

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 11, Issue 17

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

Eight pages



Mother Red-tailed Hawk *-Photo by Bill Whorrall*

Red-tailed Hawks are large, sharp-taloned birds that can be aggressive when defending nests or territories. They frequently chase off other hawks, eagles, and Great Horned Owls. Mated pairs typically stay together until one of the pair dies. According to photographer Bill Whorrall, the mother hawk shown above has used this nest before to care for her babies, just refurbished it a bit.

Shoals Town Council purchases two new vehicles, street sign

The Shoals Town Council met Monday April 13. Those in attendance were Council President Cecil Ragsdale and Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge. Those who attended electronically were Council Vice President Cary D. Albright, Council Member Clint Hoffman, Town Attorney Dave Lett, Town Marshal Todd Eckert, Deputy Clerk Amanda Sorrells, Shoals Fire Chief Jim Hamby, Municipal Utilities Manager Kevin Crecelius, and Kathy Collins.

Councilman Albright stated he was tasked with investigating and obtaining bids for the purchase of two new vehicles for the utility and street departments. Upon review of the three bids obtained, Councilman Albright stated he would like to motion to purchase a 2020 four-wheel drive Ford truck from Bill Dobson Ford with a lease option in the amount of \$22,167 for the utilities department. Councilman Hoffman made the second and all were in favor. Next Councilman Albright made a motion to purchase a two-wheel drive 2020 Ford truck with a lease option from Bill Dobson Ford in the amount of \$19,709 for the street and cemetery department. Councilman Hoffman made the second and all were in favor.

Councilman Hoffman requested street identification signs be placed on the corner of 5th and Main Street as a citizen had approached him with the request. The resident is having issues getting packages delivered. Councilman Albright made a motion to accept the request and placement of the signs with Councilman Ragsdale making the second. All were in favor.

Councilman Albright asked about the "Welcome to Shoals" sign at the Overlook that had been taken down by the storm last week. Rutledge stated she

would contact the Lions Club as they own the sign.

Kathy Collins stated the community (See 'COUNCIL' on page two)



Voter registration closes May 5; absentee voting starts Tuesday, May 26

The 2020 Primary Election that was scheduled for May 5, 2020 has been postponed until June 2, 2020 by order of Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb. Because the Primary was moved back, voter registration will close on May 4, 2020. Please make sure you are properly registered by May 4, 2020. You can call the Martin County Clerk's office at 812-247-3651 or go to www.Indianavoters.com to check status of your registration.

You must have a photo ID to match your registration address in order to vote. In-office absentee voting that was scheduled to begin April 7, 2020 will not start until May 26, 2020 and end June 1, 2020. This means there will be less than one week of in-person absentee voting. Times will be determined by the Martin County Election Board. You can request an application to vote by mail at any time by calling the clerk's office at 812-247-3651. The last day to send out an absentee ballot by mail is Thursday May 21, 2020.

The clerk's office will be looking for poll workers. Anybody interested in being a poll worker can contact the Martin County Clerk's Office 812-247-3651.

Commissioners discuss insurance, jail staff

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners met Tuesday, April 21.

Dave Welsh, with German American, talked to the commissioners about the various insurances he handles for the county. On vehicle insurance, Welsh said that there have been some high claims, therefore the premiums increased by \$11,991 to \$119,579. This also includes adding a new vehicle to the policy. This is for all departments. Welsh said that Martin County had a very low deductible compared to other counties, so he increased the comprehensive/collision deductible from \$500 to \$1,000. This helped keep the premium increases to a minimum.

The county's property insurance saw the standard one percent inflation guard increase. Welsh said he needs to get an updated list of equipment from the highway de-

partment, to better inventory what is owned.

Welsh said that since he took over the worker's compensation policy in 2018, he has implemented safety meetings which helped get the mod rate down. Due to a \$48,400 claim that was submitted 11 days prior to the last renewal, the mod rate will be going back up next year. Welsh said that accidents happen, but this large claim unfortunately bumped the mod rate up substantially when it was going down. The worker's compensation mod rate is on a three-year rolling average so it will take three years before the high claim drops off.

Welsh asked the commissioners if they wanted him to look into putting the policies out on the market next year. The county currently works with Downey Insurance, EMC and IPEP and has for many years. Welsh told the commissioners that they have the option of looking around to find the best (See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page two)

Indiana stay-at-home order extended through May 1

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb's stay-at-home order, to slow the spread of COVID-19, has been extended to 11:59 p.m. on May 1. Residents are required to stay home unless they must leave for work, get medical care, or purchase essential household items. Anyone who must go out is advised to stay at least six feet away from others and wear face masks. Some businesses have been allowed to open back up, including greenhouses, garden stores and pet groomers. Some elective medical procedures will be evaluated to be allowed again after April 26, according to the governor's executive order.

As of publication time today, Lawrence County has had 83 positive cases of COVID-19 with nine deaths, Dubois County has had 16 positive cases of COVID-19, Daviess County has had 38 cases with six deaths, and Martin County has had six positive cases.

Main symptoms of COVID-19 include shortness of breath, coughing and fever.

The following are resources for Martin County residents who need food or financial assistance.

Greater Works Food Pantry/Hickory Ridge Church-each Monday from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Contact-Darrin Hovis -812-247-3777

The River Church Food Pantry-the 4th Wednesday of the month from 4:30 p.m. (See 'COVID-19' on page two)

Martin County jobless rate at 2.7 percent for March

Martin County's unemployment rate bumped from 2.5 percent in February to 2.7 percent in March. The county had the 10th lowest jobless rate in the state for March, tied with Clinton, Daviess, Posey, and Johnson counties.

In March, the county had 5,189 residents in the workforce and 140 of them were unemployed. In February, there were 5,363 residents able to work and 132 of them were without jobs. In March of 2019, Martin County's unemployment rate was 3 percent with 5,328 residents in the workforce and 160 of them were unemployed.

Daviess County's unemployment rate dipped down just slightly to 2.8 percent in March, down from 2.7 percent the month before. The county had the 10th lowest jobless rate in the state for March, tied with Clinton, Martin, Posey and Johnson counties. In March, the county had 16,219 residents in the workforce and 443 of them were unemployed. In February, there were 16,705 residents able to work and 461 of them without jobs. In March of last year, Daviess County's

unemployment rate was 2.8 percent with 16,722 residents in the workforce and 462 of them were unemployed.

(See 'JOBLESS RATE' on page 3)

Roush resigning as director of solid waste

The Martin County Solid Waste District will conduct a special meeting Wednesday, April 22 at 6 p.m. at the Loogootee Recycling Center to discuss and make plans for interim direction of the Solid Waste District upon the resignation of Director January Roush, effective May 8, 2020.

The public is invited to attend. The SWMD Board shall impose reasonable restrictions on the number of attendees to control audience density in consideration of the existing COVID-19 national emergency.

