

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 14, Issue 15

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

Nine pages

Martin County man arrested on child pornography charges

Members of the Indiana State Police's Internet Crimes Against Children Unit and Digital Forensics Unit with assistance from the Martin County Sheriff's Department and Loogootee Police Department served a search warrant at 604 North John F. Kennedy, Apartment 14, in Loogootee, following an investigation into the possession of child pornography.

ICAC Detective Robert Whyte initiated the investigation in January 2023 after receiving several cybertip reports from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The cybertip reports indicated that an unknown individual was in possession of child sex abuse material (child pornography).

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization providing services nationwide to families and law enforcement officials relating to the prevention of abduction and sexual exploitation of children. Pursuant to its mission and congressional authorization (42 U.S.C. 5773), NCMEC operates the CyberTipline and the Child Victim Identification Program to provide assistance to law enforcement officials in its efforts to identify victims of child pornography and child sexual exploitation.

During the course of his investigation, Detective Whyte identified the suspect as Ryan Watkins, a 45-year-old-male who resides in Loogootee. Detectives and Troopers located Watkins driving on US50 and conducted a traffic stop. As a result, Watkins was arrested and transported to Martin County Jail for the following charges:

Three Counts of Possession of Child Pornography Under 12 Years Old, Level 5 Felony

Assisting ISP ICAC detectives and examiners from the Digital Forensics Unit with the residential search warrant were Troopers from the Jasper and Bloomington posts, Martin County Sheriff Department Officers, and Loogootee Police Department Officers.

(See 'ARRESTED' on page 2)



Loogootee Prom Royalty candidates

-Photo provided

Loogootee High School will be hosting "Hollywood" Prom Grand March on Saturday, April 15 at Jack Butcher Arena beginning at 7 p.m. Shown in the front row, from left to right are princess candidates, Sarah Todd, Ashlynn Gilbert, and Alivia Willis; queen candidates, Bridget Like, Kieragen Napier, Brooklyn Summers, Zoey Brasine, and Lindsey Nolan and princess candidates, Allie Henninger, and Abigail Nonte. In the back row, from left to right are prince candidates, Jeremiah Wells, Reis Whitney, and Chance Carrico; king candidates, Jacob Tedrow, Peyton Bledsoe, Parker Arvin, Isaac Eagle, and Lucas Brittain and prince candidates, Drew Walker and Leighton Jeffers.

Loogootee Council to decide on TIF district, tax abatement request

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee City Council met Monday night, April 10.

Jim Higgins, CPA and advisor from LWG in Indianapolis, returned to the council to continue discussion on making the new 30-home development, off Country Court in Loogootee, a TIF district. He explained again that a TIF district takes any newly created assessed value and captures it to go back into only that district. The purpose of keeping that money is to put back into infrastructure projects, such as utilities, sidewalks, etc. He told the council that if they are in favor of creating the district, they must create a five-member redevelopment commission which consists of three appointments by the mayor and the other two by the council. The redevelopment commission is tasked with overseeing the creation of the TIF district and the decisions made after it is formed. The school board would

also be given the option of approving the district, along with the city's plan commission. Mayor Noel Harty said they can decide by next meeting if they would like to move forward.

Alliance Director Jessica Potts presented a tax abatement request from Red Fox Cabinets, who is moving their manufacturing into the former Dollar General building on West Broadway Street. She said the cabinet manufacturer is owned by Todd and Stacy Wilcher and plans to hire 25 employees in the next two to three years. The abatement request is for \$650,000 in equipment purchased. Potts said the company plans to pay an average wage of \$22 per hour and they plan to expand operations in Martin County in the future, outside of the city.

"I'm all for it, I think it's great," said Council Member Teresa Nolley. The council decided to move forward with the abatement and the next step will be a public hearing.

Matt Clark and Michelle Carrico, with

SIDC, provided an update on the pavilion project planned for the "railroad property" at the corner of JFK Avenue and Church Street. According to Clark, the railroad company, CSX, has submitted a contract for \$25,300 to do research to see if their four poles and signal lines can be moved. Members of the audience, along with Council Member Nolley, asked how CSX can charge this much for research. Mayor Harty replied that moving the poles is not to the advantage of CSX, but it is an advantage to the city. Clark explained that CSX said this is their "standard contract" for such work. Nolley asked what would happen if CSX did this research and find they can't move the poles. A few noted that they would just have to work around them. Mayor Harty explained the city has already paid Duke Energy and Frontier to move their lines and CSX is just another step in the process. He said they are working with the community foundation to get more fund-

(See 'COUNCIL' on page 2)



Beautiful sky

-Photo by Bill Whorral

The sky has been giving off that beautiful display of color as cooler days turn into warmer days. The first day of summer is June 21 so there is still a lot of spring left, with temperatures fluctuating back and forth - cold to warm, warm to cold., causing residents to potentially turn on the air conditioner and furnace on the same day.

Choose Southern Indiana introduces new employer incentive program

Choose Southern Indiana, a population attraction program, will expand its talent attraction efforts by introducing a new initiative this spring - the Employer Incentive Program.

This new incentive program will be utilized by local economic development organizations (LEDOs) in the Radius Indiana region to further assist businesses in the area with attracting new talent. Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Martin, Orange, and Washington County economic development organizations will participate in this program by providing incentive payments to new, out-of-state employees hired by local businesses.

"This investment in talent that our businesses need will help them maintain and improve their productivity and competitiveness," said Christy Johnson, population attraction program coordinator for Radius Indiana. "This will be a limited test of the incentive program to allow our LEDOs and Radius to evaluate if this is an effective way to support our businesses and communities."

Previously, Radius partnered with Indianapolis-based MakeMyMove, an online platform that offered opportunities to mar-

ket to remote workers seeking to move to new locations. MakeMyMove's platform and marketing services help communities pitch their wares and attract new residents, as well as provide key data and analytics.

Talent attraction focuses on recruitment from the talent pipeline outside of a given community, while workforce development aims to further an individual's ability to grow their skills and develop the tools they need for business success in their community. The Radius program has specified that it is targeting the attraction of talent from outside the state of Indiana, in order to avoid depleting talent in other Indiana communities.

"The initial remote worker response to Choose Southern Indiana exceeded expectations and we are excited by this opportunity to find new ways to attract talent to join our workforce," said Jeff Quyle, president and CEO of Radius Indiana. "Attracting talent to the region is a critical part of growing the local workforce, and we are grateful to be able to help our local businesses undertake this task."

To learn more and apply to the relocation incentive program, visit www.choos-southernindiana.com.

COUNCIL

(Continued from page one)

ing to pay for this unforeseen cost. The money to pay for the CSX contract will come from EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) funds. Council Member Nolley said she would like to see the project move forward, even at this slow pace. The council approved the funds.

Superintendent Bo Wilson told the council that damage was done by the city to a property on Terrace Drive, where a pipe had been replaced. He said the property owner would like to have his yard fixed and sought two quotes, each being \$3,300. The cost would include 20 tons of dirt, leveling and seeding. Wilson said he has contacted the city's insurance company to see if they can be reimbursed but hasn't heard back. He said they offered to send in the city workers to try and repair the damage somewhat however the companies who submitted the quotes said their price would remain the same regardless of what work was done. Some council members agreed they need to correct the problem if the city caused the damage. Council Member Nolley asked if the companies who submitted quotes were local. Wilson said they were not. Nolley asked if they could ask local landscaping companies for prices. Mayor Harty said he could reach out to the property owner to see if this was a possibility. He said, however, with the time of year, time is of the essence. He asked Wilson if the property owner would be willing to delay the work getting done. Wilson replied that if it were his property, he would want the work done as soon as possible, but the decision is up to the council. The council approved the work to be done. Wilson said he will be at a conference this week but if he hears from the insurance company, he will let the council know.

