

Martin County JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023

Nine pages

Commissioners discuss shelter house at Hindostan, road issues

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners met last Wednesday, May 3. Commissioner Aaron Summers was not present for the meeting.

Alliance Director Jessica Potts and Shoals Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge talked to the commissioners about the plan to have a shelter house built at Hindostan Falls. It was explained that the DNR has agreed to have one constructed and the plan is to do a crowdfunding grant through Patronicity, with a one-to-one match up to \$50,000. Potts said they are not asking for anything from the commissioners, outside of support for the project. She said the DNR is happy with what Martin County has done with Hindostan Days.

Commissioner Paul George asked how big the shelter house will be. Potts said they don't know that information yet as they are just in the planning phase.

George asked whose job it will be to take care of the shelter house. Potts said they are not sure but do not think it will be the responsibility of the county.

The commissioners approved support

for the project and Commissioner Cody Roush will serve as the commissioners' point of contact throughout the project.

Resident Scot Pennington requested a reduced speed limit on Red School Road. He said there are several houses with children within the first mile of Red School Road and with the current 35-mile-per-hour speed limit, vehicles are driving way too fast on the narrow road to stop if a child goes into the road. He noted that he has had to replace three mailboxes in the past year due to damage. The commissioners asked what speed limit Pennington would like to have. He replied that 25 miles per hour for the first mile after coming off the highway would be good.

County Attorney Dave Lett asked Pennington if he has talked to the sheriff's department about the issue. Pennington said he has, and they are trying to patrol more. "You wouldn't believe the traffic on that road," said Pennington.

Lett said the commissioners would need to consult with the highway superintendent and then pass an ordinance that explains the new speed limit and the distance that would be affected. He said the commissioners would have to decide if they

want to do that one mile of road or just do all Red School Road at 25 miles per hour.

Commissioners George and Roush agreed it would be easier to change the entire road to 25 miles per hour.

Resident Audrey Robinson talked to the commissioners about the need for improvements on Mt. Calvary Road. She asked how much funding is being set aside for the road and what the long-term plan is. She said she contacted the highway department about the potholes and they filled them but she said it's not a permanent solution. She asked if property taxes are used for road improvements. Commissioner George told her the highway funds are from federal and state gas tax, along with grants through Community Crossings. Robinson replied that residents are paying a lot of taxes and would like to see it go toward the roads.

Commissioner George asked if Robinson knew the last time Mt. Calvary had work done. Robinson replied that she believes 7-10 years ago it was chip and sealed but since that time, some of the road was turned back into gravel.

County Council Member Monty Gregory, who was in the audience, said the road

can be saved and chip and sealed if done soon but it's close to being ruined.

Commissioner George said the state is now allowing counties to do chip and seal with Community Crossings grant funds and the county plans to apply to do 26 miles in next year's application.

Robinson said it's not just Mt. Calvary Road that needs work, that's just the one she lives on. She said it concerns her that they are spending so much money to pave Cherry Road, that has one house, when so many other roads need so much work.

Commissioner Roush said Cherry Road is very busy in the fall when Lark Ranch is open. Robinson said she understands but her road is just as busy.

Chuck Robinson, who was also in the audience, said he talked to Commissioner Aaron Summers last year about fixing Mt. Calvary Road and Summers told him he would take care of it, and nothing happened. He said cars are getting damaged while traveling that road. He recommended the commissioners go drive it and see.

Commissioner Roush said the Community Crossings grant is specific and they have to go from intersection to intersection. (See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)

Loogootee Council hit with funding requests, says no to chickens

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee City Council met Monday night, May 8.

Loogootee Police Chief Aaron Means said their vehicles have reached 60,000 miles and it is time to start trading them in. He said he put in an order a year ago to purchase Ford vehicles, but they are still on backorder with no estimated time of arrival. He said he looked into getting two Dodge Durangos at a cost of \$46,000 each. When asked what he would trade in, Means said they would start with their 2011 Ford Explorer but would keep the other vehicle.

Council Member Teresa Nolley said they can discuss purchasing vehicles in next year's budget but not this year. The other council members agreed.

Means also requested the purchase of seven new radios for his department at a cost of \$26,000. He said the fire department

also needs new radios, so they were going to do a bulk purchase to save money. The fire department, according to Fire Chief Eric Thomas, needs 31 radios. He said the current radios cannot be programmed and they are having communication issues with other agencies. He said the current radios, he believes, are 15-plus years old.

Thomas also requested replacing the department's compressor, used to fill air tanks, as it is nonfunctional. The cost is \$49,290. The new compressor comes with a five-year warranty.

The council decided to wait on purchasing radios but agreed to buy the new air compressor from LOIT (Local Option Income Tax) funds. They also agreed to pay \$118 a month for a gas meter sensor.

Chief Thomas asked how long he will have to wait to get the radios replaced. Council Member Rick Norris said they will have to find the money. Thomas replied that they have non-functioning radios, and his fear is that someone will get hurt with-

out having proper communication.

Council Member Nolley said they need to come up with a plan to replace equipment, etc. Thomas, who is new as fire chief, said he will have that in the future, and he doesn't like having to ask for money. He noted that the fire department has not used any money out of LOIT as far back as January of 2022.

Mayor Harty said, in the past, standard practice has been for the department heads to make requests during budget time.

Thomas also requested that his equipment officer with the department be moved to a paid position. He said the equipment officer is getting quotes, etc. for him and he would like to compensate him for that. Council Member Norris said this is something that can be discussed during 2024

Reminders for City of Loogootee General Election

As a result of the May 2 Primary Election, the following Candidates will appear on the November 7 General Election ballot:

Mayor: Brian T Ader (R) and Noel D Harty (D)

Clerk/Treasurer: Lori D Carrico (R) and Roger S Downey (D)

City Council-at-Large: Buck Holland (R) and Ron Gilbert (D)

City Council District 1: Mike Engleman (R)

City Council District 2: David Smith (R) and Tim Biggin Lawrence (D)

City Council District 3: Carroll Rayhill (D)

City Council District 4: Rick Norris (D)

Friday, June 30 at noon is the deadline for an Independent to file petition of nomination to appear on the City of Loogootee Municipal General Election ballot.

Monday, July 3 at noon is the deadline for the Democratic or Republican Party to fill any vacancy existing on the City of Loogootee Municipal General Election ballot.

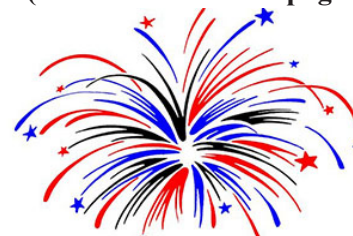
If you have any question, please call the Martin County Clerk's office at 812-247-3651.

budget time.

Police Chief Means also requested approval to switch cell phone service from Verizon to First Net, which is a company for government entities. He said during an emergency situation, citing the Sullivan tornados that recently happened as an example, the cell phone towers go down, and no communication can be made. He said First Net would bring in a mobile tower that has a four-mile radius to keep lines of communication open. He said the cost of First Net is no more than the current plan and allows for priority for government employees when there is high use on a cell tower.

Building Commissioner Justin Davis requested he also be included in the plan to have a cell phone for his office instead of using his own personal cell phone.

