

Martin County JOURNAL

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Nine pages

County council discuss tax abatement, corridor

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Lonnie Hawkins and Grant Sherfick, with Safety and Security International (SSI), talked to the Martin County Council at their meeting Monday night, June 6 about their firm's need for more space. According to Hawkins, SSI currently rents space from Bowling Manufacturing in Loogootee and also has a suite in the WestGate Academy. SSI is based in North Carolina and serves the department of defense and other federal agencies, mainly in tracking down hard-to-find parts for end use systems. The company has plans to expand in the next three to five years, to add 20-25 jobs, and service all their customers from their Martin County location. There are currently six employees of the company, all living in Martin County, and the new jobs will come with an average salary of \$60,000 per year. Right now, they are planning to build a 21,000-square-foot building on one of two parcels in Martin County's area of the tech park. The two parcels, backing up to each other and totaling three acres, are on Gene Shaw Technology Drive and County Road 200. The building would be mostly warehouse but would also include a few offices. Down the road, they plan to build another building on the second parcel.

Grant Sherfick, a 2001 Shoals High School graduate and employee of SSI, said they would love to break ground tomorrow however due to supply chain issues and the cost of materials, they are currently waiting on a few more construction estimates. He said they are actively trying to see what the market is doing and get the best pricing however they do plan to get construction started as soon as possible.

Jeff Quyle, with Radius Indiana, then talked to the council about a potential tax abatement request. He said he did his best to estimate the numbers however it is not carved in stone. He wanted to provide the council with as much information as possible, so they had time to consider an abatement. Quyle said they estimate the total building cost to be \$3.5 million with \$500,000 for equipment. The abatement assumes an additional 20 jobs with an average annual salary of \$60,000.

The council decides on the terms of the abatement however Quyle provided

tax impact estimates for 10 years on real property and five years on personal property. He said the real property would take away \$283,000 in property taxes over the ten-year period however the abatement would still provide \$289,000 to Martin County. The personal property would save the company around \$8,000 over the five-year period. An abatement is designed to allow a company to slowly grow the taxes they pay, over the 10-year period. They, typically, start by paying zero taxes the first year and a percentage is added each year until the abatement expires.

The council will review the material provided by Quyle for the future request.

Resident Jason McCoy talked to the council about their stance on the Mid-States Corridor. He went around the table and asked each council member their opinion of the corridor. Council Member Randy Winger said he doesn't see any benefit to the road. Council Member Buck Stiles said he has attended meetings regarding the corridor, and it seems to him that it is only benefiting trucking companies and factories, but he believes it is already a done deal. He added that he doesn't want the farm ground taken due to the road.

Council Member Warren Albright said he doesn't see how the corridor will help Martin County or even how it helps Jasper. Council Member Barb McFeaters said she listens to her constituents and has not had one say they are for the new road. She said she also understands that the loss of property in Martin County would take away more than \$240,000 in property taxes. She said as a member of the county council, this is a huge concern for an already struggling budget. She added that she is also concerned for the small businesses in Martin County who will be bypassed once the road is completed.

Council Member Sherri Bowling said she agrees with McFeaters, and she doesn't see any benefit to it. Council Member Keith Gibson agreed with McFeaters and Bowling. Council Member Adam Greene said he is not in favor of the corridor.

McCoy said it sounds to him like there is consensus against the \$1.4 billion road. He said, however, that some people do want it and that is the major business owners it will benefit and the companies who will be hired to build the road. He

said upgrading Highway 231, which is what most people would prefer, would not put as much money in the pockets of the proponents as the billions the new corridor would provide. He told Council Member Stiles that he disagreed that it was a done deal however he appreciates his point of view. He told Stiles that things like this get stopped all the time, but he understands that residents are still reeling from I-69 not being stopped. He told the council that he will not allow, as an individual, a highway to come through his ancestral homeplace. He said if all residents stood their ground and said no, it would make a difference. He told the county council that they are the voice for the residents of Martin County, and he asked that they make their voices heard by contacting the state, INDOT, the governor, Senator Eric Bassler and Representative Shane Lindauer, along with the Lochmueller Group who is heading up the Mid-States Corridor project. "We are the ones running the show," he said. "We need to continue to fight the good fight."

Council Member McFeaters said she has talked to Representative Lindauer, and he told her, from the residents he has spoken to, 90 percent are against the corridor and 10 percent are for it. He said it is not a done deal.

Council Member Albright said it may make a bigger impact to have a group travel to the statehouse. He said he has

always been told that each way of contacting an elected official has a certain amount of weight attached to it – be it email, phone calls or in-person visits. He said in-person visits have the most weight.

McCoy urged him and the other council members to contact Representative Lindauer and have a conversation with him about the objection of Martin County residents. And he told them the comment period is ending soon and they need to get their letters sent in as well.

In other business, Sheriff Travis Roush requested the council's approval to transfer \$8,000 from firearms training and move it to ammunition. He also requested \$5,000 from the jail booking fee fund to go toward uniforms and jail mattresses. The council approved.

Roush reported he currently has 60 inmates in the jail with 27 of them from Vigo County.

Community Corrections Director Danielle Murphy requested moving \$10,000 left over from the general community corrections grant to go toward the incentive fund for the county schools. The council approved.

Murphy reported she currently has 36 clients in the community corrections program, two of those are juveniles.

Commissioner Cody Roush requested the council approve an additional \$5,100 (See 'COUNCIL' on page 2)

Public hearing to be held June 10 for superintendent contract

Indiana Code 20-26-5-4.3 requires that the Board of School Trustees publish a notice of the superintendent's proposed contract. The Board of School Trustees of the Shoals Community School Corporation will meet on June 10, 2022, at the hour of 4 p.m. EDT at the Central Administration Office located at 11741 Iron-ton Road, Shoals, Indiana, to discuss and hear public comment for a proposed employment contract between the Board of School Trustees of the Shoals Community School Corporation and school superintendent. A copy of the draft contract is available on the school district's website.

The details of the proposed employment contract are as follows:

Term: July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025

Base Contract Salary \$100,000

Contract Days 260

*Benefits: Life insurance, long-term disability, medical insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, annual contribution to TRF 3 percent, annuities, VEBA (.5 percent), 401A (1 percent)

Personal Days: 4 days/year; Unused will rollover to sick leave

Sick Leave Days: 14 days/year; Unused will rollover each year to maximum of 185 days

Vacation Days: 20 days/year; no rollover

Severance Leave: N/A

At such public meeting, all persons interested shall have a right to comment on the proposed contract.