The SWMD Board will provide electronic access to all parties through ZOOM. Parties interested in participating in the meeting electronically must contact the director of recycling prior to the meeting to arrange for electronic access. The director's telephone number is (812) 709-0953.

COVID-19

(Continued from page one)

to 5:30 p.m. or by appointment. Contact-812-709-8628

The Blessing Box-905 West Broadway, Loogootee. Filled weekly. Contact Michael Holt 812-631-3550

Loogootee United Methodist Church Food Pantry-the 1st Monday evening from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. and each Thursday except the 4th Thursday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact-Martha Greene 812-295-3049

St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry-the 4th Thursday of each month from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Contact-Nancy Ward Smith 812-295-3662

Township Trustees:

Center-Ann Stewart Phone: 812-388-7185; Office address-13799 Rama Dye Road, Shoals, IN 47581

Halbert-Exzelia Montgomery Phone:

812-709-2434; Office Address-11545 Hill-top Honey Road, Shoals, IN 47581

Lost River-Millie Brown Phone: 812-247-3490; Office Address-6490 Brown Lane, Shoals, IN 47581

Mitcheltree-Tammy Gore Phone: 812-388-5612; Office Address-20472 Sipes Road, Shoals, IN 47581

Perry-Jason Hennette Phone: 812-295-3237; Office Address-804 N JFK Ave, Loogootee, IN 47553

Rutherford-Terry Street Phone: 812-644-7949; Office Address-4224 Beard Road, Loogootee, IN 47553

General questions from the public or healthcare provider inquiries about COVID-19 may be directed to the ISDH COVID-19 Call Center at the toll-free number 877-826-0011 (available 24/7) or email epiresource@isdh.in.gov.

COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

premiums possible. Commissioner Paul George said he may be open to that in the future, before next year.

The commissioners agreed to continue with German American as the county's agent of record, effective from April 1.

Public Health Nurse Julia Albright reported that of the six cases of COVID-19 in the county, four of the cases have been released from isolation and the other two have a little while longer in isolation. She encouraged the commissioners to contact her if they ever have any questions.

The commissioners re-approved the county's emergency declaration, which has to be done every seven days, to extend to April 30.

Highway Superintendent Leo Padgett reported that the county received \$341,538.02 in Crane timber money for 2019 sales. Commissioner George said that money will be used for matching funds for the Community Crossings next year. Timber funds go into the highway department.

Padgett asked the commissioners if they wanted some of his crew to get started on mowing. He said he has two or three that will need work to do. The commissioners agreed that it would be a good idea.

Padgett said that the bridge inspection scoring has been completed and HWC Engineering scored the highest. He said it's up

to the commissioners now to start negotiations with the company.

Padgett also told the commissioners that he participated in an online meeting this week and learned that the MVH (Motor Vehicle Highway) funds will be cut 35-40 percent due to low gas prices. The MVH money comes from gas tax. He told the commissioners that this will be tough for the highway department to compensate for that much loss.

The commissioners approved HWC Engineering to proceed with getting bids to do erosion repairs on Brooks Bridge. Tim Hunt, with HWC, said that the county will be responsible for paying for the repairs however he doesn't believe the contractor will need to be paid until the end of July or the first of August. Hunt also asked the commissioners if they would go with him to speak to the landowner next to Brooks Bridge to get a temporary construction easement of his farmland. The commissioners said they would set up a time.

Community Corrections Director Kathy Collins said she is attending a meeting with OCRA on Wednesday for discussion of the \$250,000 emergency relief grant that eSolve Solutions is applying for, for the county. She said there will be follow-up grants after this round and recommended the county keep track of any losses incurred due to COVID-19.

COUNCIL

(Continued from page one)

corrections road crew is currently not operating due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Town Marshal Todd Eckert stated he received a quote for repairs for the damages the police truck received in an accident with a Martin County Sheriff's Department truck. Eckert stated the police truck should only be down for one day fixing the repairs.

Attorney Dave Lett provided a couple updates on properties that have received ordinance 83-4 violations.

Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge offered a reminder for residents to only flush flushable items. Rutledge stated the sewer department has been facing outages and damages due to the flushing of non-flushable items.

Rutledge reminded all council members about their meeting with HWC

Engineering on Tuesday concerning the Master Utility Study Plan.

Rutledge stated she had Attorney Lett look over the anonymous banking survey and he did not foresee any issues with publishing the survey to obtain information needed to provide to banks in discussions that are being had with banking institutions. Council Albright made a motion to publish the banking survey with councilman Hoffman making. All were in favor.

Clerk-Treasurer Rutledge requested the closure to the public be extended to May 1 for the Town Hall to adhere to the governor's recommendations. Councilman Albright made a motion to keep the office closed to the public until May 1 with Councilman Hoffman making the second. All were in favor.

Councilman Albright made a motion for the town to cover the cost for virtual meetings with Councilman Hoffman making the second. All were in favor.

Clerk-Treasurer Rutledge stated the Martin County Community Foundation was offering an emergency relief grant and she would like to apply for the grant to obtain funds to purchase a backup generator for the Town Hall building. Utilities Manager Crecelius stated he is in need of portable generators as well for the lift stations and wells. The council supported Rutledge applying for the grant.






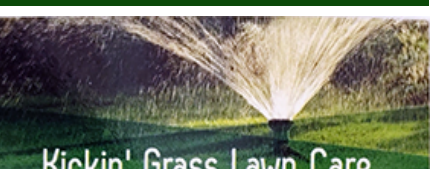
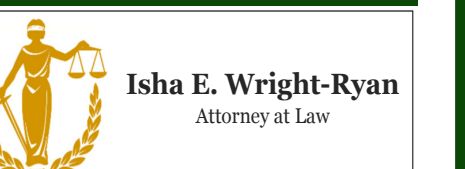
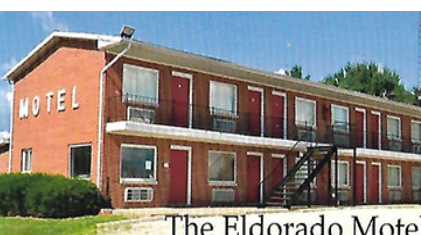






Kathy Collins stated she would like to thank Rutledge, Hamby and Ragsdale for attending the Martin County Coronavirus Task Force meetings and that there is a grant the county is working on for COVID-19 relief needs.

Council Member Cecil Ragsdale requested that Utilities Manager Crecelius obtain information concerning the town-owned backhoe.

Clerk-Treasurer Ragsdale stated a new quote for repair of the dump truck bed has increased to \$3,200 and that the quote for a total replacement was \$7,500. Councilman Albright made a motion to accept the quote from Meyer Truck Equipment in the amount of \$7,500 for the new bed with Councilman Hoffman making the second. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11 at 6 p.m.

