkvist, Rick Graves, Joakim Lund, Helna Henrikson, and Cecelia Berg.



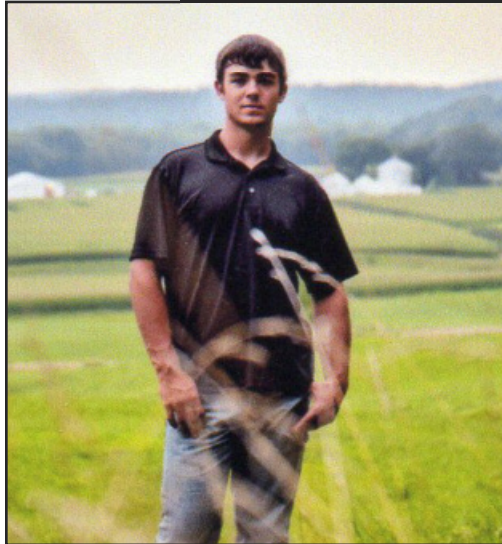
Family bowling party -Photo provided

Loogootee Cub Scout Pack 444 enjoyed a family bowling party at Strike Zone Bowling Center in Loogootee recently. Shown in front, from left to right, are Matt Greene, Noah Esch, Evan Williams, and Alex Adams. In the back, from left to right, are Cubmaster/Bear Leader Bryan Adams, Drew Williams, and Webelos Leader Brent Williams.

LOOGOOTEE HIGH SCHOOL

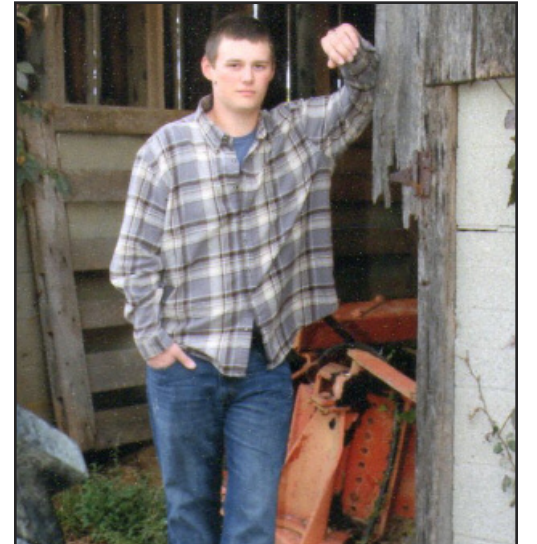


2015 Senior SPOTLIGHTS



TYLER DIVINE

Ronald Tyler Divine plans to attend VU after graduation and study agribusiness. He was in band his first three years of high school and did job shadowing in 10th and 11th grades.



TRENT ARVIN

Trent L. Arvin is the son of Scott and Kara Arvin. While in high school he did job shadowing his junior year and interned his senior year. He plans to study diesel technology after high school at VU.



JULIE COLEMAN

Julie Rose Coleman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Coleman. While in high school, she has been in PEERS all four years, in chorus in 9th and 10th grades, SADD and FACS Club in 9th-11th grades, in Spanish Club her freshman year, and was in Twin Rivers, student council, and America Club her senior year. Julie plans to attend VU Jasper and study nursing.



MORIAH BUSSINGER

Moriah Nicole Bussinger is the daughter of Jerry and Starrla Bussinger. While in high school, she was in chorus all four years, in Lion Pride and pep club in 10th, 11th and 12th grades; in FACS Club her junior and senior years and was in SADD and served as a cadet teacher her senior year. She played tennis in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. Moriah plans to attend VU and study graphic design.

5th Quarter

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MARCH MADNESS

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NAVSEA Commander visits NSWC Crane

Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane Division was privileged to host Vice Admiral William H. Hilarides, Commander of Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) on last Tuesday. The NAVSEA Commander oversees a global workforce of more than 56,000 military and civilian personnel responsible for the development, delivery and maintenance of the Navy's ships, submarines and systems.

Hilarides spoke at a luncheon during his visit, challenging base leadership to gain a better understanding of NAVSEA and how Crane's workforce can help others within the command. "Most of my Program Executive Offices (PEOs) and program officers know one warfare center, and whatever task they've got they come to that warfare center," he stated.

Hilarides said the challenge is to do as much as we can with the resources we have, so collaboration across the warfare centers is imperative in order to get the most out of

every dollar allotted to developing new systems. "There are hard problems out there that need to be solved, but you know how to solve them. You don't even know the problems exist yet, so I ask you to go introduce yourself to the rest of NAVSEA," he added.