(See 'COUNCIL' on page 2)



Summerfest looking for donations for fireworks

LAST WEEK'S DONORS:

Holly Street	\$20.00
Lauren Woody	\$20.00
Renee Street	\$35.00
Rebecca Simmerman	\$20.00
Anonymous	\$20.00
Anonymous	\$100.00
DONATIONS TO DATE:	\$1,345.00

The Loogootee Summerfest Committee needs donations this year for fireworks that end the festival, due to the cost. Donations can be mailed to Summerfest PO Box 341 Loogootee IN 47553 or made online by clicking [here](#). Donors will be listed in this section of *The Journal* each week with their donation amount and the running amount of total contributions. Donors can be listed as anonymous if they so choose.



Highest peak

-Photo provided

On Saturday, April 29, a group of Martin County citizens climbed Mt. Le Conte. Le Conte is the third highest peak in the Smoky Mountains Range. All 13 hikers made it to the summit. The summit elevation is 6,593 feet. Shown kneeling are Jesse Sudduth and Dale Sudduth. Standing, from left to right, are Sierra Rutledge, Kaylee Diamond, Jon Rutledge, Jill Jones, Cameron Ochs, Katherine Ochs, Kacey Jones, Jessica Conrad and Jason Graham. Not pictured are Heather Hager and Julie Bailey.

COMMISSIONERS

COUNCIL

(Continued from page 2)

tersection and it's a numbers game to get as much in, as far as paving. He said the maximum they can apply for per year is \$1 million with a 25 percent match from county funds.

Audrey Robinson said they are going to have to figure out how to fix the rest of the roads, outside of the Community Crossings grant.

Commissioner Roush replied that a wheel tax would be nice.

Audrey Robinson said the residents keep getting taxed but are not seeing much from those taxes. She said the school is getting ready to increase property taxes and she recently attended a meeting to speak about that. She said there is no point in living in Martin County if they are not seeing the benefit of paying more taxes and added that it's not going to draw new residents in either.

Roush replied that the wheel tax, which is paid at the license branch during vehicle registration, could bring in an additional \$250,000 a year that could only go toward roads. He said the county could have implemented it a long time ago and that extra money would have made a difference in the county's roadways.

Robinson asked how they would then decide whose road gets done if they had that extra money. Commissioner George said they have a road evaluation done by an outside company to determine the condition of roads and how often they are traveled. They concentrate on the roads that are rated as the worst, with heavy vehicle traffic.

Audrey Robinson said they would like to see their road go back to gravel if the chip and seal cannot be maintained. "It's terrible," she said.

Something's got to be done now to one section," said Chuck Robinson.

Commissioner George said they can't make any promises that they can chip and seal this year but he will talk to the highway superintendent to see what can be done. He said they are not going to even think about going back to gravel yet on that road.

Public Health Nurse Julia Albright said legislation passed at the state level will increase health department funding by \$75 million. She said she doesn't know yet how much Martin County will receive but the money will be used to expand hours and services and they will have to add staff. She noted that there is also funding potentially available for EMS services and suggested Ambulance Director Jeramey Osborn look into it.

Veteran Service Officer Jonathan Cropp said they assisted 20 veterans last month. He said they have had no problems with transporting veterans to VA clinics and the list of volunteer drivers has grown. He noted that they recently helped a local veteran who was facing homelessness but were able to work with St. Vincent de Paul and the trustee's office to get him taken care of. He said it was a nice win.

Commissioner George asked Cropp if the veterans' van is still in good shape, since they purchased it quite a while ago. Cropp said they haven't had any problems with it, and he believes they will get plenty of service out of it.

Cropp also thanked Kim Showalter who has been helping in the office. "I'm happy with the progress," he said, noting they have only been running the office now for eight weeks.

Auditor Michelle Norris said they recently balanced the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds and the amount remaining is \$275,767.33.

(Continued from page 2)

The council approved both requests.

Nolley questioned the policy for paying for uniforms for police officers. She said the reimbursement is \$800 a year and asked what happens if officers go over that. Clerk-Treasurer Roger Downey said they have never had this issue in the past.

Chief Means said it costs \$1,200, minimum, to outfit a full-time officer. Mayor Harty said it sounds like what was budgeted is not realistic.

Clerk-Treasurer Downey said they have spent \$15,000 on uniforms for the police department in the past two months, with some of those bills dating back to December of last year.

When asked to explain why it was costing so much, Chief Means said they have had a lot of turnover. He said they collect uniforms when officers leave but the uniforms may not fit the incoming officers.

"We either have to follow the rules or change the rules," said Council Member Nolley.

Downey said his concern, as clerk-treasurer, is that some of the council members don't look at the claims, they just approve them. "That's not good," he said. He said no one asks questions about anything the city is paying for.

"We spend, spend, spend, spend and no one's looking into what we spend," he said. Council Member Nolley said if they ask questions, they are accused of not caring about the particular department they are questioning.

Mayor Harty said it's clear the budget doesn't reflect what is realistic nowadays.

Nolley replied that they can only spend what money they have, and they need to do better about planning ahead. She said they need a five-year plan on all purchases

of equipment, etc. She added that something is going to have to be done about the overspending because the state is going to come back and tell them they must cut their budget again. The council ended up approving the claims.

A few residents in the audience asked if the council was willing to change the ordinance prohibiting chickens within city limits. The residents said they don't see an issue with having a maximum of eight hens, no roosters, because they need them for the eggs and meat they provide. It was suggested that the city could require permits for chickens which could bring in extra funds.

Council Member Nolley said she doesn't want her neighbors to have chickens and the new housing addition being built off Country Court will allow for homes built for \$350,000 to \$400,000. She said that is not a place for residents to have chickens. The mayor replied that the new addition will have their own covenants, but he understands what she's saying.

The council agreed to keep the ordinance as it is and not allow chickens.

It was mentioned that Behind the Wire Ministries was approved to have chickens. The building commissioner said they were waiting to see what the council decided pertaining to the ordinance and have agreed to get rid of them if it was not changed.

Martin County Alliance Director Jessica Potts talked to the council about the tax abatement for Red Fox Cabinetry that was discussed at last month's council meeting. She ran numbers and showed the council that a five-year abatement would save the company \$20,464, a seven-year abatement would save them \$25,651; and a 10-year abatement would save them \$33,267. The abatement request is for \$650,000 in equipment purchased for the new cabinet shop. The council decided to go with the five-year abatement. The company will pay zero taxes the first year and then it will raise in 20 percent increments over the five-year period.

Mayor Harty asked the council if they were interested in moving forward with turning the new housing development off Country Court into a TIF district. Council Member Rick Norris said he has had several calls from residents against it. The council didn't vote, however the mayor said they will not move forward with creating the district.

The council approved the ordinance reducing a tax on water and sewer rates that was supposed to be removed last July. Utilities Superintendent Bo Wilson asked if the rates will be retroactive to last July and if residents would receive a refund for what they paid. After discussion, it was decided to contact the city's billing company to see what can be done.

Mayor Harty said he has talked with Loogootee School Superintendent Dr. Brian Harmon about what the school is currently paying for the school resource officer. The school has been paying 40 percent of the \$75,000 cost, including benefits, with the city picking up the other 60 percent. Harty said Dr. Harmon has agreed to now pay 50 percent.