Fatal accident in Martin County claims a life

At approximately 8:33 a.m. this morning, the Martin County Sheriff's Department received a 911 call about a single-vehicle accident involving a semi just north of the intersection of US Highway 231 and Ranglesville Road. Preliminary investigation indicates a 2002 International Semi-Tractor trailer hauling lumber was being driven by Merlin J. Miller, 43, of New Paris, Indiana, when for unknown reasons the semi crossed the center line and ran off the east side of the highway and down into a ditch and came to a rest in a tree line.

Miller was located in the cab of the semi; however, he had succumbed to his injuries sustained in the accident. The family has been notified.

The roadway was closed for over seven hours for the investigation and clean up.

Assisting at the scene were: Martin County Sheriff's Office, Loogootee Police Department, Loogootee Fire Department, Martin County EMS, Martin County Civil Defense, Crane Naval Base EMS, Storcks Towing out of Jasper and is being investigated by Trooper Andrew Beaver of the Jasper District.



Mustering Elm Park grant *-Photo provided*

Shown above is Martin County Community Foundation Board President Paula Ringwald (left) presenting a MCCF \$500 Make My Day grant to Sarah Sexton, Mustering Elm Park Group Treasurer. This Make My Day grant is going to help with the installation of hardware and materials to get water into the park facilities.

Martin County General Election reminders

The Martin County General Election will be held November 8, 2022.

The party chairmen have until July 3, 2022, to select a candidate to fill any offices that are currently unopposed on the ballot.

If you are interested in filling a ballot vacancy you can call Democrat Chairman Roger Downey at 812-639-8106 or Republican Chairman Millie Brown at 812-639-7733.

If you are interested in running as an

Independent, you have until June 30, 2022, to submit petition and candidate forms. You can call the Martin County Clerk's Office at 812-247-3651 for more details.

The filing period to file for school board begins July 27, 2022, and ends August 26, 2022, at noon.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for any of these offices, please contact the clerk's office for more information.

COUNCIL

(Continued from page one)

to go toward the salary of the new human resources position. Roush said this is what they need to be able to hire a qualified candidate.

Discussion then ensued on whether paying the new human resources position \$18 per hour was going to be fair to other county employees. Roush said the person they are interested in hiring does not have a degree in human resources but does have a lot of experience. He said paying \$18 per hour is the only way they are going to get someone with experience.

Teresa Winger, with the auditor's office, said they had 27 applicants for the position once they took it to an entry-level job. She said most did not have human resources experience. The position will start out in the auditor's office while training is done but the individual will eventually answer to the commissioners, according to Commissioner Roush. Roush said that they have accumulated \$11,500 in attorney fees from the auditor's office calling a human resources attorney with questions. He said adding the extra money to the new human resources position will save a lot of those fees.

The council continued to decide if paying \$18 per hour was going to create an

Caucus for auditor

The Martin County Democratic party will be holding a caucus on Wednesday, June 15 at the Martin County Courthouse in Shoals at 6 p.m. to appoint a new auditor of Martin County. Any individual that is interested in this position will need to submit a CEB 5 form to Chairman Roger Downey, no later than 72 hours before the Caucus. Please contact Chairman Downey at 812-639-8106 for the form or with any questions.

issue with other county employees. Commissioner Roush admitted that it would, but it was going to be an issue regardless.

A few members of the audience said they didn't understand why the council would not want to pay someone \$18 an hour to handle the sensitive materials associated with the county employees.

Council Member Albright said there would definitely have to be a job description associated with the position so there was not issue about what the job entailed.

The council then discussed whether or not they could vote on the additional \$5,100 before it was advertised. It was noted that the salary and wage ordinance would also have to be changed. The council then voted and approved creating the new human resource position at the \$18 per hour wage.

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OBITUARIES

MADONNA BATEMAN

Madonna E. Bateman passed away Tuesday May 31, 2022, at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper. A resident of Loogootee, she was 62.



DONNA BATEMAN

She was born January 17, 1960, in Washington; daughter of Vincent Toy and Theresa (Wagoner) Mattingly.

Donna attended St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee. She was the President of the Women's Auxiliary at the American Legion in Loogootee. She worked in health care for over 30 years and was dedicated to helping others. Donna enjoyed crocheting, art, and spending time with her family.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Theresa Mattingly.

Donna is survived by her husband, Randy Bateman of Loogootee; her children, Tim (Julie) Baumert of Ellettsville and Andrea (Jim) Tomey of Washington; her grandchildren, Lydia, Devin, Brody, and Cole; her father, Vincent (Connie) Toy; her siblings, Diane (Brian) McAlpin of Tennessee and Gene Toy of Evansville, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday July 9 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the American Legion Country Club in Loogootee.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of Donna.

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

Arrangements provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

LINDA PAYNE

Linda Kay Payne passed June 4, 2022, at Sycamore Care Strategies, in Loogootee. A resident of Shoals, she was 78.

She was born November 6, 1943, in Daviess County; daughter of George



LINDA KAY PAYNE

William and Inez (Licht) Wagoner. She married Charles Payne on August 28, 1970, and he preceded her in death on December 29, 2014.

She attended Shoals High School, was a member of the Shoals Nazarene Church and was a homemaker. Linda Kay (lovingly known as Kay) had the sweetest and the most humble character. It never mattered your status or your mark on the world, she made you feel significant and with purpose. At large family gatherings, full of children and extended family, she was notably in awe of those around her; illustrated by the numerous family photos adorning walls and furniture.

Her pure heart will be remembered by all who knew her.

Survivors include her children, Mark (Teresa) Winger of Shoals, Pamela (Jim) Belmore of Fishers, Kevin (Tina) Winger of Shoals and Charlene Underhill of Washington; one stepson, George (Darlene) Payne of Loogootee; daughter-in-law, Lois Payne; three sisters, Nancy Jane Miller of Frisco, Texas; Sharon Ann Moseley of Washington, and Karen Jan Savage of Argos; 12 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Charles Payne; the father of her children, Kenneth Winger; one stepson, Charles "Jr" Payne; one great grandson, Rolan Wilson; and two brothers, Donald W. Wagoner and John R. Wagoner.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, June 9 at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals with Pastor David Mitchell officiating. Burial will be in the Spring Hill Cemetery.

Visitation will be 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 8 at the Queen-Lee Chapel.

HARRIETTE SEALS

Harriette Fern Seals passed away Thursday June 2, 2022, at Sycamore Care Strategies in Loogootee. A resident of Loogootee, she was 86.



HARRIETTE SEALS

She was born February 28, 1936, in Hindostan Falls; daughter of George and Thursa Mae (Holt) Spears. Harriette married John Seals Jr. on March 29, 1957, and they were married for 41 years before he passed away in 1998. She was a long-time member of the Loogootee Christian Church.

