

Martin County JOURNAL

Year Two, Issue Twenty-Three

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15 Pages



-Photo by Courtney Hughett

The Loogootee SummerFest Queen candidates are shown above with last year's winner Tia Pennington. To the right of Tia is Bonnie Street and Hannah Walters. The girls will compete for the crown on Saturday night, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Loogootee High School Auditorium.

SummerFest to begin Saturday with golf scramble, queen contest

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee SummerFest will kick off this weekend starting with the annual golf scramble to be held at Lakeview Golf Course on Saturday morning, June 11 at 9 a.m. The scramble is sponsored by the Martin County Chamber of Commerce and the Martin County Alliance. The queen contest will take place in the Loogootee High School Auditorium on Saturday night. The doors open at 6 p.m. with the contest beginning at 6:30 p.m. The competition is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

On Thursday, June 16, DJ Dave and Linda will be on the main stage with craft booths, food stands, and armband games on West Main Street from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The talent show will be held on the main stage from 6

p.m. to 7 p.m. with the corporate challenge beginning at 7 p.m. The corporate challenge will feature representatives from the following SummerFest Corporate Sponsors: VFW Post 9395, Knights of Columbus, K of C Ladies Auxiliary, Midwestern Engineers, Springs Valley Bank & Trust, German American, Mark Messmer, and Loughmiller Machine and Tool. Last year's winner Mark Messmer could possibly be giving up his "traveling" trophy or he could retain his title. The Toilet Bowl Trophy will be handed out to the ultimate loser of the corporate challenge. Greg Bateman will serve as the master of ceremony.

The SummerFest Auction will be held on the main stage at 8 p.m. The beer garden sponsored by the VFW will be held from 5 p.m. to midnight on Thursday.

(See 'SUMMERFEST' on page two)

Judge wants certified drug, alcohol program; highway department needs budget guidance

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Martin County Judge Lynne Ellis came before the Martin County Council Monday night, June 6 to request permission for her department to go forward in getting a certified alcohol and drug program. She said that they are currently partnering with Orange County in order to receive certification and that before she can petition the Indiana Judicial Center, she needs to make sure the county council is on board per Indiana statute. She said this certification would not cost the county any money as it is paid for by the users at \$400 per person. Right now the program director of Orange County comes to Martin County to provide the service and there are five people currently in the program. She said once Martin County is certified, the program director would receive \$300 and the court would receive \$100. Full certification takes approximately three months. She said there are currently 55 certified alcohol and drug programs throughout

the state.

Council member Lynn Gee asked Judge Ellis what the money going to the court could be used for. Judge Ellis replied that it can be used for anything related to the program including postage, telephone, and supplies.

Council member Warren Albright asked Judge Ellis whether her current staff would be handling the program or whether it would require more staff. Judge Ellis replied that the goal is to create a new position. She said it would probably take a few years to build up enough to achieve this goal.

Judge Ellis said she has been working with the prosecutor to add the program as a pre-trial diversion citing that it would be used to get bail reduced for offenders of drug and alcohol-related offenses and a condition of informal probation. She said that if it comes to a point that enough is not brought in to even create a part-time director, the program will be eliminated. "I would like to see if it's something that we can do," she said. "I certainly don't want to pay someone else if we

(See 'JUDGE' on page three)

Shoals won't eliminate any teaching positions; school's fate uncertain

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Athletic Director Brian Smith questioned the Shoals School Board at their special meeting Friday night, June 3 as to why his contract was renewed for a year in December, 2010 and then suggested to be taken away four months later in April of this year.

"I asked that same question at the last board meeting Brian," said board member Christy Farhar. "I'm not sure."

Superintendent Dr. Tony Nonte said the reason was for cost savings. He said he looked at the administration as well as teaching positions for ways to save money.

Smith said that the school was aware of the decline in funding back in December and that they actually have a little more money than was projected. "I just have a hard time with knowing something in December and then four or five months later having to re-figure finances," said Smith. "To me, we

were looking for a way and regardless of the way I don't think it's the right way." He went on to say that if the board is going to approve a one-year contract then they should honor that contract. The board didn't respond and moved on to other personnel business.

Dr. Nonte told the board that he wanted to rescind his request to eliminate an elementary teacher position

- Kindra Hovis. He said that after speaking to the state, he found out that the

primetime grant that was going to be cut from \$46,000 to \$23,000 next year and \$9,000 the year after still required a certain teacher/aides to student ratio. He said that in order to maintain that ratio, the teacher was needed. He asked the board to rescind the letter sent to Ms. Hovis telling her that her job would be reduced. The board voted to rescind the letter. Dr. Nonte added that the board may have to look at hiring another aide to keep the ratio where it needs to be per state law.

(See 'SHOALS' on page twelve)

Sheriff's department may get city's dispatch calls on trial basis

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee City Council met in special session Tuesday morning, June 7 to discuss the future of the Loogootee Police Department Dispatcher Program. Council member Joe Mattox was unable to attend.

Mayor Bowling explained that the Loogootee Police Department Dispatch Program and the Martin County Sheriff's Department dispatchers are performing the same job. He said that in these tough economic times the city must find ways to cut costs. "That is the most obvious way I can find to cut expenses," he said referring to eliminating the city's dispatch program. "I feel that we can change our dispatch program drastically and

during the day - one handles the 911 calls and the other handles the other calls. He said that if the sheriff's department took over taking calls for Loogootee, he would need to hire another dispatcher.

Council member Sue Brewer said she doesn't understand why the city would have to pay for the service when residents already pay for it on their phone bills. Sheriff Street replied that he doesn't think that it is the responsibility of the sheriff's department to take non-emergency calls, such as reports of water leaks, from Loogootee residents. Brewer replied that those callers should be contacting the water department anyway.

"My point is that everyone in the county is paying the same thing, so we're already paying for it," said Brewer. "I find it really

hard to wonder why if we have an extra dime that it shouldn't be spent on these people right here that are paying more

taxes than anybody in the county."

Sheriff Street said he understood what Brewer was saying as he is a Loogootee resident. He said he didn't want to get into a position where there was too much work for his department to handle and be unable to get any more funding from the county council to help. "I just lost a deputy last year," he said referring to the county council's cuts on the budget. He said he knows if he goes before the county council to ask for another dispatcher because he took on Loogootee's calls that he isn't going to get it.

Mayor Bowling spoke up saying he has looked at the 911 income and expenditures from last year. He said they took in \$91,000

(See 'DISPATCH' on page three)

"I don't see how you can cut a million dollars."
-Shoals School Board Member Bill Shobe

"I feel that we can change our dispatch program drastically and turn it over to the county."
-Loogootee Mayor Don Bowling

SUMMERFEST

(Continued from page one)

On Friday, DJ Dave and Linda take back the main stage starting at 5 p.m. Craft booths, food stands, and armband games along West Main Street will again be held from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will also be a bake sale in the St. John's Lutheran parking lot beginning at 5 p.m.

Jayne Thompson will take fitness to a new level with Zumba in front of the main stage at 5:30 p.m. A bicycle parade decorating contest sponsored by Daviess County Hospital will also begin at 5:30 p.m.

Wacky the Clown, sponsored by Noel Harty-Perry Township Trustee, will be traveling around SummerFest from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday night. Alayna and Bob Toy will take to the main stage to perform from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The 2on2 Basketball Tourney will be held in the high school's outdoor courts starting at 7 p.m. and The Jones Gang will perform their classic rock and newer country tunes on the main stage from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Jones Gang is a versatile five-piece band that specializes in vocal harmonies. They have played in various venues across Southern Indiana. And again on Friday night, the beer garden will be held from 5 p.m. to midnight.

Kicking off Saturday, June 18 is the 5K Run/Fun Walk sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary. The walk will begin at 7:30 a.m. with the run starting at 8 a.m., both on the corner of West Main and West First Streets. The entry fee is \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the race. For more information, contact Karla Trout at 812-295-2464.

The Volleyball Tournament will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday at Costello Field. The entry fee is \$15 per player. Teams are co-ed triples. For more information, contact Brad Wade at 812-295-4229.

St. John's Lutheran Church will host an ice cream social and bake sale in their parking lot on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. and the Colts In Motion trailer will be set up through the same time. A sidewalk chalk contest for the kiddos, sponsored by Tri-Kappa, will begin at 4 p.m. Craft booths, food stands, and armband games will be set up for the last day of the fest from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and DJ



The Duke Boys, shown above, will be performing at SummerFest Saturday night, June 18 from 7 to 10 p.m. on the main stage. The Jones Gang, in the photo below, will perform Friday night, June 17 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. on the main stage.



Dave and Linda will play hits on the main stage from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Texas Hold'em Tournament, sponsored by the K of C, will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday and a Corn Hole Tourney, sponsored by Dairy Master, will start at 5 p.m. The entry fee for the Corn Hole Tourney is \$20 per team. Contact Mike Arvin at 812-295-3429 for more info. Gianna Armstrong and Travis Osborne will take to the stage from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. to entertain while the MarCo Singers will be performing at the Lutheran Church at 6 p.m.

The Duke Boys will take over the main stage from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Duke Boys - the Midwest's premier 50s and 60s rock and roll show band. They are based in Evansville but play throughout Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky.

The beer garden will be set up for the final day from 2 p.m. to midnight.

Colts In Motion coming to SummerFest

Colts In Motion is a 42-foot long traveling Colts museum and will be available at the SummerFest on Saturday, June 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Colts In Motion has four interactive televisions, a Reebok/NFL equipment display, Lucas Oil Stadium/Training Complex wall, a Colt's penny press, and tons of Colts factoids

You can search for your favorite Colts players in our Colts Alumni Database, touch the difference between the old Astro Turf and new FieldTurf, see a day in the life of a Colts

Cheerleader on the cheerleading wall, test yourself to see how well you know Colts players and coaches, see the cross section of the audio equipment in a quarterback helmet, 'make it personal' wall with an inside look at several players, coaches and cheerleaders, and a "join the team" wall showing Colts players giving back to the community.

SummerFest bball tourney

The Loogootee SummerFest 2on2 Basketball Tournament will be held on Friday night, June 17 at 7 p.m. at the outdoor court located behind the high school. The tournament is an open division with double elimination format. Entry fee is \$15 per player. To enter, call/text/email Brian Wade at 812-709-1870 or brianwade926@yahoo.com.



-Photo by Courtney Hughett

Candidates for Loogootee SummerFest Junior Miss are shown above. From left to right are 2010 Junior Miss Jacy Fields, Emma Walters, Brianna Williams, Jordan Mann, Breanna Lyton, Megan Lampert, Anaya Carrico, Abbey Barker, and Heather Harshaw.



-Photo by Courtney Hughett

Candidates for Loogootee SummerFest Little Miss are shown above. In the front row, from left to right are 2010 Little Miss Maura Gregory, Haley Erwin, Macey McAtee, Sarah Wagler, and Samantha Cook. In the back row are Jayleigh Waggoner, Aspyn Carrico, Mallory Berry, Skyler Padgett, Jessica Browder, and Ivory Ashby.



-Photo by Courtney Hughett

Candidates for Loogootee SummerFest Tiny Tot are shown above. From left to right are Olivia Dant, Mackenzie Hembree, Abigail Nonte, Brianna Mitchell, Allie Henninger, Jayleigh Harger, Grace Foddrill, Lauren Holt, Tierlan Norris, Hannah Harshaw, and McKenna Jones.

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DISPATCH

(Continued from page one)

and spent around \$92,000. Sheriff Street added that this year it will be worse because the county council added another dispatcher's salary to come out of the 911 fund.

Council member Rick Norris said that residents he has spoken to say they are already paying a county tax and then the tax to the city for the dispatch program and they don't feel like they should have to pay twice. He then asked Sheriff Street how much money the sheriff's department wants to take over Loogootee's calls.

Sheriff Street replied that he was looking at \$20,000 a year to provide him with another part-time dispatcher at \$8.50 per hour. That also includes the \$2,300 the city already pays for the 911 equipment.

Council member Rich Taylor said his problem is that the residents of Loogootee contact the city police department when they have problems. "There's people that come in here that's got problems, some of them come in here with little children, some of them don't have cars, some of them walk up here and I just feel like it's our responsibility to provide them some kind of service," he said. He questioned whether the other office employees in the municipal building would be able to help these people without the dispatchers being present.

Mayor Bowling said that he believes they can and the proposal calls for an emergency phone to be placed outside the building for after hours. Discussion ensued about the possibility of having someone sit in the police department after 4 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Mayor Bowling stated that his office could find no record of the dispatch program ever being created. He said it was something that just evolved and has become quite expensive. Training and turn over with dispatchers was discussed as main reasons for the expense. He said the city can save \$40,000 per year by eliminating the dispatch program.