The council approved paying \$1,500 to replace a 160-foot, 18-inch pipe on a property on Church Street that is sticking out of the ground and creating a geyser when it rains.

Mayor Harty gave an update on the work being done on the drainage issue in Green Acres. He said they will be meeting this week with Midwestern Engineers to review their plan for the correction of the flooding. He said they will

then meet with the property owners involved next week. Jason Tinkle, one of the property owners, asked if something could be done now to remove some of the standing water which breeds mosquitoes. Superintendent Wilson said he doesn't know how to "drain a swamp uphill" and the only thing they could do is install a sump pump if someone was willing to let them utilize their electricity.

A resident on Northwest First Street requested the addition of signs indicating an autistic child lives in the area to get traffic to slow down. She explained she has a six-year-old autistic son who is not completely aware of danger. The council discussed locations for four signs and approved their placement.

The council approved a request for a revival to be held on the square on May 5 and 6, along with use of the city's stage. They agreed to close parts of North Line Street and Main Street for the event. Council Member Tim Lawrence reminded the mayor to check and see if the city is covered with their liability insurance. The mayor said he would.

The council approved Pam Loughmiller and Michelle Grace to serve on the innkeepers' commission.

The council approved an additional \$1,265 to replace a vent in the municipal building bathroom that is being remodeled.

ARRESTED

(Continued from page one)

Anyone having any information related to crimes against children is encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agency or visit the NCMEC website at www.missingkids.com/home and find the link to make a CYBERTIPLINE report.

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

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OBITUARIES

JACK MARLEY

Jack Marley passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on April 5, 2023, at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis. A resident of Greenwood, he was 88.

He was born February 14, 1935, in Martin County; son of the late Jesse and Hallie Marley.

He graduated from Williams High School in 1954 and then from the International Barber School in Indianapolis (in addition to six of his siblings) in 1956. He proudly served in the US Army for four years. Jack married Glenda Ann Spaulding of Loogootee on April 7, 1959. He and Glenda moved to Indianapolis where Jack spent many years barbering alongside his brother, Keith Marley. He then completed management courses at IUPUI and joined Hook's Drug Store (which became CVS) and retired in 1998. After retirement he and Glenda traveled extensively and enjoyed winters in Florida with friends and family. They moved to Greenwood in 2006 to be closer to their kids and grandkids and joined the community of Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church.

After Glenda's passing in 2012, Jack had the support of his family and friends and then met his second love, Barb Clark, who filled the last six years of his life with joy and companionship. He had been a happy golfer, community volunteer, and a parishioner at Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church until his health declined.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents and seven siblings, Kathleen Tedrow, Kenneth, Keith, Paul, Don, Dale and Howard Marley; many sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, his wife, Glenda, and infant daughter, Cheryl Ann Marley.

His kindness, humility, and wonderful outlook on life will be remembered by his children of whom he was so proud, Kent (Sherri) Marley, Kirk (Cyndi) Marley all of Greenwood, and Michelle (John) Malina of Columbus, along with his cherished grandkids, Dr. Kristen (Dr. Tom) Maatman, Sean Marley, and Nicholas Marley, all of Indianapolis, Gabrielle Malina (Jeremy Harrington) of Somerville, Massachusetts; John (Molly) Malina of Columbus, Conor Marley (Bryn Foreman) and Ethan Marley (Destiny Huegel), also of Greenwood, and his favorite girl, Barb Clark of Greenwood. His extended family will miss their Uncle Jack.

Memorial donations in Jack's name can be made to Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church, St. Jude's Children Hospital, or the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The family would like to thank the Palliative Care team at St. Francis for their kindness and guidance during a difficult time. A private Mass will be held for Jack and a Celebration of Life at a later date.

SARA JANE MARSHALL

Sara Jane (Harding) Marshall passed away at 12:52 a.m. Wednesday April 5,



SARA JANE MARSHALL

2023 at Jasper Memorial Hospital. A resident of Shoals, she was 83.

She was born May 4, 1939, in Shoals; daughter of Charles A. And Hazel J. (Qualkenbush) Harding.

Jane married James "Jim" Marshall on February 10, 1963, at the Shoals Christian Church and he preceded her in death on September 28, 2022.

Jane graduated from Shoals High School in 1957 and was a member of the Shoals Christian Church. She was a retired member of Gamma Iota Chapter of Psi Iota Xi Sorority, where she held all offices of the sorority; was the secretary for many years for the Martin County Historical Society. Jane and Jim were selected as Grand Marshall of the 2011 Shoals Catfish Festival, were presented the 2016 Philanthropist of the Year Award by the Martin County Community Foundation, and they also received the 2018 Martin County Historical Society Award for Years of Service.

As a teenager, Jane worked at Fuhrman Cider Stand and the Jug Rock Grill. After graduation she was employed at Daviess County Hospital and Queen's Clothing Store for several years. She was also co-owner of Marshall Motors, manager and bookkeeper of Shoals Trailer Court, and manager of Marshall Storage Units in Shoals and Montgomery.

Surviving to cherish Jane's memory are her sisters, Elizabeth (John) Chatin of Shoals, and Charleen A. Tarr of French Lick; nephew, Aaron (Crystal) Tarr of Shoals; and great-nieces, Olivia G. And Peyton E. Tarr of Shoals.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; grandparents; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral services were held Saturday, April 8 at the Queen-Lee Chapel of George Funeral Care, with Pastor Gary Norris officiating. Burial followed in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Martin County Historical Society, in memory of Jim and Jane Marshall.

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

DORIS PEEK

Doris Louise Peek passed away Monday April 10, 2023, at her home. A resident of Loogootee, she was 76.

She was born in Rutherford Township on July 21, 1946; daughter of the late Noah Richard and Mary Emma (Hickman) Gibson.

Doris was a homemaker, she married Larry Peek on December 22, 1974, and he preceded her in death on April 22, 2019. She loved to spend time taking care of her dog, Sky, and her cat, Cleo. She loved spending time with her family and grandchildren and will be missed by all that knew her.

Doris is preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Larry Peek; her parents, Noah and Mary Gibson, four siblings, and her three step-siblings.



DORIS PEEK

She is survived by her children, Rodney Peek of Princeton, Scott (Lisa) Muench of Owensboro, Brian (Lourdes) Peek of Washington, Michael (Carrie) Muench of Thermopolis, Wyoming and Shawn Brown of Loogootee, 12 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, her siblings, Leland (Alfrieda) Gibson,

Carl Gibson, Juanita Street, and Bette Gibson, all of Loogootee; half-brother, Robert Gibson of Indianapolis, and many nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday April 15, at Truelove Church Cemetery in Loogootee.

Visitation will be held Friday April 14, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

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

Arrangements provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

BOOKKEEPER WANTED

The Martin County Solid Waste Management District is currently seeking a Bookkeeper. This is a 32-hour position with benefits. Must have knowledge of accounts payable, accounts receivable, and payroll. Please send resume, including level of education and job history with dates, to Martin County Solid Waste District P.O. Box 343 Loogootee, Indiana 47553. The last day to receive resumes is April 19, 2023.



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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, APRIL 3

2:42 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a suspicious person in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

6:05 a.m. - Received a 911 call on Crane Base. Transferred call to Crane.

7:38 a.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check south of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

10:23 a.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver on US 50, heading West. Captain Gibson and Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded.

11:00 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

2:47 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded. No transport was needed.

4:10 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Hawkins responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:46 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver in Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

5:06 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 2 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

5:12 p.m. - Received multiple 911 calls from a Daviess County address. Called Daviess County dispatch with information.

6:40 p.m. - Received a call reporting a water main break in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded. Contacted Loogootee City Utilities.