Council Member Tim Lawrence said his concern is that they had originally agreed to pay a portion of the school resource officer's salary for a few years but that has turned into much longer.

Council Member Teresa Nolley said she did research and the cities she spoke with pay 50 to 75 percent of the school resource officer salary. She said it may be worth investigating whether the sheriff's department or township trustee could chip in and help as well.

Council Member Rick Norris said his main concern is the safety of students and he doesn't have an issue paying half.

The council then unanimously voted to approve paying 50 percent of the cost with the school paying the other 50 percent.

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SEASONAL HELP WANTED

The City of Loogootee is accepting applications for seasonal help. This is a part time position and applications may be picked up at the Mayor's office Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Deadline for applications is May 19, 2023.

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OBITUARIES

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MARTIN COUNTY JOURNAL

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

JUDITH BURCH

Judith I. Burch passed away Thursday, May 4, 2023, at Ketcham Memorial Center. A resident of Loogootee, she was 84.

She was born July 20, 1938, in Sullivan; daughter of the late William and Nina (Goodman) Killion.

Judy owned and operated Catered Affairs for 30 plus years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Malcolm Burch; parents, William and Nina Killion; and siblings, Betty Phegley and William Killion.

Judy is survived by her children, Terri Frederick of Loogootee, John (Vicki) White of Olney, Illinois; Mike (Bev) Burch of Vincennes, and Teresa Rupert of Jasonville; eight grandchildren, many great-grandchildren; and sibling, Sharon (Gene) Gambill of Sullivan.

A private graveside service was held Monday, May 8 at St. John Catholic Cemetery in Loogootee.

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

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee is honored to serve the family of Judith I. Burch.

JT FARTHING

Joe Thomas (JT) Farthing III passed away May 3, 2023, at his home. A resident of Vincennes, he was 41.



He was born in Washington on July 31, 1981; son of Joe Thomas Farthing Jr. and Norma (Hunt-Farthing) Byrer.

Joe worked at Denny's in Vincennes. He enjoyed serving and spending time with his coworkers.

Survivors include his mother, Norma Lee Byrer of Odon; his father, Joe Thomas Farthing Jr. and his stepmother, Mary Farthing, both of Eastanollee, Georgia; his sister, Tonya (Derek) Sheetz of Odon; his stepsiblings, Melissa Miles of Washington, Susan (Marc) Graber of Odon, Matt Byrer of Jasper; nieces, Kendall Sheetz of Odon, Sara Graber of Plainville, Audrey Graber of Evansville; nephews, Josh Atchley of Elora, Rick Armstrong of Washington, Jake Graber of Odon; aunts, Vickie Farthing of Eastanollee, Georgia, Sharli Pletcher of Elkhart, Tina Hunt of Huntingburg; uncle, Robert Hunt of Huntingburg; step uncle, Jim (Carol) Byrer of Elora and several cousins.

Joe was preceded in death by his grandparents, Robert and Evelyn (Arvin) Hunt of Rutherford; Oral and Helen (Amburgey) Harker of Alfordsville; his stepfather, Thomas M. Byrer of Odon; stepsister, Tracy Lynn McClellan of Petersburg; uncle, Richard Pletcher of Elkhart.

Joe loved Halloweekends at Lake Rudolph with his family and spending family vacations in Panama City Beach, Florida. He also enjoyed watching movies and spending time with his cats, Izzy, Pondo, and Gucci.

Joe's wish was to be cremated. There will be a "Gathering of Friends" at a later date.

GARY THARP

Gary F. Tharp passed away Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at Franciscan Hospital, Indianapolis. A resident of Shoals, he was 78.



He was born November 4, 1944, in Shoals; son of Wayne and Ilean (Potts) Tharp.

Gary attended Shoals High School. He worked as a farmer and logger. Gary was an excellent finger style guitarist, could emulate Chet Atkins-style of playing, and was also known for playing music with his brother, Marvin. He enjoyed playing music with his friends at the Shoals Nazarene Church sing alongs.

Surviving is his sister, Sharon Blake; niece, Stacey Crowder; nephew, Jeffrey Roberts; great-niece, Annie Blunk; great-nephew, Jeffrey Crowder; and two great-great-nieces, Hailee and Gracelyn Blunk.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Shirley Todd, Marvin Tharp, and Juanita Tharp; and brother-in-law, John Blake.

A funeral service was held Friday, May 5 at the Queen-Lee Chapel of George Funeral Care, with Kevin Quinn and Marvin Lagle officiating. Burial followed in Poplar Grove Cemetery.

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

DONALD HUDSON

Donald Mark Hudson passed away April 25, 2023, at his home. A resident of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, he was 65.

Don was born March 24, 1958, in Washington; son of Cletus A. and Billie (Ash) Hudson.



DONALD HUDSON

Don was a 1976 graduate of Loogootee High School. He enlisted in the Navy for 12 years and served aboard the USS John F. Kennedy. Don's greatest joy was camping with his son Brett and helping him become an Eagle Scout. Later years, Don worked with his son renovating apartments. Don was a security technician and recently retired.

Surviving is his son, Brett (Amanda) of Media, Pennsylvania; one sister, Gloria Jean (Paul Jr.) Danhafer, of Dubois; and three brothers, Jeff (Susan), Tim (Rachel), and Tom (Sheila) Hudson, all of Loogootee.

He was preceded by death by his parents, Cletus and Billie Hudson; two brothers, Cletus Jr. and Matthew Hudson; and one sister, Deborah Sue Schwartz.

Don wished to be cremated and no memorial will be held. The family would like to thank everyone for condolences and prayers in their loss.

JAMES PANKEY

James "Jim" E. Pankey passed away at 7:59 a.m. Monday May 8, 2023, at Poplar Care Strategies. A resident of Loogootee, he was 81.

He was born March 8, 1942, in Linton; son of the late Russell W. and Virginia Rose (Haffley) Pankey. Jim married Kathryn Waynette Fish "Waynette" on September 15, 1962, at St. John Catholic Church.

While being a resident of Loogootee, Jim worked for the Martin County Jail as the Jail Commander for 20 years after which he retired. Prior to his service as Jail Commander, He worked for several years for the local ambulance service. Previously to this, Jim worked 30 years throughout the United States, Africa, and Puerto Rico building telephone and cable television systems. In 1993 while employed by Harris McBurney Construction he was the honored recipient of the "Employee of the Year" award. Jim was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Virginia Pankey; brother, Patrick L. Pankey; sisters, Luanna Kay Pankey and Sherry Pankey Vogler; nephew, John R. Pankey; niece

Mandy Pankey, niece, Debbie Fields; and great-niece, Brianna Varela.

Jim is survived by his wife, Waynette Pankey of Loogootee; son, James D. Pankey of Evansville; grandson, Thomas R. and (Sam) Pankey; two great-granddaughters, Violet and Maeve Pankey; brother, Russel "Tick" Pankey; lifelong friend, Charlie Duffroy; brothers-in-law, William (Janet) Burch and Sylvester (Connie) Vogler; sisters-in-law, Judy Pankey and Dianne Pankey Franklin; niece, Kimberly Varela, Karen (Joe) Sherfick; nephew, Michael L. Pankey; and many nieces and nephews on his wife's side.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker at 11 a.m. Friday, May 12, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

Visitation will be held Friday, May 12 from 9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church for masses or the Martin County Humane Society.