Harriette graduated high school and beauty school and then opened and operated Harriette's Beauty Shop for over 30 years. She enjoyed traveling, crocheting, and loved ice cream. Most of all she loved to spend time with her family and grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, John Seals, Jr.; her parents, George Franklin and Thursa Mae Spears; and multiple siblings.

Harriette is survived by her children, John Seals of Loogootee, Mike (Sheri) Seals of Loogootee, and Patti (Brant) Brumley of Loogootee; her grandchildren, Courtney, Audra, Brittney, Chad, Aimee, Kelsy, Jody, and Nathan, three great grandchildren, her brother, Joe Spears of Loogootee; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Sunday June 5 at Blake Funeral Home with Pastor Ed Frost officiating. Burial followed in Goodwill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Loogootee Christian Church in memory of Harriette.

Blake Funeral home is honored to serve the family of Harriette Seals.

CHARLES "BUD" HALBERT

Charles M. "Bud" Halbert passed away at 5:46 p.m. Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at Eastgate Manor Nursing and Rehabilita-

tion Center. A resident of Loogootee, he was 80.

He was born October 4, 1941, in Loogootee; son of the late Joseph and Lydia (Butcher) Halbert.

For over 45 years, Bud was employed by Perry Water Systems Inc. as the superintendent. During those years he was awarded the John N. Hurty Service Award for 25 years of service and for being in good standing with the State of Indiana. He was a lifetime member of the Indiana Rural Water Association and was honored by them with the Prime Mover Award in 1990. He also held a Water Works Operator certificate from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. He was a member of the Loogootee United Methodist Church.

Bud was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Lydia Halbert; brother, John (Cora) Halbert; sisters, Bernice (Bud) Williams, Beatrice Caton, Pauline (Jesse) Owens and Esther (Robert) Billings; sister-in-law, Judy Wease; and brother-in-law, Larry Strawn.

He is survived by his wife, Darlene (Strawn), who he married on March 3, 1962; brothers-in-law, Mike (Millie) Strawn of Florida and Tony Wease of Loogootee; sister-in-law, Mary Ann Strawn of Evansville; and several nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date. Burial will be held in Goodwill Cemetery in Loogootee.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Martin County Humane Society.

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

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Charles M. "Bud" Halbert.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, MAY 30

12:54 a.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious person in Shoals. Advised Captain Reed.

2:16 a.m. - Received a call requesting a deputy southeast of Shoals for a domestic disturbance. Captain Reed responded.

2:33 a.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious subject north of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

6:53 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire, Martin County EMS responded. Patient transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:25 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle accident east of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson and Shoals Fire responded.

9:30 a.m. - Received a request for a vin check north of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

10:56 a.m. - Received a report of squatters north of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson was advised.

11:45 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin Co EMS responded. No one was transported.

3:00 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree in the road southeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire responded.

3:18 p.m. - Received an animal complaint south of Loogootee. Contacted Animal Control Officer Hughett.

7:12 p.m. - Received a call requesting a deputy north of Loogootee. Deputy Long and Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

9:50 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Deputy Long and Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

10:48 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a suspicious vehicle sitting in the roadway north of Loogootee. Captain Reed and ISP Officer Snider responded.

11:17 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS responded. No one was transported.

TUESDAY, MAY 31

12:13 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver north of Loogootee. Advised Captain Reed.

12:15 a.m. - Received a request for a deputy south of Loogootee for a domestic dispute. Captain Reed and Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

7:18 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Major Keller responded.

9:10 a.m. - Received a call of vandalism southeast of Loogootee. Advised Major Keller.

9:15 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded. No transport needed.

10:24 a.m. - Major Keller took two inmates to court.

11:17 a.m. - Major Keller took two inmates to court.

1:01 p.m. - Received a call from an alarm company reporting a residential burglar alarm east of Loogootee. Major Keller and Sergeant Gibson responded.

1:10 p.m. - Received a call of a possible hit-and-run vehicle west of Loogootee. All Martin County law enforcement was advised.

1:38 p.m. - Corporal Wells took one inmate to court.

2:00 p.m. - Corporal Wells took two inmates to court.

3:30 p.m. - Received call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Police dispatch.

7:47 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin Co EMS responded. Patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:50 p.m. - Received a call reporting

squatters north of Shoals. Advised Deputy Long and Captain Reed.

10:33 p.m. - Received a 911 call south of Loogootee reporting a car vs. deer accident. Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

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

2:38 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

3:01 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

5:50 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree in the road south of Shoals. Lost River Fire responded.

6:14 a.m. - Received a call of a vehicle accident north of Loogootee. Captain Reed and Loogootee Chief Means responded.

6:39 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting vehicle vs. deer accident north of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire responded.

10:19 a.m. - Received an animal complaint call in Loogootee. Contacted Animal Control Officer Hughett.

10:56 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire responded. EMS transported patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:13 a.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver in Shoals. Advised Major Keller.

11:30 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Daviess County EMS responded.

12:39 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious vehicle south of Loogootee. Major Keller responded.

12:57 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an animal complaint in Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Police dispatch.

2:00 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County EMS, Lost River Fire, Sheriff Roush and Major Keller responded. EMS transported patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:49 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver south of Shoals. Advised Sergeant Gibson and Town Marshal Eckert.

3:58 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire responded. EMS transported patient to Daviess County Hospital.

4:17 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

5:10 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an officer in Loogootee for a vehicle accident. Advised Loogootee Police dispatch.

5:53 p.m. - Received a call reporting an animal complaint in Loogootee. Contacted Loogootee Police dispatch.

7:30 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree in the road north of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins and Shoals Fire responded.

8:48 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree in the road east of Shoals. Shoals Fire responded.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

4:32 a.m. - Received a report of a tree in the road east of Shoals. Shoals Fire responded.

5:18 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

7:20 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Major Keller responded.

7:44 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree on a power line southeast of Loogootee. Advised REMC.

9:06 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to a deputy about a civil matter in Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Police.

10:28 a.m. - Deputy Long took two inmates to court.

12:57 p.m. - Deputy Long took one inmate to court.

1:33 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vin check in Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded.

2:09 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Deputy Flanagan, Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire responded. Martin Co EMS transported patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:27 p.m. - Deputy Long took one inmate to court.

2:40 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a lift assist in Shoals. Shoals Fire responded.

4:44 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a fire east of Shoals. Shoals Fire, Martin County EMS, Deputy Flanagan and Corporal Wells responded. Martin County EMS transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:38 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance east of Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire responded. No one was transported.