At Your Service Local Professionals Here To Serve You!

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<p>INSURANCE</p>  <p>Kerns INSURANCE T. Edward Kerns - Owner/Agent edkerns@kernsinsurance.com / (812) 709-9737 Office: (812) 295-9737 / Fax: (812) 295-5111 122 Church Street Loogootee, IN 47553 www.kernsinsurance.com</p>	<p>AVAILABLE SPACE</p> <p>Advertise here for just \$25 a month!</p> <p>Email courtney@martincountyjournal.com</p>	<p>LAWN CARE</p>  <p>Kickin' Grass Lawn Care Loogootee, Indiana Trenton Scott 812-675-2882 Owner/Operator trentq355@gmail.com Find us on Facebook at Kickin' Grass Lawn Care</p>	<p>LAWYER</p>  <p>Isha E. Wright-Ryan Attorney at Law A Professional Corporation Telephone: 812-295-1096 200 John F. Kennedy Avenue Fax: 260-408-1760 P.O. Box 398 ishawrightryan@gmail.com Loogootee, IN 47553 www.ishalaw.com</p>
<p>LODGING</p>  <p>The Eldorado Motel 812-295-3637 Loogootee, IN</p>	<p>PHYSICIAN</p>  <p>Daviness-Martin Medical Clinic David Nibel, MD Daniell Summers, FNP Lab & X-ray Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm  Call us today for an appointment! 812-295-5095</p>	<p>REALTOR</p>  <p>MIDWEST REALTY ALLIE JONES, REALTOR® Mobile: 1-812-709-0418 realestateallie@outlook.com   1704 E National Hwy PO Box 681 Washington, IN 47501 Office: 1-812-254-3918</p>	<p>TRASH PICK-UP</p>  <p>KRB Disposal Pickup household trash weekly NOW serving Martin & Daviness counties 812-247-3115 or 812-247-3604</p>

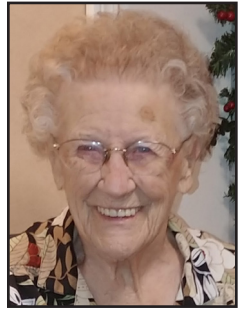
OBITUARIES

MARJORIE SUE WARREN

Marjorie Sue Warren, formerly of rural Loogootee, died on Thursday, April 16, 2020 at Pennington Gardens Assisted Living Facility, Chandler, Arizona. A resident of Arizona, she was 91.

Sue was born December 22, 1928 at Saint Ann's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois; the daughter of George Franklin and May (Poindexter) Franklin. She was raised in Chicago and married Richard Warren in Shoals on January 1, 1950.

They farmed in rural Loogootee until December 1960 when the family moved



MARJORIE WARREN

to Casa Grande, Arizona and Richard began work as a farm equipment mechanic for Bingham Equipment Company. During their time in Casa Grande, Sue worked as a cashier for Basha's Food Store.

Due to a job transfer for Richard, the family moved to Yuma, Arizona in 1964. Sue worked as a cashier for Big City Mart and Central Market in Yuma for a time.

Later, she was hired by Safeway Grocery as a cashier and eventually served as Customer Service Representative and Store Bookkeeper, retiring from Safeway in 1983 after nearly 20 years of service. They moved to Cottonwood, Arizona in 1983 and Richard retired from Bingham Equipment Company in 1985. They moved back to Richard's birth home in

rural Loogootee in 1985. After Richard's death in 2003, Sue spent summers in Shoals and winters in Gilbert, Arizona with her daughter, Marilyn and moved permanently to Mesa, Arizona in 2011.

Sue loved to sing. She and her sister, Georgia Mae ("Sissy"), recorded an advertising jingle for Jewel Food Stores of Chicago shortly after high school. She was a member of Eastern Star and sang at her own wedding. During the 1950's, she was a member of the choir at the First Christian Church in Shoals and often sang solos there. She loved bowling and baking. Many loaves of homemade bread were happily shared with neighbors and family over the years.

Sue is survived by her four children,

Clifford (Susan) of Loogootee, Marilyn (Kim) Yale of Gilbert, Arizona; Mary (Rick) Rice of Yuma, Arizona; and Dwight (Ruth) of Yuma, Arizona; five grandchildren; two great grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, Carl ("Buzz") and Jan Franklin of Branson, Missouri and sister-in-law, Doris Healey of Greenwood.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard; and her sister, Georgia Mae.

Private services will be held for the family with burial in the Spring Hill Cemetery in Shoals.

Arrangements are entrusted to the Queen-Lee Chapel of the Thorne-George Family Funeral Homes in Shoals.

JOBLESS RATE

(Continued from page one)

Dubois County's unemployment rate went unchanged from February to March, standing at 2.4 percent. The county had the lowest jobless rate in the state for March, tied with Hamilton County.

In March, the county had 22,196 residents in the workforce with 533 of them unemployed. In February, there were 22,932 residents able to work and 559 of them without jobs. In March of 2019, Dubois County's unemployment rate was 2.6 percent with 23,103 residents in the workforce and 611 of them were unemployed.

Greene County's unemployment rate remained at 4.5 percent for March. The county had the eighth highest jobless rate in the state for March, tied with LaPorte and Sullivan counties. In March, the county had 13,228 residents in the workforce and 592 of them were unemployed. In February, there were 13,756 residents able to work and 621 of them are without jobs. In March of 2019, Greene County's jobless rate was 5 percent with 13,906 residents in the workforce and 692 of them were unemployed.

The top ten spots in the state for lowest jobless rate for March were Hamilton and Dubois counties at 2.4 percent, Steuben, LaGrange, Boone and Bartholomew counties at 2.5 percent; Jackson, Hen-

dricks and Gibson counties at 2.6 percent; and Martin, Daviess, Posey, Johnson and Clinton counties at 2.7 percent.

The top ten spots in the state for highest jobless rate for March were Lake County at 5.3 percent, Vermillion County at 5.2 percent, Newton and Starke counties at 4.9 percent, Fayette County at 4.8 percent, Crawford County at 4.7 percent, Jasper County at 4.6 percent, and LaPorte, Greene, and Sullivan counties at 4.5 percent.

Indiana's unemployment rate stands at 3.2 percent for March and remains lower than the national rate of 4.4 percent. The monthly unemployment rate is a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicator that reflects the number of unemployed people seeking employment within the prior four weeks as a percentage of the labor force.

Indiana's labor force had a net decrease of 119,073 over the previous month. This was a result of a decrease of 391 unemployed residents and a decrease of 118,682 employed residents. Indiana's total labor force, which includes both Hoosiers employed and those seeking employment, stands at 3.27 million, and the state's 62.2 percent labor force participation rate is below the national rate of 62.7 percent.