8:42 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:07 p.m. - Received a call reporting a damaged vehicle in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

10:16 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 2, Shoals Fire Department, Deputy Erwin and Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded. No transport was needed.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

1:32 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart and Deputy Erwin responded.

4:56 a.m. - Received a call reporting a damaged mailbox northeast of Loogootee. Deputy Erwin responded.

6:38 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

7:35 a.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious person in Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

9:23 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported three inmates to court.

11:19 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

12:08 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle south of Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded.

12:55 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

1:19 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Martin County Civil Defense responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:44 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded.

3:28 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to an officer about a suspicious person southeast of Loogootee. Corporal

Hawkins responded.

3:58 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check north of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

4:02 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting Houston Texas Police. Gave caller their phone number.

5:23 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:28 p.m. - Received a report of possible abuse in Loogootee. Corporal Hawkins responded.

7:45 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver east of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

9:40 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person north of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

10:40 p.m. - Received a call from Koorsen Fire and Security reporting a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

11:23 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

1:37 a.m. - Received a call reporting a theft in Shoals. Deputy Erwin responded.

2:22 a.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

7:01 a.m. - Received a report of a commercial burglar alarm east of Loogootee. Captain Gibson responded.

9:12 a.m. - Received a call requesting the fire department in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

9:27 a.m. - Received a call reporting a domestic dispute south of Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller, Loogootee Chief Means, Captain Gibson, ISP Trooper Beaver and ISP Trooper Lents responded.

10:28 a.m. - Received a call reporting harassment in Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

12:01 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a traffic hazard southeast of Loogootee. Corporal Hawkins responded.

1:55 p.m. - Received a call reporting a disabled vehicle east of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins and Shoals Fire Department responded.

3:45 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Crane. Corporal Hawkins responded.

5:23 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious person in Crane. Corporal Hawkins responded.

5:35 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

5:40 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down south of Shoals. Sheriff Greene responded.

5:49 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 responded and transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

8:03 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down north of Shoals. Indian Creek Fire Department and Martin County Civil Defense were called but could not respond due to State Road 450 being closed and the Huron/Williams Road being flooded.

9:24 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance east of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

1:45 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County

Medic 1 responded but did not transport.

8:16 a.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident in Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

8:21 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Haysville Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:14 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported three inmates to court.

10:02 a.m. - Received a call advising of a panic alarm test at Loogootee Community Schools.

10:15 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Corporal Hawkins responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

10:21 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

10:52 a.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn east of Loogootee.

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

11:48 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down northeast of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

11:53 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down south of Loogootee. Martin County Highway Department responded.

12:59 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious vehicle in Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller, Indiana Conservation Officer Fuhrman, ISP Trooper Lents and Sergeant Wells responded.

1:13 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

4:16 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:49 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious vehicle east of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells and Deputy Haven responded.

5:53 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:32 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance northeast of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:19 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

7:37 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver west of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells and Deputy Haven responded.

11:19 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious person west of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

8:32 a.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident in Daviess County. Advised caller to notify Daviess County.

11:32 a.m. - Received an animal complaint north of Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

11:44 a.m. - Received a call from AT&T advising of a disruption in 911 service.

12:25 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting suspicious activity south of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells responded.

12:49 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Lost River Fire Department responded. Medic 1

transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:04 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means, Sergeant Wells and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Duke Energy and Frontier were notified.

2:15 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver south of Loogootee, heading south. Notified Dubois County.

5:28 p.m. - Received an animal report in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

2:46 p.m. - Received a call reporting an accident with no injuries south of Loogootee. Deputy Haven responded.

4:40 p.m. - Received an animal complaint northeast of Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

6:36 p.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Transferred call to Daviess County 911.

7:00 p.m. - Received a 911 reporting an accident south of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Sergeant Wells, Deputy Haven and Lost River Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

7:57 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 2 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:05 p.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn southeast of Shoals.

8:07 p.m. - Received a call reporting a brush fire in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

8:39 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart, Deputy Branham and Deputy Haven responded.

9:04 p.m. - Received a request for fire units southeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

10:20 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance northeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Deputy Branham responded. No transport was needed.

10:45 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 and Haysville Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:43 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver in Dubois County. Contacted Dubois County with information.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

12:01 a.m. - Received a call from Simply Safe Monitoring Company advising of a residential burglar alarm north of Loogootee. Homeowner called and advised to disregard.

1:36 a.m. - Received a call advising of a domestic dispute in Shoals. Deputy Branham and Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

2:40 a.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious person in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

2:45 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible break-in, in Shoals. Deputy Branham and Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

7:11 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded.

7:47 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells and Big John's Towing responded.

7:47 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a traffic hazard south of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells responded.

8:16 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting debris in the roadway south of Loogootee. (See' SHERIFF'S LOG' on page 5)

COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCINGS March 31

Shawn D. Purdy, convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 654 days with 0 days dismissed and credit for 654 days for actual time served plus Class A credit days.

April 3

Anibal G. Lopez-Monge, convicted of public intoxication, a Class B Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 180 days with 178 days suspended and credit for 1 actual day previously served plus 1 Class A credit day. Defendant received 6 months of probation.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED March 31

Martin County real estate transfers

Stanley D. Young and Mary J. Young, of Martin County, Indiana to **Brandon M. Peters and Abalena D. Hampton**, of Orange County, Indiana, Lot Number 23 in Section II of Sawmill Ridge.

Billy Walker and Lorissa Walker, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Matthew Bruce Branham and Rachelle L. Branham**, of Dubois County, Indiana, Lot Number 82 in Campbell and Breen's Addition to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Joseph A. Lashley and Ellen R. Lashley, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Daniel L. Main**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: A part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter, Section 19, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.58 acres, more or less. Tract II: A part of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing .46 acre, more or less.

Karlynn Strack, of Johnson County, Indiana to **Aram Wright and Dana Wright and Urim Summerton**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: The east half of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 5, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, Second Principal Meridian, Martin County, Mitcheltree Township, Indiana, containing 20 acres, more or less. Tract II: The northeast quarter of the southeast quarter and the west half of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Sec-

SHERIFF'S LOG — (Continued from page 4)

gootee. Sergeant Wells and Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded.

9:59 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Sergeant Wells and Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded.

10:03 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check south of Shoals. Deputy Haven responded.

10:10 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department, Sergeant Wells and Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:37 p.m. - Received a call requesting officers in Shoals. Sergeant Wells, Loogootee Assistant Chief Long and Martin County Medic 1 responded. No transport was needed.

5:51 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Dispatch.

7:58 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn in Loogootee.

10:19 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check southeast of Shoals. Deputy Branham and Deputy Haven responded.

11:49 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

Shawn D. Purdy, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

April 3

Anibal G. Lopez-Monge, operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed; refusal to submit to breath or chemical test, a Class C Infraction, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

March 29

Mariner Finance, LLC vs. Carrie Arvin, civil collection.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

April 4

Montana Perry Gage Carrico of Loogootee and Nikki Renea Brissey of Loogootee.

tion 5, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, in Martin County, Indiana, containing 60 acres, more or less.

Carol Westerfield, of Harris County, Texas to **Marcus Webb Pfrang, Jr. and Alyssa Bennett**, a part of the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 14, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.78 acre, more or less.

ARRESTS

MONDAY, APRIL 3

3:12 p.m. - Corporal Hawkins on station with Carol Baker, 70, of Loogootee, was arrested by Corporal Hawkins and charged with possession of methamphetamine. She is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

3:30 p.m. - Rocky Baker, 45, of Loogootee, was arrested by Captain Gibson and charged with driving while suspended-prior. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

5:32 p.m. - Robert White, 42, of Shoals, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Baumgart and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He is being held without bond.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

2:16 a.m. - Charles O'Connor, 59, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Erwin and charged with domestic battery in the presence of a minor. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

4:21 a.m. - Amber Cissell, 33, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Baumgart and charged with domestic battery in the presence of a minor. She is being held without bond.