8:28 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an animal complaint northeast of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan and Corporal Wells responded.

10:20 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

11:32 a.m. - Received a report of a property damage accident in Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

12:29 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vin check on a boat northeast of Shoals. Advised Deputy Flanagan.

12:33 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver near Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Police.

3:19 p.m. - Received a call from the department of child services requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

4:28 p.m. - Received a request for a vin check north of Loogootee. Advised Deputy Flanagan.

4:34 p.m. - Received an animal complaint southeast of Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was advised.

6:30 p.m. - Received a request for a vin check east of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins was advised.

9:21 p.m. - Received a noise complaint in Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Police.

10:55 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver north of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

11:21 p.m. - Received a call reporting a residential break in. Deputy Hawkins was advised.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

12:25 a.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check. Deputy Hawkins and Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

2:05 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance east of Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire responded.

5:42 a.m. - Received a call reporting a car vs. deer accident in Shoals. No injuries were reported. Deputy Hawkins responded.

8:28 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance southwest of Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire responded. No transport needed.

12:56 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded and transported the patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:37 p.m. - Received a 911 reporting a motorcycle accident northwest of Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County EMS responded. Patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:23 p.m. - Received an animal com-

plaint call in Shoals. Advised Animal Control Officer Hughett.

3:24 p.m. - Received a call advising of a reckless driver northeast of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

7:11 p.m. - Received a call reporting a theft in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

9:08 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a domestic dispute north of Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan, Deputy Hawkins and Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

5:17 a.m. - Received a call from alarm company requesting a lift assist in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded. No transport needed.

7:57 a.m. - Received a call of trespassing southeast of Loogootee. Deputy Long responded.

2:23 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance. Deputy Flanagan and Martin County EMS responded and transported patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:49 p.m. - Received a request for welfare check southeast of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

4:13 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver north of Loogootee. All Martin County law enforcement were advised.

6:31 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a vehicle accident in Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan and Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

7:05 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver near Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan and Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

10:02 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a domestic disturbance in Shoals. Deputy Flanagan and Sergeant Gibson responded.

11:36 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded and transported patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

ARRESTS

TUESDAY, MAY 31

7:59 a.m. - Johnathan Dant was arrested by Major Keller and charged with possession of syringe, false informing and burglary. He is being held with no bond.

12:26 p.m. - Rebecca Rush was arrested by Sergeant Gibson and charged with driving while suspended. She is being held on bond of \$10,000/10%.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

9:45 a.m. - Victoria Janssen, of Battle Ground, Indiana, was arrested by Major Keller and charged with possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, and reckless driving. She is being held on bond of \$10,000/10%.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

6:18 p.m. - Lynn Williams, of Shoals, was arrested by Corporal Wells and charged with possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

9:30 a.m. - Ryan Sipes, 26, of Bedford, was arrested on a Martin County warrant. He is being held with no bond.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

12:17 a.m. - Jose Rivas Crus, 40, of Jasper, was arrested by Deputy Hawkins and charged with driving without ever receiving a license-prior. Bond set at \$20,000 10%.

11:23 p.m. - Jonathon Moffatt, 41, of Crane, was arrested by Deputy Hawkins and charged with disorderly conduct, domestic battery in the presence of a minor, and intimidation with a deadly weapon. Bond set at \$30,000/10%.

COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & SENTENCING

May 25

Derrick T. Wheeler, convicted of intimidation, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 4 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 2 actual days previously served plus 2 Class A credit days.

Jaylon T. Knepp, convicted of theft, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 6 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 3 actual days previously served plus 3 Class A credit days.

May 27

James E. Graber, convicted of resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor and disorderly conduct, a Class B Misdemeanor. Sentenced on the first count to serve 365 days with 357 days suspended and credit for 4 actual days previously served plus 4 Class A credit days. Defendant received 11 months of probation. Sentenced on the second count to serve 8 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 4 actual days previously served plus 4 Class A credit days.

Charles T. Kline, convicted of public intoxication, a Class B Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 180 days with 76 days suspended and credit for 52 actual days previously served plus 52 Class A credit days.

William A. Kidwell, II, convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 547 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 104 actual days previously served plus 104 Class A credit days. Defendant shall serve the remaining 339 days through Martin County Community Corrections electronic home monitoring program, so long as the defendant remains eligible.

Martin County real estate transfers

Alexis D. Wagler and Myron J. Knepp, of Martin County, Indiana to **Erica Mae Fair and Benjamin Douglas Fair**, of Lawrence County, Indiana. Tract I: A part of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 31, Township 4 North, Range 4 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 5 acres, more or less. Tract II: A part of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 31, Township 4 North, Range 4 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 4 acres, more or less.

Jason McCoy, of Martin County, Indiana to **James R. Arvin and Helen B. Arvin**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, containing 0.625 acre, more or less.

Lisa A. Golay, of Jefferson County, Kentucky to **Chad W. Gibson and Audrey Gibson and Gary L. Gibson and Joy L. Gibson**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: All that part of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing 2 acres, more or less. Tract II: A part of Section 36, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing 3 acres, more or less.

Brenda LaMar, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jonathon Spurgeon**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot 31 in the original plat of Indian Springs, more commonly known as 8701 Cale Road, Shoals IN 47581.

Bramble Farms, LLC, of Martin County, Indiana to **Edwin Jay Wagler**, of Daviess County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of Section 20, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, Mitcheltree Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 8.80 acres, more or less.

Feldan, LLC, of Martin County, Indiana to **Monty Gregory**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West.

Edward R. Nolley, of Martin Coun-

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

May 26

Misty Bowles, check deception, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

May 27

Cynthia Kay Short, operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

May 25

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Jason Grow, civil collection.

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Pamela Clark, civil collection.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

May 31

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Citibank and against the defendant Donald Whitesell in the amount of \$3,705.42.

CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

May 31

Capital One Bank vs. Michael Hopkins, civil collection, dismissed.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

May 25

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Jared Flammer and against the defendant Birdy's Scooters and HTVs in the amount of \$2,507.

May 31

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Gary B. Campbell in the amount of \$841.23.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Thomas Bradon Pope of Shoals and Kendra Dawn Goldsberry of Shoals.

Christopher S. Reed of Loogootee and Stacey L. Ivey of Odon.

Thomas R. Moffitt of Shoals and Shelby P. Venters of Shoals.

ty, Indiana to **Nicklous Cole Hembree and Allison Brooke Hembree**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: A portion of the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Rutherford Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1 acre, more or less. Tract II: A portion of the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Rutherford Township, Martin County, Indiana.