Learn more about how unemployment rates are calculated here: <http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov/infographics/employment-status.asp>.

Employment by Sector

Private sector employment has decreased by 17,800 over the year and by 18,700 over the previous month. The monthly decrease is primarily due to losses in the Leisure and Hospitality (-7,400), the Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-4,200) and the Manufacturing (-2,600) sectors. Total private employment stands at 2,727,300, which is 22,000 below the January 2019 peak.

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Email courtney@martincountyjournal.com

Making A Difference

-- MCCF SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO APRIL 30 --

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MCCF scholarships deadline has been extended to April 30.

Below are the scholarships provided to our Martin County seniors who are pursuing higher education. Some are specific to the Loogootee High School, some to the Shoals High School, and some reach out to all Martin County seniors and/or residents. Here are summaries for each scholarship, which are for graduating seniors unless otherwise specified.

-- LOOGOOTE HIGH SCHOOL --

- Ann Jones Burch Tennis (Two \$1,000)
A scholarship to both a boy and a girl student has a commitment to tennis, has participated in other school activities, and shown that they are a good citizen, well rounded and civic minded.

- Ben Trout Memorial Student Athlete (\$2,000)

Earned an academic honors degree and a varsity athletic letter. Shows outstanding mental attitude, team spirit and sportsmanship.

- Gerdon Jones Memorial (\$2,595)

Participated in high school athletics and showed improved skills. Displays a positive mental attitude.

- Loogootee Alumni (\$811)

Displays good citizenship, gentleness, easy to speak to, and participates in school activities. Be one of humility, and unwavering belief in the dignity and aspirations of those they touch, commitment to their fellowman and the strength of self-discovery and individual growth.

- Robert Scott Waggner Memorial (\$500) - NEW

Has a good attitude, work ethic and performed well academically. Has participated in sports, extracurricular activities, and/or is an active community or school member and is a supporter of their school and others.

- Saint Vincent de Paul Society (\$1162)

Must have financial need as determined using standard financial need discovery instruments.

- William McGovern II Fund

Provides scholarships to seniors planning to pursue higher education at a college, university or trade school.

-- LHS (SELECTED BY MCCF) --

- Rita and Jack Butcher Loogootee Basketball Family (\$1500)

Has a good attitude, work ethic and performed well academically. Has participated in sports and/or other extracurricular activities.

- Wilma L Bateman Memorial (\$1000)

- NEW

Participated in high school athletics for at least two years. Has shown leadership qualities and been involved in community activities.

-- SHOALS HIGH SCHOOL --

- Faye Shobe Memorial (\$500)

Preference will be given to a student seeking a degree in the field of Elementary Education.

- Saint Vincent de Paul Society (\$1186)

Must have financial need as determined using standard financial need discovery instruments.

-- COUNTY SCHOLARSHIPS (SELECTED BY THE MCCF) --

- George M and Barbara Cropp (\$2500)

- NEW

Graduating seniors from Loogootee and/or Shoals High School must have a GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale). Financial need and/or special circumstances may be a consideration. This scholarship may be renewed subsequent years to the student if criteria are met.

- Terri Sullivan Callaway (\$2407)

For students who transition straight from high school OR for those who have taken ONE OF MORE YEARS BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND HIGHER EDUCATION (known as a "non-traditional" student). Must be a senior graduating from a Martin County high school or a non-traditional student who is a resident of Martin County. Must be a member of a Christian faith church and pursuing the field of nursing. Priority is given to members of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

-- HOW TO APPLY --

The majority of the scholarships are available through the Loogootee and Shoals High School counselors and selected by each school. The exceptions are the Butcher Loogootee Basketball Family, Wilma L Bateman Memorial, George M and Barbara Cropp, and Terry Sullivan Callaway scholarships. These scholarships are selected by the MCCF and are available online at www.cfpartner.org/scholarships

ALL OF THESE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE DUE APRIL 30, 2020.

-- MORE INFORMATION --

For more information about the MCCF, please contact the Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or mccf@cfpartner.org.

You are also welcome to visit our website at www.cfpartner.org, follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MartinCountyCF](https://twitter.com/MartinCountyCF), and "like" the MCCF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mccommunityfoundation.

TOY'S AUTO PARTS, INC.

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

Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, APRIL 13

6:47 a.m. - Received a report of a complaint east of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

9:18 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Major Keller and Martin County EMS responded.

9:30 a.m. - Received a request for traffic assistance. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

10:22 a.m. - Received report of an animal complaint in Loogootee. Advised Animal Control Deputy Hughett.

1:27 p.m. - Received a request for a VIN check.

1:29 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS responded.

3:40 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic altercation in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill, Loogootee Captain Hennette and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

5:25 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Loogootee Fire Department, Major Keller, Deputy Seymour, Deputy Gibson, LPD Captain Hennette and Air Evac responded.

5:35 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Deputy Barnett responded.

6:45 p.m. - Received a report of an animal complaint in Shoals. Advised Animal Control Officer Hughett.

7:32 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle accident north of Loogootee. Deputy Barnett responded.

10:52 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Deputy Barnett, Deputy Lents, Deputy Greene and Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

10:56 p.m. - Received a complaint in Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Police Dispatch.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

7:57 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Major Keller responded.

8:20 a.m. - Received a report of livestock out east of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

8:29 a.m. - Major Keller off station with an inmate for a doctor visit.

9:09 a.m. - Received a report of an animal complaint in Loogootee. Advised Animal Control Officer Hughett.

9:42 a.m. - Received a complaint west of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

10:48 a.m. - Received a report of an animal complaint north of Shoals. Advised Animal Control Officer Hughett.

ARRESTS

MONDAY, APRIL 13

7:35 p.m. - Lee Seacrest, 28, of Quincy, was arrested by Deputy Gibson and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated and operating a vehicle while intoxicated prior. He is being held on a \$25,000 10% bond. Deputy Seymour assisted with the arrest.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

8:08 p.m. - Gary Byrns, 34, of Shoals, was arrested by Shoals Town Marshal Eckert and Deputy Gibson and charged with rape, incest, sexual battery, and neglect of a dependent. He is being held without bond.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

5:53 p.m. - Alan Fellers, 22, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Wells and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He is being held on a \$10,000 10% bond.

12:32 p.m. - Received a report of an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

12:34 p.m. - Received a report of livestock out. Owner and Chief Deputy Greene responded.

1:18 p.m. - Received a report of an animal complaint in Crane. Advised Animal Control Officer Hughett.

3:45 p.m. - Received a request to speak to an officer. Deputy Lents responded.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

1:10 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

1:15 p.m. - Received a request for traffic assistance south of Shoals. Major Keller responded.

5:33 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle accident west of Loogootee. Deputy Lents and Big John's Towing responded.