While at Crane, Hilarides was briefed on programs within Strategic Missions, Electronic Warfare and Special Missions as he toured the installation to become better acquainted with Crane's recent work in supporting the Navy. He also enjoyed a trip to the Special Weapons Assessment Facility, where he spent some hands-on time with a few of the expeditionary warfare weapons Crane employees provide the Warfighter.

Hilarides has served as the 43rd NAVSEA Commander since June of 2013. NSWC Crane employs roughly 3,000 personnel who provide acquisition engineering, in-service engineering and technical support for sensors, electronics, electronic warfare and special warfare weapons.

Radius announces employer survey results

Employers in the eight-county, South Central Radius Indiana region are helping to take the guesswork out of workforce development. With public and private sectors focusing intently on how to equip workers to compete for available jobs, Radius has cut to the quick of the issue and gone directly to employers with a comprehensive survey, conducted in partnership with Indianapolis-based Thomas P. Miller and Associates (TPMA). The survey provides a deeper understanding of key employer needs, with participation from 47 regional employers.

The survey was funded through a grant from the University of Indianapolis' Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL), and results highlight the importance of ongoing skill development in the workforce.

"Today, in contrast to five years ago, filling vacancies is the priority," said Becky Skillman, President and CEO of Radius Indiana. "The middle and high-skill positions are the most difficult to fill, and we know applicants face barriers due to lack of specific technical skills across all jobs."

Hiring trends revealed by the survey indicate just how important the workforce skill gap is to employers. Over the next 12 months, more than 20 percent of responding companies plan to hire between 20 and 100 employees, and half of all responding companies plan to hire up to 10 employees. With real requirements for technical skills, employers also emphasized the need for basic, soft skills from arriving to work on time to professionalism and team work.

In addition, employers indicated that partnerships are more important than ever. In particular, 43 percent of respondents are interested in collaborating with Career and Technical Education (CTE) Centers, with an end goal of aligning current training with employer needs.

"Clearly, there is much work to do," con-



-Photo provided

Becky Skillman discusses the results of Radius Indiana's Employer Survey last Wednesday in French Lick.

tinued Skillman. "At Radius, our Workforce & Education Advisory Council will continue to lead initiatives and serve as the workforce partner to our regional employers. We have learned so much in the past few months, with the employer and CTE site visits we conducted throughout the region and now the results of this informative survey. We are equipping ourselves not just to deal with urgent workforce needs, but to prepare for the future as well."

The complete results of the employer survey can be found on the Radius Indiana website, under "News and Reports" at www.radiusindiana.com.

About Radius Indiana

Radius Indiana is a regional partnership representing eight counties in South Central Indiana: Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Washington counties. Formed in 2009, Radius Indiana also serves as a primary point of contact in Indiana for Crane and leads regional collaboration by leveraging the diverse assets of Southern Indiana to drive attraction, retention and expansion of business, thereby increasing employment and investment opportunities and quality of life within the region.

Indiana Medicaid to recover \$126K in drugmaker settlement of whistleblower suits

The Indiana Medicaid program will be repaid more than \$126,000 by pharmaceutical company Daiichi Sankyo Inc. as a settlement of lawsuits over the drug manufacturer's scheme to pay illegal kickbacks to physicians to induce them to prescribe its drugs.

The settlement with Indiana, 48 other states and the federal government resolves five whistleblower lawsuits originally filed by private plaintiffs who, using the False Claims Act, exposed the company's kickback practices. The lawsuit alleged Daiichi Sankyo Inc. illegally induced physicians to prescribe drugs it manufactured, Azor, Benicar, Tribenzor and Welchol, by using lavish meals and paying them honoraria as speaker fees, regardless of whether speaking engagements actually occurred. If those drugs were prescribed to Medicaid patients due to illegal inducements, then any claims submitted to the Medicaid program and paid would be ineligible for reimbursement.

"This drug company's efforts to induce physicians to overlook their medical judgment and prescribe its drugs is a blatant violation of trust. These ineligible prescription claims were then submitted to Indiana Medicaid to be paid. Thanks to the whistleblower lawsuits filed under the False Claims Act, the illegal conduct has been halted and the company will repay the public funds it owes," said Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller, whose office operates the Indiana Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU).