Officers remind to make water safety a priority

Indiana Conservation Officers remind Hoosiers to make water safety a priority then and throughout the summer.

"We urge all Hoosiers recreating around our waterways to recognize the danger water poses, even to strong swimmers or experienced boaters," said Capt. Jet Quillen of DNR Law Enforcement.

When recreating around water, follow these basic safety tips:

-Discuss the dangers of water with your family and loved ones before going out.

-Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.

-Go with a buddy.

-Do not venture around flooded or fast-moving waterways.

-Wear a life jacket.

-Keep an extra watchful eye on children.

-Avoid alcohol.

If you go boating, make sure you know the rules and boat safely. Reduce speed in unfamiliar areas and be aware of unusual water conditions respective to your size and type of boat. These are not only safety tips, but also important environmental considerations. Regardless of your boat type, assess water levels before going out and monitor your speed while underway.

Designate a sober boat operator. Alcohol causes impaired balance, blurred vi-

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, MAY 30

2:33 a.m. - Officer Sims completed a welfare check on a male reportedly walking along US 231 North.

10:51 a.m. - Chief Means and Assistant Chief McBeth responded to a report of a vehicle that had driven up onto the median at Ruler parking lot.

7:10 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a report of an erratic driver in West Boggs Park.

TUESDAY, MAY 31

12:15 a.m. - Officer Seymour assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a report of a fight in progress on US 231 South.

12:22 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth assisted with a medical call at Good Samaritan Center.

3:45 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth assisted with a vehicle unlock.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

2:38 a.m. - Officer Seymour assisted with the vehicle unlock.

8:51 a.m. - Chief Means assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a traffic stop and arrest.

10:09 a.m. - Chief Means assisted with a funeral procession.

12:55 p.m. - Chief Means responded to a report of aggressive dogs that were not allowing a resident out of his house.

4:33 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Bramble Road.

5:14 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth and Officer Sims responded to a property damage accident at Marathon.

8:24 p.m. - A caller on North Line Street reported a theft.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

9:08 a.m. - Officer Rayhill spoke with a resident in regard to a civil dispute.

4:35 p.m. - A caller requested to speak to an officer regarding a theft.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

12:39 p.m. - Chief Means responded to a report of a semi driving recklessly.

2:05 p.m. - Chief Means responded to a property damage accident in the Crane Credit Union parking lot.

5:30 p.m. - Chief Means completed a vehicle check.

9:21 p.m. - Received a noise complaint from North Oak Street.

11:00 p.m. - Officer Seymour assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department

with a traffic stop.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

12:25 a.m. - Officer Seymour assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a report of a possible suicidal subject.

5:55 a.m. - A caller reported harassment.

12:42 p.m. - Officer Long responded to a property damage accident at the high school.

9:21 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to Crane to assist the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a domestic dispute.

11:07 p.m. - Officer Seymour completed a welfare check.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

12:38 p.m. - Officer Rayhill assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a domestic dispute.

6:37 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a property damage accident on Broadway Street near Kentucky Avenue.

8:18 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a report of a theft.

Products recalled in May

Attorney General Todd Rokita reminds Hoosiers to be aware of products that were recalled in May. Consumers should take full advantage of the solutions available for those who purchased the recalled items.

"Hoosier consumers have the right to know if items sitting around their homes are flawed or have the potential for unexpected danger. This month, a number of recalled products are child-related, so I encourage parents and caregivers to pay careful attention," Attorney General Rokita said. "Consumer protection is one of my office's top priorities. If you have difficulty finding a solution for your recalled product, call my office for help."

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

BIBS Baby Bottles from BIBS Denmark ApS

Heckler 9 Electric Bicycles from Santa Cruz Bicycles

GreenSpeed Magnum Recumbent Trikes from WizWheelz

Infant Clothes from Winter Water Factory

Children's Robes from NewCosplay

Children's Robes from Linum Home Textiles

Wolverine RMAX Off-Road Side-By-Side Vehicles from Yamaha

Hover-1 Superfly Hoverboards from DGL Group

Coffee Cups from Moderne Glass Company

Children's Pajamas from Free Birdees

Wonder & Wise Activity Tables from Asweets

Children's Sleepwear from Copper Pearl

If you believe you purchased a recalled product, stop using it and check its recall notice (linked above for all products). Follow the notice's instructions, including where to return the product, how to get the product fixed, how to dispose of the product, how to receive a refund for the product, or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

To view recalls, visit <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>.

TOY'S AUTO PARTS, INC.

Loogootee
(812) 295-2312

Shoals
(812) 247-3321

Jasper
(812) 634-2222

Washington
(812) 254-2540

Sullivan
(812) 268-5252

Martinsville
(765) 342-6623

Linton
(812) 847-4494

Jasonville
(812) 665-3969

Bicknell
(812) 735-3545

Bloomfield
(812) 384-4453



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Shoals School Board meeting
The Shoals School Board will meet in special session Friday, June 17 at 2 p.m. in the central administration office. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the new superintendent recommendation. The meeting is open to the public.

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

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

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

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

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

Free lunch for kids
submit your comments can be found at: <https://midstatescorridor.com/deis/#-FORMAL>
I hope you now know.

Glenda Weimer
Martin County

'Touches my heart deeply'
To the editor of the *Martin County Journal* and to the Class of 1970,
You cannot imagine how proud I was and thankful that you honored my brother Tom (Steve) Hickman in your class activity, on the square, on May 27, 2022. My only wish would have been that I could have been there, to thank each one of you. Knowing that my brother is remembered by his class touches my heart deeply.

Kenny, thank you for reading the letter. Kevin, you know what is in my heart. And to the rest of the class of 1970, thank you is not enough, but I know (Tom) Steve was looking down smiling, and remembering all of you.

Also, thank you for remembering the other fallen heroes from Loogootee. Please keep all of us in your prayers.

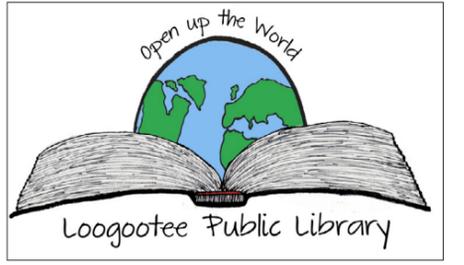
God Bless You All,
Proud Sister,
Karen Hickman
Martin County

New Beginnings Community Church will be offering a free lunch to all school age children every Saturday. Lunches can be picked up at the fellowship hall of the church, located at 105 Wood St, Loogootee no later than 10:30 a.m. Deliveries will begin between 10:30 and 11 a.m. Saturdays.