6:34 p.m. - Received a report of an animal complaint in Loogootee. Advised Animal Control Officer Hughett.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

5:01 a.m. - Received a complaint in Shoals. Sergeant Reed and Deputy Gibson responded.

5:15 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded. No response from Loogootee Fire.

9:50 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

10:35 a.m. - Received a complaint west of Shoals. Deputy Barnett responded.

2:40 p.m. - Received a complaint in Shoals. ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

2:56 p.m. - Received a complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

3:23 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

3:44 p.m. - Received a complaint north of Shoals. Deputy Barnett responded.

5:44 p.m. - Received an animal complaint south of Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett responded.

6:10 p.m. - Received an animal complaint west of Shoals. Advised Animal Control Officer Hughett.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

12:31 a.m. - Received a report of a fire in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Officer Allen responded.

1:46 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Officer Allen responded.

2:00 a.m. - Received a complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Allen and Deputy Seymour responded.

6:39 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

9:20 a.m. - Jail Commander Brulla off station with an inmate for a doctor visit.

9:40 a.m. - Received a report of livestock out south of Shoals. Livestock owners were contacted.

6:07 p.m. - Received a request to speak with an officer. Deputy Barnett responded.

7:34 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident north of Shoals. Deputy Barnett and Animal Control Officer Hughett responded.

10:57 p.m. - Received a complaint in Shoals. Shoals Town Marshal Eckert responded.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

4:05 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle fire east of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Deputy Seymour responded.

7:17 a.m. - Received a request for assistance south of Shoals.

9:15 a.m. - Received an alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

3:59 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

2:01 p.m. - Received a complaint south of Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

4:57 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin

County EMS and Lost River Fire Department responded.

9:04 a.m. - Received a report of livestock out north of Shoals. Deputy Barnett and the owner responded.

3:08 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

8:56 p.m. - Received a request for an officer in Shoals. Sergeant Reed responded.

10:12 p.m. - Received a request for a lift assist south of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department responded.

Martin County real estate transfers

Darren J. Lannan, of Martin County, Indiana to **Phyllis J. Lannan**, of Martin County, Indiana, 1.37 acres, more or less, in Section 36, Township 3 North, Range 5 West.

Joseph D. Hart, of Martin County, Indiana to **Lisa Christine Graham**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, also described as Lots 34 and 35.

Kirk M. Summers and Daniell M. Summers, of Martin County, Indiana to **Dylan R. Wagoner**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 16 in Risacher's Second Addition to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana, and the south one-half of Lot Number 15 in Risacher's

Second Addition to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Aureola S. Wright, of Martin County, Indiana to **Michael Spurgeon**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of Section 29, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, in Halbert Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.14 acres, more or less.

Jeffrey Dale Meyer and Nancy Rose Meyer, of Martin County, Indiana to **Kirk M. Summers and Daniell M. Summers**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 7, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, of the Second Principal Meridian lying in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 3.914 acres, more or less.



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Loogootee Police Department weekly log

MONDAY, APRIL 13

12:29 a.m. - Officer Cummings assisted the county with a domestic dispute.

4:30 a.m. - Male requested extra patrol.

8:10 a.m. - Caller reported a traffic complaint on US 231.

3:40 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on SW 3rd Street.

5:21 p.m. - First responders were requested on West Broadway Street for a medical call.

10:52 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth assisted the ambulance service.

10:56 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious vehicle on Ackerman Drive.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

11:45 a.m. - Male came and requested transient assistance. Male was advised the hotel was closed.

12:32 p.m. - Female reported a dog in the middle of the road. Dog was picked up by the humane society. Owner was later located.

4:30 p.m. - Female caller reported harassment.

10:49 p.m. - Caller requested a welfare check on a male.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

10:25 a.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a business alarm.

2:02 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd removed an object from the roadway.

5:45 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless vehicle on Hwy 50.

8:10 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious

vehicle on US 231.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

5:15 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted the ambulance service.

10:25 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless semi on US 231.

2:56 p.m. - Male requested assistance in removing two people from his residence.

3:23 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident at the CVS drive-thru.

10:45 p.m. - Caller reported a possible intoxicated driver on Hwy 50.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

12:31 a.m. - Loogootee Fire was paged out for a small fire on Walker Street.

1:46 a.m. - Officer Allen assisted on a medical alarm on Cedar Street.

2:00 a.m. - Caller requested a security check on Walnut Street.

COURT NEWS

SMALL CLAIMS COURT New Suits Filed April 1

David M. Cutler vs. Travis Campbell, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Medical of Dubois and against the defendant Janet Stroud in the amount of \$553.06.

National unemployment stood at 4.4 percent for March

Total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 701,000 in March, and the unemployment rate rose to 4.4 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week.

The changes in these measures reflect the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and efforts to contain it. Employment in leisure and hospitality fell by 459,000, mainly in food services and drinking places. Notable declines also occurred in health care and social assistance, professional and business services, retail trade, and construction.

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. Note that the March survey reference periods for both surveys predated many coronavirus-related business and school closures that occurred in the second half of the month.

Household Survey Data

In March, the unemployment rate increased by 0.9 percentage point to 4.4 percent. This is the largest over-the-month increase in the rate since January 1975, when the increase was also 0.9 percentage point. The number of unemployed persons rose by 1.4 million to 7.1 million in March. The sharp increases in these measures reflect the effects of the coronavirus and efforts to contain it.

In March, unemployment rates rose among all major worker groups. The rate was 4.0 percent for adult men, 4.0 percent for adult women, 14.3 percent for teenagers, 4.0 percent for Whites, 6.7 percent for Blacks, 4.1 percent for Asians, and 6.0 percent for Hispanics.

The number of unemployed persons who reported being on temporary layoff more than doubled in March to 1.8 million. The number of permanent job losers increased by 177,000 to 1.5 million.

The number of unemployed persons who were jobless less than 5 weeks increased by 1.5 million in March to 3.5 million, accounting for almost half of the unemployed. The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more), at 1.2 million, was little changed

in March and represented 15.9 percent of the unemployed.

The labor force participation rate, at 62.7 percent, decreased by 0.7 percentage point over the month. Total employment, as measured by the household survey, fell by 3.0 million to 155.8 million, and the employment-population ratio, at 60.0 percent, dropped by 1.1 percentage points over the month.

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons, at 5.8 million, increased by 1.4 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.

In March, 1.4 million persons were marginally attached to the labor force, little changed from the previous month. These individuals were not in the labor force, 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. Discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, numbered 514,000 in March, up by 109,000 from the previous month.

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment fell sharply in March (-701,000), reflecting the effects of the coronavirus and efforts to contain it. About two-thirds of the drop occurred in leisure and hospitality, mainly in food services and drinking places. Notable employment declines also occurred in health care and social assistance, professional and business services, retail trade, and construction. In the prior 12 months, nonfarm employment growth had averaged 196,000 per month.