Council member Phyllis Parker said she felt that eliminating the dispatch program doesn't help the citizens of Loogootee because they will continue to pay the same amount of taxes but with less services provided to them. "There is a possibility that you would get that one call and it would be a matter of life and death," she said. "I just think it's a service we should maintain in the city."

Council member Norris said that Huntingburg's calls are through their county's sheriff's department and they don't pay anything. Also, Ferdinand and Dale he believes.

Sheriff Street said that even if someone came in to the city police station with an emergency, the dispatchers are not trained to handle them. A police officer would need to be called in anyway. He said he can't think of a situation where a dispatcher sitting in the station would be any different than having a telephone outside that rang directly to the sheriff's department dispatcher.

Mayor Bowling said he felt there was some confusion with the council. He said that the police service would remain the same; they were only talking about the sheriff's department taking over the dispatch service. "The police service will be the same. You're confusing the police service with the dispatcher service and it's a duplication of service," said Mayor Bowling.

Council member Taylor said he was in favor of the city getting the extra \$40,000 because the city employees have not had raises in two years. "I can see where \$40,000 can go," he said. He added that many people are doing away with landline telephones and going to cell phones so he could see a decrease in the money that is collected in the future since cell phone charges are less for 911 than land lines.

Mayor Bowling replied that when the time comes he plans to propose a raise for city employees. He noted that insurance costs continue to rise however.

Council member Parker said she felt that the city employees had better insurance than 95 percent of Loogootee residents to which prompted more discussion.

Council member Norris moved the discussion back to the dispatch program by suggesting that the county take the city's third shift calls for a period of time to see how it works out. He said if it worked out well then they could talk about the county taking more hours. He said that the dispatch program in the city is costing about \$25,000 per shift.

Council member Taylor asked Sheriff Street if he would be willing to try taking the calls for the next six months on third shift for \$10,000 to which the sheriff said he would. He said that way the sheriff's department could see how things would work and what money would be needed if the city decided to make the switch permanently and include first and second shift.

Council member Norris said that by switching quickly like that everyone needs to remember that there would be employees who would lose their jobs, referring to the city dispatchers.

Mayor Bowling told the council that the ultimate decision on the police department must be decided by the Board of Public Works which consists of the mayor, Phyllis Parker and Joe Mattox. He said he wanted the input of the full council however.

Council member Brewer said that she feels that if this is a trial thing the city should only have to pay for the phone lines or whatever cost is associated with transferring the calls over for third shift and not have to pay the \$10,000.

There was more discussion with the suggestion of August 1 as the date to transfer the calls to the sheriff's department. Council member Taylor said he would still like to see a dispatcher available through the second shift and to allow time for residents to get used to the change. Sheriff Street said that if the effective date was August 1, he would prefer to calculate expenses on a month by month basis as opposed to setting a flat fee of \$10,000. He said it would also allow him time to make sure that it was going to work, considering this was his first year in office. He said he is a little gun shy about taking on more work for his department.

To clarify the proposal it was discussed that the city would keep a dispatcher on from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. during the weekdays and noon to 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. to midnight on the weekends. The sheriff's department would handle the rest of the time. It was also recommended that an emergency phone be put in outside as well for emergency calls to the sheriff's department. Council member Norris also suggested putting a policy in place that during very bad weather, a dispatcher be called in because the department receives a large amount of phone calls during those times.

The mayor asked if the council was ready to adjourn when council member Brewer asked about the money that was to be given to the sheriff's department. She said nothing had been decided. "My question is who has agreed to pay the county X amount of dollars?" asked Brewer. "We just did, I thought," replied Mayor Bowling. "No, we did not," replied Brewer.

Mayor Bowling said that it was up to the Board of Public Works to decide to which Brewer replied that when it comes to spending money, the council makes the decision.

"The money is already appropriated," said Mayor Bowling.

"You cannot write a check unless we okay it as a council," said Brewer.

The mayor said that \$80,000 was already appropriated for the purpose of the dispatch program. Brewer replied that the money was appropriated for the city of Loogootee, not the county.

Clerk-Treasurer Jones said that the State Board of Accounts would tell the city how they would need to change the budget line items to accommodate the switch to the county.

"We have not authorized any money to be spent on 911 because we have never talked about how much money you wanted to spend on it except \$10,000 and that's what you guys all had your heads together before

we ever had a meeting," said Brewer.

"Who?" asked Mayor Bowling.

"The council will be making the decision and we are not doing the budget meeting at this meeting," said Jones. "You'll have time to think about that between now and the budget meeting."

"Are you writing a check to the county, that's all I want to know?" asked Brewer.

Jones replied no, saying that if the sheriff's department sent a bill it would have to go before the council for approval.

Brewer asked Sheriff Street if he thought he was going to come to the meeting and walk out with \$20,000. She said it was all planned out in meetings that she and other council members were not involved in. She said it was all decided prior to the meeting and he was promised the money. She said that the sheriff's department was going to wait until the first of the year when some of the council members have left office to present a bill.

"I'd prefer to have the money up front," said Sheriff Street.

"It's just one of your tricks," Brewer said to the mayor.

"Where does this paranoia come from?" asked Jones.

"You shouldn't even be sitting with the council, you should be sitting over there at that table," Brewer said to Jones.

"Really?" asked Jones.

"Well, yeah, you're not part of the council," Brewer replied.

Mayor Bowling noted that the city attorney was not part of the council either but he sits next to him with the council.

With discussion getting heated a quick motion for adjournment was seconded and the meeting closed.

JUDGE

(Continued from page one)

can be generating the income for someone here in the county."

The council unanimously approved Judge Ellis to go forward with the program with the exception of council member Randy Winger who was not present.

Council member John Stoll provided the board with information on Crane timber harvesting that was previously discussed at a joint meeting between the council and commissioners. He said that Crane has a ten-year plan for the harvest of the trees, some years it may be three acres and others it may be more than 100. He said that he could not see the plan changing.

"The bottom line is that we can't expect to get a bigger piece of the pie," stated council member Warren Albright.

"The bottom line is exactly right," replied Stoll. He went on to say that the federal government allocated 40 percent of the profit to Martin County.

Council member Lonnie Hawkins said that the amount could be changed in state legislation.

Stoll agreed but stated that every base in the state is under the same plan so if Martin County was changed they would have to change all of the bases that had trees to harvest.

Martin County Alliance Director Tim Kinder provided the council with a letter stating what he has been working on. He said that due to confidentiality, he would like the council to keep the information private. "There are things in that letter that could very well compromise the projects, so that's why I ask that you keep it to yourselves," he said.

Sheriff Rob Street left a report with council member Lynn Gee stating that the jail currently has 13 Department of Correction's inmates with the possibility of 10 more. He also reported that replacing the brick on the outside of the jail was no longer a possibility due to cost. He said the stucco could be repaired or completely redone with the amount of money allotted for the project. Street said that they are also considering using metal. The engineering is expected to be completed within 30 days from Midwestern Engineers and bids will be sought for both following.

OBITUARY

DELBERT E. WALLS SR.

Delbert E. Walls Sr. died Friday evening, June 3, 2011 at his home. A resident of Loogootee, he was 82.

He was born April 21, 1929, in Martin County; the son of Joe and Neva (Compton) Walls. He married Pansy Jean (Wilkinson) Walls on June 25, 1950 at Mt. Calvary Methodist Church in Loogootee. She survives. He retired in 1996 from the maintenance department of



DELBERT WALLS SR.

National Gypsum Company in Shoals

and had been working part-time at West Boggs Park in Loogootee. He was a member of Popcorn Christian Church in Springville.

He is also survived by two sons, Delbert Walls Jr. of Olathe, Kansas, and Michael D. Walls of Bedford; two daughters, Debra J. Taber of Springville, Tennessee, and Rebecca L. Uffner of Lebanon, Pennsylvania; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; four sisters, Barbara Lundy of Loogootee, Nancy Moore of Bedford, Bonnie Goodpastor of Paoli, and Beverly Shedd of Ellettsville; two brothers, Alfren D. and Joe Walls, both of Shoals; and several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Frank Walls.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 9 at Loogootee Christian Church. Burial will be in Woods Cemetery. Visitation is from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 8 at Lee Funeral Home in Loogootee, and one hour prior to the service Thursday at the church.

Commissioner Dan Gregory, who was in the audience, updated the council on the upcoming opening of the ambulance bids. He said that there are as many as three to five bids coming in and they will be opened tonight, Wednesday, at 6 p.m. in the commissioners' room of the courthouse. Gregory said that the county is currently paying \$18,500 for ambulance service to be based in the county. He said that he believes all the bidders know what the county is currently paying. "Competition can be a good thing if everybody knows what is going on," he said.

Gregory also brought up the wheel tax that was discussed at the recent joint meeting between the commissioners and council. He said that the commissioners would still like to see that tax put in place and they would have already approved it if they had the power to do so. "I think everyone is concerned about the highway department's funding and our road infrastructure going forward," he said.

Highway Superintendent Jim Williams asked the council for some guidance in putting together his budget for next year which must be in by July 1. He said that according to the figures brought in by John Stoll, the Crane Timber money will be half of what it was this year. None of the council members gave Williams a response and a vote was taken regarding the wheel tax.

Purdue Extension Educator Jonathan Stevens reported that 312 youth are signed up for 4-H this year. He also reported that the fair dates have been set for July 8 through July 12. There will be no parking fee this year.

The council voted to hold budget hearings on Monday and Tuesday, August 8 and 9, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The regular meeting originally scheduled for August 1 will be held prior to the start of budget discussion on the 8th.

The council approved an additional appropriation of \$13,300 that was advertised incorrectly from the general fund for public defender fees that was supposed to come out of the supplemental public defender fund.

The second appropriation was approved at last month's meeting from the Rainy Day Fund of \$1,000 for the veterans' van.

Martin County Sheriff's Department log

Tuesday, May 31

8:07 a.m. - Received a report of a stolen purse from a residence.

10:41 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:10 p.m. - Received information reference a stolen vehicle from Daviess County.

2:55 p.m. - Received a report of mailbox vandalism.

3:59 p.m. - A male caller in Shoals reported an unwanted subject inside his residence while he was not home.

4:46 p.m. - Received a report of a stranded motorist at the U.S. 50/ S.R. 650 junction.

8:33 p.m. - Received a report of theft of a central air unit on Williams Road.

9:24 p.m. - A female caller in the Bramble area reported a break in at her residence.

9:27 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle on Williams Road.

11:56 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute on County Farm Road.

Wednesday, June 1

1:17 a.m. - Received a report of a subject lying in the roadway on West River Road.

9:40 a.m. - Received a report of a dispute between neighbors in Shoals.

10:39 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on U.S. 231, southbound toward Loogootee.

11:08 a.m. - Received a report that a subject had backed into one of the pumps at RJ's Food Mart.

1:32 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Odon. The call was transferred to Daviess County Sheriff's Dept.

2:00 p.m. - Received a request to attempt to locate a pickup truck on U.S. 50, eastbound from Montgomery that was traveling with a child in the bed of the truck.

3:35 p.m. - A female came on station to report problems with her teenage son.

3:44 p.m. - Received a report of threatening calls and texts.

5:20 p.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver on U.S. 231, northbound toward Loogootee.

5:35 p.m. - Received a report of a theft of a weed eater.

5:37 p.m. - Received a call regarding custody issues.

5:55 p.m. - Received a report of an unlicensed subject driving in Shoals.

Real estate transfers

Timothy L. Hudson and Rachel S. Hudson, of Martin County, Indiana to **Stewart E. Blake**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lots Numbered 127, 128, and 129 in the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Cathy L. Evans, William Heckard, Norman W. Heckard, Grace D. Dunlap, Rick L. Heckard, and Darwin I. Heckard, of Martin County, Indiana to **Michael J. Hopkins and Karen A. Hopkins**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the east fractional of the Section 30, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Halbert Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 3.56 acres, more or less.

8:05 p.m. - Received a complaint in reference to a neighbor's dog.

8:32 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:00 p.m. - Received a call regarding a suspicious odor in Shoals.

9:49 p.m. - Received a report of an ammonia leak at the White River Co-op in Loogootee.

10:38 p.m. - Received a report of a field fire in the area of Haw Creek Road.

Thursday, June 2

12:02 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:47 a.m. - Received a report of a tree in the roadway on U.S. 150, near Rusk Road.

11:00 a.m. - A male caller reported a lost or stolen identification card.

12:41 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Shoals.

12:55 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:32 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on U.S. 231, northbound toward Loogootee.

3:58 p.m. - A male caller reported harassment.

4:56 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:45 p.m. - Received a call about cows on the roadway on Mill Road.