Under the multistate settlement announced Monday, New Jersey-based Daiichi Sankyo Inc. will pay state Medicaid programs and the federal government \$39 million in civil penalties to settle the whistleblower allegations. States will receive a total \$10 million. Indiana's combined total state-and-federal share of the recovery is \$126,478.44 which goes back to the Medicaid program, and of that, the state-only net share is \$48,304.78. Amounts were calculated based on the level of prescribing of the drugs that resulted from illegal inducements and remuneration such as dinners and honoraria to physicians. A total of 49 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Department of Justice joined in the multistate settlement, and the five whistleblowers who brought the original lawsuits also receive percentages of the recovery.

The company does not admit liability in the settlement.

The federal Anti-Kickback Statute triggered here is intended to prevent physicians' medical judgment from being compromised by improper payments or gifts, such as meals or speaker fees. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the statute prohibits offering or paying remuneration to induce referrals of prescriptions covered by Medicaid, the healthcare program for low income people funded jointly by states and the federal government.

As part of the settlement, Daiichi Sankyo Inc. entered into a corporate integrity agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG) that requires the company to undertake substantial internal reforms for the next five years.

Under the state and federal versions of the False Claims Act, plaintiffs who expose fraud by a company against a government contract by filing a whistleblower or "qui tam" lawsuit can be eligible to receive a percentage of the recovery if the states or federal government later reach a settlement with the company.

"By encouraging company insiders to bring to light fraud against the Medicaid program, the False Claims Act is a useful tool that assists us in halting fraud, recovering ineligible claims and recouping tax dollars," Zoeller said. Through its investigations, the Indiana Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit since 2009 has helped the Medicaid program recoup approximately \$165 million in combined federal and state recoveries through settlements of whistleblower lawsuits, including investigative costs and interest. Such settlements with drug makers involved recovering funds that the program paid out for ineligible claims submitted, such as drugs that physicians prescribed due to illegal off-label marketing by pharmaceutical companies or illegal kickback schemes, that were exposed through whistleblower lawsuits filed under the False Claims Act.

The public can report fraud against the Indiana Medicaid program by contacting the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) at 1-800-382-1039. More information about whistleblower lawsuits is at this link: <http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2807.htm>

Lt. Governor announces new dairy strategy

Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann Monday announced a new dairy strategy for Indiana agriculture in remarks to the Indiana Livestock, Forage and Grain Forum hosted by the Indiana Soybean Alliance. The strategy was commissioned by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture with the assistance of a national agriculture consultant who conducted research and market analysis working with the Indiana dairy industry.

Key elements of the strategy focus on expanding Indiana's current dairy processors, attracting new dairy processing facilities to Indiana and adopting policies that support and improve dairy farming operations.

Lt. Governor Ellspermann noted, "Each day four million pounds of milk produced in Indiana are shipped to processing facilities outside of Indiana. Our goal is to add value to that product before it leaves our borders by increasing our dairy processing

capacity in our existing 23 plants as well as by attracting new facilities. As the strategy notes, Indiana's geographic location and transportation infrastructure provide a competitive advantage for Indiana-based plants shipping dairy products to East Coast markets."

"With a renewed and united focus, we can make Indiana an even more productive dairy state," said ISDA Director Ted McKinney. "ISDA staff, along with our key partners from around Indiana, will help inform the public and dairy industry on the long term benefits of investing in milk production and dairy processing in the state of Indiana."

The report also suggests that Indiana continue to protect and support the ability of dairy farms to operate productively with reasonable environmental guidelines that protect Indiana's land and water. Furthermore, it identifies the need for Indiana to maintain both the transportation infrastructure and transport policies that facilitate moving milk from the farm to the processor and then out to the broader markets, including such issues as weight limits on tanker transports.

For more information on the Indiana Dairy Strategy, please visit ISDA's website at www.isda.in.gov.

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SBOE addresses ISTEP+ testing, turnaround academies at monthly meeting

(March 12, 2015) – ISTEP+ testing, the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waiver and school turnaround academies were the main topics of action and discussion during the March meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE).

In a first course of action, the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) outlined its RFP process for selecting new testing vendors. Vendors were eligible to bid for any of 14 different components of the testing. While the IDOA has selected testing vendors, it recommended holding

off on contract negotiations for new state tests until the protest period has ended. Dr. David Freitas, 2nd District SBOE Representative, requested that testing elements added by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to the ISTEP+, beyond what is required, be removed from the new test to cut time and cost. This sentiment was shared by District 4 SBOE Representative Sarah O'Brien.