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

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

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



BY DARLA WAGLER
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library



Silly Safari recently kicked off the Loogootee Library's Summer Reading Program with 179 participants.

2022 Oceans of Possibilities summer reading program with Emily Julian has begun but you can still register your child. Stop by the library and pick up your June calendar of events. Story Time will be offered at various times but will also be available at Loogootee Elementary School on Wednesdays.

Area restaurant gift cards, \$75 Visa card, Ocean themed Pop-Its, 23-inch Olga the Octopus Squishmallow will be prizes kids can win.

New Books:
Mystery: "A Face to Die For" by Iris Johansen.

Fiction: "The Hotel Nantucket" by Elin Hilderbrand.

Inspirational Fiction: "I'll Be Seeing You" by Robin Lee Hatcher.

Library hours: Monday 10-7, Tuesday 10-5, Closed on Wednesday, Thursday 10-7, Friday 10-5, and Saturday 9-1. The library phone number is 812-295-3713 and check out the website www.loogootee.lib.in.us or like us on Facebook. The library has free Wi-Fi service available for patrons.

Advertise in the Martin County Journal
Email courtney@martincountyjournal.com



"How come you're late?" the boss asks his assistant as she walks in the door. "It was awful," she says. "I was walking down the street and saw a terrible accident. A man was lying in the middle of the street badly injured. There was blood everywhere. I'm just glad I took that first aid course."

"What did you do?"
"I sat down and put my head between my knees to keep from fainting."

THOUGHTS
*I may not be everyone's cup of tea but who cares. I drink coffee.

*Stepped on my scale this morning and it said: "Please use social distancing - one person at a time."

*Thing I have in common with Victoria's Secret models" Being hungry.

*Tips on how to fall asleep in a living room chair:

1. Be old
2. Sit in a chair.

*After months of listening to people talk with masks on, I finally understand what Charlie Brown's teacher was saying.

*On the phone with my mom:
Me: What's your secret to 55 years of marriage?

Mom: We never hated each other on the same day.

*I just read that 4,153,237 people got

married last year. Not to cause any trouble, but shouldn't that be an even number?

*If I had a dollar for every man that found me unattractive, they would eventually find me attractive.

*I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

SERIOUSISMS (I made up that word)
*Remember as you slide down the great banister of life, there are gonna be people who are splinters in your butt. Pick em out and SLIDE ON!

*As you get older, you will understand more and more that it's not about what you look like or what you own, it's all about the person you've become.

MOM'S FAVORITE SAYINGS

1. What part of no don't you understand?
2. I don't care who started it!
3. Money doesn't grow on trees.
4. Your face is going to freeze like that.
5. Your hands are not broken.
6. Beds are made for sleeping, not jumping.
7. No one said life is fair.
8. Eat your vegetables.
9. I don't know is NOT an answer.
10. Because I said so...That's why.

Make someone smile today!

~LETTERS TO THE EDITOR~

'Did you know'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

Did you know congestion and municipal maintenance is a huge problem within the Jasper city limits and is one of the factors for the Mid-States Corridor Project?

Did you know the Mid-States Corridor will utilize the existing Highway 231 south of Huntingburg?

Did you know the Mid-States Corridor will NOT utilize the existing Highway 231 north of Haysville and instead will run roughly parallel to Highway 231?

Did you know the Mid-States Corridor proposes a bypass west of Loogootee which will negatively impact spontaneous stops at local businesses and restaurants?

Did you know, the Mid-States Corridor will be limited access and cause many county roads to become dead-end roads?

Did you know, because of these dead-end roads, some farmers will need to travel up to 10 miles to care for animals and crops which they can see from their house windows?

Did you know in 2021 Governor Holcomb announced \$75 million identified for design and improvements of the existing Highway 231 between Crane and Dale?

Did you know these improvements to Highway 231 include passing lanes and improved intersections between Haysville and Crane?

Did you know these improvements to Highway 231 also include upgrading to four lanes in parts of Huntingburg and Jasper?

Did you know the Mid-States Corridor project is not considering (at this

time) these Highway 231 infrastructure improvements to minimize design and construction impacts?

Did you know, then State Representative Mike Braun and current State Senator Mark Messmer introduced a bill in 2017 which became law to permit private funding of transportation infrastructure studies in Indiana?

Did you know, the Mid-States Corridor Regional Development Authority (RDA) consists of representative ONLY from Dubois and Spencer Counties?

Did you know a single "no" vote from any board member of the Mid-States Corridor RDA prevents any new representation from other impacted counties?

Did you know the RDA Board will not release the names of the businesses and companies which helped fund the Draft Environmental Impact Statement?

Did you know in 2020, Senator Mike Braun told veterans and local elected officials in Lawrence County arguments using the basis of lost farmland will not sway the decision regarding the Mid-States Corridor?

Did you know the United States is a democracy and our voices can be heard?

Did you know citizens in and around French Lick and West Baden rallied to keep the Mid-States Corridor from going thru their cities?

Did you know citizens could choose to no longer do business in Dubois and Spencer counties?

Did you know taking no stance on the Mid-States Corridor is essentially supporting the project and its current proposed route?

Did you know the comment period for the Mid-States Corridor project closes on June 14, 2022?

Did you know the details for how to



In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser,
Purdue University Master Gardener

I have been a horticulture judge for many years. I have judged 4-H and FFA competitions and also open-class at many county fairs and at flower shows. I have judged flowers, vegetables and field crops. For many years, I judged at the Indiana State Fair. I love doing the judging and try to use the occasion to teach people more about their crops.

Next week, I will be judging at my first county fair of 2022. County fairs have been moved up in order to get them in before the Indiana State Fair. The State Fair has been moved up to try to get it in before school starts, but schools seem to just keep starting earlier and earlier. At any rate, the earlier fairs have resulted in a lot of changes. Exhibitors have to start seeds early inside to have produce or flowers for the early fairs. The 4-H program now has options for notebook and poster exhibits in both the floriculture and gardening projects. Flower arrangements may be constructed using purchased flowers and greenery, or even using artificial flowers. Most field crop exhibits now consist of plants dug up from the fields instead of grain or finished crops.

Judging 4-H projects is pretty standard, since the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service establishes the criteria. Club members are encouraged to be present at the judging in most counties. I really like that arrangement, as I can ask questions. The answers to the questions may be a deciding factor when determining champions in a project. The important thing for 4-Hers is to follow the rules. The project guides have standards that should be met. For instance, in the gardening project, an exhibit plate is a specific number of specimens. If an exhibit of green beans calls for twenty beans of equal size, that is exactly what needs to be on the plate. There is no bonus for extra beans. Size also matters. This is not a “biggest zucchini” contest. There is a chart in the manual that details

the size every vegetable should be for exhibits. Uniformity on the plate is also important. Deductions for not following the exhibit rules may drop an exhibit from a blue ribbon to a red ribbon. Completely ignore the rules, and you may end up with a white ribbon.