8:07 p.m. - A female caller requested to speak to an officer regarding a property dispute.

9:18 p.m. - Received another call about cows on Mill Road.

Friday, June 3

12:15 a.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver westbound on U.S. 50 from the 4-H Fairgrounds.

12:32 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute on Windom Road.

12:39 a.m. - Received a request to check on a subject walking on U.S. 50, north of Loogootee.

2:27 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle around a business in Shoals.

7:58 a.m. - Received a complaint regarding a sign on Reinhart Hill.

8:16 a.m. - Received a call about a property dispute.

9:55 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on U.S. 50, eastbound from Shoals.

2:30 p.m. - A male caller advised of a controlled burn on Haw Creek Road.

2:36 p.m. - Received a call regarding trespassing.

2:50 p.m. - Received a report of a stolen trailer.

4:55 p.m. - Received a residential alarm.

5:31 p.m. - Received a call regarding custody issues.

5:42 p.m. - Received a complaint about four-wheelers and go-carts at Katydid Trailer Court.

7:30 p.m. - Received a call regarding a property dispute.

8:15 p.m. - Received a call regarding theft of medication.

8:23 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on Mount Calvary Road. The subject was taken to Queen-Lee Funeral Home.

9:58 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance at Ranglesville Road. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

Saturday, June 4

6:15 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on S.R. 450. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:20 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver eastbound on U.S. 50 between Loogootee and Shoals.

11:50 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on U.S. 231. No transport was

necessary.

12:21 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on Spout Springs Road. No transport was necessary.

12:50 p.m. - Received a residential burglar alarm in Shoals.

4:18 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on Boyd Hollow Road. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:18 p.m. - Received a call regarding a dog bite.

7:00 p.m. - Received a call about a property dispute.

8:39 p.m. - Received a call about a stray dog.

11:15 p.m. - Received a call regarding a possible impaired driver on U.S. 231, south of Loogootee.

Sunday, June 5

5:02 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance at Martin County Health Care. The patient was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

11:06 a.m. - A caller requested to speak to an officer regarding stray dogs that are attacking other dogs in the neighborhood.

12:30 p.m. - A male caller requested to speak to an officer about a property dispute.

3:02 p.m. - Received a request for assistance from first responders in Daviess County. Daviess County Sheriff's Department was contacted.

6:46 p.m. - Received a report of a tree on the roadway on U.S. 150 about three miles out of Shoals.

8:26 p.m. - Received a request for extra patrol for vandalism.

9:36 p.m. - Received a complaint about loud four-wheelers on S.R. 550.

9:40 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute north of Loogootee. Daviess County was contacted.

10:30 p.m. - Received a call about a possible suicidal subject.

11:15 p.m. - Received a call about a possible overdose.

11:18 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

Monday, June 6

6:45 a.m. - Received a report of a deer accident on U.S. 231, near Highway 645.

6:56 a.m. - Received a report of a stolen log skidder.

8:57 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance on U.S. 50, near the National Gypsum Plant. The subject was air-lifted by Air Evac to Evansville.

9:15 a.m. - A female subject came on sta-

tion to report a theft.

12:00 p.m. - Received a commercial burglar alarm on Ziegler Road.

1:50 p.m. - A female caller advised of a lost engagement/wedding band set.

2:42 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:57 p.m. - Received a report of a speeding and reckless driver on U.S. 231, southbound toward Loogootee.

3:12 p.m. - A female caller reported a reckless driver, northbound on U.S. 231, south of Loogootee.

4:23 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance at Martin County Health Care. The patient was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

4:47 p.m. - Received a complaint of animal abuse.

5:06 p.m. - Received a report of a fight in the Hindostan Falls area over a property dispute.

5:08 p.m. - Received a commercial burglar alarm on Ziegler Road.

5:44 p.m. - Received a call regarding a civil dispute.

6:07 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver, southbound on U.S. 231 from Loogootee.

8:49 p.m. - Received a report of a fire at the National Gypsum Plant.

10:36 p.m. - A female caller advised of an aggressive raccoon.

Tuesday, June 7

4:17 a.m. - Received a request for a welfare check on a subject walking on S.R. 550.

8:10 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. No transport was necessary.

9:00 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle inspection.

Accident reports

Monday, June 6

4:40 p.m. - Clyda Emmons, of Shoals, had parked her 2007 tan Jeep on a hillside facing toward a pond. She was attempting to pull out a lawnmower that was stuck in mud near the edge of the pond. Shortly after Clyda exited the vehicle, the vehicle rolled down the hill and struck a Craftsman riding mower, pushing it into the pond. The Jeep then came to rest against the mower, partially submerged in the pond. The vehicle and mower were both pulled out of the pond and suffered water damage. The investigating officer was Deputy Steve Nolan.

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Loogootee Police log

Tuesday, May 31

9: 56 a.m. - Female caller reported that her son's car was broken into on N. Oak Street. Articles that were taken were CD disk and a charger. Chief Rayhill took the report.

1:05 p.m. - A male caller reported that he had lost the vinyl top off of his car. Chief Rayhill took the report.

9:32 p.m. - Received a call on a possible drunk driver on North Line Street. Sgt. Hennette went to the area he stopped the vehicle for no headlights. He gave the subject a verbal warning for no headlights and the driver checked out ok.

Wednesday, June 1

11: 59 a.m. - A female came on station to report child neglect. Chief Rayhill took the report.

12:22 p.m. - Penny Davis called and reported vandalism to her son's car sometime over the weekend while it was parked behind Larkin's Apartments. It had been keyed. Chief Rayhill did the report.

4:34 p.m. - Female caller reported harassment.

9:07 p.m. - Caller reported an anhydrous leak at the co-op.

9:25 p.m. - Caller reported an unlocked business. Manager was contacted.

10:28 p.m. - Male on North Line Street requested extra patrol.

11:52 p.m. - Caller reported a car alarm going off at Hoosier Auto.

Thursday, June 2

3:30 a.m. - Caller reported a party on East Broadway Street.

8:51 a.m. Caller on Queen Street reported suspicious persons on her property the previous night.

3:21 p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department reported a 911 hang-up on Westwood Drive.

6:43 p.m. - Mike Newton, of Loogootee, reported a theft of a trailer hitch.

7:16 p.m. - Male caller stated he was receiving harassing text messages from a female. Sgt. Hennette spoke with the male.

7:39 p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department requested assistance for a person who had fled.

7:40 p.m. - Female reported receiving harassing text messages.

11:25 p.m. - Female requested extra patrol on Cedar Street.

Friday, June 3

12:16 a.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department reported a possible intoxicated driver westbound on Hwy 50. Sgt. Hennette was unable to locate.

12:10 p.m. - Female reported a dog bite in Shaded Estates.

5:00 p.m. - Male reported a child custody issue.

8:14 p.m. - Caller reported two males in the Marathon Station causing problems. Sgt. Hennette located both subjects and one male was cited on drug possession charges.

8:27 p.m. - First responders were requested on Mt. Calvary Road for a male with a possible heart attack.

Saturday, June 4

2:08 a.m. - Received a call from Martin County Sheriff's Department for assistance behind the subway station. Sgt. Hennette went to the area.

11:38 a.m. - Adam Arvin, of Larkin Apartments, reported he had found his window and screen open into his bedroom. Nothing was reported missing at this time. Capt. Akles was notified to do extra patrol.

1:44 p.m. - Unknown caller reported the odor of gas, near 104 Main Street. The Loogootee Fire department was sent to check it out.

10:06 p.m. - Female caller advised of a subject harassing her 16-year-old daughter at her place of employment. Subject was advised to get a protective order.

11:18 p.m. - Martin County Sheriff's Department reported a suspicious vehicle on U.S. 231 with the headlights out. Sgt. Norris was notified.

Sunday, June 5

7:58 p.m. - A male caller requested a welfare check on his daughter on N. Line Street. Sgt. Norris went to the location but no one was at the residence.

8:17 p.m. - A female caller requested a welfare check on a friend that lives on East Main Street. Sgt. Norris went to the location and the subject was fine.

Martin County Court News

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

CRIMINAL COURT

New Charges Filed

May 31

Linda M. Trambaugh, operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Rocky J. Morton, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Bradford D. Williamson, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class D Felony.

Gregory J. Halcomb, criminal recklessness, a Class D Felony; pointing a firearm, a Class D Felony.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

May 26

Teresa Alspaugh, possession of methamphetamine, a Class B Felony, dismissed; dealing in methamphetamine, a Class A Felony, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

May 27

Asset Acceptance LLC vs. Charlene D. Hatton, civil collection.

Capital One Bank vs. Judith A. Whitman, civil collection.

Springs Valley Bank and Trust Co. vs. Christopher Dunn, Tammy E. Dunn, and Treasurer of Martin County, mortgage foreclosure.

May 31

Nicholas L. Roberts vs. Laura Roberts, petition for dissolution of marriage.

CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

May 27

Otwell Leasing vs. Brandon Wright, et al, civil collection, dismissed.

Citibank vs. Melvin Graber, civil collection, dismissed.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suits Filed

May 31

Wendy and Russell Cook II vs. Lacey Hawkins and Russell Cook III, complaint.

Kevin R. Boyd vs. Cheyenne Andis, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS DISMISSED

May 31

Anthony Jones vs. Sheila Shoults, complaint, dismissed.

TRAFFIC TICKETS PAID

May 25 - May 31

Amoreena Harding, Terre Haute, speeding 56 in a 40, \$124.

Jacob Seals, Loogootee, seatbelt violation, \$25.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

May 27

Ryan Roberts Gerkin of Loogootee and Jonna DeAnne Blankenbaker of Loogootee.

May 31

Shawn Eugene Emberton of Shoals and Sherrie Lynn Merritt of Shoals.

Donald G. Nolan of Loogootee and Samantha S. Davis of Loogootee.

Fifth Annual Fallen Officers Blood Drive

On July 10, 2001, Sgt. Dan R. Starnes of the Morgan County, Indiana Sheriff's Department, lost his life as a result of gunshot wounds sustained during a line of duty gun battle with a burglary suspect four weeks earlier.

To keep his memory alive his surviving spouse, Janice organized the Sgt. Dan R. Starnes Memorial Blood Drive in Morgan County later that year, and has organized a blood drive each year since in Dan's memory. In 2007 she decided to take the blood drive statewide and renamed it the Indiana Fallen Officers Blood Drive.

"I ask that everyone please understand the

importance of this worthwhile cause and help promote Indiana's statewide blood drive," said Janice Starnes. "In honoring our fallen officers the surviving family members are comforted knowing the sacrifice their officer made will never be forgotten."

Blood donation, commonly known as the gift of life, helps countless numbers of people.

The blood drive will be held on Wednesday, June 15 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Shoals United Methodist Church and again Thursday, June 16 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Shoals Christian Church located at 602 N. Main St.

Martin County jail bookings

Tuesday, May 31

8:30 p.m. - Kevin Graber, 39, of Shoals, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated.

Wednesday, June 1

1:45 a.m. - Arthur Terry, 39, of Shoals, was arrested and charged with public intoxication.

Friday, June 3

1:30 a.m. - Toni Clifton, 35, of Shoals, was arrested on a Lawrence County warrant.

Saturday, June 4

12:00 a.m. - Roger A. Terry, 43, of Shoals, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana.

Monday, June 6

10:15 a.m. - Christina Lytton, 36, of Seymour, was arrested and charged with petition to revoke.

5:00 p.m. - Jason Weaver, 35, of Mitchell, was arrested and charged with failure to abide by terms of bond.

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ELECTRIC, ANTIQUE COKE MACHINE, still works, 295-4296.

YARD SALE

YARD SALE June 10 and June 11, 201 Cedar Street, Loogootee - two blocks behind Burchs' Vet Clinic. Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., newborn - 2T girls clothes and other misc. items.

FREE PETS

KITTENS: Free to Good Homes - adorable, cuddly and very friendly - please call 295-4147.

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Want to place a classified ad?

Call 812-259-4309 or email courtney@martincountyjournal.com

Classes and programs at the learning center

Ivy Tech Excel training in Martin County! - Ivy Tech will conduct Excel training for the public beginning on June 23. Training will be held on Thursday evenings 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Martin County Community Learning Center, and will focus on preparing participants for the Microsoft Specialist Certification. For more information, contact Katrina Jones at 812-330-6042 or katjones@ivytech.edu. To register, please visit www.ivytech.edu/bloomington/cll/personalenrichment/computing.html.