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

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee is honored to serve the family of James "Jim" E. Pankey.

Right to Life Banquet book ad sales underway

Local Right to Life Groups have announced their 2023 banquet book ads sales are now underway and the local organization is asking for your support. For those who had an ad in last year's banquet book, the ad renewal letters have been sent out and they ask for your response by using the self-addressed envelope to return your renewal ad payment. If you have a change to last year's ad, include that change in the mailing.

If you have not had an ad in the past and would like for your business or a memorial ad to be represented in this book, contact Louis Kavanaugh Jr. at 812-486-3658 or Email at louiskavanaughjr@gmail.com.

All new ads are full page and cost \$50. If you would like to have a memorial ad for a loved one, you may purchase that ad at the same price. Right to Life will work with you to develop the ad. Send all the information to Right to Life, P.O. Box 41, Washington, In. 47501.

The Right to Life Banquet will be held this year on October 5 at the Simon J. Graber Building off the Odon/Cannelburg Road.

"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.

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Owner & Funeral Director

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, MAY 1

12:10 a.m. - Received a call reporting an accident east of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Officer Sims, Deputy Erwin and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:52 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller and Big John's Towing responded.

8:16 a.m. - Received a call reporting an abandoned vehicle south of Shoals. Captain Gibson and Big John's Towing responded.

9:02 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded.

9:46 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:57 a.m. - Received a call reporting an abandoned vehicle north of Shoals. Captain Gibson and Big John's Towing responded.

11:11 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a trespasser northeast of Loogootee. Captain Gibson, Loogootee Assistant Chief Long and Indiana Conservation Officer Mann responded.

1:32 p.m. - Received a call requesting a lift assist in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded. No one was transported.

2:30 p.m. - Received a call from Daviess County advising of a reckless driver on US 50, heading east. All Martin County units were advised.

4:11 p.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Call was transferred to Daviess County 911.

4:30 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

7:56 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, Loogootee Assistant Chief Long and Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:46 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer and ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart, Martin County Medic 1 and Deputy Erwin responded.

10:50 p.m. - Received a call reporting possible stolen property in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

TUESDAY, MAY 2

2:04 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded. No one was transported.

6:52 a.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident east of Shoals. Deputy Erwin responded.

8:04 a.m. - Received a call from Daviess County requesting assistance for traffic control west of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department responded.

9:32 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible traffic hazard north of Loogootee. The state highway department was notified.

10:27 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to officers in Crane. Captain Gibson and Loogootee Chief Means responded.

10:30 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible theft in Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

12:54 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:30 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Corporal Hawkins responded.

2:30 p.m. - Received a report of a con-

trolled burn in Shoals.

3:54 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

6:05 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

7:48 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

8:06 p.m. - Received two accidental 911 calls.

9:02 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:38 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

11:41 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

12:41 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance northeast of Shoals. Lawrence County EMS responded.

7:06 a.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver heading west on US 50. All local law enforcement officers were advised.

7:57 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

8:51 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:26 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:42 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance northeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department and Captain Gibson responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:12 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

11:02 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to an officer concerning a neighbor dispute northeast of Shoals. ISP Trooper Nolan responded. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

11:54 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

6:21 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible trespasser south of Loogootee. Deputy Erwin responded.

9:50 a.m. - Received a complaint of trash being dumped east of Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

10:29 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

11:45 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check on an ATV north of Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

12:28 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

12:59 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported three inmates to court.

1:58 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

3:11 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells responded.

3:20 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting livestock in the roadway north of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

4:00 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check on a motorcycle in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

4:40 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a traffic hazard north of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims and Sergeant Wells responded.

5:49 p.m. - Received an animal complaint east of Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

6:44 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible scam in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

6:56 p.m. - Received a call reporting a neighbor complaint in Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

7:11 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

3:09 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Deputy Branham and Loogootee Officer Sims responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

6:38 a.m. - Received a call advising of a car-cow accident with no injuries and minor damage. Deputy Branham was advised.

7:04 a.m. - Received a call reporting debris on the roadway north of Loogootee. INDOT was notified.

7:10 a.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver in Loogootee. All Martin County Officers were advised.

8:34 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

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

10:17 a.m. - Received a call reporting traffic being backed up in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means, Sergeant Wells and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

10:19 a.m. - Received a call reporting an accident with no injuries east of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells and Loogootee Chief Means already enroute.

10:23 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

11:14 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

11:40 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check on a motorcycle east of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means responded.

1:20 p.m. - Received a call requesting assistance for traffic for a funeral procession. Shoals Town Marshal Eckert responded.

6:18 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:50 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Deputy Branham responded.

7:05 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:02 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Haysville Fire Department and Deputy Branham responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:08 p.m. - Received a call reporting a neighbor dispute in Shoals. Deputy Fischer and Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

11:10 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

11:14 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

12:17 a.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver north of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart and Deputy Branham responded.

12:43 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

1:57 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memo-

rial Hospital.

5:09 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Deputy Branham responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:40 a.m. - Received an animal complaint southeast of Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

7:15 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded.

8:25 a.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn southeast of Loogootee.

9:43 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:50 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check north of Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

11:30 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer in Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

11:50 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:00 p.m. - Received a report of a lost or stolen plate. Sergeant Wells responded.

1:55 p.m. - Received a request to speak with an officer. Sergeant Wells responded.

2:22 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

2:30 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

2:43 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

3:42 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

4:56 p.m. - Received a call from Daviess County Dispatch advising of a stolen vehicle. All Martin County Law was advised.

6:05 p.m. - Received a call reporting a disabled vehicle in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

6:40 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

8:11 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down east of Shoals. Sergeant Wells and Shoals Fire Department responded.

8:19 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a tree down southeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Sergeant Wells responded.

8:41 a.m. - Received multiple 911 calls reporting tree down southeast of Shoals.

8:45 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a tree down northeast of Shoals. Indian Creek Fire Department responded.

9:42 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down north of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

2:33 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting to speak with EMS. Martin County Medic 1 responded.

2:42 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief Long, ISP Trooper Lents and Sergeant Wells responded.

7:20 p.m. - Received a call reporting suspicious activity in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Baumgart responded.

10:10 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a power line is down and has started a fire south of Shoals. Deputy Erwin, Shoals Fire Department, Martin County Medic 1 and REMC responded. No one was transported.

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COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED May 1

Rocky M. Baker, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT New Suits Filed

April 26

Crane Credit Union vs. Kirk Bratton, civil collection.

May 1

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Linda Bowen, civil collection.

TD Bank USA vs. Teri Twining, civil collection.

Bank of America vs. Michael W. Baker and Discover Bank, mortgage foreclosure.

May 2

Real estate transfers

Lynn E. Kleiman, of Martin County, Indiana to Michael Klein and Anne Klein, Lot Number 1 in Turkey Hill Subdivision to Lost River Township, Martin County, Indiana.