11:51 p.m. - Kevin Downey, 40, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Erwin and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

11:37 a.m. - Danny Christenberry, 55, of Washington, was arrested on a Martin County warrant. He is being held on \$1,000 bond.

1:45 p.m. - Corey Carrithers, 31, of Washington, was arrested by Deputy Pressley on a Martin County warrant. He is being held on \$1,000 10% bond.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

11:31 p.m. - Michael Sherfick, 36, of Terre Haute, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Baumgart and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

1:02 p.m. - Darren Stone, 55, of Shoals, was arrested by Sergeant Wells and charged with battery. He is being held on \$5,000 10% bond.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

7:44 p.m. - Brian Sinnott, 19, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Baumgart and charged with reckless driving and criminal recklessness. He is being held on \$5,000 10% bond.

National unemployment rate at 3.5 percent for March

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 236,000 in March, and the unemployment rate changed little at 3.5 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week. Employment continued to trend up in leisure and hospitality, government, professional and business services, and health care.

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

Household Survey Data

Both the unemployment rate, at 3.5 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, at 5.8 million, changed little in March. These measures have shown little net movement since early 2022.

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rate for Hispanics decreased to 4.6 percent in March, essentially offsetting an increase in the prior month. The unemployment rates for adult men (3.4 percent), adult women (3.1 percent), teenagers (9.8 percent), Whites (3.2 percent), Blacks (5.0 percent), and Asians (2.8 percent) showed little or no change over the month.

Among the unemployed, the number of permanent job losers increased by 172,000 to 1.6 million in March, and the number of reentrants to the labor force declined by 182,000 to 1.7 million. (Reentrants are persons who previously worked but were not in the labor force prior to beginning their job search.)

The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was little changed at 1.1 million in March. These individuals accounted for 18.9 percent of all unemployed persons.

The labor force participation rate, at 62.6 percent, continued to trend up in March. The employment-population ratio edged up over the month to 60.4 percent. These measures remain below their pre-pandemic February 2020 levels (63.3 percent and 61.1 percent, respectively).

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

The number of persons not in the labor force who currently want a job was little changed at 4.9 million in March and has returned to its February 2020 level. These individuals were not counted as unemployed because they were not actively looking for work during the 4 weeks preceding the survey or were unavailable to take a job.

Among those not in the labor force who wanted a job, the number of persons marginally attached to the labor force was little changed at 1.3 million in March. These individuals wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but had not looked for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. The number of discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, also was little changed over the month at 351,000.

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 236,000 in March, compared with the average monthly gain of 334,000 over the prior 6 months. In March, employment continued to trend up in leisure and hospitality, government, professional and business services, and health care.

Leisure and hospitality added 72,000 jobs in March, lower than the average monthly gain of 95,000 over the prior 6 months. Most of the job growth occurred in food services and drinking places, where employment rose by 50,000 in March. Employment in leisure and hospitality is below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level by 368,000, or 2.2 percent.

Government employment increased by 47,000 in March, the same as the average monthly gain over the prior 6 months. Overall, employment in government is below its February 2020 level by 314,000, or 1.4 percent.

Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in March (+39,000), in line with the average monthly growth over the prior 6 months (+34,000). Within the industry, employment in professional, scientific, and technical services continued its upward trend in March (+26,000).

Over the month, health care added 34,000 jobs, lower than the average monthly gain of 54,000 over the prior 6 months. In March, job growth occurred in home health care services (+15,000) and hospitals (+11,000). Employment continued to trend up in nursing and residential care facilities (+8,000).

Employment in social assistance continued to trend up in March (+17,000), in line with the average monthly growth over the prior 6 months (+22,000).

In March, employment in transportation and warehousing changed little (+10,000). Couriers and messengers (+7,000) and air transportation (+6,000) added jobs, while warehousing and storage lost jobs (-12,000). Employment in transportation and warehousing has shown little net change in recent months.

Employment in retail trade changed little in March (-15,000). Job losses in building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (-9,000) and in furniture, home furnishings, electronics, and appliance retailers (-9,000) were partially offset by a job gain in department stores (+15,000). Retail trade employment is little changed on net over the year.

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

In March, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 9 cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$33.18. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 4.2 percent. In March, average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees rose by 9 cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$28.50.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour to 34.4 hours in March. In manufacturing, the average workweek was unchanged at 40.3 hours, and overtime remained at 3.0 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 33.9 hours.

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for January was revised down by 32,000, from +504,000 to +472,000, and the change for February was revised up by 15,000, from +311,000 to +326,000. With these revisions, employment in January and February combined is 17,000 lower than previously reported. (Monthly revisions result from additional reports received from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates and from the recalculation of seasonal factors.)



MARTIN COUNTY Making A Difference Community Foundation Partnership

By Curt Johnson
MCCF Director



-- QUALITY OF PLACE --

In 2019, Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc. (ROI) prompted the area counties to each develop a Quality of Place & Workforce Attraction Plan. The Martin County Community Foundation was one of seven local organizations that formed the Core Team for the Quality of Place Advisory Team of 30 key stakeholders and leaders in Martin County.

-- RECREATION, HEALTH & WELLNESS --

The goal of the Plan was to identify areas of opportunities and improvements to make Martin County a more attractive place for people to live and visit. Of the five identified areas, Recreation was one and Health & Wellness was another.

Recent grants were awarded to the City of Loogootee and the Town of Shoals in these same areas. Loogootee will have a walking path around the City Park with several outdoor exercise stations. Shoals is in the final stages of ballpark improvements that include a children's playground.

-- PICKLEBALL --

One of the grants from the last MCCF Impact Grant cycle was again to support those county improvement areas of Recreation and Health & Wellness. This is a challenge grant to Loogootee Pickleball where the MCCF will match \$1 for each \$1 donated for up to a maximum match of \$25,000. The \$25,000 grant is to help the Loogootee Pickleball group develop well-defined specifications and plans to ensure the Pickleball courts are soundly built to last a long time. The other donations to meet the match will be used to help Loogootee Pickleball further their efforts for this sport.

-- IT'S HERE TO STAY --

Some may think pickleball is a short-lived fad. On the contrary. It has been a growing sport for over a decade and relatively recently has been coined as "the fastest growing sport in America." In fact, some tennis stars are now playing pickleball as well. The likes of Andy Roddick, John McEnroe, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang recently played in the inaugural Pickleball Slam in Florida, which had a \$1 million purse. So this is a serious sport.

-- BE A PART OF IT --

If you want to find out more about pickleball, watch for announcements for pickleball clinics provided by Loogootee Pickleball, Inc. You can also become a Loogootee Pickleball member. Please contact Linda Stoll at 812-787-0857 or Robin Hart at 812-295-6739 for more information about membership dues and benefits.

If you want to be a part of the Pickleball future, you can also make a donation to the challenge grant for the \$1:\$1 match. Your tax-deductible gift of \$100 will become \$200, \$500 will become \$1,000, or \$5,000 will become \$10,000. Mail your check payable to MCCF (please write Pickleball in the memo) to: Martin County Community Foundation, PO Box 28, Loogootee IN 47553.

-- MORE INFORMATION --

For more information about the MCCF and how you, too, can help your community, please contact the Director, Curt Johnson, at mccf@cfpartner.org, 812-295-1022, or at 2668 US Hwy 50 (on the Martin County fairgrounds), PO Box 28, Loogootee IN 47553.