In March, employment in leisure and hospitality fell by 459,000. Most of the decline occurred in food services and drinking places (-417,000); this employment decline nearly offset gains over the previous 2 years. Employment in the accommodation industry also declined in March (-29,000).

Employment in health care and social assistance fell by 61,000 in March. Health (See 'UNEMPLOYMENT' on page 8)

11:09 a.m. - Received a report of child custody matter.

8:56 p.m. - Caller requested extra patrol.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

9:15 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a business alarm.

2:04 p.m. - Male reported a controlled burn.

4:05 p.m. - First responders were requested on Poplar Street for a medical

call.

9:10 p.m. - Caller reported a broken-down vehicle on US 231.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

6:55 p.m. - Male requested to speak with an officer regarding an issue.

7:48 p.m. - Loogootee Fire was paged out to Burch Estates for the smell of smoke.

10:36 p.m. - Female reported a violation of a protective order.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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NOTICE

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COVID-19**

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Martin County Sheriff's Office is seeking qualified candidates for Deputy and Jail Officer positions

Minimum Requirements:

1. Be a citizen of the United States
2. Be at least 21 years of age
3. Have a high school diploma or GED
4. Have eyesight correctable to 20/20
5. Cannot have any Felony, Battery Misdemeanor or Domestic Violence convictions
6. Pass a written entry-level examination
7. Pass physical examination/agility testing
8. Submit to drug screening, psychological testing and a polygraph/voice stress analysis
9. Possess a valid driver's license from the State of Indiana
10. Submit to being fingerprinted
11. Submit to a character and background investigation, which includes but is not limited to:
 - your previous and current employment
 - your driving record
 - any criminal records
 - interviews conducted with family members and/or friends
12. May be required to appear for a panel interview

Interested candidates can acquire an application at the Martin County Sheriff's Office: 318 Capital Avenue, Shoals, IN 47581 (812) 247-3726.

More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



A cowboy rode into town and stopped at a saloon for a drink. Unfortunately, the locals always had a habit of picking on strangers, which he was.

When he finished his drink, he found his horse had been stolen. He went back into the bar, handily flipped his gun into the air, caught it above his head without even looking and fired a shot into the ceiling.

"Which one of you sidewinders stole my horse?" he yelled with surprising forcefulness.

No one answered. "Alright, I'm gonna have another beer, and if my horse ain't back outside by the time I finish, I'm gonna do what I dun in Texas!"

Some of the locals shifted restlessly. The man, true to his word, had another beer, walked outside, and his horse has been returned to the post. He saddled up and started to ride out of town.

The bartender wandered out of the bar and asked, "Say, partner, before you go... what happened in Texas?"

The cowboy turned back and said, "I had to walk home."

THOUGHTS

*Don't trust atoms, they make up everything.

* I just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap.

*A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday but never remembers her age.

*The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

*Aging gracefully is like the nice way of saying you're slowly looking worse.

Loogootee Water to flush mains

The Loogootee Water Department will be flushing water mains beginning Sunday, April 26 and ending Friday, May 1, 2020. Customers may experience periods of low water pressure and, or cloudy water. It is recommended that you check your water quality before cooking, drinking, or doing laundry. If any problems with your water quality should continue, contact the water office at 812-295-2497 or after 4 p.m. call the Loogootee Police Department at 812-295-2246.

The water department would like to caution drivers and pedestrians to be cautious when utility employees are in the area. Water main flushing through fire hydrants releases large volumes of water at high pressure which can be dangerous and harmful to yourself and water department employees.

*Being an adult is just walking around wondering what you're forgetting.

*Smoking will kill you – bacon will kill you – but smoking bacon will cure it.

*The dinner I was cooking for my family was going to be a surprise, but the fire truck ruined it.

*I entered what I ate today into my new fitness app and it just sent an ambulance to my house.

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.

2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.

3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we still set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.

4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.

5. We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That is love.

6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence, "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember – Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace.

Make someone smile today!
~LETTER TO THE EDITOR~

'God's blessing to all of you'
To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

Due to scheduling concerns with the American Red Cross, the April Beta Club blood drives were held on Thursday, April 16 at the Family Life Center of the Loogootee United Methodist Church. The mission of "saving lives through blood donations" continued as 52 units were collected from our Shoals and Loogootee donors.

Many thanks to the LUMC for providing the alternate location and to Patty, Hadley, Brandy, and Jan for their assistance.

God's blessing to all of you,
Lynn Hawkins,
American Red Cross Volunteer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Loogootee Board of Works meeting

The City of Loogootee Board of Public Works and Safety will meet in executive session to discuss personnel, pursuant to I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2), today, Wednesday, April 22 at 4:30 p.m. in the council meeting room of the municipal building. The executive meeting is closed to the public however a public meeting will be held after.

Food pantry hours

The Loogootee United Methodist Food Pantry will be open the first, second, third and fifth Thursdays of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and also the first Monday of the month from 5-6:30 p.m.

Mental Health Task Force

The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 1-2 p.m. at the Community Learning Center on the Martin County Fairgrounds.

Celebrate Recovery meetings

Celebrate Recovery meetings will be held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Redemption Church in Loogootee. This is a Christ-centered recovery program and anyone is welcome to attend.

Local recovery meetings

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

p.m.

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!

Humane society meetings

The Martin County Humane Society meets quarterly, on the third Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the animal shelter at 507 N Oak Street in Loogootee.

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.

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.



Museum grant

-Photos provided

The Martin County Historical Society recently received an REMC Operation Round Up Grant. This grant provided the historical society the money needed to put in custom wood blinds for the museum downstairs windows. These blinds will help to protect the county's historical artifacts from direct sunlight and cut down on the UV light coming into the museum through the windows. The historical society offers a big thank you to REMC and their Operation Round Up Grant for supporting the society's mission at the museum and investing back into the community. Shown above is the before picture, below is the after.



DON'T MISS: 3 BR in Barr Reeve school district features spacious living room w/fireplace, 1 1/2 baths, front & rear porch, storage building, and 2-car attached garage on .78 acre +/- \$110,000. Call Noel. MLS#202006671

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LOOGOOTEE HIGH SCHOOL 2020 Senior SPOTLIGHTS



2020 Seniors SHOALS HIGH SCHOOL



BETHANY WELKER

Bethany Marie Welker is the daughter of Jamie and Jared Welker. After graduation, Bethany plans to enter the workforce. While in high school, Bethany participated in Band (9-12), Spanish Club (9), Cadet Teaching (11), Job Shadow (10, 12), and Softball (9).