Great Outdoors Partnership, of Indiana to Kimberly Persinger, of Johnson County, Indiana, part of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, Second Principal Meridian, Halbert Civil Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 11.41 acres, more or less.

Mark J. Allen and Cathy S. Allen, of Martin County, Indiana to Cathy S. Allen and Rejan K. Allen, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 53 in Kerk's Addition to the town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Merrill Alvin Bateman, of Lawrence County, Indiana to Lewis & Fuhrman Farm, LLC, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the south half of Section 27, and a part of the north half of Section 34, all in Township 4 North, Range 3 West, situated in Mitcheltree Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 25.88 acres, more or less, except a section containing 2.72 acres, more or less.

Darrin Hovis vs. Colonel Child-Martin County Environmental Specialist, Dr. Larry Sutton-Martin County Health Department, Dr. James Poirier-Martin County Board of Health, et al, civil tort.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS May 1

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Candace Clark in the amount of \$731.78.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT New Suits Filed

April 27

Kevin Boyd vs. Dustin Holt and Amy Holt, eviction.

Linda Lentz vs. Carolyn Powers and Steven Boyd, complaint.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Jesse Thomas Flanagan of Loogootee and Molly Ruth Raney of Loogootee.

ARRESTS

TUESDAY, MAY 2

12:34 p.m. - Darren Stone, 55, of Shoals, was arrested by Captain Gibson on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

8:26 a.m. - Jordan Davis, 34, of Loogootee, was arrested by Sergeant Wells and charged with possession of meth, possession of paraphernalia, operating while intoxicated and intimidation on law enforcement. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

4:19 p.m. - Phillip Lee II, 31, of Elkhart, was arrested on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

12:16 a.m. - Vikki Stumbo, 57, of Crown City, Ohio, was arrested by Deputy Branham and charged with possession of meth and possession of paraphernalia. She is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

12:18 a.m. - Shane Bates, 49, of Bloomington, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Baumgart on an Owen County warrant.



Radius Indiana graduates 2023 class from Economic Development for Community Leadership Program

The sixth annual Radius Indiana economic development course at French Lick Resort concluded last Thursday, providing community leaders from six Indiana counties with insights into the evolving field of economic development.

Participants in the Radius Indiana Economic Development for Community Leadership Program attended educational sessions on topics related to local economic development, networked with other community leaders, and built skills in strategic planning and community problem-solving.

"Radius acknowledges that the field of economic development is undergoing considerable change to reflect the evolving needs of our communities," said Jeff Quyle, CEO and president of Radius Indiana. "This year's course provided information on topics that are timely and relevant to the vision that today's community leaders have, topics like housing development, downtown business vitality, and population attraction. We appreciate the participation of our speakers who shared so much information that educates southern Indiana's local leaders on issues of importance to economic vitality."

The program is the only course of its kind to be offered in the southern Indiana area.

Since the first course in 2017, nearly 165 people representing 25 Indiana counties have gathered to learn from national and regional speakers about topics and skills including site development, business attraction, workforce, marketing, quality of place, business finance and incentives, and entrepreneurship.

The speaker lineup for the two-and-a-half-day course included:

Lisa Abbott, Regional Opportunity Initiatives - Housing Development

Jim Plump, Jackson County Development Corporation - Economic Development Theory and Practice

Chelsey Manns, Manns Consulting - Site Development

Matt Eckerle, Baker Tilly - Incentives

Tim Conrad, Stimulus Engineering - Site Selector Prospective

Michael Wilcox, Purdue Center for Regional Development - Quality of Place

Jenna Dix, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Divison - NSWC Crane Update

Jason Hester, Greater Columbus Indiana Economic Development Corporation - Business Retention and Expansion

Michael Eggleston, Federal Reserve - Rural Prosperity

Carol Rogers, Indiana Research Center - Community Data

Wendy Dant Chesser, One Southern Indiana - Strategic Planning and Community Engagement

"The Radius Economic Development Leadership course is truly second to none. There are very few offerings for economic development training and this course fills a much-needed gap for professionals and elected officials," said Manns. "Radius and the team are forward thinking and extend the invitation beyond the Radius

region, which benefits everyone."

The group also heard from five panels focused on Radius-based programs including Choose Southern Indiana and population attraction, Discover Southern Indiana and tourism, Spark Downtown and downtown revitalization, support for entrepreneurship and small business support, and economic development marketing.

This year's graduates included city, town, and county representatives, consultants, realtors, defense industry specialists, economic development professionals, utility representatives, and marketing specialists.

"I would encourage anyone who's interested or works in economic development to consider attending this program. The course motivated me to take a deeper look into the challenges we face and how to get better involved," said Matt Burkett, Deputy for Small Business for Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division. "The course was very comprehensive and covered a wide range of topics around economic development. I'm not an economic development professional, but I now better understand the challenges, available resources, and points of contact for businesses I engage with."

Corporate sponsors and scholarships helped fund the program, including generous support from Hoosier Energy, Frost, Brown & Todd, Banning Engineering, Smithville Fiber, Duke Energy, Clark Dietz, and Indiana Municipal Power Agency.

Those interested in attending a Radius Indiana course in the future should contact the Radius office at 812-277-9778.

EAST FORK WATER, INC. NEW RATES EFFECTIVE May 1, 2023

Per 1,000 Gallons Per Month
East Fork Water Customers
First 3,000 gallons-\$9.35/1,000 gallons.
Next 7,000 gallons-\$7.09/1,000 gallons.
Next 10,000 gallons-\$5.17/1,000gallons.
Over 20,000 gallons-\$7.93/1,000 gallons.
Minimum Charge per Month for service shall be as follows:
5/8" meters-\$28.05
3/4meters-\$39.00
1" meters-\$49.50
1 1/2" meters-\$93.04
2 meters-\$139.25
3" meters-\$188.79
All Customers:
Tap Fee for Water
Per Residential Connection-\$1,600
Per Non-Residential Connection- Actual cost of making connection-Not less than \$1,600.

There shall be a returned check charge of \$35 per returned check.
There shall be a membership fee for every water user in the amount of \$100.
A 10% Late fee will be applied to all delinquent accounts.
A connection fee of \$40 will be charged when turning water on for a new customer.
If a member's water has been disconnected for non-payment of their account, a reconnect fee of \$100 PLUS the balance of their account must be paid in full before restoring service.