You are also welcome to visit the MCCF webpage at www.cfpartner.org and follow the MCCF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mccommunityfoundation.



Shown above, from left to right, are Loogootee Pickleball member Marina Bouvey, MCCF Board members Angie Risacher and Tracy Rayhill, and Loogootee Pickleball members Terri Smith and Bill Boyd.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dog/cat Wellness Clinic

The Martin County Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic hosts a wellness clinic on the third Friday of each month from 5-6 p.m. The clinic offers low-cost vaccines, testing, nail trims, etc. No appointment is required.

Mental Health Task Force

The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets via Zoom. If interested in being a part of the tax force, email echristmas@youthfirst.org or toddamy@iu.edu.

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

St. Vincent Food Pantry

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

Free lunch for kids

New Beginnings Community Church will be offering a free lunch to all school age children every Saturday. Lunches can be picked up at the fellowship hall of the

church, located at 105 Wood St, Loogootee no later than 10:30 a.m. Deliveries will begin between 10:30 and 11 a.m. Saturdays.

SOAR Tutoring

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

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Solid waste board

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

Soil and Water meetings

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

Consumer Alert: Products recalled in March

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

"Spring has sprung and so have house projects," Attorney General Rokita said. "That means making sure household products are working correctly. Hoosiers shouldn't have to deal with faulty items. If you have one of the recalled products, stop using it immediately and pursue resolution from the manufacturer."

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

- PRO XL501 Chipper Shredders from DR Power Equipment
- Docking Stations Sold with STIHL iMOW Robotic Lawn Mowers from STIHL Incorporated
- Sportsman All-Terrain Vehicles from Polaris
- Arctic Cat Alterra 600 and Tracker 600 All-Terrain Vehicles from Textron Specialized Vehicles
- Natural Gas Boilers from Burnham Commercial
- Office Chairs from TJX
- Patagonia Infant Capilene Midweight Base Layer Sets from Patagonia

- Children's Bamboo Plates from Primark
 - Relion Insight Series Lithium Batteries from Relion Battery
 - Classic Whimsy Children's Pajamas from Smocked Runway
 - Multi-Purpose Kids Bike Helmets from Ouwoer Direct
 - Wakeboard Bindings from Active Sports
 - Soft Coolers and Gear Cases from YETI
 - Aprepitant Capsules and Lidocaine and Prilocaine Cream Prescription Drugs from Sandoz
 - Portable SRTH Small Room Tower Heaters from Vornado Air
 - Kindred Bravely Bamboo Nursing Hoodies from Akerson Enterprises
 - All Calico Critters Animal Figures and Sets Sold with Bottle and Pacifier Accessories from Epoch Everlasting Play
 - Bedsure Electric Heating Blankets and Pads from Bedshe International
 - Pure Outdoor Cooking System from Monoprice
 - Crib Bumpers from Meiling Hou
- If you believe you recently purchased a recalled product, stop using it, and check its recall notice. Then, follow the notice's instructions, including where to return the product or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.
- To view recalls, visit www.cpsc.gov/Recalls.

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

-Admiral Grace Hopper

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

Derek George
Owner & Funeral Director

QUEEN-LEE CHAPEL
GEORGE FUNERAL CARE, LLC

431 High Street
Shoals, Indiana 47581
812-247-3101

American Legion Post 120

CHICKEN BBQ LUNCH

Saturday, April 15

11 a.m.-sold out

At the Legion in
downtown Loogootee

Price \$10.00

Chicken and Two Sides
Dine In or Carry out
812-295-2085

All proceeds to go to purchase cemetery flags for Memorial Day.



It is a blue week at Sandhill Gardens. No, there is nothing making anyone sad. For about three weeks in early spring, true blue flowers grace several beds in the gardens. True blue is the rarest color in the garden. “Roses are red, violets are blue...” We all know that is not true. While there are some gray-blue Confederate violets, most violets are actually purple. In fact, for most of the time, the blue in the garden comes from the many cobalt planters and accent pieces I have acquired over the years. Right now, though, there are blue flowers in gardens!!! That is exciting to me.

The true star of this blue extravaganza is the native wildflower known as Virginia bluebells. The plant has large, gray-green leaves, standing 12 to 15 inches tall. Pink buds open to sky-blue bell-shaped blossoms, which also have a pleasing, delicate scent. Anyone who has happened upon such a display in the woods knows how exciting the discovery can be. Bluebells tend to grow in masses, so the display is impressive. It takes patience to re-create this sight in your garden. Do not attempt to transplant them from the wild, where they are considered threatened due to habitat loss. Bluebells have a long taproot, making them nearly impossible to transplant. Young seedlings may be transplanted, but it takes four to five years for such seedlings to reach blooming size, and several more years for them to seed and grow the number of plants to create a display. Plants may be purchased from native plant nurseries. After blooming and setting seed, the ephemeral plants die back. In my garden, they are planted where hostas and ferns are just now coming up. The foliage of these plants will hide the dying bluebell foliage.

Another plant with blue flowers is the brunnera, or Siberian bugloss. Brunneras will stick around for the summer and are usually grown for the striking foliage. The leaves range from sage green to nearly white. While some are solid-colored, most have some eye-catching veining. The variegations vary greatly. Some of the cultivars have leaves that rival the size of hosta leaves, but most produce 4-inch heart-shaped leaves. However, early in the spring, the brunnera puts out tall stems on which tiny blue flowers are borne. I find these blooming wands enchanting. Many people refer to them as perennial forget-me-nots, although brunnera is not related to the annual of

Junior Birder Hike at the Patoka River NWR

The Friends of Patoka River NWR will host a birding hike for youngsters ages 8 to 18 on Saturday, April 22, at 8 a.m. CT at Boyds Station on the Refuge. The hike will last approximately 2 hours. The hike is open to both experienced and inexperienced junior birders.

There will be a limited number of binoculars available for use so if those attending have binoculars, you are asked to bring your own. Parents may follow along with the hike or explore the nearby areas. Sturdy walking shoes and insect repellent are strongly recommended.

To get to the Refuge, take SR 64 east through Oakland City. Look for the brown Refuge signs and follow the signs to the Snakey Point Marsh.

For more information or questions, call Jim Lodato at 812 760-5944.

that name. Cutting back the bloom stems sometimes results in a second flush of blooms, but even if that does not happen, the leaves of brunnera provide interest in the shade garden for the rest of the growing season. Once established, the plants are drought tolerant and have few insect and disease problems. They are not a favorite deer snack.

Another blue flower now in bloom is *Anchusa azurea*. Commonly known as Italian bugloss, there are many varieties of *anchusa*. Use care if planting these flowers, as some have become invasive in more southern climates. The ones I have are a well-behaved groundcover, standing less than 4 inches tall and speckled with tiny blue flowers. Mine are in dry shade, growing under a wooden platform on a playground. Once they have finished flowering, the miniature hostas growing there will hide the *anchusa* foliage.

The final blue flower in bloom this spring are on some varieties of *pulmonaria*. Commonly called lungwort, because the fuzzy leaves of this spring bloomer are spotted, reminding one of spots on the lungs. Not all lungworts have true blue blossoms. Some varieties have purple, pink and even white blooms during various stages. Look for cultivars such as Mrs. Moon and Trevi Fountain for the best blue flowers.

This blue period in the garden will only last for a few short weeks. Later, a glaucous coating on leaves of some hostas and other plants will supply a little blue, but if you want to enjoy blue blooms, you need to do so now. They are sure to bring a smile.

Commodity price outlook and interest rate concerns cloud farmer sentiment

BY KAMI GOODWIN
Purdue University News Service

Farmer sentiment weakened again in March as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer fell 8 points to a reading of 117. Both of the barometer's sub-indices declined 8 points in March, leaving the Current Conditions Index at 126 and the Future Expectations Index at 113. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted between March 13-17, which coincided with the demise of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank.

