

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 15, Issue 33

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024

Eight pages

County council makes no cuts during budget hearings

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council held budget hearings last Monday, August 5. According to the county's financial advisor, FSG (Financial Services Group), the council needed to cut \$100,000 from the 2025 budget. The council chose not to make any cuts at the hearings and instead, take each department's budgets, including their increases, under advisement. The council will now submit the proposed budgets to FSG and wait to hear back.

There was a lengthy discussion with Surveyor Nathan Hoffman regarding his full-time deputy position. A few months ago, Council Member Jordan Dant announced during a meeting that Hoffman called him and told him he no longer needed a deputy. Hoffman included the deputy position in the 2025 budget, however. When asked why, Hoffman said things have changed as far as the workload and he also has safety concerns about being on sites alone. He said he carries a lot of equipment and is deep in the woods. He said if he were to fall, no one would ever find him. The council questioned whether Hoffman could use a part-time employee instead to help in those situations. It was also noted that Assessor Carolyn McGuire usually pays \$15,000 toward the deputy's salary and she didn't include that money in her 2025 budget.

Later, when Assessor McGuire came in for her budget, the council questioned her on the \$15,000. McGuire said she didn't

include the money because she was told there would be no deputy surveyor position next year. When asked if she could put the money back in the reassessment budget, McGuire first said she didn't think she could but then at the end of the discussion she said she possibly could.

Council Member Monty Gregory said he believes they need to create a new position for the deputy surveyor to be for mapping only. He said a part-time person can be hired to travel with the surveyor when he is out in the field. Gregory said most counties have a mapping department so it's not uncommon. Assessor McGuire said the deputy surveyor does more than just mapping. Surveyor Hoffman said he needs his deputy's help with work that is coming up with the Mid-States Corridor. He said they have had a lot of extra work put on them lately, including identifying every culvert in the county recently. He said it's a necessity that he has another staff member. Assessor McGuire said she doesn't understand why they would change the way the surveyor's office is set up if it's already working. Council Member Warren Albright said he didn't think the county needed to have someone do mapping only because they have always said employees in each office need to be cross trained to avoid having people argue that something "isn't their job". Council Member Dant said this is where a job description would come into play. Council Member Gregory said if they are expecting the county to grow, they need to consider his idea.

Highway Superintendent Scott Seals explained that he is having trouble hir-

Loogootee Board denies Pride Fest again, discusses yard waste dumping, dogs

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee Board of Public Works & Safety and City Council met Monday night, August 12.

The board of works were presented with an event request to hold the Loogootee Pride Festival on the square in September. This request comes after the city rejected having a Pride Festival on the square several times over the past year. A lawsuit was filed by the ACLU on behalf of the Loogootee Pride organization against the city a few months ago and that litigation is pending. The city created a new process for organizations to request to hold events and with that new ordinance, the Pride group resubmitted their request. On Monday night, Public Works Member Jason Greene made a motion to approve the Pride Festival to be held on the square, but it died due to a lack of a second. Board Member Mark McAtee then made a motion to allow the Pride Festival to be held at the city park instead, citing construction that would be taking place on the "green space" property at the corner of JFK Avenue and Church Street in September. Board Member Danny Clark seconded McAtee's motion and it passed with Jason Greene voting against it.

The board of works also discussed the need to have a policy in place regarding dumping on the city's lot on North Oak Street. Utilities Superintendent Bo Wilson said they were told by IDEM (Indi-

ana Department of Environmental Management) that they could no longer burn that yard debris however they applied and received an emergency permit to burn it citing recent storm damage in the application. He said that even while burning the pile, residents continued to bring yard debris and businesses brought full trees to put on the pile. He said despite "no dumping" signs placed, it isn't stopping the issue. Mayor Brian Ader said they purchased a woodchipper for \$17,000 to handle future debris however they plan to move the dump site to the property the city recently purchased by the wastewater treatment plant. He said in that location, it will be monitored and controlled, something that is not happening on the North Oak Street property.

Fire Chief Eric Thomas again presented a quote from AMKUS for extrication equipment that he would like to purchase for the department. Due to a deadline passing for the company to purchase the department's old tools as a trade in, the cost is now \$54,993, an increase of \$8,000. The deadline for the trade in of the tools was July 31. Board of Works Member Greene asked why the fire department didn't get a quote from Holmatro. Thomas said the cost of their equipment, including the batteries, was more expensive. Greene then presented a quote from Holmatro and explained that when compared, the quote from Holmatro was only \$1,000 more. Board of Works Members Clark and McAtee agreed that both
(See 'LOOGOOTE' on page 2)

ing a mechanic for the highway department at the current \$22.42 per hour. He requested a higher raise for the mechanic position than his other positions to move it to \$23.77 per hour.

The council left \$17,000 in the commissioners' budget for the Martin County Humane Society. There was discussion about the shelter closing. They agreed to leave the money hoping someone comes forward to take over the shelter. Commissioner Paul George said he knows they have gotten pressure from the public to help fund the animal shelter, but they just don't have the money to do it. It was noted that the state doesn't mandate that counties provide animal services. Commissioner George said the county isn't in a position to provide animal services, and the humane society is lucky they are able to give the amount they do. The council also removed the \$9,000 for the animal control position from the sheriff's department budget since the sheriff no longer wants to have animal control.