4th Annual
Town Wide
Friday May 19th &
Saturday May 20th

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6th & Main Street/ Fri & Sat 8AM-2PM

426 Chestnut Street/ Fri & Sat 8AM-2PM

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231 Capital Avenue/ Fri & Sat 8AM-2PM

13816 Chicken Farm Road/ Fri & Sat 8AM-4PM

800 Upper Circle Drive/ Fri 8AM-7PM & Sat 8AM-2PM

7988 Weisbach Road/ Fri & Sat 8AM-2PM

6785 US Highway 50/ Fri 8Am-5PM & Sat 8AM-2PM

1030 Lower Circle Drive/ Fri & Sat 8AM-3PM

15364 Dover Hill Rd. / Fri 8AM-4PM & Sat 8AM-2PM

COMMUNITY & EVENTS

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MARTIN COUNTY JOURNAL

Wednesday, May 10, 2023



Boost grant

-Photo provided

Chelsey Strange lost her son, Gibson, during her pregnancy in 2018. In memory of Gibson, she has a community service called "Gibson's Grace" where they currently provide care packages for 32 families in need. The project is looking to expand their reach into the community. So, Chelsey applied for a grant from the Martin County Community Foundation. Gibson's Grace received a Boost Grant for \$2,000. The funds will be used to purchase some of the items for the care packages. Pictured in the front row left to right are Jenner and Landrey Strange. In the second row are CFP Grants Officer Lisa Starr, MCCF Grants Chairperson Megan Hawkins, Chelsey and Deacon Strange, and Fr. Ken Walker. In the back row, left to right, are MCCF Board members Tracy Rayhill, Secretary Garry Smith, President Paula Ringwald, Jenell Hoffman, Richard Burch, Angie Risacher, and Vice-President Kristi Ausbrooks.

Corning Heritage Center Tea to be held May 13

Corning Heritage Center is sponsoring a presentation on tea for Saturday, May 13 at 2 p.m. at Celtic Hall. Erin Doyle, board secretary and avid tea lover, will be presenting the history of tea: how it is brewed, the varies types of tea, plus more. The presentation will last approximately 90 minutes. They will be tasting five different teas and one herbal tea.

Tea settings and different types of teas will be provided. Cookies and sweets to accompany your tea will be available.

Cost is a free will offering. The address is 4962 South 800 East, Montgomery, IN. 47558.

To RSVP, for your limited seating, or if you have any questions please call Erin Doyle at (812) 482-1650.

All proceeds will go towards the Bell Tower Project.

The bell tower on Celtic Hall has had serious damage from the weather and has started to significantly deteriorate. Corning Heritage Center is currently fund raising for this project and has applied for a \$50,000 grant from Indiana Heritage Center. The estimated cost of the repairs will be \$60,000 plus. Additional fundraising opportunities will be coming soon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Commissioners' special meeting

The Martin County Commissioners will hold a special meeting Thursday, May 11 at 8:30 a.m. to consider purchasing a truck for the Martin County Highway Department. The board will also consider any other business that may be brought for consideration. The meeting is open to the public.

Loogootee School Board executive meetings

The Loogootee School Board will hold four executive meetings to discuss and interview prospective personnel. The meetings will be held Thursday, May 11 at 3 p.m., Saturday, May 13 at 9 a.m., Monday, May 15 at 3 p.m. and Wednesday, May 17 at 3 p.m. The meetings are closed to the public.

Bake sale

Loogootee Pickleball will be having a bake sale Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at IGA.

Mental Health Task Force

The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets via Zoom. If interested in being a part of the task 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.

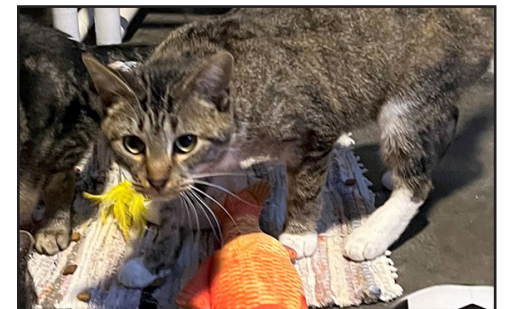
Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 8 a.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 Fridays when it is closed. Visit www.martinswcd.com or call at 295-3149.

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



DECEMBER is a female tiger stripe and white kitty, around 2 years old. She is spayed and up to date on all shots. Adoption fee is \$45. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.

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In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser,
Purdue University Master Gardener

It is time to garden. May 10 is considered the frost-free date for southern Indiana, so there is little chance to lose plants to a late frost now. Soil temperatures at the depth of four inches are not quite up to the 70-degree threshold, so you do not have to get everything done at once. Plants that are planted later in warmer soil often catch up with plants put in while the soil is cool.

Transplants for warm-season crops may go in any time now. If your tomato plants have gotten a little too tall, you may increase the root zone by burying part of that long stem. Some people like to dig deep holes for tall tomatoes, but the deeper you go, the cooler the soil. I like to dig a trench about four inches deep and at least half the length of the plant. Lay the plant in the trench, carefully bending it up at the point where the plant will be in its row. Adventitious roots will form along the buried stem, meaning the plant will be able to take up more moisture and more nutrients. Go ahead and put in the stakes or cages, so you will not be disturbing the roots later. I also recommend mulching the tomatoes at planting time. The mulch will help prevent weeds and will keep the soil temperature more constant. It also tends to keep the moisture level constant, and that helps prevent cracking on the fruits. I prefer to use an organic mulch, which will enrich the soil as it breaks down. Clean straw, shredded paper or finished compost are good for garden mulch. Avoid using wood chips or bark, as they would not break down before next season. You may also choose to use a weed-preventer before mulching. There are both organic and non-organic preventers, some of which also contain fertilizer. Be careful not to let these products drift into areas where you will be sowing seeds, and they work by preventing seed germination, and they cannot differentiate between the desired crops and the weeds.

Speaking of seeds, it is also time to begin planting summer crops that grow from seed,

such as corn, beans, squash and cucumbers. Again, there is no big rush. These may be planted any time, as long as the crop will mature before the fall early frost date of October 10. In fact, if you are planting for daily meals, it is best to stagger plantings. Plant a few beans now, and plant again in a month, and you will have fresh beans for a longer period. If you are planning to can or freeze your crop, you will need to plant more to mature at one time.

The rules for ornamentals are not much different. You may now safely plant the transplants for annual flowers and tender perennials. You may also start seeding flowers that you plan to grow in place from seed. Like the vegetables, you may want to stagger the plantings a bit to ensure plenty of fresh flowers will be available for bouquets later in the summer.

I will also start taking houseplants outside for the summer. Some tropical plants will need to remain in the house until temperatures are warmer, but many sub-tropical plants will do fine outside now. I will plant some in the garden, while others will remain in pots. I usually group pots in a few areas of the garden, keeping them close to water sources. Most of the plants need to be in the shade for a couple of weeks, as they acclimate to the increase in light. Experiment a bit. You may find that some of your houseplants are great companions for some of the perennials in your garden. I like to plant black-eyed Susan vine where it can meander up through large plants, such as my huge rubber tree. I am ready to get out there and start dreaming up some new combinations to enjoy for the next several months.

The annual Sandhill Gardens plant swap will be held on the first Saturday in June. Bring extra plants you have purchased or that you have dug from your gardens. You may also bring seeds, garden tools and even garden décor to trade with other gardeners. You may just find a treasure. The Garden Swap will be June 3, from 10 a.m. until noon.

Farmer sentiment improves; less pessimism over interest rates

BY KAMI GOODWIN
Purdue University News Service

Farmer sentiment improved modestly in April as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer rose 6 points to a reading of 123. Both of the barometer's sub-indices were also higher in April, the Current Conditions Index was up 3 points to 129 and the Future Expectations Index was up 7 points to 120. 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 April 10-14.

"Producers held a more optimistic view of the agricultural economy in April," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture. "A shift in farmers' expectations regarding the Fed's future interest rate policy could be a key reason."