“Rising interest rates and weaker prices for key commodities including wheat, corn and soybeans from mid-February through mid-March were key factors behind this month's lower sentiment reading,” said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture. “Although the March survey did not include any questions directly related to the bank closures, during an open-ended comment question posed at the end of each survey, multiple respondents voiced concerns about the banking sector's problems and its potential to hurt the economy. These problems also likely weighed on producer sentiment.”

The Farm Financial Performance Index remained unchanged from February at a reading of 86. Producers point to higher input costs (34 percent of respondents) and rising interest rates (25

percent of respondents) as their number one concern for the year ahead. Notably, concern about higher input cost has been falling since last summer's peak when 53 percent of respondents cited it as their number one concern for the year ahead. At the same time, the percentage of producers pointing to interest rates as a top concern has been increasing, up 11 points from last summer.

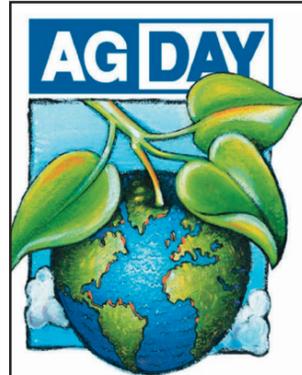
While there was little change in the Farm Capital Investment Index, down one point to a reading of 42 in March, there was a change in how respondents perceived whether now was a good or bad time for large investments. Since last July, respondents who felt now is a bad time to make large investments have consistently chosen “increased prices for farm machinery and new construction” as the key reason. That changed in March as more felt that rising interest rates (34 percent of respondents, up from 27 percent in February) over high prices (32 percent of respondents, down from 45 percent in February) was the key reason that now is a bad time for such investments.

Producers' outlook for farmland values in the short-term and long-term were mixed in March. The Short-Term Farmland Value Index declined 6 points to 113, while the Long-Term Farmland Value Index rose 5 points to 142. This month's short-term index value provided the weakest reading since September 2020 and left the index 32 points lower than a year earlier. One out of five producers in this month's survey said they expect farmland values to weaken in the next 12 months. Long-term, 17 percent of respondents said they expect weaker values in the next five years, up from 13 percent a year ago and 7 percent two years ago.

This month's survey included several renewable energy questions focused on the ethanol and renewable diesel sectors. When asked to look ahead five years, nearly half (46 percent) of respondents said they expected the renewable diesel industry to be larger than it is today, while just a quarter (25 percent) expect the ethanol industry to grow over the same time period. In a follow-up question, respondents were asked what impact they expect the renewable diesel industry to have on soybean prices over the upcoming five years, with 39 percent expecting a price increase of up to .50 cents per bushel, 28 percent expecting a boost in price between 50 cents up to \$1 per bushel, and 21 percent expecting soybean prices to rise by \$1 or more per bushel.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report. The site also offers additional resources – such as past reports, charts and survey methodology – and a form to sign up for monthly barometer email updates and webinars.

Each month, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture provides a short video analysis of the barometer results. For more information, check out the Purdue Commercial AgCast podcast, which includes a detailed breakdown of each month's barometer and a discussion of recent agricultural news that affects farmers. The Ag Economy Barometer, Index of Current Conditions and Index of Future Expectations are available on the Bloomberg Terminal under the following ticker symbols: AGEGBARO, AGECCURC and AGECCFTEX.



Thank you

The Martin County Ag Day Committee would like to personally thank each vendor and supporter of the 28th Annual Martin County Ag Day.

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Winer's White River Farm
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Save the date for 2024!
We can't wait to see you there!

Keep wildlife wild this spring

The Department of Natural Resources does not provide services for orphaned or injured wildlife. If necessary, you can reach out to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator (www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/orphaned-and-injured-animals/wildlife-rehabilitators/) or allow nature to take its course. Permitted wildlife rehabilitators make the final decision on their ability to provide assistance. The goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to release wildlife back into the wild.

For more information, contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 317-232-4200 or dfw@dnr.IN.gov. If you need a wild animal control permit, please contact the DNR Permit Coordinator at 317-232-4102 or find permit information here.

Adult animals rarely abandon their young. What may seem like an abandoned animal is normal care for most animals. The animal may not benefit from your help.

The adult may be out of sight gathering food.

Removing young from their nests can disrupt the reproductive cycle of the animal.

Wildlife carry diseases and parasites that can be transmitted to humans and pets.

Human scent can alert predators to the presence of young animals.

Truly orphaned and injured wildlife can be given to a permitted wildlife reha-

bilitator for care.

Before acting, ask:

Has sufficient time passed without an adult animal nearby? The adult animal will not return with a person nearby.

Does the animal really need help? Most young animals that seem abandoned do NOT need help.

Did I witness the adult animal get killed?

Does the animal have obvious signs of disease or injury?

Will I help or harm this animal?

The best care and chance of survival is always with the young animal's mother.

It is unlawful for an individual to possess a wild animal without a proper permit. Good intentions can still harm wildlife. If an animal does need assistance, it is important that a properly licensed professional is contacted. Professionals have training, facilities, and resources to properly assist wildlife and ensure the animal is capable of fending for itself when released.

Most animals found in the wild are regulated by the DNR. If an animal is injured, you may call a permitted rehabilitator for assistance. Never compromise personal safety to help wildlife. Wild animal rehabilitation permits are issued to qualified individuals who take in sick, injured, or orphaned wild animals with the intent of releasing them back into the wild.

Trout stocking taking place across Indiana

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources is stocking nearly 50,000 trout across the state this spring in preparation for trout fishing season. Thirty-three bodies of water across 21 counties will be stocked before opening day of trout season, which is Saturday, April 29.

Lake stockings of rainbow trout started the week of March 20. Anglers do not have to wait for opening day of stream trout fishing season to fish for these aggressive biters because trout fishing on lakes is open all year.

For streams, 18,000 rainbow trout are expected to be stocked by the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife in the weeks leading up to opening day, the first day anglers can legally catch trout from streams.

Trout bite a variety of artificial baits such as spinners and flies, but natural baits such as worms and bee moths tend to be the most popular. To find a stocked stream near you, see the 2023 trout stocking plan at bit.ly/INFishStocking.

In addition to the rainbow trout stock-



ings, several bodies of water in the north will receive brown trout stockings.

The bag limit for trout in inland waters other than Lake Michigan and its tributaries is five per day with a minimum size of 7 inches. No more than one of an angler's catch can be a brown trout. Any harvested brown trout caught below the Brookville tailwater or from Oliver, Olin, or Martin lakes must be 18 inches or larger.

To fish for trout, anglers age 18 and older must have an Indiana fishing license and a trout/salmon stamp. To purchase your 2023 fishing license and trout/salmon stamp, visit on.IN.gov/INhuntfish.

Agriculture (USDA) have been monitoring both sites.

With the insect's eggs typically hatching in late April, DEPP started scraping egg masses at the infested sites in early February and has destroyed more than 540,000 eggs.

As DEPP and USDA continue to conduct surveys to find the insect's presence elsewhere in the state, ascertain the extent of current infestations, and determine what other management strategies to implement, Hoosiers are asked to watch for and report sightings of egg masses of SLF in the coming weeks, and for nymphs and adults after that.

Inspection of areas and objects near tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), an invasive plant that is common in the Hoosier state, should be a priority because it is the insect's preferred host tree. SLF typically lays its eggs on smooth surfaces, and eggs may be in sheltered locations or in crevices on trees, rocks, fences, or other outdoor objects, which is part of the challenge of detecting them.