Constitution Institute - Are you one of many Americans who is growing increasingly alarmed at the expansion and growing influence of the federal government? Would you like to see the U.S. government return to the constitution? According to John Hostettler, "A 2008 survey conducted by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute revealed that more than 70 percent of Americans failed a test of basic knowledge of the federal government." A group of concerned citizens has organized The Constitution Institute to promote awareness of Constitutional principles in an effort preserve liberty for our posterity. A seminar presented by the Constitution Institute will be held at the Martin County Learning Center on Tuesday, June 14, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 and includes a training manual for Module



1- Intro to the U.S. Constitution. Register online at www.constitutioninstitute.org/ or call or stop by the learning center to register before June 9.

USAJOBS Workshop (Resume Builder) - The USAJOBS workshop is provided by Bramble Consulting (Darlene Ridgway). USAJOBS is the Federal government's official website and provides access to more than 30,000 job listings world-wide. This

is an online resume training session and will provide applicants with information and advice needed to apply for a government position. USAJOBS Resume Builder allows you to create one uniform resume that provides all the information required by most government agencies. The next workshop will be held on June 23 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and cost is \$40. Call the learning center to sign up.

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

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

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

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

IDHS gives away another 5,500 all-hazards alert radios

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is again partnering with local emergency management agencies to give away more than 5,500 all hazards alert radios to at-risk Hoosiers throughout the state.

"The advanced knowledge all-hazards alert radios provide about coming thunderstorms, floods, tornadoes and other dangerous weather conditions give residents warning to seek shelter before a storm," said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainwright. "We are pleased at the opportunity to again make this valuable early warning tool available to more Hoosiers who might not otherwise be able to afford it."

The radios have been divided among all 92 counties and delivered to each county emergency management agency for distribution. Economically disadvantaged Hoosiers, including residents of mobile homes, are again being targeted to receive these radios.

Mobile homes and similar structures offer only minimal protection against severe weather and other life-threatening natural and man-made disasters, so frequently the best course of action is evacuation to a

stronger, safer building such as a community center or other public facility.

Federal grant sources funded the purchase and distribution of these radios.

Last year, IDHS distributed more than 8,000 radios through a similar grant program.

IDHS encourages everyone who is able to purchase an all-hazards alert radio, to do so. They can be purchased for about \$30 or \$40 online and at many retail outlets.

All-hazards alert radios disseminate more than 60 emergency alerts such as hazardous weather and other local area warnings, including up-to-date weather information broadcast directly from the National Weather Service. In the event of a power outage or an evacuation, backup battery power allows the radios to remain operational.

Most all-hazard radios require a Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) code number in order to limit the receipt of emergency messages to a specific geographic area. The list of Indiana counties and their corresponding SAME codes are available at www.weather.gov/nwr/Cnty-Cov/nwrIN.htm.



-Photo by Courtney Hughett

The parking lot of the former Loogootee Elementary East building is currently being paved by Hughes Paving at a cost of around \$58,000.

Funding for parking lot paving still unknown despite work in progress

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Work has begun on the parking lot of the former Loogootee Elementary East building now home to STIMULUS Engineering. According to Martin County Alliance Director Tim Kinder, due to time constraints, the parking lot had to be paved now as STIMULUS is planning to open on August 1.

Kinder told the county council Monday night that multiple organizations would be paying for the \$58,000 paving project being performed by Hughes Paving although none have pledged any money as of yet. Currently the Martin County Redevelopment Commission, the Loogootee City Council and the Loogootee School Corporation have been approached with none giving an answer to how much they plan, if any, to contribute.

The Loogootee School Corporation owns the property and will be receiving \$13,000 per month for the next two years in the lease agreement with STIMULUS. "We had to get it done now or it wasn't going to get done," said Kinder to the county council.

In a phone interview with Kinder on Monday, he was asked about sources stating that Crane planned to bus in those who will be training in the STIMULUS building to avoid paying mileage to the employees. Kinder said that this has been discussed but he never received a confirmation that it will happen for sure. He said regardless, the parking lot needs to be paved for the future of the building - as a long-term investment.

Kinder noted that he would like to see the elected officials get on board with economic development in the county, citing this being a part of it to draw in businesses.

Where to write or call YOUR STATE & LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

MARTIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COUNTY COUNCIL
Lynn Gee
Mailing address: 101 Southeast Third Street, Loogootee, IN 47553
Randy Winger
Phone: 812-295-3527
Email: fastlane@dmrtc.net
Lonnie Hawkins
Phone: 812-709-0496
Email: snu0266@live.com

COMMISSIONERS
Dan Gregory
Mailing address: 2011 Lumpkin Road, Loogootee, IN 47553
Home phone: 812-695-5131
Cell: 812-631-2635
Fax: 812-644-7400
Email: gregoryd@psci.net
Paul George
Home: 812-388-7149
Cell: 812-653-2771

District 63 State Representative Mark Messmer
Mailing address: 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 800-382-9841
Email: h63@in.gov
District 62 State Representative Matt Ubelhor
Mailing address: 200 W. Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 800-382-9841
Email: h62@in.gov
U.S. Senator Richard Lugar
Mailing address: 1180 Market Tower Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-226-5555
Fax: 317-226-5508
Form to email available online at <http://lugar.senate.gov/contact/contactform.cfm>
U.S. Senator Daniel Coats
1650 Market Tower, 10 West Market Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-554-0750
Fax: 317-554-0760
U.S. Congressman District 8 Larry Bucshon
101 NW Martin Luther King Blvd. #124, Evansville, IN 47708
Phone: 812-465-6484
Fax: 812-422-4761
Form to email available online at <https://bucshon.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

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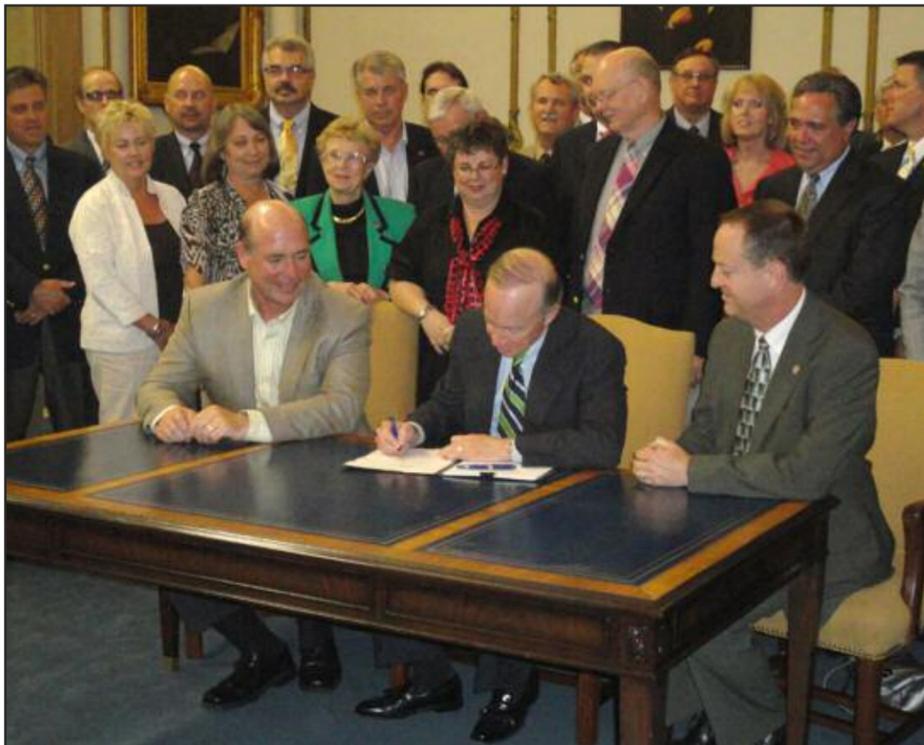
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-Photo provided

Shown above is Governor Daniels signing HEA 1007. Speaker of the House Brian Bosma is to the left of the governor and State Rep. Mark Messmer is on the right at the table. Behind the table are members of the House Republican caucus.

Rep. Messmer's bill creating tax and hiring incentives signed into law

State Rep. Mark Messmer (R-Jasper) and many House Republican members were present last Thursday at the Statehouse as the governor signed into law several bills providing additional economic development tools to communities in order to better foster job growth. Included in those was House Enrolled Act 1007, authored by Rep. Messmer that will create tax and hiring incentives in communities across Indiana.

"Creating jobs for Hoosiers was a top priority for me this session," said Rep. Messmer. "This legislation will help struggling Hoosiers by promoting a healthy economic climate that will attract businesses and jobs to our state and our district. It will also provide local incentives and tax breaks for both Hoosiers and Hoosier employers."

Rep. Messmer, along with his House Republican colleagues, presented the "Strengthen Indiana Plan" at the start of session, laying out what their goals for the 2011 legislative session. A large part of the legislation introduced was promoting Hoosier job creation. The following bills passed this legislative session and now have been signed into law:

- House Enrolled Act 1004 enhances the Venture Capital Investment Tax Credit to improve access to capital for fast growing

Indiana companies. Additionally, it will make Indiana more desirable to out-of-state businesses by lowering our corporate tax rate, thus creating more economic development in our state.

- House Enrolled Act 1005 establishes the Dinosaur Building Tax Credit, which lowers requirements deeming a building vacant so businesses will repurpose warehouses and factories in order to employ more Hoosiers.

- House Enrolled Act 1006 creates a one-stop-shop for new and existing businesses, while also promoting economic development locally and regionally. In addition, the new law will encourage coordination between universities, high schools and state agencies to create an entrepreneurial curriculum.

- House Enrolled Act 1007 allows enhanced abatement schedules and hiring incentives to encourage local job growth. HEA 1007 also extends tax incentive options for locals to exempt enterprise information technology in order to attract high-tech companies offering high-paying jobs.

"I am very happy to see these bills that will help create jobs in Indiana and allow Hoosier families to prosper be signed into law," said Rep. Messmer.

The Messmer Report

By District 63 State Representative

Mark Messmer



Saving lives, knowing where your money is spent

Starting on July 1 many of the bills we passed this legislative session will take effect. There are several that I thought you would find interesting and would like more information on including a texting and emailing while driving ban, increased transparency in our state government, and a tougher stance on meth use.

Studies in recent years have shown that people who text while driving are 23 times more likely to crash than those who don't. We heard both emotional and scientific testimony when first considering this bill and believe that by prohibiting texting while driving we can save lives in Indiana. On July 1, Indiana will become the 31st state to ban texting while driving. This new law will prohibit drivers from reading and sending text and e-mail messages while operating a moving vehicle. However, a driver may still use a hands-free device or make a phone call.

As taxpayers, we all want to know that our money is being spent wisely. There has been a call for more transparency in government and we worked to answer that call. Hoosiers will now have access to financial

information for all state agencies, school corporations, local governments and state universities on a user-friendly website. By allowing taxpayers to see where their money is being spent we can better assure Hoosiers that their tax dollars are hard at work. When a website address is released I will be sure to let you know where to find the information.

Meth abuse is a problem for many communities across America. The drug wreaks havoc on lives. This session we worked to implement a statewide electronic tracking system that will monitor the sale of certain medications that are commonly used to make meth. I believe this will help crack down on meth production without inconveniencing the majority of Hoosiers who purchase these medications for legitimate health care purposes.

Thank you for your continued feedback and support.

County meetings

Commissioners

The Martin County Commissioners will meet tonight, Wednesday, June 8 in special session to open ambulance bids for service to the county. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the commissioners' room of the Martin County Courthouse. The meeting is open to the public.

Loogootee City Council

The Loogootee City Council will meet in regular session on Monday, June 13 at 6 p.m. in the city council chambers of the Loogootee Municipal building. The meeting is open to the public.

Shoals School Board

The Shoals School Board will meet tomorrow night, Thursday, June 9 at 5 p.m. in the central administration office. The meeting is open to the public.



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Celebrate the infinite potential of Ag leadership at the 82nd Indiana FFA Convention

For 82 years, the Indiana FFA and its members have found within themselves Infinite Potential in premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through their time spent in the FFA program. This will be demonstrated at the 82nd Indiana FFA State Convention, to be held June 13-15 at Purdue University. This three-day event provides an opportunity to reward Indiana's finest students for their hard work and dedication in promoting agriculture and improving their academic and leadership skills.

The 9,500 FFA members from across the state will also find exciting educational opportunities at the general sessions in the Elliott Hall of Music. The following are this year's keynote speakers:

Scott McKain- His speaking career began in the Crothersville FFA Chapter and he later served as the Indiana FFA State President and National FFA Secretary. Now a nationally syndicated television personality and best-selling business author, McKain has appeared on platforms in all fifty states and in sixteen other nations, and is excited upon his return "home" to his favorite group in the world!