The Farm Financial Performance Index also improved this month, up 7 points to a reading of 93. The prime interest rate charged by U.S. commercial banks increased from 7.75 percent in January to 8 percent in late March, and since the February barometer survey, there has been a noticeable shift in farmers' interest rate expectations. In April, 34 percent of respondents said they expect the U.S. prime interest rate to remain unchanged or decline over the next year, compared to 25 percent of producers who felt that way in February. At the same time, two-thirds (66 percent) of producers expect interest rates to keep rising, compared to 75 percent of respondents who felt that way in February. However, the biggest shift was a decline in the percentage of respondents who expect rates to rise between 1 percent to 2 percent in the next year, down 6 points since February to 37 percent.

The Farm Capital Investment Index increased one point to a reading of 43 in April; yet more than 70 percent of respondents continue to feel now is a bad time for large investments. This month, 39 percent of respondents cited "rising equipment and construction costs" while 33 percent cited "rising interest rates" as the top reason for now being a bad time for such investments.

Producers' expectations for short-term farmland values increased in April following five-straight months of decline. The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index rose 10 points in April to a reading of 123, while the long-term farm-

land index held steady at a reading of 142. Even with this month's rise, the short-term index remains 21 points lower than a year earlier and 36 points lower than two years ago.

Farm bill discussions are heating up, and this month's survey included questions to learn more about producers' perspectives on the legislation. When asked about the likelihood that a new farm bill will be passed this year, 12 percent of respondents think it's very likely, 28 percent said somewhat likely, 16 percent said somewhat unlikely, and 13 percent said very unlikely. The survey also questioned corn and soybean producers on what they consider to be the most important aspect of a new farm bill. Of those respondents, 40 percent chose crop insurance, 31 percent chose commodity programs, 13 percent chose conservation, 8 percent chose agricultural research and extension, and 8 percent chose renewable energy as a top priority to them.

Leasing farmland for solar energy production continues to be a hot topic. In this month's survey, 15 percent of respondents said that they had actively engaged in discussions with companies about leasing farmland for solar energy production in the past six months. Of those producers, nearly half indicated that lease rates of \$1,000 or more per acre were discussed. Twenty-five percent of respondents said that, following the development and construction period, they were offered a lease rate of \$1,250 or more per acre, while 22 percent of respondents said they were offered between \$1,000 and \$1,250 per acre. On the other end of the spectrum, 32 percent of respondents said they were offered lease rates of less than \$500 per acre.

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: AGECBARO, AGECCUR and AGECFTEX.

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Decorating Shoals
Shoals Beautification Board President Tania Brown and grandson Miles Cundiff are shown above planting flowers on Main Street Wednesday May 3, as part of the continued beautification of downtown Shoals. Shown in the smaller photo is Kimi Cundiff, beautification board volunteer.

Looogootee Girls' Tennis results

This past Saturday, May 6, the Loogootee Varsity Girls' Tennis Team took on Evansville Christian and Evansville Mater Dei, at home. Both Evansville teams defeated the Lady Lions 3-2.

Head Coach Mike Tippetery said after the matches, "Kieragen played really well today and did a good job of dictating her points. Though we lost both matches, I was pleased with the way we competed."

The junior varsity played Mater Dei and won 5-2. No junior varsity matches were played in the Evansville Christian match.

Varsity results
Evansville Christian 3, Loogootee 2
#1 Singles Kieragen Napier (L) defeated Diana May 6-0, 6-2
#2 Singles Kate Cashmer (EC) defeated Caitlin Carrico 6-2, 6-1
#3 Singles Marley McAtee (L) defeated ZoZo Zhou 6-2, 6-0
#1 Doubles Madison Smith/Berkley Carter (EC) defeated Ana Toy/Addy Lengacher 6-1, 6-2
#2 Doubles Emerson Hammett/Carmen Hall (EC) defeated Abbey Fischer/Macy Knepp 7-5, 7-5
Evansville Mater Dei 3, Loogootee 2
#1 Singles Kieragen Napier (L) defeated Emma Wible 6-2, 6-0
#2 Singles Caitlin Carrico (L) defeated Bailey Collins 6-3, 6-1
#3 Singles Emma VanBibber (MD) defeated Marley McAtee 6-1, 6-2
#1 Doubles Allison Weber/Jordan Bacon (MD) defeated Ana Toy/Addy Lengacher 6-0, 6-0
#2 Doubles Lindsey Boeke/Nicole Townsend (MD) defeated Abbey Fischer/Macy Knepp 6-3, 6-1
Junior varsity results
#1 Singles Clara Weinzapfel (MD) defeated Kamila Wilson 6-1
#1 Doubles Ashlynn Gilbert/Brooklyn Knepp (L) defeated Emily Kiesel/Lyla Walker 6-1
#2 Doubles Olivia Spencer/Madilyn Garrett (MD) defeated Linsey England/Izzy Smith 6-2
#3 Doubles Kamila Wilson/Britta Browder (L) defeated Lucy Bretz/Reghan Hurt 6-2
#4 Doubles Ashlynn Gilbert/Brooklyn Knepp (L) defeated Maddie Higdon/Ella Harris 6-2
#5 Doubles Linsey England/Izzy Smith (L) defeated Maddie Hinman/Riley

Waninger 6-4
#6 Doubles Kamila Wilson/Britta Browder (L) defeated Alma Wichman/Jillian Scheu 6-1
Last Thursday, the varsity Lady Lions swept Paoli at home 5-0. The junior varsity also won, 2-0.
"Our singles players gave us a strong showing today. The doubles teams had a few stretches of lackluster play but put it together when it counted to seal the victory for us," said Coach Tippetery.

Varsity results
#1 Singles Kieragen Napier (L) defeated Maddie Warren 6-1, 6-3
#2 Singles Caitlin Carrico (L) defeated Taylor Patton 6-2, 6-3
#3 Singles Marley McAtee (L) defeated Tessa Paendong 6-1, 6-1
#1 Doubles Ana Toy/Addy Lengacher (L) defeated Ava Hall/Gracie Brown 7-5, 6-2
#2 Doubles Abbey Fischer/Macy Knepp (L) defeated Lina Zheng/Audrey Hall 6-1, 1-6, 6-1
Junior varsity results
#1 Doubles Ashlynn Gilbert/Brooklyn Knepp (L) defeated Aurora Hays/Devon Walton 6-0
#2 Doubles Linsey England/IzzySmith (L) defeated Mary Halter 4-2
Last Tuesday, May 2, the varsity Lady Lions defeated Vincennes Rivet, 5-0. The junior varsity also won, 3-0.
Coach Tippetery said after the matches, "After a week off, it was nice to get back on the courts. We did a nice job of navigating the wind to pick up the victory."