Egg masses are irregularly shaped and about 1 to 1 1/2 inches long. The individual eggs resemble wheat kernels strung together in several rows. After laying eggs,

Don't wait on Poison Hemlock control

Over the past few years everyone seems to be talking about Poison Hemlock. This invasive and noxious weed is so problematic that in 2022 the Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Dubois County Weed Board even partnered together on a Poison Hemlock outreach campaign that included educational videos, ads, public service announcements, and mailings to Dubois County Landowners. And they plan to continue this outreach with the hope that landowners don't let up when it comes to getting Poison Hemlock under control.

You've probably seen Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) on the sides of roads, field edges, and creeks. It is classified as an invasive plant and a noxious weed, in part because it is highly toxic to humans and livestock if ingested. The rapid spread of this noxious weed in the area has shown that more landowners need to be aware of this threat, and the right way to deal with it.

According to Emily Finch, Invasive Species Specialist with the Dubois County SWCD, while several landowners try to manage Poison Hemlock, not all of these efforts are effective in controlling it. That's because Hemlock needs to be controlled earlier in the year before plants even flower. To understand why, you have to understand the weed.

Poison Hemlock is a biennial, meaning it only lives for two years before producing seed and dying. The only way to eliminate infestations is to prevent seed production. Hemlock plants start as a short basal rosette with fern-like leaves. Then, in their second year of life, plants will send up a flowering stem, also called bolting, in spring/early summer (around May/June in southern Indiana). These flowering plants can be quite large, anywhere from 3 to 10 feet tall. Because Hemlock is in the carrot family, it produces abundant umbrella-shaped clusters of white flowers, often compared to the flowers of Queen Anne's Lace, aka wild carrot. To help distinguish the plants, remember that Hemlock blooms before Queen Anne's lace, lacks any hairs on its stems/leaves (a common feature of Queen Anne's Lace), and has distinctive purple splotches on its stems and often the base of large leaves as well.

There are a few options to control Poison Hemlock, so long as plants are not allowed to flower and produce seed. In fact, Hemlock seeds have a very short duration in the soil, and many populations can be eradicated with just a few years of effective treatments (a short

the female deposits a protective coating over them that resembles silly putty. As this coating dries and is exposed to the elements it begins to crack and takes on the appearance of dried mud. There can be 30 to 50 eggs in each egg mass.

Nymphs and adults tend to cluster at the base of trees or lower trunk during the day and are more active at dusk or early evening. Infested trees can show significant deposits of honeydew and sooty mold around the base of the tree to the point where the base and surrounding ground may appear black. Tree sap oozing from wounds on trees and the honeydew may attract ants, bees, and wasps.

Hoosiers are also asked to inspect any articles such as logs, firewood, other tree parts, decorative grapevines, any other outdoor household articles, and vehicles coming from Switzerland County, Huntington, or any other area identified as having an infestation.

Immediately report all suspected findings to 866-NO EXOTIC ((866) 663-9684) or DEPP@dnr.IN.gov, providing, at a minimum, the county of the find and contact information so DEPP staff can follow up.

More information is at on.IN.gov/spot-ter-lanternfly.



A small patch of flowering Poison Hemlock, photo taken in Martin County.

timeframe for most weed control). Small populations can be removed by hand, either digging the plants up or severing the root with a sharp shovel (wear gloves to avoid contact with plant toxins). Cutting/mowing the plants is NOT effective unless repeated regularly through the summer as plants will resprout readily. In fact, mowing after plants have produced seed is one way infestations have spread through the area. Herbicides are the most efficient way to control large areas, and several chemicals are effective, including glyphosate, or triclopyr and 2,4-D products (which unlike glyphosate have the benefit of not harming grasses). All of these options also are available in aquatic safe formulations for use near open water creeks and ditches. Whatever product you choose, make sure to read and follow all label directions.

According to Finch, the earlier you can spray Hemlock, the better!

"Spring planting is a busy time for everyone, so why not avoid that and spray your hemlock plants in February or March instead? The Hemlock rosettes are green that time of year, plus the plants are smaller so you'll use less herbicide," says Finch. For the best results, she suggests only spraying on days above 50 degrees.

Wait longer and you may run into problems. As Hemlock plants start bolting and prepare to flower, they also get harder to kill. If herbicide rates aren't increased when spraying these plants, they may only be knocked back or stunted temporarily. And according to Kenny Eck with Purdue Extension Dubois County, once they flower there is no point in spraying them.

"Spraying a flowering Hemlock plant is just a revenge killing. It makes you feel good, but it does nothing to control it as it will still go to seed," says Eck. He recommends checking out options in the Purdue Extension/SICWMA publication "Poison Hemlock." This publication, along with more resources on identifying and controlling Hemlock, is available at www.duboisswcd.org.

Looking for support or technical assistance in controlling Poison Hemlock? Try contacting your local Soil & Water Conservation District (<https://wordpress.iaswcd.org/contact-your-local-swcd/>). Several area SWCDs have an Invasive Species or Resource Specialist that can provide free site visits and technical assistance about Poison Hemlock Control.

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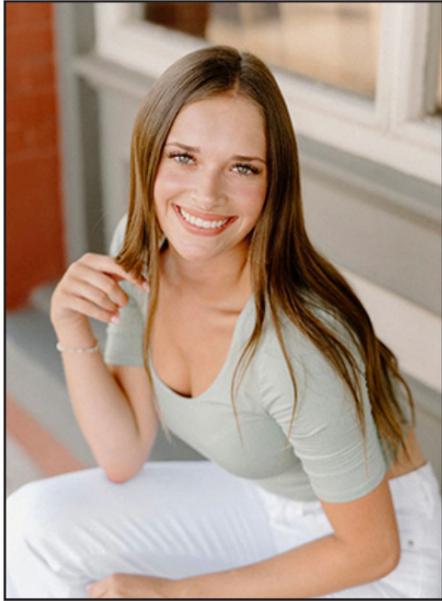
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LOOGOOTEE HIGH SCHOOL



2023 Senior SPOTLIGHTS



ASHLEY NAIL

Ashley Nicole Nail is the daughter of Michelle Grace and Eric Nail. After graduation, Ashley plans to attend the University of Southern Indiana to study Elementary Education. While in high school, Ashley participated in FCA (9), Beta Club (9-12), Cadet Teaching (11-12), and Yearbook (9). Ashley also participated in Cross Country (9) and Volleyball Manager (9).



TOMMY MORRISON

Tommy Richard Morrison is the son of Revree and Tom Morrison. After graduation, Tommy plans to enter the workforce. While in high school, Tommy participated in Intern (10-12), Cadet Teaching (11-12), and Job Shadow (9-12).



BRIDGET LIKE

Bridget Rain Like is the daughter of Erin and Terry Like. After graduation, Bridget plans to attend Vincennes University to study Marine Biology and Zoology. While in high school, Bridget participated in Band (9-12), Lionettes (12), Recycling (9), SADD (11), Cadet Teaching (11-12), and Student Council (11-12).



KORTNI RUMBLE

Kortni D Rumble is the daughter of Dustin and Rhonda Rumble. After graduation, Kortni plans to attend VUJC. While in high school, she participated in Intern (12), Beta Club (9-12), FFA (9-12), Cadet Teach (10-12), Softball (9-12), FFA Sentinel (9), FFA Secretary (10), FFA Vice-president (11) and FFA President (12).



SHAWNA MASON

Shawna S. Mason is the daughter of Melissa Brown and Ben Mason. After graduation, Shawna plans to attend Ball State University to study Architecture. While in high school, Shawna participated in Musical (10-12), Beta Club (9-12), Choir (9 and 12), Yearbook (9), and Show Choir (9-12).