Ted McKinney- Serves as the Senior Director of Global Corporate Affairs for Elanco Animal Health. McKinney has a broad view of the agriculture industry and will share a

message of agriculture's promise and challenges as the critical task of feeding a hungry planet is ever-increasing. A past Indiana FFA state officer, McKinney will provide insight to how FFA members can proudly state "I believe in the future of agriculture."

National FFA President Riley Pagett- For the past year, this FFA member from Woodward, Oklahoma has helped to cultivate the seeds within each of the more than 500,000 FFA members while serving as the 2010-2011 National FFA President. In discussing his mission to inspire, Pagett explains, "After enrolling in agricultural education courses, I realized that FFA was the perfect organization to assist me with my dream of becoming a 'seed planter.' I am prepared and look forward to the opportunity to plant seeds in FFA members."

All will share their perspective on this year's Infinite Potential theme that will entertain and motivate FFA members, advisors, and guests throughout the convention.

FFA Members will also have a chance to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments throughout the Convention within their Career Development Events, Supervised Agriculture Experiences, and chapter activities.

For the complete FFA Convention Agenda or more information, visit indianaffa.org.

Hoosiers reminded to record and report damage

In addition to reporting uninsured damage to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), Hoosiers affected by severe weather this spring are reminded to document all damage and contact insurance providers to file a claim for insured damage.

To report severe weather damage beginning April 18, 2011 and continuing (including damage from May 25 tornados) go to www.in.gov/dhs. In the middle of the page under "Topics of the Day," click on "Report Damage Beginning April 18, 2011 and Continuing - Wind and Flooding." The reports are being combined with previous damage from severe weather that began April 18.

Follow these additional steps to assist with documenting and reporting damage to your property and personal items.

Record the damage

Prepare a comprehensive list of all damage sustained on your property. Include damage to your residence or other structures, landscaping and personal belongings.

Include a detailed description of the kind and extent of property damage incurred, and supplement these descriptions with photographs or sketches.

When possible, include documents of ownership such as titles for vehicles, property and large machinery. If such documentation is unavailable, estimate the pre-damaged value of each item on your list.

When recording damaged or lost belongings, list the quantity of each item, a description, brand name, where purchased, its cost, model and serial number (if appropriate) and your estimate of the loss amount. Attach your bills, receipts, photos and any other documents.

Record all cleanup efforts

Do all you can to protect undamaged property. However, prior to signing an agreement/contract with a cleaning, remediation, or maintenance contractor, you should consult with your insurer concerning coverage.

Don't throw anything away before an insurance adjuster or damage inspector has seen it, unless local law requires you to. In that case, take photos of the property before disposing of it and keep samples for the adjuster or inspector to see. (For example, cut out a piece of wall-to-wall carpet.)

Keep all receipts for any work done to repair damage, or for items purchased to replace belongings.

Filing a claim with your insurance company

When you contact your insurance agent or company representative to report your loss, have the following information ready

-The name of your insurance company and your policy number

-A phone number and/or e-mail address where you can be reached

-A brief summary of the damage and the date it was sustained

Many insurance policies require you to give prompt written notice of loss. Get in touch with your insurance agent or company representative as soon as possible. They will advise you how to file your notice of claim.

For more information about what to do after severe weather visit getprepared.in.gov.



-Photo provided

The Loogootee Scouts who participated in the recent campout and advancement ceremony are shown above. In the front row, from left to right, are Cordel Padgett, Austin Allen, Tommy Jones, and Cyrus Gibbs. In the back row, from left to right, are Scout Ross Adams, Eagle Scout Scott Duzan, and Scout Dylan Sturgeon.

Loogootee Scouts end year with campout

Loogootee Scouting ended the year at Martin State Forest with a campout and advancement ceremony. Earning his Tiger and bobcat badges, the very first scouting rank, and advancing to Wolves was Cub Scout Cyrus (CJ) Gibbs. Earning their Wolf badges and advancing on to Bears were cub scouts Tommy Jones and Cordell Padgett.

Former weblos Den leader Bryan Adams

was also awarded the Den Leaders uniform badge for two years of service as a Weblos den leader.

Also present was Boy Scout Scott Duzan, who in a long-delayed court of honor, was awarded the Eagle Scout badge, the highest rank in scouting. Presenting Scott with the badge were Scouters Brad Combs and Randy Gibson.

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courtney@martincountyjournal.com • www.martincountyjournal.com

U.S. CONSTITUTION CLASSES

A recent Indiana State Supreme Court decision has Hoosiers - and the rest of America - asking: is this "Constitutional?" Isn't this a violation of the Fourth Amendment?

And, it has the Constitution Institute asking: Why are Americans asking these questions? Shouldn't "We the People" know if the actions of our elected officials are constitutional? Of course we should. Founding Father John Adams said: "We electors have an important constitutional power placed in our hands - it becomes necessary to every [citizen] then, to be in some degree a statesman".

Hundreds of Americans have already begun the constitution training that will prepare them to be citizen-statesmen.

It's never too late for you to begin with Module 1 – Introduction to the United States Constitution, Module 2 – The Legislature, Module 3 – The Executive, etc.



**Register today by calling Kathy at the
Martin County Learning Center
at 812-295-2674.**

**When: Tuesday, June 14, 2011
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Where: Martin County Community Learning Center
Cost: \$30 per person - Includes training materials.
Space is Limited! Register Now!**

To Market, To Market

By Linda Ledgerwood Ellis
Martin County Farmer's
Market Coordinator



-Photo by Linda Ledgerwood Ellis

Audie Downs, shown above, was a vendor at last Saturday's Farmer's Market in Shoals. She offers baked goods as well as perennials from her flower garden to customers.

It was hot but it was fun as the Martin County Farmers Market began its 2011 season in Shoals last Saturday. Vendors from every corner of the county offered fresh baked pastries, free-range eggs, straight-from-the-garden produce, herbs, breads, original wood workings, soaps, and plants galore. A steady flow of customers captured the shade and escaped the heat inside vendor tents as they chatted with and got to know some of the new vendors as well as welcomed back several returning vendors. The boy scouts offered hot dogs and soda and the children were delighted by having their faces painted. From the Host Tent, Noel Harty and Donna Stoughton greeted and thanked everyone for joining the opening day festivities as they raffled vendor items to the lucky winners.

The market will be held each Saturday



through the last weekend in October and is located in the Bo-Mac's parking lot in Shoals. The hours of operation are 9 a.m. through noon. Be sure to arrive early in order to have the best selection of the items offered - you will not be disappointed.

Changes to health department shot clinics

The Indiana State Department of Health has implemented changes to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Effective July 1, the Martin County Health Department can only vaccinate children on Medicaid, the uninsured and those who have insurance that does not pay for vaccines. Children who have health insurance that pays for immunizations will have to receive those shots at their doctor's office or another clinic. It is the responsibility of the parent to contact the insurance company and ask if the insur-

ance will pay for immunizations.

The health department will continue to provide tetanus vaccine; Hepatitis A and B vaccine and TB testing to those age 19 and older for a fee.

Immunization clinic hours are every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The first Wednesday of each month the clinic is open until 6 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Anyone with questions can call the Health Department at 247-3303.

4-H Dream Team Club holds meeting

BY ROSS ADAMS
Secretary, Dream Team 4-H Club

The Dream Team 4-H club met at the Loogootee City Park on June 4. There were 21 members and two leaders present. Cassidy Esch did a demonstration on dolphins (poster) and Maura Gregory did a demonstration on rabbits (with two live rabbits).

The kids played a beanbag toss game and

played on the park equipment. Some of the members ordered club t-shirts.

The leaders announced that Day Camp will be held by the Junior Leaders on June 27 to 29. It is for kids who have just completed kindergarten through fourth grade.

Snacks were brought by Katie and Kylie Sims.

The next meeting will be on June 14 at 7 p.m. at the park.

My Mommy's Garden & Greenhouse

Sunday and Monday - Closed
Tuesday and Thursday - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday and Friday - 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

I will gladly open during closed hours if I'm home or by appointment. Call 812-247-2450.

11489 Ironton Road, Shoals
812-247-2450 or 812-639-1224

(Turn at the school playground, on the right after the S curve)

Humane Society PET OF THE WEEK



The Martin County Humane Society has 11 little puppies that will be up for adoption Saturday June 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pamida in Loogootee. Stop by and see all the animals up for adoption. The humane society will also have some kittens available. If you would like to see an animal shelter in Martin County, you can send a donation to: Martin County Humane Society, P.O. Box 537 Shoals, IN 47581.

Calendar of Events

Shawl Ministry meeting

The non-denominational Woven with Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, June 6 and Monday, June 27 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Loogootee United Methodist Church in the prayer room. Yarn, patterns, needles, and hooks are available upon request. For more information, contact Dianna Overall at 295-2639 or Teresa Davis at 295-2947.

Retirement presentation

Creating dependable, predictable retirement income that will last a lifetime is one of the highest priorities when planning for retirement. A special presentation will be conducted by Lucas Chamberlain, Financial Adviser of Northwestern Mutual on Thursday, June 16, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Martin County Community Learning Center. Items to be discussed include: how to effectively address the six key retirement risks, how the right combination of solutions can help protect your retirement assets, and how to establish retirement income that will last a lifetime. If you have any questions, please call 812-471-2200.

Animal Control Commission

The Martin County Animal Control Commission will meet Tuesday, June 7 at 6 p.m.

in the city council meeting room of the Loogootee Municipal Building. The meeting is open to the public.

Tourism meetings

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

Humane society meetings

The Martin County Humane Society meets on the third Tuesday of the month at Loogootee Municipal Building, at 7 p.m. To become a member, contact Martin County Humane Society, P. O. Box 537, Shoals, Indiana 47581, call Don at 296-0952.

Youth football meetings

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

Recovery support group

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

Martin County ABATE meetings

The Martin County Chapter of ABATE of Indiana will meet Wednesday, June 15 at 6 p.m. in Loogootee Family Restaurant.

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Lions take regional for first time in 28 years

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee Boys' Baseball team made their way through regional last weekend by defeating Trinity Lutheran in the first game 10-8 and following that with a championship win over South Central (Elizabethtown) 5-4.

In game one, Bryant Ackerman broke the school's home run record by smacking his 11th for the season. The record was previously held by Scott Wallace. Bryant's three-run homer put the Lions on top over Trinity 9-8. He was followed by another home run by Bryce Wilz in the fourth inning. No runs were scored for the remainder of the game.

In the win over South Central, Ackerman added to the school record with another home run putting the first run on the board for the Lions mid-game. Still down 1-2, the Lions rallied to take the lead in the sixth inning 3-2 but South Central answered with a home run of their own tying the score and then scoring another run in the top of the seventh inning.

With one at-bat remaining at the bottom of the seventh it looked grim for the Lions when the first batter struck out. After the bases were loaded from the next three hitters, Ackerman struck out bringing to the place Dalton Wittmer. Wittmer's base hit scored two runs winning the game for the Lions and a trip to semi-state. This was the first regional win for the Lions in 28 years.

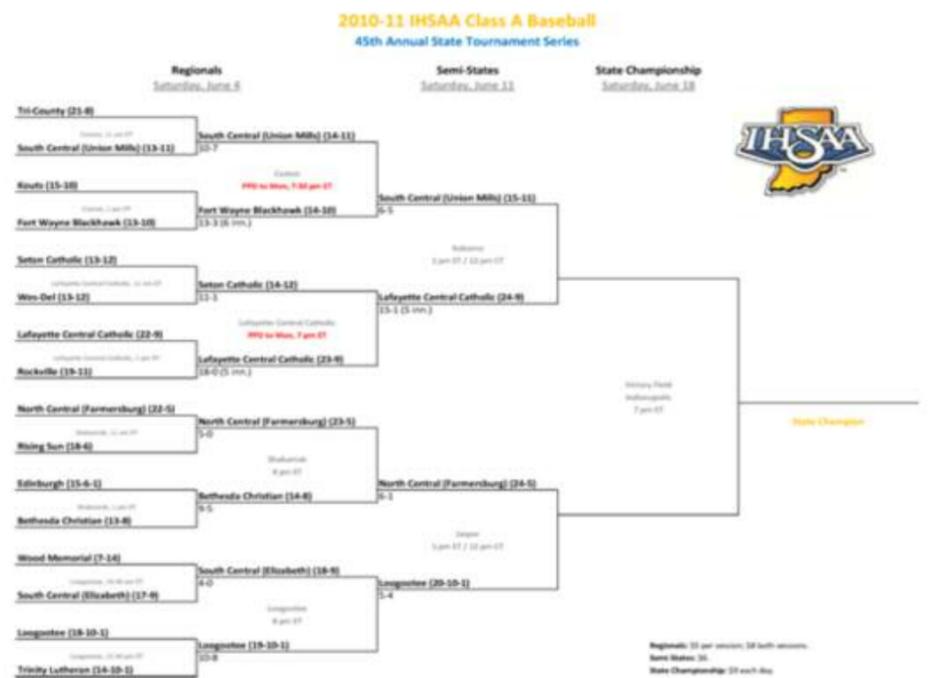


-Photo provided

The Lions' team headed to semi-state, are shown above posing with their sectional win trophy. In the front row, from left to right, are Dax Bailey, Adam Lark, Brandon Wilz, Luke Jones, Bryce Wilz, Kyle Lark, Bryant Ackerman, Matt Tucker, Dalton Wittmer, Tyler Jacobs, Kirk Lengacher, and Jesse Horney. In the second row, from left to right, are Coach Roger Bailey, volunteer assistant Ed Harder, JV/Assistant Coach Mike Winger, Waylon Matthews, Alex Frye, Conner Wittmer, Cole Lawrence, Will Nonte, Gage Harder, Matt Mathias, Trevor Resler, Casey Miller, volunteer assistant Kevin Smith, and volunteer assistant Gary Frye.