Varsity results
#1 Singles Kieragen Napier (L) defeated Kenadee Frey 6-0, 6-2
#2 Singles Caitlin Carrico (L) defeated Kenzie Willis 6-0, 6-0
#3 Singles Marley McAtee (L) defeated Laney Oakes 6-1, 6-2
#1 Doubles Ana Toy/Addy Lengacher (L) defeated Claudia Herman/Jaclyn Campbell 6-1, 6-0
#2 Doubles Abbey Fischer/Macy Knepp (L) defeated Ava Benson/Miley Catt 6-2, 6-2
Junior varsity results
#1 Singles Kamila Wilson (L) defeated Elle Stoelb 4-1
#2 Singles Kamila Wilson (L) defeated Mary Halter 4-2
#3 Singles Kamila Wilson (L) defeated Daisy Cardinal 4-2

2023 Seniors

SHOALS HIGH SCHOOL



ALYSA BUTLER
Alysa Shae Butler is the daughter of Alisha Butler. Her siblings include Brylei Butler, Javelin Nicholson, and Josten Fellers. While in high school, Alysa worked in the school's coffee shop, Shoals Grounds. Her favorite school memory is annoying her friends for fun. After graduation, Alysa plans to continue working at the French Lick Hotel for a year.



WYATT TAYLOR
Wyatt James Taylor is the son of Mike and Jackie Taylor. His siblings include Shyla, Alyssa, and Waylon. While in high school Wyatt participated in the CDL course at Lost River CoOp. After graduation, Wyatt plans to enter the workforce and use his Class A CDL.



EMILY HALL
Emily Sue Hall is the daughter of Tabatha Davis and Charles Hall. She has a little brother, Wyatt Davis. While in high school, Emily played the flute in band. Her favorite high school memory is "getting to meet the most caring teachers that I believe any of us have had, who never stopped treating us like a family." After graduation, Emily plans to pursue creative writing and photography.



CHRIS DAVIS JR.
Chris Wayne Davis Jr. is the son of Chris Wayne Davis Sr. and Victoria Shopher. His siblings include Cody, Chyenne, Cecil, Cathline, and Cassie Davis. While in high school, Chris participated in Chess Club, TCG Club, and IMPACCT. Chris is still exploring his options after high school and hopeful to join the Army.



CADE BRETT
Cade Hayes Brett is the son of Eric and Judith Brett. He has 11 siblings. His favorite high school memory was shop class. Cade's future plans are going to Montana to explore different trades through the summer while working. Afterwards, he plans to attend multiple trade schools.



CAMPBELL TEAGUE
Campbell Reese Teague is the daughter of Chad and Brooke Teague. Her siblings include Hadley and Crete. While in high school, Campbell participated in cheer, dance, soccer, and softball. Her favorite high school memory is hanging out with Raysha. After graduation, Campbell plans to assist her sister, Hadley, in dog grooming.

National unemployment at 3.4 percent for April

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 253,000 in April, and the unemployment rate changed little at 3.4 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week.

Employment continued to trend up in professional and business services, health care, leisure and hospitality, and social assistance.

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

Household Survey Data

Both the unemployment rate, at 3.4 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, at 5.7 million, changed little in April. The unemployment rate has ranged from 3.4 percent to 3.7 percent since March 2022.

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (3.3 percent), adult women (3.1 percent), teenagers (9.2 percent), Whites (3.1 percent), Blacks (4.7 percent), Asians (2.8 percent), and Hispanics (4.4 percent) showed little or no change in April.

The number of job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs decreased by 307,000 in April to 2.6 million.

The number of persons jobless less than 5 weeks decreased by 406,000 to 1.9 million in April. The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) changed little over the month at 1.2 million and accounted for 20.6 percent of the total unemployed.

Both the labor force participation rate, at 62.6 percent, and the employment-population ratio, at 60.4 percent, were unchanged in April. 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, at 3.9 million, was little changed in April. 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 increased by 346,000 over the month to 5.3 million. 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 increased by 191,000 to 1.5 million in April. These individuals wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but had not looked for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. The number of discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, was little changed over the month at 364,000.

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 253,000 in April, compared with the average monthly gain of 290,000 over the prior 6 months. In April, employment continued to trend up in professional and business services, health care, leisure and hospitality, and social assistance.

In April, employment continued to trend up in professional and business

services (+43,000). Over the prior 6 months, the average monthly gain in the industry was 25,000. In April, professional, scientific, and technical services added 45,000 jobs. Employment in temporary help services continued to trend down over the month (-23,000) and is down by 174,000 since its peak in March 2022.

Employment in health care increased by 40,000 in April, compared with the average monthly gain of 47,000 over the prior 6 months. Over the month, employment continued to trend up in ambulatory health care services (+24,000), nursing and residential care facilities (+9,000), and hospitals (+7,000).

Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up in April (+31,000), largely in food services and drinking places (+25,000). Leisure and hospitality had added an average of 73,000 jobs per month over the prior 6 months. Employment in this industry remains below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level by 402,000, or 2.4 percent.

In April, social assistance added 25,000 jobs, in line with the average monthly gain of 21,000 over the prior 6 months. Individual and family services added 21,000 jobs over the month.

Employment in financial activities increased by 23,000 in April, with gains in insurance carriers and related activities (+15,000) and in real estate (+9,000). Employment in financial activities changed little in the first 3 months of this year.

Government employment continued its upward trend in April (+23,000). Government had added an average of 52,000 jobs per month over the prior 6 months. Overall, employment in government is below its February 2020 level by 301,000, or 1.3 percent.

Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction rose by 6,000 in April and has risen by 102,000 since a recent low in February 2021. Nearly all of the April job gain occurred in support activities for mining.

Employment was little changed over the month in other major industries, including construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation and warehousing, information, and other services.

In April, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 16 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$33.36. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 4.4 percent. In April, average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees rose by 11 cents, or 0.4 percent, to \$28.62.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 34.4 hours in April. In manufacturing, the average workweek was little changed at 40.2 hours, and overtime remained at 2.9 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls edged down by 0.1 hour to 33.8 hours.

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for February was revised down by 78,000, from +326,000 to +248,000, and the change for March was revised down by 71,000, from +236,000 to +165,000. With these revisions, employment in February and March combined is 149,000 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.)



Senior Housing update *-Photo provided*

Shown above is Nancy Summers, manager of Martin County Senior Housing, standing in front of new cabinets in one of their apartments. These cabinets were purchased with grant money from Hoosier Uplands and St. Vincent de Paul in Loogootee. MCSCHI is a not-for-profit housing authority providing affordable housing for seniors and the handicapped in Loogootee for over 50 years.

THANK YOU!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who voted in 2023 City of Loogootee Primary! As well, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support! It takes a village!

-Paid for by Noel Harty for Loogootee Mayor

THE RIGHT TO LIFE ORGANIZATION SALUTES ALL MOTHERS, GRAND-MOTHERS & GREAT GRAND-MOTHERS ON THIS 2023 MOTHER'S DAY

We thank all mothers for bringing new life into the world! Thank you, Mom!

We “Thank You” for your many sacrifices and for the sake of all children & their families! Thanks for giving me life! I know it may have been easier if I had not been born and that I may have caused you many sleepless nights but life Could be a little lonesome without me!

I may be that person to grow up and discover a cure for cancer or be instrumental in solving some other big problems the world may face. Or I could be just an ordinary human being that is loving and caring and help you in your older days!

Only God knows what my future will be but you have played a part in God’s plan for me!

Mom, I love you because you gave me life when others may have been telling you I was not worth it. Thanks for giving me life! You’re the best!

Martin County Right to Life Inc. P.O. Box 11, Loogootee, IN. 47553