"The State Board of Education will take a very close look in the coming months at the proposed testing contracts in terms of

overall scope and cost," said O'Brien. "Hoosier taxpayers and parents can be assured the board will not authorize any assessment that results in excessive testing time for our children or spends more tax dollars than is necessary to meet state and federal education requirements."

The board also heard recommendations about shortening the test and reducing cost from board staff and national assessment consultant Dr. Bill Auty. Recommendations included removing excess reading items and looking at different types of questions

to shorten the length of the test. Dr. Auty pointed out that open-ended questions can significantly increase testing times.

"Reckless statements have been made about tests, which are needed to serve children at the margins. Teachers are not teaching to a test, they are teaching to standards," said Dan Elsener, District 7 SBOE Representative. "If a student doesn't meet a standard, we cannot ensure that the student will be college and career ready upon graduation."

The board next welcomed Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) Superintendent Dr. Lewis Ferebee, who discussed the progress being made at Emma Donnan. IPS and Charter Schools USA (CSUSA) are currently working on an agreement to add K-6 grades to Emma Donnan. Several Board members expressed support for the concept and asked to see a resolution between IPS and CSUSA by the April meeting.

In regards to Arlington, Dr. Ferebee laid out IPS' transformation plan to take over operations this fall. IPS identified \$6.5 million in infrastructure improvements needed for the building. He also reported that the district held community meetings to prepare the community for the transition and is conducting a principal search, assessing transportation needs, setting student performance benchmarks and addressing feeder school issues. Ferebee predicted that school enrollment could double by next year through adding 7th and 8th grade and returning local IPS students back to their neighborhood school. The Board passed a motion to return operation of Arlington to IPS, however the school will remain in turnaround status and under board supervision.

Next, the Board discussed Dunbar-Pulaski School within the Gary Community School Corporation (GCSC). Tony Walker, District 1 SBOE Representative, made a motion to close the school at the end of the school year due to continued failing performance status and the dire financial straits of GCSC. He noted that Dunbar-Pulaski and Roosevelt Academy are within one mile of each other, serve the same student populations, and face maintenance challenges associated with dilapidated buildings. Walker argued that by consolidating schools the district could focus its efforts on sustaining one building and student body.

"It's not something I want to do, but it's the right thing to do for the long-term sustainability of the school district and community," said Walker.

The Board passed the motion to close Pulaski-Dunbar by a 6-4 vote.

Later, the IDOE discussed the state's NCLB waiver. The agency reported they have only received four public comments about the waiver to date. It is due to be filed with the U.S. Department of Education by March 31, 2015. The IDOE committed to sharing a copy of the final waiver with the Board within the next two weeks and prior to submitting.

In other business, the Board approved a resolution for A-F appeals process for schools and to extend ISTEP+ testing windows by five days for paper tests and two days for online tests. And, it voted to give two charter schools serving students with special needs one year to improve its academic performance.

Most materials presented at the March 12, 2015 SBOE Regular Business Meeting can be found at <http://in.gov/sboe/2613.htm>. The next SBOE meeting will be held on April 1, 2015 in Indianapolis.



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Radius Indiana highlights manufacturing sector at annual stakeholder meeting

The new wing of the French Lick Resort event center provided the backdrop for Radius Indiana's Annual Stakeholders' Luncheon on Wednesday, March 12. Leaders from across Radius' eight-county region gathered to hear about the organization's accomplishments and plans.

"We have been busy this year, and we have no plans to slow down," said Becky Skillman, President and CEO of Radius Indiana. "We are working on the strategies identified in the Southwest Central Indiana Strategic Plan here at home and we are taking this region's message to the world through our business development outreach. That message is simple: Southwest Central Indiana is open for business. The Radius region has closed nine business attraction or expansion projects with \$123 million in private sector investment. We have helped to retain more than 200 jobs and gain nearly 850."

Skillman credits the region's thriving manufacturing sector for much of that development, something that prompted her to invite this year's keynote speaker, incoming Indiana Manufacturers Association President, Brian Burton.

Burton highlighted the ongoing importance of manufacturing throughout the state, noting that Indiana is the number one manufacturing state in the U.S., accounting for more than half of the state's economic growth over the past five years.

"Indiana leads the nation with manufacturing jobs added in 2014," Burton said. "That comes to about 25,500 new jobs, and a steady growth rate of more than five percent."