CONNER HEDRICK

Conner Isaac Hedrick is the son of Aaron Hedrick and Maggie Hedrick. After graduation, Conner plans to attend Indiana State University to study professional aviation flight technology. While in high school, Conner participated in Intern (12), Musical (11-12), Chorus (9-11), Pep Club (12), Job Shadow (11), Student Council (11), Class Treasurer (11), Show Choir (9-10), and Jazz Choir (11). Conner also participated in Baseball (9-12), Basketball (9-12), and Tennis (9-10).



BRITTANY POTTS

Brittany Lynn Potts is the daughter of Paula Potts and Brian Potts. After graduation, Brittany plans to attend Vincennes University to study social work. While in high school, Brittany participated in FCA (10-12), Musical (10,12), Right to Life (9, 11-12), Spanish Club (9-12), Beta Club (9-12), Chorus (9), Recycling (9,11-12), Pep Club (11-12), SADD (9-12), Cadet Teaching (12), Student Council (11-12), and Show Choir (10-12). Brittany also participated in Volleyball (9) and Tennis (9-12).



DANIEL GREENE

Daniel R. Greene is the son of Bill and Donna Greene. After graduation, Daniel plans to enter the workforce.



CORI LINDY

Cori Ann Lindy is the daughter of Jeff and Mindy Lindy. After graduation, Cori plans to enter the workforce. While in high school, Cori participated in Chorus (9-11) and Recycling (9-11).



JACKSON FELLERS

Jackson Lane Fellers is the son of Brent and Amy Fellers. After graduation, Jack plans to attend Indiana University to study Computer Science. While in high school, Jack participated in Intramural Basketball (12), Girls Basketball Manager (12), Girls Softball Manager (12), Beta Club (11), Student Council (11-12), Pep Club (11-12), Cadet Teaching (11-12), and Internship (12).



JEREMY WIDDIFIELD

Jeremy Lee Widdifield was born on April 24, 2001 to Ginger Widdifield. While in high school, Jeremy participated in basketball early on. His favorite memory was being able to graduate high school early. After graduation, Jeremy plans to enter the work field.



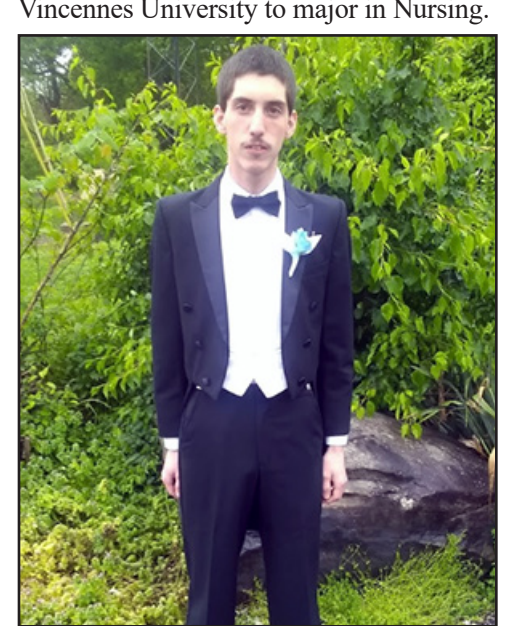
KALEY PAYNE

Kaley Dawn Payne was born on June 14, 2001 to Larry Joe Payne & Brandi Jo Pottorff. While in high school, Kaley participated in cheerleading. Her favorite memory was always being the shy one of her class and then COVID-19 hitting her senior year. After graduation, Kaley plans on attending Vincennes University to major in Nursing.



ISAIAH BAYLIS

Isaiah Wayne Baylis was born on November 2, 2000 to Jayliene Grogan & Jason Baylis. During high school, Isaiah was involved in basketball for 3 years, soccer 1 year, and track 1 year. His favorite memory was winning blue chip in track. After graduation, Isaiah plans to continue working and eventually become a diesel mechanic.



CODY OVERTON

Cody Ray Overton was born on July 12, 2001 to Chris Davis & Victoria Shopher. His favorite memory while being in high school was playing video games and working at the Jay-C store. He is greatly thankful of his parents for ensuring he always had everything that he needed. After graduation, Cody plans on attending the policy academy and becoming a police officer.



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Virtual programs bring State Parks to your home

Instead of working on the frontline at state parks these days, interpretive naturalists are working online.

As a result, at-home “park visitors” who are unable to enjoy state park features interpreters normally provide, like in-person nature hikes and programs, can enjoy virtual hikes, presentations, and live streaming programs from their homes.

Topics include wildflower walks, nature talks, live captive animal feedings, history programs, craft tutorials, pre-school programs, property tours, and more. Program length ranges from five to 50 minutes.

“People’s day-to-day activities have changed, slowed, or stopped altogether because of COVID-19, but nature keeps on moving,” said Ginger Murphy, deputy director for stewardship for Indiana State Parks. “Our interpretive naturalists are dedicated to sharing the outdoors, virtually, to keep Hoosiers engaged and uplifted.”

Upcoming virtual programs can be found at calendar.dnr.IN.gov. Locate



them by typing “Virtual” in the Keyword Search. You can also go to stateparks.IN.gov and click next to the turtle photo on “Find a Virtual Program.” All state parks virtual programs are listed together at stateparks.IN.gov/10352.htm.

Visit your favorite park’s Facebook page to look for videos. Search the page using #VirtualINStatePark, where you can also check out past virtual programs. If you don’t know where to start, search for Brown County State Park and Monroe Lake for examples.

More programs are added every day, so keep checking in.

Know state property restrictions during spring turkey hunting season

Turkey hunters and anyone else visiting or planning to visit an Indiana fish & wildlife area (FWA), state forest property, or lake/reservoir state recreation area will need to be aware that spring turkey season started April 18, and that rules for visiting those respective state properties during turkey season differ.

Turkey hunting is not permitted at Indiana state parks nor on stand-alone nature preserves managed by the Division of Nature Preserves. Locations open for turkey hunting, including property contact information, are listed at on.IN.gov/where2hunt. Unless otherwise specified, the general turkey hunting rules allow hunting 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

Spring turkey hunting season runs from April 18-19 and April 22-May 10. As in previous years, the following rules are in place to help prevent conflicts and possibly unsafe situations between turkey hunters and other property users. Abiding by these rules helps ensure a high-quality and safe outdoor experience for all DNR property users.

FWAs will restrict property hours for visitors during these dates. Only visitors who are turkey hunting or participating in water-based recreation (i.e., fishing, kayaking, boating) away from turkey hunters are allowed to be on FWA property each day of turkey season, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 1 p.m. ET (noon CT). Turkey hunters on FWAs must stop hunting at 1 p.m. ET (noon CT) and be out of the field within the next hour. After 1 p.m. ET (noon CT) each day of turkey season, other property users are allowed to enter the property for other permitted activities, such as nature walks or mushroom hunting.