The boys will take on North Central (Farmersburg) this Saturday, June 11 at 1 p.m. in Jasper. North Central has a record of 24-5 to Loogootee's 20-10-1.

For sectional, Loogootee beat Vincennes Rivet in five innings 13 -2 to win the 2011 class A North Daviess Sectional Tuesday evening, May 31.



Crushers crush again

-Photo provided

The Southern Indiana Crushers have once again traveled out of the area and brought home the top honor. This time, they traveled out-of-state to compete at the Owensboro Kentucky Midwest Softball Frenzy. The Crushers scored a total of 38 runs and allowed only 11. Other teams competing were the Kentuckianna Thrillers, Southern Indiana TNT, Kentucky Thunder, DMC-NYX, Jasper Warriors, and UC Chaos. Pictured above, in the front row from left to right, are Haley Pritchett, Calli Winger, Emma Packard, and MaKenna Hall. In the second row are Brooklyn Dodd, Kortney Quinn, Caitlyn Reynolds, Makenzy Brown, Julianne Bell, and Jackie Rice. In the back row are coaches Steve Dodd, Randy Winger, and Todd Pritchett.

Ready for a wild adventure?

PANDA MANIA
Where God is Wild about You!
Psalm 139

Loogootee United Methodist Church
208 West Main Street
June 20 - 24
6:00-8:30 pm

Come join in the fun as we learn that:
GOD IS WILD ABOUT YOU!

Divine CHIROPRACTIC OPENING JUNE 20TH!

DR. JORDAN R. DIVINE

The office is located at 404 JFK Avenue in Loogootee

Pre-Schedule Your Appointments Starting June 13th - Call 812-295-5600

PATIENTS WILL BE SEEN:
Monday and Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday: 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. • Every other Saturday: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Shoals High School final six weeks, semester honor rolls

2010-2011

TERM 2 - GRADING PERIOD 6

Seventh grade

All A's: Allison Albright, Logan Harker, Megan Hawkins, Ashley Phillips, Corbyn Sipes, Reva Troutman, and Dawn Wright

Distinguished Honor Roll: Tyrell Brett

Honor Roll: Zachary Bleemel, Britney Cooper, Julie Dorsey, Damion Hart, Christina Hovis, Victoria Mills, Kaitlynn Powers, Jessica Ryan, Aundie Tinkle, Danielle Whaley, and Alex Wininger

Eighth grade

All A's: Logan Albright, Brittany Bauernfiend, Audrey Bowers, Ashley Montgomery, and Holly Self

Distinguished Honor Roll: Austin Jones, Kelsey Sellers, Josey Waggoner, and Alexis Young

Honor Roll: Angel Alsmann, Haylie Brace, Kyle Courtright, Kylee Hardwick, Michael Hawkins, Grady Key, and Donald Stoner

Ninth grade

All A's: Robin Hamby, Nicole Harder, and Cole Hovis

Distinguished Honor Roll: Kandi Tichenor

Honor Roll: Jenna Bleemel, Luke Brett, Caleb Davis, Ariel Hert, Cody Hert, Jalynn Hilderbrand, Logan McCrary, Tyler McGuire, Dakota Mullins, Ashley Payne, Damon Roach, Sydney Tedrow, and Briana Wagler

Tenth grade

All A's: Whitney Albright, Tristan Bennington, and Emily Richardson

Distinguished Honor Roll: Amberly Albright and Ramona Simmons

Honor Roll: Megan Abel, Kayla Butler, Jessica Courtright, Lezlie Hart, Scott Johnson, Ethan Jones, Austin Kimmel, Jennifer Montgomery, Courtney Overfield, Katie Payne, and Clayton Tow

Eleventh grade

Distinguished Honor Roll: Chelsey Baker, Victoria Bauer, Michaela Brockman, Supitcha Charoenram, Alanna Dawley, Rachel Harder, Grace LaMar, Kyra Ott, Megan Sanders, Jacob Stoner, and Darek Turpin

Honor Roll: Zachary Baker, Alex Bauernfiend, Zachary Cook, Denise Cornett, Audra Deckard, MacKenzie Graves, Brian Hert, Jondavide Hopkins, Mackenzie Jones, Courtney Kender, Sasha Mains, Miranda Mullins, and Audrey Sorrells

Twelfth grade

All A's: John Harder, Augustus Sherfick, and Kyla Tichenor

Distinguished Honor Roll: Shaelin Adams, Amber Lynn Bauer, Ashley Hawkins, Jess Jenkins, Hillary Jones, Megan Montgomery, Bradley Phillips, Charles Shartzter, and Diamond Wright

Honor Roll: Garrett Bateman, Jessica Conrad, Dillon Cornett, Casey Davis, Justin Franklin, Kayla Kidwell, Daniel Lagenour, Eric McDonald, Kaylea Mulder, Terry

Newlin, Rachel Parsons, Tyler Price, Caroline Pruett, and Amber Royston

2010-2011 TERM 2 -

GRADING PERIOD FINAL

Seventh grade

All A's: Allison Albright, Logan Harker, Megan Hawkins, Ashley Phillips, and Reva Troutman

Distinguished Honor Roll: Corbyn Sipes
Honor Roll: Zachary Bleemel, Tyrell Brett, Britney Cooper, Julie Dorsey, Jasmine Gates, Damion Hart, Christina Hovis, Jessica Ryan, Aundie Tinkle, Danielle Whaley, Alex Wininger, and Dawn Wright

Eighth grade

All A's: Logan Albright, Brittany Bauernfiend, Ashley Montgomery, Holly Self, and Josey Waggoner

Distinguished Honor Roll: Audrey Bowers, Kelsey Sellers, and Alexis Young

Honor Roll: Johnny Arnett, Haylie Brace, Kyle Courtright, Kylee Hardwick, Michael Hawkins, Austin Jones, and Grady Key

Ninth grade

All A's: Robin Hamby, Nicole Harder, and Kandi Tichenor

Distinguished Honor Roll: Cole Hovis

Honor Roll: Jenna Bleemel, Erica Bratton, Caleb Davis, Ariel Hert, Cody Hert, Logan McCrary, Tyler McGuire, Sistoria Neeley, Ashley Payne, Sydney Tedrow, Kristen Waggoner, and Briana Wagler

Tenth grade

All A's: Whitney Albright and Emily Richardson

Distinguished Honor Roll: Tristan Bennington, Jennifer Montgomery, and Ramona Simmons

Honor Roll: Amberly Albright, Kayla Butler, Jessica Courtright, Lezlie Hart, Ethan Jones, Austin Kimmel, Courtney Overfield, and Clayton Tow

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Twelfth grade

All A's: Charles Shartzter, Augustus Sherfick, and Kyla Tichenor

Distinguished Honor Roll: Shaelin Adams, Amber Lynn Bauer, John Harder, Jess Jenkins, Hillary Jones, Megan Montgomery, Bradley Phillips, Amber Royston, and Diamond Wright

Honor Roll: Garrett Bateman, Jill Bradley, Jessica Conrad, Dillon Cornett, Casey Davis, Justin Franklin, Ashley Hawkins, Kayla Kidwell, Eric McDonald, Kaylea Mulder, Terry Newlin, Rachel Parsons, Tyler Price, Caroline Pruett, and Amanda Stewart



-Photo provided

The Jesse A Wood Mental Attitude Awards were presented to Charles Michael Lee Schartzter, at left, and Jess Elizabeth Jenkins, at right, at the recent 2011 Shoals High School Honors Night.

Shoals athletes honored with Jesse A. Wood Mental Attitude Award

The Jesse A Wood Mental Attitude Awards were presented to Charles Michael Lee Schartzter, at left, and Jess Elizabeth Jenkins, at right, at the recent 2011 Shoals High School Honors Night. The awards are sponsored by the Shoals Adult Booster Club and the winners are chosen by the teachers and staff at Shoals High School. The award was started in the 1976 in honor of Jesse A. Wood. Mr. Wood coached high school basketball at Wingate High School, where he won the state championship in 1913. He was appointed Martin County agricultural agent in 1922, and served for 34 years until his retirement in 1956. In 1973, he was inducted into the High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Two seniors are chosen who display leadership qualities, competitiveness, respectful attitudes, and who are outstanding examples to future athletes.

play leadership qualities, competitiveness, respectful attitudes, and who are outstanding examples to future athletes.

Jess and Charles were each given a plaque and a \$200 scholarship. The Adult Booster Club would like to increase the amount of the award given each year. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause and honor our athletes, please send your check to Joni Harder, Adult Booster Club Treasurer, at 8044 US Hwy 50, Shoals, IN 47581.

The Booster Club is still in need of the names of the Jesse Wood winners from 1998 to 2001. If you were a winner, or know who won during these years, please contact any Booster member.

Want to be a Member of the Trinity Springs Mustering Elm Park?



The Mustering Elm Park is the site where the 65th Indiana Regiment was mustered into the Civil War in 1861 under a huge elm tree. The Park was created as a memorial to this group and is located 1/2 mile east of Trinity Springs. There are still active springs and you can see the foundation for the in-ground pool. Pictures and information are available at www.musteringelpark.com.

The park area, including the springs and swimming pool were cleared of decades of trees and under growth and partially restored by a dedicated group of local citizens and historical preservationists. Thanks to their physical & financial sacrifice, this historical site is now a public park enjoyed by many. Money is constantly needed to keep the park maintained. Help keep the park going!

Trinity Springs Mustering Elm Park Membership Application

Yes, I want to become an Active Member of the Trinity Springs Mustering Elm Park. Please call/email me at _____ if you need volunteers.

Yes, I want to become a Silent Member of the Trinity Springs Mustering Elm Park by paying my annual membership but not volunteering. (please check one above)

SIGN ME UP FOR:

Individual Membership - \$10,

Family Membership - \$25 Life Membership - \$100

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Individual membership is a minimum of \$10 but you are welcome to donate more!

Amount enclosed: _____

Please mail this form to: Char Sandel, Treasurer
7926 St. Rd. 550 Shoals, IN 47581

Take Dad Out Saturday Night!

STEAK SPECIAL

Saturday, June 18th

Sirloin, Ribeye, or Strip Steak. Buffet also available.

Stoll's Lakeview Restaurant

3 Miles north of Loogootee on Hwy. 231 • 812-295-3299

Dinner: Mon.-Thurs. 4-8 p.m. • Fri. & Sat. 4-8:30 p.m. • Closed Sunday
Sandwich menu always available; Friday & Saturday dinner menu available after 4 p.m.

SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

Dr. Nonte then presented the board with information on the budget and the recent cuts. He showed them a printout of the 2009 budget where expenditures were \$4.9 million and the 2010 expenses of \$4.8 million. He said the expenses were reduced in 2010 by \$53,000. He presented the board with his estimated expenses for 2011 which showed overspending of \$400,000. Another staff member did a more extensive look at the spending and found an overspending of \$240,700. From 2010, the corporation has reduced an estimated \$64,000 this year.

Dr. Nonte then presented the board with the third-run of state figures for what the school would be receiving in funding. The amount was \$4.4 million for this year, \$4.1 million in 2012, and \$3.9 million in 2013 for an estimated loss to the school of more than \$600,000. He said the main factor involved in the reduction is the state taking away the "de-ghoster" that previously paid 20 percent of the \$7,000 per student funding over a five-year period for students that left the school system. In 2012, when a student leaves the school, the money for that student is cut immediately. Dr. Nonte said that dropping enrollment also plays a part. Per the state's estimate, Shoals Schools will lose 16 students next year which is the average over the last several years.