With an array of metrics ready to prove his point, Burton showed how Indiana and the Radius region are truly powered by a vigorous manufacturing trade. Turning to the state's economic forecast, he cited numerous reports indicating that Indiana continues to outstrip neighboring states.



-Photo provided

Incoming IMA President, Brian Burton, highlighted the state's strong manufacturing sector at the Radius Indiana Stakeholders' Meeting on March 12.

"The resurgence of the auto sector has been a big key to Indiana's growth," Burton continued. "Indiana manufacturers play a big part in the auto supply chain. Our location and infrastructure make us a logistical hub. In the near-term, growth should continue to be favorable, but we need to be focused on building and strengthening our labor force in the long-term."

Workforce development continues to be a primary focus for Radius, which has a standing Advisory Council on Regional Workforce and Education.

"You can expect to be the least and the last in job attraction if you are not focused on workforce development," said Skillman. "With our recently released Employer Survey, we are better equipped than ever before to tackle the issues in education, training, and talent. We know companies are hiring, and we know what they are looking for. Now it's up to us and our workforce to supply those needs and more."

Other states should follow Hoosier health plan

BY LARRY BUCSHON
M.D., Congressman (IN-08) and
TIM BROWN
M.D., State Representative (HD-41)

Following our statewide "Hoosier Healthcare Tour" last year, we made the case for why Indiana's consumer-driven Medicaid replacement program, Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0 was best suited to help Hoosiers in need.

Since then, the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington made concessions to approve Indiana's request to end traditional Medicaid and use HIP 2.0 as a vehicle to cover 350,000 uninsured Hoosiers.

Make no mistake, this is an unprecedented victory for the health and prosperity of Hoosiers and for conservative health care policy solutions in the age of the Affordable Care Act.

Thanks to the leadership of Gov. Mike Pence, Indiana has demonstrated that states are better suited to care for their most vulnerable citizens than an increasingly inefficient, ineffective federal bureaucracy when they are granted the proper flexibility.

While some have advocated for the big-government expansion of traditional Medicaid, in Indiana we've taken a different path — one that focuses on consumer-driven health care and health savings accounts that empower patients.

In 1965, the Medicaid program was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson with the noble goal of casting an important safety net for Americans who could not afford basic medical care. The program was a critical step forward to ensure the most vulnerable among us receive the care they need.

Unfortunately, 50 years later this program is failing the patients it was intended to help.

Many Medicaid patients rely on the emergency room for primary care, the program is going broke, and patients' access to their physicians is being limited. In fact, statistics show that patients enrolled in Medicaid may actually be worse off than their uninsured counterparts.

Because of this reality, we believe those who truly care for the well-being of their fellow citizens ought not settle for the expansion of this broken, failing program because it has become a barrier to quality care.

Instead, this important safety net must be reformed and strengthened through the states, not through a one-size-fits-all federal approach.

Thankfully, Indiana is leading the way with a common-sense prescription that conservatives have championed for decades — the idea that the federal government should provide block grant funding to the states so they can innovate and develop a program specific to their own state's needs.

Over 60,000 Hoosiers were enrolled in

the HIP pilot program which boasts a 98 percent approval rating and led to an almost 11 percent reduction in health care costs annually.

HIP 2.0 builds on this record of success. It ends traditional Medicaid, is fiscally responsible, and puts the patient in the driver's seat, not government.

The plan is budget neutral, requiring no new taxes and no new spending from the general fund. More importantly, it helps reduce excess, unnecessary costs in the health care system which helps to lower the amount expended on health care annually.

HIP 2.0 is built on self-reliance and personal responsibility instead of heavy-handed government mandates because we trust that patients and their doctors make better decisions than government bureaucrats.

In fact, the data shows us that the best care is delivered through a system where patients have a personal financial stake in their choices and where decisions are made by the patient, their family, and their physician.

Furthermore, by incentivizing preventive health care, the plan gives patients the tools they need to live happier, healthier lives.

We were happy to see Gov. Pence highlight the merits of HIP 2.0 during his recent speech to conservatives from across the country at the Conservative Political Action Conference because this is good, sound conservative policy. And these ideas aren't new, nor are they complicated.

We firmly believe that the Affordable Care Act is the wrong approach to health care reform and must be replaced with patient-centered reforms that ensure every American has access to quality, affordable care.