Choose your best. If you do not have the correct number of tomatoes of uniform size, shape and color, then do not exhibit tomatoes. Make sure that your produce is clean and free of insect and disease damage. Do not wax your vegetables to make them shine. There are guidelines for the length of stems and roots to leave on vegetables. Follow them!

The 4-H floriculture project has many divisions. As in the garden project, it is important to follow the rules as they are set forth. One of the most-often ignored rules is how stems should be prepared for exhibit. Stems should be cut at an angle to increase the surface available to take in water. All leaves should be stripped from the portion of the stem that will be below water. This is to prevent disease, which will shorten the time a bloom will look good. It also looks better.

Open-class exhibits differ greatly from county to county. Read the guidelines your county sets forth in the fair book. There may actually be a largest zucchini contest! Find out how strict your county is about categories. For instance, if there is a category for lilies, do they want only true lilies in that division? Are there separate categories for daylilies, callas and other flowers that are called lilies, but are not true lilies? Find out these things before the fair and make sure you enter the correct category.

I have never seen a prize at a fair that is large enough to get a person to go crazy. Remember that this is for fun and for learning. Keep the competition friendly and do not get upset at the judge. The best fairs make judging difficult, because every entry deserves a prize.

Submissions open for 15th annual Indiana agriculture photo contest

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture is now accepting submissions for the 15th annual Indiana Agriculture Photo Contest. The contest is open to all Indiana residents and was created to recognize the hard work and contributions of Hoosier farmers, as well as the beauty of the state’s agricultural landscape.

“Each year I look forward to seeing the exceptional photos shared through this contest that capture the essence of Indiana agriculture,” said Lt. Gov Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “We welcome all Hoosiers to submit their photos.”

Participants are encouraged to submit photos reflecting the wide array of agriculture. The categories photos can be entered under are:

On the Farm: Showcasing any building, piece of equipment or activity that is a part of life on an Indiana farm.

Faces of Agriculture: Featuring those who grow and produce food, fuel and fiber in Indiana.

Agritourism: Spotlighting Indiana’s seasonal and agricultural destinations, such as orchards, wineries and farmers markets.

Conservation: Highlighting Indiana’s natural beauty with landscapes, water

and wildlife.

In total, ten winners will be selected: two from each category and two overall. Winners will be invited to attend a special ceremony at the Indiana State Fair, where they will be recognized and receive certificates from Crouch and Indiana State Department of Agriculture Director Bruce Kettler. Contest winners will also have their photographs featured in the offices of the Lt. Governor’s Family of Business in Indianapolis throughout the year.

“This photo contest, now in its 15th year, is an incredible representation of the strength, diversity and beauty of our state’s agriculture industry,” Kettler said. “I look forward to seeing this year’s submissions.”

Contestants can submit up to five photos in digital format accommodated by a submission form for each photo. Photos will be evaluated based on creativity, composition and category representation. Entries must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. (ET) on June 30, 2022.

Visit www.in.gov/isda/programs-and-initiatives/indiana-state-department-of-agriculture-photo-contest/ for entry forms, guidelines and criteria or visit ISDA.IN.GOV.



Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton
NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

I remember hearing my mother say more than once, ‘If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.’ Lately, that has been easier said than done. I try to find a little good in everything, that can be challenging. Mark Twain once stated, “It’s better to be an optimist who is sometimes wrong than a pessimist who is always right.”

This year, so far, has been marked with some major challenges. At times, I felt like I was procrastinating on work that needed to be done, but in fact, I wasn’t procrastinating. I was instead twiddling my thumbs trying to patiently wait for opportunities to do what needed to be done. The weather, for the most part, hasn’t been on our side so far except for very brief intervals that only teased us.

It would be nice some year to have an average spring. The trouble is, I’m not sure what that is anymore. I would gladly share some of our excess rain with the droughty areas. On the other side of it, I’m afraid to say too much and it just completely turn off.

I’ve seen a little hay cut and put up in the extremely short windows that have been available. Excess soil moisture is still a problem even if the sun is shining for a couple days. Avoid mowing hay when the soil in the top two inches is wet. That excess moisture slows drying and can make putting up dry hay more difficult. Mow higher to allow for more air flow. Ideally, at least 2-3 inches high.

Dry hay, in order to store and keep well and maintain quality, must be baled with no more than 18% moisture. For small square bales, 16% should be the limit. Higher amounts of moisture content usually mean soured or moldy hay.

Baleage might be the most ideal way to go under present conditions if you have or can get the equipment needed to do so. Baleage it is simply hay that is too moist to store safely as dry hay, so it is wrapped or otherwise sealed in plastic at about 50 percent moisture. Baleage can be fermented as individual bales or in a tube. You must make sure the wrap is tight enough and sufficient to be airtight in order to exclude oxygen and mold formation. Baleage is usually baled and wrapped with at least six layers of thin plastic. Baleage can create high quality forage if done properly.

I think every producer stresses over making hay, at least part of the time. I’d absolutely rather leave the forage standing than have poor quality hay. If it is put up wet, quality is quickly reduced and that can be a very costly decision this year. Not only will the livestock not appreciate or do well on the poor-quality hay, but you also removed and relocated some very expensive nutrients that will eventually have to be replaced.

I’m surprised that I talked this much about hay already. Hay usually is cheap insurance, but not this year. Some may still think it is not costing them that much, but one must consider fuel and value of nutrients removed even if you want to consider your time being free. I think everyone, no matter how efficient their type of grazing system, should have some hay on hand. It is your insurance plan and one of your contingency plans. Feeding less hay is a good thing though, at least it should be – meaning you are hopefully grazing more.

Smaller operations, especially ones with less than 15 cows or equivalents, would have difficult time justifying owning hay equipment. That depreciating in-

vestment would probably be best spent on improving the grazing efficiency of the farm or on fertility.

If you are in what I will refer to as a “building” stage of soil fertility — in other words it still needs some — then you would be better off bringing in fertility, in the form of hay than to remove it. If fields are in that building stage, it is counterproductive to cut hay off it — no question. You are just removing and moving needed nutrients, especially phosphorus. Certainly, spend a few dollars on some soil fertility tests so you have a better understanding of nutrient levels. Focus forage harvesting, dry hay or baleage, on fields with the most nutrient availability and only cut what you know you will need and protect that investment by harvesting it correctly and storing it properly.