Dr. Nonte said the school also lost the special restoration grant for 2012 which was \$250,000 in 2011 and the small schools grant of \$116,000. He explained that the reason for losing the grants was that schools with increasing enrollment used to get only a percentage of funding per new student. Recently they lobbied to get 100 percent and it was granted so schools with declining enrollment lost more funding.

He said that there is some belief that the state is trying to shut down schools with smaller enrollment. He said a few years ago the state talked about forcing consolidation on schools with less than 1,500 students. Due to opposition the bill didn't pass. "There's discussion that there's another way to do this and that's to starve you out," he said. He told the board that the funding cuts are an example of the "starving out" of the Shoals School Corporation and others like it. He gave the board information on the 2013 school year and said the school will be "in a world of hurt."

At the end of the discussion, Dr. Nonte recommended that Teri Kerr's position as physical education/health teacher be eliminated for next year. He said it would save \$19,000 this year and \$51,000 in 2012.

Board member Bill Shobe asked, "What's going to happen when we run out of money?" He said that with the constant cuts, "at some point we are going to run out of money, what are we gonna do?"

Dr. Nonte replied that there are talks of the state creating a distressed school board. He said that their duties have not been discussed but in the past they would take schools that were in financial difficulty and make them state operated. All bills and the budget would be sent to the state for approval and the school would be subsidized by the state until they got back on their feet. But, again, he stated he wasn't sure what this board would be responsible for. He added that consolidation has always been a topic with the current state administration. "That may be something that will be done, I don't know," he said.

Board member Mary Lou Billings asked Dr. Nonte if 2013 was the year he felt the school would run out of money. Dr. Nonte replied yes. He said that in 2010 the school spent \$4.8 million and that is how much is needed to operate. "We're bare bone; we're not extravagant, it takes that much," he said. He said dropping to \$3.9 million in 2013, "where are we going to find a million dollars?" He said even with the past few years' cuts, they are still not getting there.

Shobe reiterated his former question about what to do when they run out of money. "Close the school?" he asked. "Consolidate? I don't see how you can cut a million dol-

lars." He said he didn't see how cutting a few teachers would help in the long run. "That's just a drop in the bucket," he said.

Dr. Nonte noted that the teacher reductions he has recommended were not because he feels the school is overstaffed. "I looked at it from a desperation move," he said.

Dr. Nonte also said that the school could ask for a referendum to be placed on the ballot at election time asking the taxpayers for more of a contribution to the school. He said that as of 2008, the taxpayers were contributing around a million dollars to the school. No decision was made on the referendum.

Board member Christy Farhar asked whether the elementary students would have access to P.E. with the reduction of the teacher. Dr. Nonte replied that he wasn't sure right now as he hasn't followed up with that yet.

"You know in the elementary, especially in the lower levels, that's asking an awful lot for those little guys to sit in class," said Farhar.

The board then discussed with Mr. Smith and the principals about teachers picking up the elementary P.E. classes.

The previous recommendation to eliminate Ms. Kerr's position came back up for a motion but none was given. Dr. Nonte responded to that stating that Kindra Hovis would be returning, Teri Kerr would also be returning, and Brian Smith would remain teacher/athletic director - so no changes were made to the staff.

The board approved the following for the summer cleaning crew: Pat Landers, Michael Harding, and Sabrina Rossi for five days per week and Patricia Hernandez for three days per week.

Dr. Nonte recommended Krystle Knisley for two weeks at the end of the summer to assist the technology department with getting the computers back up and running. Board member Bill Shobe made a motion to hire Knisley but the motion died for lack of a second.

The board approved the following coaching positions:

Larry Sherfick for assistant varsity/junior varsity soccer coach

Warren Atkison for junior high/high school softball volunteer

Sue Lanham as half varsity cross country coach

Michael Harding as half varsity cross country coach

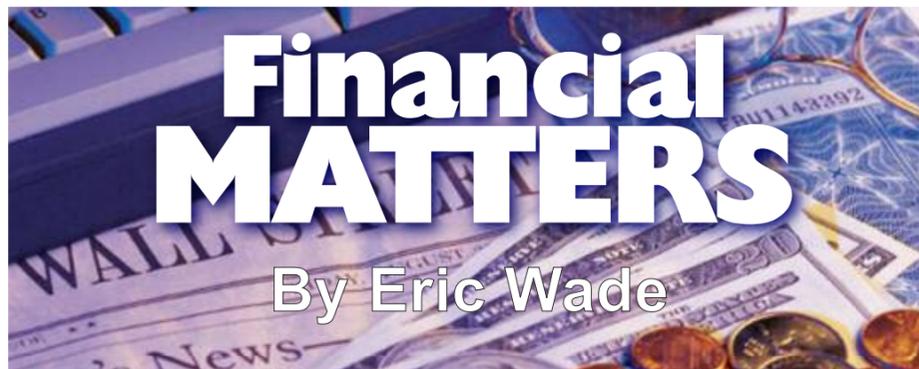
Chris Jones as varsity/junior varsity cross country assistant

The board approved Charlene Hatton-Breidenbaugh as preschool bus driver and classroom instructional assistant.

The board approved the resignation of Sue Lanham as pep club sponsor.

The board approved donating a portion of the northeast part of the elementary playground to the town of Shoals for a water pumping station. The area will be ground level and will be fenced.

The board will meet again tomorrow, Thursday, June 9 at 5 p.m. in the central administration office.



A brief Introduction...

What can I say about what I am attempting to do with this article in 700 words or less? For those who do not know me, my name is Eric Wade, son of the late George and "Sissy" Wade of Shoals, Indiana. I am the youngest of four children, proud parent of one FANTASTIC daughter, and for the better part of my life, an independent educator and trainer for Insurance, Ethics and Brokerage services for some of the largest and most well-respected brokerages and insurers in the United States. My services have been, and are still utilized by brokers affiliated with UIS Corporation, UBS Brokerages, Bank of America, Wells Fargo Advisors, Ameriprise Financial, and many others across the US that you may or may not have heard of.

My personal/professional interest in writing these articles is to provide a basic kind of knowledge about insurance, investing, and personally responsible, personally accountable finance. Since returning home over two years ago from nearly 20 years "elsewhere", I have watched friends and family alike struggle with basic decisions that, if they had the proper tools to use, would have been far easier. Insurance basics are not that difficult, in fact, YOU already have the majority of the information that you need to make intelligent decisions about the coverage that you and your family need. My hope is that, with these articles on things like Medicare, Medicare Supplements, Health Coverage, High Deductible Coverage, and some voluntary benefits including Life, Whole Life, Long Term Care and even "AFLAC" type indemnities, you will know what questions you need to ask your agents to get that coverage, without underinsuring yourself, or paying for coverage that just is not needed.

Another aspect of this article is that, every week, I will answer a question from you, the reader, about an issue that is of a personal concern to you. It can be done while maintaining your privacy, and will be answered in as much detail as can be legally provided. Again, if I do not know all of your details, I cannot honestly provide you a detailed answer, but I should be able to point you in the right direction. Please be advised that you may not like my answer . . . it is nothing personal, but I would rather you be upset with me for being honest, than to tell you what you

want to hear and potentially cost you and your family dearly!

One of the hottest topics in the United States today is health care reform legislation. Folks, it is a mess, but we will go through it and see how it effects you individually, as a person, an employee, or as a retiree on Medicare, as opposed to what "may" or "may not" be the case. When answering questions about the reforms, I will be dealing DIRECTLY with the proverbial horse's mouth, The Indiana Department of Insurance, and our representatives in both State and Federal Government. We are going to discuss your rights when you are NOT happy with what has happened to you, by way of Agent, Hospital, Doctor or Insurance Company. People are human, and errors are made, routinely, and making sure that you know your rights is the best way I know to make sure that it never happens to you twice.

One of the last things I want to talk about today is how to get the best coverage for your hard-earned money. According to the AHIP research, released in May of 2011 by the Kingdom Group in an agent education webinar, over 60 percent of all Medicare AGENTS would rate themselves as "under-informed" when it comes to knowing all of the options that their clients may have available to them. 60 percent of all agents consider themselves under-informed and 90 percent of their clients look to them for 100 percent of the guidance that they will receive before purchasing a policy, or making a decision regarding their financial future. Do I have your attention yet? My goal is to educate and make you aware of what is out there for you, what may suit your needs best, and how YOU can best protect YOUR family from the bad things that happen to good people. Independently, without an agenda, just to serve and educate, so that you are not caught unaware when change happens.

I look forward to hearing from you and talking about what YOU want to hear about. Should interest arise, I am willing to do small group meetings and town hall type meetings for Medicare and Health Care reform issues, as professional duties allow.

Thank you for your time, and let's be careful out there! Have a great week!

To submit a question for Eric to answer, email info@martincountyjournal.com.

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Confirmation

-Photo provided

Nineteen students from Martin County Catholic Churches were confirmed by Bishop Gerald A. Gettlefingher on Wednesday, May 11 at St. John Catholic Church. The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree provided an honor guard for the occasion. Shown in the front row, from left to right, are Caleb Dant, Hannah Walters, Taylor Hayes, Kasie Green, Kiersten Wood, MacKenzie Walker, and Carson Rayhill. In the second row, from left to right, are Tom Walker, Noel Harty, Tom Fellers, Abby Ackerman, Allison Lythgoe, Kristen Waggoner, Kelsy Seals, Lauren Matheis, Elizabeth Sander, Jody Seals, Jake Blackwell, John Stoll, and Mike Staub. In the back row, from left to right, are Tom McAtee, Fr. J. Kenneth Walker, Kevin Sweckard, Webb Crane, Tylan Norris, Branden Wilz, Christina Ziegler, Dirk Fahey, Matt Mathies, Fr. Joseph F. Erbacher, Bishop Gettlefingher, Paul Sweckard, and Chad Wade.

LUMC to host PandaMania

Loogootee United Methodist Church invites children to PandaMania: Where God is wild about you!

PandaMania is a summer kids' Bible school at LUMC from June 20 to June 24 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each day. Kids explore a bamboo forest filled with crazy pandas, as they discover that God loves us. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into yummy treats, experience electrifying Bible adventures, and collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God.

Kids at PandaMania will be encouraged to bring in school supplies for a youth home located in Evansville as well as make certain crafts to send to them.

PandaMania is for kids from age three to those that have finished 5th grade.

For more information, call 812-295-3049.

New Beginnings Church WEEKLY MESSAGE

BY SHIRLEY CANELL
Pastor's wife

Hardening of Hearts
Hebrews 3:7-18

Last week, Pastor Ernie talked about the dangers of drifting and how not to drift. This week, in Hebrews, we hear about the danger of doubting and disbelieving. The writer of Hebrews wants to give us good advice and encouragement so we will not harden our hearts.

Take heed, listen, let there not be in any of you an evil unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. Jeremiah 17:5-6, "Thus says the Lord: Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. For he is like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes,

but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness. A land of salt without inhabitant."

He is speaking to those who were, or are, intellectually persuaded but spiritually uncommitted. This would be the people today who may come to church but who really have not committed their lives totally to Christ. They are playing church. Thinking somehow that is going to make them all right in the eyes of God. They love the worship and fellowship time and the feeling that they are doing something right. They can even quote scripture, know the Bible cover to cover, and have attended church since they were kids.

When the pressures of life come because they have been hardening their hearts and not committed their lives fully to the things of God, they fall away. It's a slow process that keeps getting more and more difficult to make that total commitment. The example the writer gives here is Psalm 95, which points to the Israelites wandering in the desert. They rebelled and tested the Lord and the more they rebelled and tested, the harder their hearts became.

The apex of this unbelieving hardening of the heart started when Israel was on the border of the promised-land Kadesh-Barnea.

When the twelve spies returned from their forty-day mission, 10 spies came back with their report that the land was untakeable. The unbelief started, all the people wept. They wanted to go back to Egypt. They talked about stoning Joshua and Caleb who dared to believe God would give them the land.

They were refusing to believe. Negativity, contempt, grumbling and disobedience follow unbelief. We owe it to ourselves to hold this practical mirror of God's word up to our hearts so we can take an accurate reading of our spiritual pulse. What does your behavior indicate? A hardening unbelieving heart? Or, the blessing tenderness of a faithful heart?

Jesus told us that there were going to be some that heard the word and at once received it with joy, BUT since he had no root, he lasted only a short time. When trouble or persecution came he would quickly fall away. This person would even talk about their experience, been baptized,

identified with God's people, then turn away from the living God. Such turning away incurs a huge penalty. Hebrews 10:31, "it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

The best thing you can do for anyone is to say a word of encouragement. Think how different it might have been for Israel if they had daily encouraged one another instead of falling to negativism, grumbling, quarreling, and isolating themselves. In isolation, we are prone to be impressed by the specious arguments which underline worldly wisdom. We are to encourage each other daily, not just on Sunday, we need to humbly say to the drifting, 'listen to His voice, so that you may not be hardened by sins' deceitfulness, making tomorrow's repentance and faith more difficult.'