One just needs look to the King v. Burwell case before Supreme Court to see that the law was poorly written and has put the well-being of millions of Americans at risk. As conservatives, it's imperative that we be solutions oriented to provide Americans the security that comes with a working health care system centered on their needs, instead of Washington mandates.

HIP 2.0 represents the success our conservative ideas can have when the federal government allows states to be innovative with Medicaid funding through block grants.

This common-sense idea should be an integral part of federal health care policy as we move forward.

In our diagnosis, we believe other states would be wise to follow the Hoosier success story.

Larry Bucshon, a cardiothoracic surgeon and member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, is serving his third term in Congress representing Indiana's 8th District. Tim Brown, a former emergency room physician, has served in the General Assembly since 1994. He currently represents House District 41.

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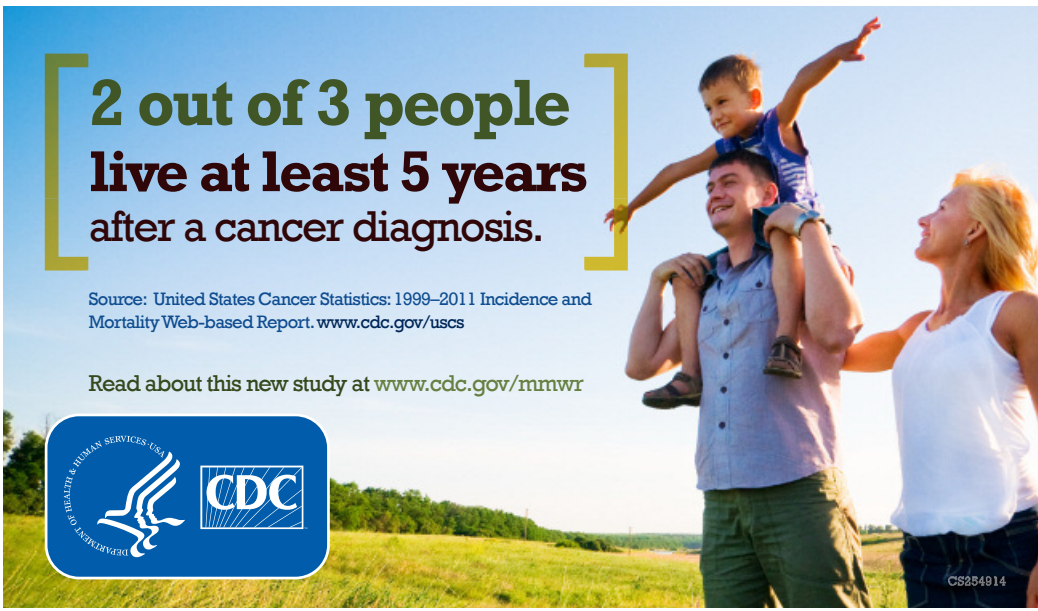
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2 out of 3 people live at least 5 years after a cancer diagnosis.

Source: United States Cancer Statistics: 1999-2011 Incidence and Mortality Web-based Report. www.cdc.gov/uscs

Read about this new study at www.cdc.gov/mmwr



Two out of three people with invasive cancer are surviving five years or more

Two out of three people diagnosed with cancer survive five years or more, according to a CDC study published in last Thursday's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

The report found that the most common cancer sites continue to be cancers of the prostate (128 cases per 100,000 men), female breast (122 cases per 100,000 women), lung and bronchus (61 cases per 100,000 persons), and colon and rectum (40 cases per 100,000 persons). Among these common cancer sites, 5-year relative survival was 97 percent for prostate cancer, 88 percent for breast cancer, 63 percent for colorectal cancer, and 18 percent for lung cancer.

"We are pleased to include cancer survivor data in this report for the first time. We will review these data annually to track our progress," said Jane Henley, epidemiologist in CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control and lead author of the study.

The cancer survivor estimates are from CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries. CDC scientists reviewed the most recent data on cases of invasive cancers reported during 2011. With the exception of urinary bladder cancer, invasive cancer is defined as cancer that has spread to surrounding normal tissue from where it began.

The authors noted that disparities in cancer incidence still persist, with greater rates among men than women and the highest rates among blacks. Additionally, 5-year relative survival after any cancer diagnosis was lower for blacks (60 percent) than for whites (65 percent).

Data by state show incidence rates for all cancer sites ranged from 374 cases per 100,000 persons in New Mexico to 509 cases per 100,000 persons in the District of Columbia.