DAWN KROHN

Sunni Dawn Krohn is the daughter of Desra Ahrens and Jared Chapman. After graduation she plans to attend Transylvania University to study art education. While in high school she participated in the musical (11-12), chorus (11-12), yearbook (12), and show choir (11-12).

Lady Lions Tennis kick off season, stand at 4-2

The Loogootee High School Varsity Girls' Tennis Team defeated Forest Park on Monday, April 10, 3-2. The junior varsity lost 2-4. The varsity stands at 4-2 on the season.

Varsity results

#1 Singles Kieragen Napier (L) defeated Kenzie Schulz 6-4, 6-3

#2 Singles Caitlin Carrico (L) defeated Addison Schneider 6-2, 6-3

#3 Singles Ali Wahl (P) defeated Marley McAtee 6-1, 6-0

#1 Doubles Avari Schneider/Kaylee Berg (FP) defeated Ana Toy/Addy Lengacher 6-3, 6-3

#2 Doubles Abbey Fischer/Macy Knepp (L) defeated Jalynn Egloff/Ashlynn Dilger 6-2, 6-3

Junior varsity results

#1 Singles Emma LaGrange (FP) defeated Brooklyn Knepp 6-0

#1 Doubles Carrington Persohn/Rayven Meyer (FP) defeated Linsey England/Izzy Smith 6-5

#2 Doubles Ashlynn Gilbert/Kamila Wilson (L) defeated Abby Sermersheim/Olivia Bell 6-5

#3 Doubles Mariah Schaefer/Nora Welp (FP) defeated Brooklyn Knepp/Britta Browder 6-1

#4 Doubles Anna Jahn/Bree Morrison (FP) defeated Ashlynn Gilbert/Kamila Wilson 6-5

#5 Doubles Linsey England/Izzy Smith (L) defeated Abbagail Collignon/Haley Pund 6-2

This past Saturday, the varsity Lady Lions were defeated in the LHS Invitational by Gibson Southern 0-5. The girls did win the semi-final match against Bloomfield, 4-1.

"Though we didn't win the invitational, this was a good day of tennis for us. We competed hard and are starting to develop good chemistry in doubles. This was our 4th match in 3 days, and we didn't have the legs against a good Gibson Southern team," said Coach Tippery.

Finals results

#1 Singles Gracia Jones (GS) defeated Kieragen Napier 6-4, 6-1

#2 Singles Sydney Purcell (GS) defeated Caitlin Carrico 6-4, 6-3

#3 Singles Lilly Schmitt (GS) defeated Marley McAtee 6-0, 6-0

#1 Doubles Lillie Booth/Gabby Smitha (GS) defeated Ana Toy/Addy Lengacher 6-3, 6-4

#2 Doubles Emilee Bullock/Emily Holzmeyer (GS) defeated Abbey Fischer/Macy Knepp 6-3, 6-2

Semi-finals results

#1 Singles Kieragen Napier (L) defeated Adalyn Wiseman 6-1, 6-0

#2 Singles Caitlin Carrico (L) defeated Lucy Allen 6-2, 6-4

#3 Singles Adalyn Figg (B) defeated Marley McAtee 6-3, 6-3

#1 Doubles Ana Toy/Addy Lengacher (L) defeated Amya Hilderbrand/Lydia Wade 6-1, 6-0

#2 Doubles Abbey Fischer/Macy Knepp (L) defeated Sadie Ross/Maddie Stone 6-3, 6-2

Last Friday, the Lady Lions varsity team defeated North Daviess 4-1. The junior varsity lost 0-3.

Varsity results

#1 Singles Kieragen Napier (L) defeated Reagan Knepp 6-1, 6-2

#2 Singles Caitlin Carrico (L) defeated Amaya McBride 6-4, 6-2

#3 Singles Emma Sargent (ND) defeated Marley McAtee 6-0, 6-0

#1 Doubles Ana Toy/Addy Lengacher (L) defeated Gracelyn Byrer/Mea Dalrymple 2-6, 6-2, 6-3

#2 Doubles Abbey Fischer/Macy Knepp (L) defeated Elaina Morgan/Bella Laughlin 7-5, 6-3

Junior varsity results

#1 Singles Macy Alderson (ND) defeated Linsey England 8-1

#1 Doubles Austyn Miller/Perla Garcia-Mejia (ND) defeated Kamila Wilson/Brooklyn Knepp 8-1

#2 Doubles Jayden Morris/Chloe Saladin (ND) defeated Britta Browder/Ashlynn Gilbert 8-4

Last week, South Knox defeated the varsity Lady Lions, 5-0 and the junior varsity 7-0.

"Kieragen and Caitlin played well at times in their matches. Both Cunningham and Hayden were able to capitalize at key points in their matches to get those wins. South Knox has a well-balanced team that is pretty strong at all five positions," said Coach Tippery.

Varsity results

#1 Singles Abby Cunningham (SK) defeated Kieragen Napier 7-5, 6-4

#2 Singles Alli Hayden (SK) defeated Caitlin Carrico 6-1, 7-6 (3)

#3 Singles Grace Arnold (SK) defeated Abbey Fischer 6-0, 6-0

#1 Doubles Graceanna Cramer/Anna Provines (SK) defeated Ana Toy/Addy Lengacher 6-1, 6-2

#2 Doubles Caroline Beard/Grace Carrie (SK) defeated Marley McAtee/Macy Knepp 6-2, 6-0

Junior varsity results

#1 Singles Kinley Beard (SK) defeated Brooklyn Knepp 6-0

#2 Singles Emily Dreimen (SK) defeated Kamila Wilson 6-2

#3 Singles Eliza Delinger (SK) defeated Brooklyn Knepp 6-0

#4 Singles Halle Carmean (SK) defeated Brooklyn Knepp 7-5

#5 Singles Elaina Cramer (SK) defeated Kamila Wilson 6-0

#1 Doubles Emma Whaley/Meredith Hays (SK) defeated Linsey England/Ashlynn Gilbert 6-2

#2 Doubles Mia Candler/Hannah Knowy (SK) defeated Linsey England/Ashlynn Gilbert 6-0

Last Tuesday, April 6, Loogootee defeated Linton. The varsity brought home the 3-2 win and the junior varsity won 5-2.

"It is always nice to open the season with a win. Kieragen and Caitlin got us off to a good start with solid performances at 1 and 2 singles. Ana and Addy sealed the win for us at #1 doubles. Overall, I was pleased with the effort at both the varsity and JV level," said Coach Tippery.

Varsity results

#1 Singles Kieragen Napier (LHS) defeated Abigail Roney 6-0, 6-1

#2 Singles Caitlin Carrico (LHS) defeated Cassidy Goodman 6-1, 6-1

#3 Singles Kallie Rice (L) defeated Abbey Fischer 6-3, 6-2

#1 Doubles Ana Toy/Addy Lengacher (LHS) defeated Natalie Brunson/Corinna Brown 6-2, 6-4

#2 Doubles Marena Lanham/Hanna Bredeweg (L) defeated Marley McAtee/Macy Knepp (L) 7-6, (4), 6-3

Junior varsity results

#1 Singles Brooklyn Knepp (LHS) defeated Lilly Moralez 8-7

#2 Singles Grace Bredeweg (L) defeated Britta Browder 6-0

#3 Singles Izzy Smith (LHS) defeated Grace Bredeweg 6-0

#4 Singles Irelynn Mason (L) defeated Brooklyn Knepp 6-4

#1 Doubles Izzy Smith/Linsey England (LHS) defeated Neely Brown/Avry Gamble 8-5

#2 Doubles Kamila Wilson/Ashlynn Gilbert (LHS) defeated Molly Gibson/Shaylie Killion 9-5

#3 Doubles Linsey England/Ashlynn Gibler (LHS) defeated Ava Wilkes/Robin Palmer 6-1