Hold fast, it is true that the Word of God cuts to the heart of sinners with conviction. The emphasis is on the power of the Word to penetrate and expose the inner heart of man. The Word is a discernor or critic. The Israelites criticized God's word instead of allowing the word to judge them. Consequently they lost their inheritance.

God sees our hearts but we do not always know what is there. God uses the Word to enable us to see the sin and unbelief in our own hearts. The word exposes our hearts and then if we trust God, the Word enables our hearts to obey God and claim His promises. This is why each believer should be diligent to apply himself to hear and heed God's word.

Faith that pleases God is belief plus trust. Belief, the mental acceptance of a fact as true will simply not bring rest, acknowledging Jesus Christ is the son of God and Savior of the world will not give us rest, trust in Him is what gives us rest to our souls.

So our encouragement is to listen to God's word, live by it and not be pulled away so that our hearts begin to harden. We need other Christians, we need to be in church; we need to be in God's word. Keep going in the right direction and God will truly bless you.

Our Sunday service now starts at 10:30 a.m. We have Sunday school starting at 9:30 a.m. Please call Pastor Ernie at 709-0258 if you have any questions.



St. Joseph's Senior Mass

-Photo provided

Shown above are the 2011 high school graduates from St. Joseph Church, in Bramble. Their senior Mass and catered breakfast were held on June 5. Shown in the front is alter server Darrah Holder. In the back row, from left to right, are Fr. Joe Erbacher, pastor; Mary Ann Wininger, Jessica Padgett, Keriann Lents, and alter server Ryan Vaupel.

Dubois County Bombers Baseball at Historic League Stadium

Is baseball your favorite summer pastime? If not, it may be... after you visit League Stadium! You are in for a real treat at historic Huntingburg League Stadium.

League Stadium was the filming home of the Rockford Peaches of the All American Girls Professional Baseball League, as depicted in the 1992 movie A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN, which grossed more than \$107 million dollars. But that's not all! League Stadium is also home to the Dubois County Bombers and the 3rd Base Deadbeats!

Dubois County Bombers new general manager Gary Freymiller is excited about the 2011 season. "We have recruited top notch talent from twenty-two colleges and universities across the country." Gary has been working with local businesses from southwest Indiana and has special events scheduled for several Bombers games this season: Relay for Life Night, 3rd Base Deadbeat Night, Graduates Night to honor the new graduates of 2011, and the always popular 4th of July fireworks.

The Dubois County Bombers are members of the Prospect League, a league for college players who love the game and are hoping to play baseball professionally after they graduate from college. The players do not receive a salary, but they do get a chance to be seen by major league scouts, and they

also get the chance to hit using wood bats. Both of these opportunities are important for players wanting to play professionally.

The Prospect League has 14 teams separated into two divisions, the east and west. Each team plays 56 regular season games, 28 at home and 28 on the road, with a split-season format. The first half concludes with games on July 3, and the second half begins on July 4. Opening day is June 2, and the regular season concludes August 6. The all-star game will be hosted by the West Virginia Minors in Beckley, WV, at the Linda K. Epling Stadium on July 13.

The Bombers and other Prospect League teams are visited by Major League Baseball scouts, and dreams do come true! Several players from the Bombers have been signed by major league organizations in the past few years. Former Bomber Steve Cishek is a 6'5" 200-pound right-handed pitcher for the Florida Marlins' triple A team, The New Orleans Zephyrs. Steve was called up to the Marlins major league team late in 2010, and hopefully will return with

the Marlins this season. Brandon Short was a member of the 2007 Bomber Squad, and presently is batting leadoff and playing center field for the Birmingham Barons, double-A affiliate of the Chicago White Sox. Brandon is off to a great start with his team in this new season. Former Bomber Mills Rogers is a shortstop for the Hagerstown (Maryland) Suns, a single-A affiliate of the

Washington Nationals. Mills has been putting up impressive numbers for his team in recent games.

When you attend Prospect League games, you can see the likes of Danny Cox, former St. Louis Cardinals' pitcher, who is the 2011 Manager for the Springfield Sliders. The Terre Haute Rex's coach is former Cincinnati Reds catcher Brian Dorsett, who also caught for the Yankees, Indians, Padres and Chicago Cubs. Brian is a native of Terre Haute and was inducted into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame in 2008. You can catch more of the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame located at the Vincennes University-Jasper Campus, in the Alvin C. Ruxer student center.

At each home game you will find the 3rd Base Deadbeats sitting in section 10 along the 3rd base line at League Stadium. The history of the 3rd Base Deadbeats began with Wayne Porter, his father Charles Porter, Al Dotterweich, sports reporter for the Huntingburg Press, and Jim Anderson, news director for WBDC news, along with a huge green fishing net used to retrieve foul balls. One evening, a young boy came down to section 10 and inquired, "Who are you guys?" After some fast thinking Wayne came up with the answer: "The 3rd Base Deadbeats!" Wayne is the President, Founder, and C.E.O. of the 3rd Base Deadbeats. A few games later, the Blessinger Family joined the 3rd Base Deadbeats. Since that time many others have converted to "section 10" on the 3rd base line. Margo Porter officially became the "The First Lady" of the Deadbeats in 2004.

Are you looking for exciting affordable entertainment, close to home? See historic League Stadium. Root for the Dubois County Bombers, get autographs from the players! Enjoy the excitement of sitting with the 3rd Base Deadbeats! Make 2011 the best summer ever, and bring your family to League Stadium.

You can find more information online at: dcbombers.com, prospectleague.com, and indbaseballhalloffame.org.



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~LETTER TO THE EDITOR~

'Don't let another Hoosier child drown this summer'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

Memorial Day - it's a major holiday for Hoosier families and marks the unofficial beginning of summer. But Memorial Day is unlike some major holidays that occur in cold weather months when the chill in the air keeps families indoors. Memorial Day is celebrated outside in the fresh air. Families get in the backyard swimming pool, swim or take a dip in a river or pond or venture out into open water on a boat. All of those venues, however, put children at risk of drowning.

Sadly, during Memorial Day weekend, a water venue was fatal for a 15-year-old teenager near Richmond who drowned while wading with a group of other teens in the Whitewater River. In Indianapolis, a 13-year-old boy celebrating his birthday at a swimming pool was sent to a hospital in critical condition and passed later in the week. A 17-month-old boy drowned while kayaking with his parents. An 8-year-old drowned in a community pool. All of these events should serve as dire warnings to Hoosier families: for children particularly, practicing good water safety is a matter of life or death.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the leading cause of injury death for young children ages one to four. Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional death for children ages one to 14 years old. On average, three children die every day as a result of drowning. And now that summer is here in Indiana, the threat of drowning will increase 89 percent compared to the rest of the year. Ninety percent of our state's families with young children will be in the water at some point this summer and almost half plan to swim in a place with no lifeguard.

While many families swim in backyard pools and lots of community pools exist throughout the State, swimming in lakes and rivers is also popular. But with the heavy spring rains much of Indiana has en-

dured, many rivers are high and the currents too fast to be trusted. Swimming in a lake or river with unpredictable currents can be like trying to walk down an escalator that's going up. You'll either stay in the same spot or you'll have to work much harder to get anywhere.

Rivers and lakes pose an additional threat, too. Kids wanting to cool off may step on rocks made slippery by algae that grow thick in the summer. An accidental slip and fall into the water can have tragic consequences, particularly with no trained lifeguard available.

Multiple strategies are needed to prevent drowning. Far too many Hoosier kids are dying because they don't understand the dangers sometimes associated with water. Parents are reminded to be sure their children practice water safety:

General swimming guidelines:
-Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.

-Always swim with a buddy. Never allow anyone to swim alone.

-Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well. Enroll in age-appropriate water orientation and learn-to-swim courses.

-Never leave a young child unattended near water and do not trust a child's life to another child. Teach children to always ask permission to go near water.

-Have a life preserver or other life-saving device on or nearby.

-Backyard swimming pools:

Install 'isolation' fencing which completely separates the pool from the house or other structure.

Gates should be self-closing and self-latching and accommodate a locking device.

Open water safety tips:

-Actively supervise children in and around open bodies of water.

-Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool. They need to be aware of uneven surfaces, river currents, ocean undertow and changing weather.

-Teach children not to dive into oceans, lakes or rivers because you never know how deep the water is or what might be hidden under the surface.

-Boating, raft and other floating devices: Always have children wear a life jacket approved by the U.S. Coast Guard while on boats or other floating devices. The life jacket should fit snugly and not allow the child's chin or ears to slip through the neck opening.

Take a boating education course that will teach safe boating practices.

Remember, when it comes to water safety nothing beats close adult supervision-even if there are gates, fences and life jackets. But be aware of the "too's," too. Too tired, too much sun, too cold, too far from safety, too much strenuous activity, too much alcohol and/or drug use.

This summer, let's do all we can to keep kids safe.

Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800.800.5556.

James W. Payne, Director
Indiana Department of Child Services



My Point of
VIEW

By Courtney Hughett Owner, MCJ

Last year, the Loogootee School Corporation closed down Elementary East due to a declining enrollment and lack of funding. I went to Elementary East when I was a child, and that one hurt pretty bad. With everything that is going on with rural schools, or public schools in general, it makes me wonder what the state's "big picture" plan is. I mean, this is just our children's education - the most important thing we can give our children aside from love.

The Shoals School Board, in my opinion, appears to be at their wits end. At their last meeting, they discussed the fact that in 2013, their budget was estimated to be reduced by a million dollars. Faced with reducing the teaching staff - which as one board member put it is a drop in the bucket - I got the feeling that they wanted to allow these teachers to have a job as long as possible because eliminating their salaries wouldn't really make a difference anyway. Reducing three teachers at even \$50,000 each would only be 10 percent of what they would ultimately need to cut. To get the full one million - and just using the \$50,000 per year figure - which to me seems high - they would have to cut out 20 teachers. A school can't really operate with that kind of loss. I don't know how many teachers are in Shoals Schools but 20 has got to be quite a chunk.

Not to mention the state then has requirements on the amount of students that each teacher is allowed to have therefore making the predicament worse by forcing the schools to have a certain amount of teachers.

As Dr. Nonte said, consolidation may be what the state is trying to force small public schools to do. While it is a pretty unpopular topic and I used to be greatly opposed to it, over the past couple years the idea has grown on me. The only drawback would be how far some students are forced to ride a bus to get to school. When I lived in Alfordsville as a kid, I was on the bus two hours each day. To think back on it now I don't remember it being such a hassle, but now, as an adult, if I was in the car coming and going from work every day for two hours I would go mad. Nonetheless, children should not have to sit on a bus for that amount of time.

Change is inevitable. Loogootee Schools closed down a building that has been in the school system for a very long time. I never thought that would happen and it did. We all got through it okay.

While I am well aware that rumors swirl in small towns often, when it comes to government or an entity that uses taxpayer dollars, I pay attention to them anyway. I have heard countless times now that the Loogootee School Corporation is going to build on to the high school eventually to connect the two schools together. A new gym has been mentioned as well as a part of that build on. Again, these are just rumors but if it were true and a school like Shoals may have to close its doors while a school seven miles away is building on, well, I would just have a huge problem with that. Education affects all of our children and both schools are certainly not gaining students. It seems like the balance is off somewhere.

With all of the changes that are taking place in education as a whole, I can't guarantee where my children will be going to school next year. This last year I had Wyatt in a charter school while Alex was in Loogootee Public Schools. The charter school turned out to be a wonderful fit for Wyatt and the staff at that school was top notch and treated him and me very, very well. It was our first year with that school and they made a very good impression on our family.

I was not only called by Wyatt's charter school constantly, I was also asked by the principal to fill out surveys on how the school was doing, what I would change, or what I liked most. This was done about four times last year. It was nice to have input and to be listened to, which is all most parents want. Wyatt's charter school is centralized around academics though, even the clubs and extracurricular activities are academic-based - no sports. This is the kind of child Wyatt is though - not the sporty type - so that's why it fits so well.

Alex, my youngest, learns completely differently and thrives on being a part of group activities.

All I know is that I am a little concerned watching public school corporations struggle to make ends meet. It seems their entire focus these days is just keeping the doors open. That can't be much fun for the teachers either wondering if they are going to be cut at a moment's notice. They should be allowed to strictly concentrate on educating our children, not whether they are going to have a job.

I guess I just wonder when we will stop applying bandaids and start sewing up the wound.

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