"These data are an important reminder that a key to surviving with cancer is making sure everyone has access to care from early diagnosis to treatment," said Lisa Richardson, M.D., director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. "We know, for example, that early detection of colorectal cancer has had the largest im-

act on long-term survival rates."

For information about CDC's efforts to prevent colorectal cancer, including screening programs: www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/. For information about CDC's efforts to prevent breast and cervical cancer, including screening programs: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/>.

Through the Affordable Care Act, more Americans will qualify to get health care coverage that fits their needs and budget, including important preventive services, including screening for some cancers, that may be covered with no additional costs. Visit Healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY/TDD 1-855-889-4325) to learn more.

The full report, "Invasive Cancer Incidence and Survival - United States, 2011," can be found at www.cdc.gov/mmwr. For more information about CDC's efforts in cancer prevention and control, visit www.cdc.gov/cancer.

Catch the latest edition of "The Indiana State Police Road Show"

Catch the latest edition of the "Indiana State Police Road Show" radio program every Monday morning at your convenience. This week's show features First Sergeant Kyle Hankins, Section Commander of the Indiana State Police Quartermaster Division. F/Sgt. Hankins discusses the ISP Quartermaster services and the preparation of issued items for the upcoming probationary class.

Download the program from the Network Indiana public websites at www.networkin-

IU Health Methodist Hospital and Vincennes University agreement to benefit pharmacy tech students

Students seeking careers as pharmacy technicians will benefit from an agreement between Vincennes University and Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

"The Indiana University Health/Vincennes University collaboration provides a mechanism for graduates of the IU Health Pharmacy Technician program to further their education by receiving credit toward an Associate of Science degree from Vincennes University," said Melynda Ludwick, Pharmacy Technician program director for IU Health Methodist Hospital.

Beginning June 1, the collaboration will bring together Indiana's first college, VU, and IU Health Methodist Hospital - a national and regional healthcare leader ranked among the top 50 national programs in U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Hospitals."

Employment of pharmacy technicians is expected to grow by 20 percent from 2012 to 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Boosting demand are technological advances in medicine, a growing aging population that generally uses more medications, and an increase in the number of group practices, clinics, and other health care facilities.

"Pharmacy Technicians have a responsible role in health care today," said Terri Wise, Pharmacy Technician program director for VU. "The accrediting agency for pharmacy technicians now requires an increasing amount of formal education for these health professionals. The IU Health Methodist Hospital Pharmacy Technician program is one of the oldest and one of the

best programs in Indiana. This partnership will allow the IU Health graduates to earn an associate degree from Vincennes University."

IU Health's Pharmacy Technician program's academic year is nine months in length (855 contact hours), divided into two semesters. IU Health is accredited for pharmacy technician training by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists. IU Health's Pharmacy Technician program is Indiana's first nationally accredited pharmacy technician training program.

Founded in 1801, VU has offered a Pharmacy Technician program since 2006 through its College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering. The VU program was initiated by Jay Bardole, professor emeritus of Chemistry and former chair of the Chemistry Department, who played an instrumental role in developing the agreement between VU and IU Health Methodist Hospital.

"VU values this partnership with IU Health Methodist Hospital. It serves the best interest of students, employers, and the state, as we all strive to provide a better future for Hoosiers. I am grateful for the work of Terri and Melynda in reaching this agreement. I am particularly grateful to Jay Bardole for yet another achievement in his distinguished, longtime service to students," said VU President Dick Helton.

For more information about the IU Health Pharmacy Technician program, contact Melynda Ludwick at 317-962-0919 or mludwick@iuhealth.org.

Information is also available via the program website at <http://iuhealth.org/education/health-sciences/pharmacy-technician/>.

diana.com. Look for the state police logo on the main page and follow the download instructions. The ISP Road Show can also be viewed via YouTube.

Go to www.youtube.com/channel/UCu5Bg1KjBd7H1GxgkuV3YJA or visit the Indiana State Police website at www.in.gov/isp/ and click on the YouTube link. This 15-minute talk show concentrates on public safety and informational topics with state wide interest.

The radio program was titled "Signal-10"

in the early sixties when it was first started by two troopers in northern Indiana. The name was later changed to the "Indiana State Police Road Show" and is the longest continuously aired state police public service program in Indiana.

Radio stations across Indiana and the nation are invited to download and air for FREE this public service program sponsored by the Indiana State Police Alliance and Cops for Kids, a subsidiary of the Indiana State Police Alliance.

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