On state forest properties, hunters and other visitors during turkey season need to be aware that those properties have no restrictions on hunters regarding hunting times. Rather, state forest properties restrict turkey hunters from being in designated safety areas at all times throughout the season. Non-hunters are welcome to use these safety zones while being aware hunters are likely present in other parts of the property.

Lakes/reservoir wildlife management units managed by the DNR Division of State Parks, at Brookville Lake, Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber SRA), Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA), Hardy Lake, Mississinewa Lake, Monroe Lake, Patoka Lake and Salamonie Lake permit turkey hunting.

All of those lakes/reservoirs, except Mississinewa and Salamonie, allow turkey hunting during the hours of 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. Mississinewa and Salamonie, which can only be hunted through a draw, have turkey hunting hours from 30 minutes before sunrise to 1 p.m. ET (noon CT). Non-hunting visitors must be aware that hunters will be present during those times. For more information on overall turkey hunting safety, see wildlife.IN.gov/2710.htm.

Questions on turkey hunting safety should be directed to Capt. Jet Quillen, DNR Law Enforcement, 317-903-1617, jquillen@dnr.IN.gov. Questions about turkey hunting on FWAs should be directed to Tom Despot, 574-896-3522, tspot@dnr.IN.gov. Questions about turkey hunting on state forest properties should be directed to Brad Schneck, 317-232-4101, bschneck@dnr.IN.gov. Questions about turkey hunting on lake/reservoir SRAs should be directed to Anthony Sipes, 317-232-4128, asipes@dnr.IN.gov

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Continued from page 5)
care employment declined by 43,000, with job losses in offices of dentists (-17,000), offices of physicians (-12,000), and offices of other health care practitioners (-7,000). Over the prior 12 months, health care employment had grown by 374,000. In March, social assistance saw an employment decline of 19,000, reflecting a job loss in child day care services (-19,000). Over the prior 12 months, social assistance added 193,000 jobs.

Employment in professional and business services decreased by 52,000 in March, with the decline concentrated in temporary help services (-50,000). Employment also decreased in travel arrangement and reservation services (-7,000).

In March, employment in retail trade declined by 46,000. Job losses occurred in clothing and clothing accessories stores (-16,000); furniture stores (-10,000); and sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores (-9,000). General merchandise stores gained 10,000 jobs.

Employment decreased over the month in construction (-29,000). In March, nonresidential building (-11,000) and heavy and civil engineering construction (-10,000) lost jobs. Construction employ-



Two observances this week will celebrate things dear to the hearts of most gardeners. Wednesday, April 22 will be the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day. In Indiana, Friday will be Arbor Day.

Earth day reminds us to be good stewards of the earth. Although many people try to politicize the day, I think more would be accomplished just by remembering on this day that we all share this remarkable planet and that God entrusted us to take care of it. Gardeners are, in general, good stewards of the earth, but we must be alert to practices that may damage the eco-system. In general, I urge all gardeners to practice sustainable gardening. Think twice before resorting to chemicals to control insects and disease. Look for more eco-friendly solutions. Sometimes, such solutions may actually be more effective than the chemicals.

Probably the best way to be sustainable is to do one’s best to keep the garden healthy. Healthy plants are not as likely to be attacked by disease and insects. To have healthy plants, choose the plants carefully. Whether in the vegetable garden or in the landscape, it is best to use plants that perform well in the conditions found in your garden. Get out and really get to know your garden. If there are places where the soil is usually damp, find plants that like to live in damp sites. It would not be smart to plant a succulent plant in a swamp. Yes, there are ways to create the environment needed for a plant, but, in general, one is more successful when one does not try to fight nature. While I am not a complete organic gardener, I do try to use the least harmful method to raise my food and flowers. If we keep the garden lush and growing well, we will see less disease and insects are not apt to damage the plants greatly. To do this, give the plants what they want. I find that the best way to do that is to be generous with compost. Compost improves the soil and also provides food for the plants. It may be the best symbol

for Earth Day.

Arbor Day is celebrated on different dates in different states. The celebrations are timed to when conditions are most favorable for planting trees. In Indiana, Arbor Day 2020 will be on Friday, April 24. Planting a tree may be one of the most optimistic acts one can do. In many cases, the trees we plant today will mature and be enjoyed by another generation. Trees provide many benefits to the world. They are likely the best oxygen produces on earth. They provide shade that cools and saves us a lot of money on electricity bills during summer months.

The best way to celebrate Arbor Day is by planting a tree. As with all plants, choose a tree that fits your site. Look around. Get to know the trees you are considering. Look at the information on the mature size the tree will achieve. Do you have room for the tree? Will it interfere with utility wires? Make sure you are planting far enough away from the house or other structures. Will the roots interfere with sewer or water lines? It is always better to ask these questions before planting than to have problems years down the road. You will be living with the tree you choose for many years, so make sure it is a good fit.

Dig a hole that is as deep as the root ball and twice as wide. Experts no longer advocate amending the soil, as you may create a vase effect, discouraging the roots from extending into the surrounding soil. Instead, backfill around the tree, being careful not to get the soil above the flare, where the roots meet the trunk. Put a layer of organic mulch around the tree but keeping it back from the trunk. Do NOT create a mulch volcano, with mulch mounded around the tree. This invites rotting a rodent damage.

If you cannot plant a tree, another way to celebrate is to donate a tree to a park or to the Arbor Day Foundation. With the wildfires in the west last year, there is a great need for trees to re-plant. It is a way to show you care about the future.

ment had increased by 211,000 over the prior 12 months.

Employment in the other services industry declined by 24,000 in March, with about half of the loss occurring in personal and laundry services (-13,000). Over the prior 12 months, other services had added 89,000 jobs.

Mining lost 6,000 jobs in March, with much of the decline occurring in support activities for mining (-5,000). Since a recent peak in January 2019, mining employment has declined by 42,000.

In March, manufacturing employment edged down (-18,000). Over the past 12 months, employment in the industry has shown little net change.

Federal government employment rose by 18,000 in March, reflecting the hiring of 17,000 workers for the 2020 Census.

Employment in other major industries, including wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, information, and financial activities, changed little over the month.

In March, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 11 cents to \$28.62. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.1 percent. Average hourly earnings of private-sector produc-

tion and nonsupervisory employees increased by 10 cents to \$24.07 in March.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.2 hour to 34.2 hours in March. The decline in the average workweek was most pronounced in leisure and hospitality, where average weekly hours dropped by 1.4 hours. In manufacturing, the workweek declined by 0.3 hour to 40.4 hours, and overtime declined by 0.2 hour to 3.0 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.3 hour to 33.4 hours.

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for January was revised down by 59,000 from +273,000 to +214,000, and the change for February was revised up by 2,000 from +273,000 to +275,000. With these revisions, employment gains in January and February combined were 57,000 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.) After revisions, job gains averaged 245,000 per month for January and February.