Most years there is usually hay around to be bought. Plan ahead if you are going to be buying and if possible, visit the hayfield from which your hay will come ahead of time, so you have a better idea of the quality. If you are purchasing hay that is already baled or sight unseen, request a hay analysis to make sure it is the quality needed to meet your livestock’s nutritional needs and to make sure it really will beat “snowballs.”

I’ve been asked the question of what to do with runaway forage. Keep grazing. Allocate in smaller allotments and keep moving. This will return more nutrients back to the same area and keep forage under more control. The, allow sufficient time for the forage to recover before grazing it again. Normally that will be a while unless you are over stocked. It is the first of June. You should not be short on forages.

Clipping can be beneficial in helping to maintain quality but will be a more costly endeavor this time around. If you do clip, only remove seed heads and stay above the leaves. If you can’t do that, then go back to plan A, graze.

I have to ask the question though, what is the reason for your mowing? If it is to improve or maintain quality — have at it — just don’t mow any shorter than necessary. If it is purely for aesthetics, you might be better off leaving it alone. Taller forages produce more live roots providing some drought insurance, can help to shade out some weeds, can provide for slightly cooler soils and maintain moisture which can promote more growth from cool season forages instead of less desirable plants and then the added benefit of some wildlife habitat.

Remember, it’s not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Don’t get carried away with the hay, just manage advantageous grazing avenues — yep, keep on grazing!

Reminders & Opportunities
More pasture information and past issues of Grazing Bites are available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/in/technical/landuse/pasture/

Fencing school at SIPAC on June 18. 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – More information coming - Flyer will be posted on SIPAC website. <https://ag.purdue.edu/arge/pac/Pages/sipac-home.aspx>

Purdue Forage Management Day will be September 1 at the Feldun-Purdue Agricultural Center, Bedford. <https://ag.purdue.edu/agry/dtc/Pages/Calendar.aspx>

Grazing Bites has changed. Please send comments or questions to grazingbites@gmail.com.

LHS Dual-Credit Junior English Class
presents . . .

**Small Businesses,
BIG Stories**



BY MORGEN WOLF, MADDIE FISCHER & ETHAN EARLEY
LHS Dual-Credit Junior English Class

The dual-credit junior English class at Loogootee High School is working with the City of Loogootee Recast Team to promote locally-owned small businesses. The class is interviewing business owners in Loogootee and Shoals. Below is their next interview.

John Morrison, Big John's Racks N Reels

"I started Big John's in July 2014 because I was tired of making money for other people and wanted to become more independent. Originally, I started my business as a bait and tackle shop. After a while I finally got my federal firearms license and eventually started selling guns along with the bait and tackle. About a year after, I opened Big John's Racks N Reels we expanded into Big John's Collision. In 2017, I started a wrecker service to go along with our body shop. Most recently I started a salvage business where we buy scrap vehicles. We recycle the batteries and tires from those cars for people who need them.

I had started my own business in the past when I was around 10 years old mowing people's lawns. I have a high school diploma and a one-year certificate in autobody from Vincennes University that has helped me prepare and achieve my goals as well. The biggest obstacle in opening my business was trying to find real estate that would fit everything that I wanted to do. Luckily, I found a great option in Loogootee and my dream expanded from there.

After we got everything with my business settled, I would say that my business is very successful now even though I have to put in lots of hours. Even after I close, and all of my employees go home, sometimes I still have to stay to get the



extra stuff done. If you open a business in a small town, you need to be prepared to put in the hours and work because it is not always easy, and commitment is required.

The support of my family and friends was so important because even after the long hours put in at my shop, they were still there behind me, and I would not be where I am today without them and their love and support. I have always believed it is important to give back to your community, so I decided to do just that. I've donated to the fire department and the sheriff's department, and I also pay local and state taxes so in a way that gives back to the community, too.

It's a local business like nobody else in our area has, we offer bait and tackle along with a body shop and tire shop. No one around here has something so special and unique like that. In five years, I would still like to be doing what I'm doing today, maintaining my business and still prospering along with my community."

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- Proficient computer skills
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- Experience with rubber, plastic or thermoplastic manufacturing a plus

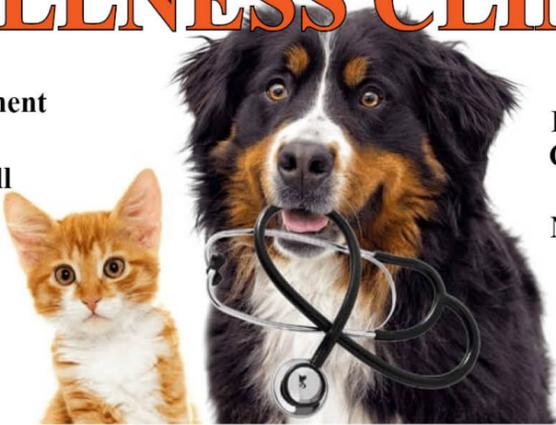
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Jasper Rubber Products, Inc. has an immediate opening for a **Benefits Coordinator**.

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- Conduct new hire benefit orientation
- Manage annual open enrollment process
- Reconcile monthly benefit billings
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- Effective communication skills
- Excellent computer skills

If you are looking for a career opportunity with a progressive company including employee ownership, please apply on line at www.jasperrubber.com or send your resume to:

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- Willing to travel
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- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong negotiating skills and financial analysis skills
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Please apply online at www.jasperrubber.com or send your resume to:

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Attn: Human Resources
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YARD SALES

BURNS CITY TOWNWIDE YARD SALES Saturday, June 11, 8 a.m.-? Rain or shine.

HELP WANTED

The Martin County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications to fill open Part-Time Jail Officer & Dispatcher positions

Part-Time Jail Officers - \$15.00 per hour
Part-Time Dispatchers - \$15.00 per hour
Advancement opportunities are available.

Minimum Requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Citizen of the United States
- High School Diploma or GED
- Must not have any Felony or Misdemeanor Battery or Domestic Violence Convictions
- Be willing to submit to pre-employment drug screening
- Ability and willingness to work a variety of shifts, including evenings, weekends and some holidays

To be considered for an open position, interested candidates are encouraged to pick-up an application at the Martin County Sheriff's Office: 318 Capital Avenue, Shoals, IN 47581 (812) 247-3726.

JASPER RUBBER



Jasper Rubber Products, Inc. has an immediate opening for a **Supervisor** on 2nd shift (1 pm – 11 pm). This is a full-time position that offers competitive compensation and an excellent benefits package. Job responsibilities and qualifications include:

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