The council discussed creating the LIT (Local Income Tax) EMS tax that would decrease money in the EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) fund and go directly to the ambulance service. It would allocate \$503,000 from EDIT to LIT which would take \$88,000 from the City of Loogootee, \$40,000 from the Town of Shoals and \$9,000 from the Town of Crane. This would offset \$366,000 that would be decreased from the county's EDIT. Council Member Dant said he had a discussion with Loogootee Mayor Brian Ader about the shift of funds and told Mayor Ader that this would be the city's contribution to the ambulance service. Council Member Albright said it may be a better idea to just have the city give money from their budget to the county for ambulance service instead of taking their EDIT funds. Council Member Dant said that this would leave open the possibility that the city would not give it each year if they didn't have the money. By diverting EDIT funds, he said it's a guarantee each year. Auditor Michelle Norris said that it is most likely too late to make a change to EDIT funds for this year and that may have to wait until 2026.

The council spent quite a bit of time discussing how they were going to fund the ambulance service. The budget for the ambulance service came in at \$1.35 million for 2025. Currently, \$766,452 of that money comes out of the EDIT fund to pay salaries. The council agreed they need to have Ambulance Director Jeramey Osborn provide them with a one-year snapshot of how much money the ambulance service has taken in and also a list of unpaid payments. The council agreed that a collection agency needed to be hired to go after unpaid bills.

The council and Director Osborn agreed that even creating the LIT tax would not help close the gap on what the ambulance service costs against what it brings in. Osborn noted that it would be a large part of it, however.

The council discussed with Osborn his desire to purchase a fourth ambulance for the county. Council Member Sherri Bowling said they are having a hard enough time funding the ambulance service now so she's not sure a fourth ambulance is needed right now. Osborn explained that they are operating with used

ambulances and his plan was to have a fourth on the roster in case they started having issues with others. He said the cost to purchase four used ambulances is cheaper than trying to buy one new one which costs \$320,000 to \$390,000. He said it's also a 30-month wait when purchasing a new ambulance. Osborn said that they have to leave the county every time they take a patient to the hospital, plus doing transfers and it wears on their used trucks. He said they have to be ready to handle emergencies and he is thinking ahead. Council Member Dant said they are going to have to figure out how to pay for the ambulance service if they want to run at the capacity they are running at now.

The council talked about the need to contact the township trustees to have them contribute to the ambulance service. Many scenarios were discussed such as charging each township a certain amount of money, not providing service to townships that don't contribute and having the county attorney send each a letter saying they have to contribute. No final decision was made, however.

Director Osborn said they are also looking into grants to help replace equipment, however there are no grants available, that he has found, to purchase used ambulances, only new ones.

The council discussed increasing the veteran service officer's salary to \$25,000, double what it is currently. The veteran service officer is paid salary for an estimated 20 hours per week.

The probation department requested to add a third probation officer, a case manager and to continue to have an administrative assistant. The council had approved a part-time administrative assistant through the end of 2024. Judge Isha Wright-Ryan said the probation department cannot continue to function like they are with too many clients per probation officer. She said they need the extra staff to have a well-functioning probation department.

Judge Wright-Ryan also talked to the council about concerns regarding courthouse security. She said she has interviewed a number of candidates for the bailiff position but can't find anyone who will take the job for \$15 an hour and the inability to be armed. The council suggested possibly increasing the position to \$25 per hour but keeping the same budgeted amount. Judge Wright-Ryan said this wouldn't help keep the courthouse secure. She said she currently gets a deputy from the sheriff's department when they have hearings, however she would like to see the courthouse always be secure. She said she has tried to get the commissioners to approve purchasing a mobile metal detector, but they haven't done so yet. Regardless, she said, she won't find anyone to man the detectors if they cannot carry a weapon, so she is working on a gun policy for her department. She has reached out to the state to find out what needs to be done.

The council discussed investing the county's checking account balance with Treasurer Sherri Crandall. Council Member Gregory told Crandall that money is tight right now and they can't earn interest on their current balance if it's not being invested. Crandall said she is invest-
(See 'COUNTY' on page 2)

COUNTY

(Continued from page one)

ing some of the county's money but is hesitant to take away too much because she isn't sure what will be needed to pay bills. The county currently has \$15 million in the checking account, however a majority of that is part of departments' budgets. Council Member Gregory said there are ways to invest the money, and the county can still access it in 24 hours if needed. "We are missing out on hundreds of thousands of dollars," said Council Member Dant. "Don't be afraid to invest." Crandall said they are making \$27,000 from a nine-month CD that matures this month. That is a million-dollar CD. She said she can reinvest that money when it is available. Gregory and Dant encouraged Crandall to invest several million from the checking account balance and do so in a way that they can access the money right away if needed. Crandall said she will look into it.

The Martin County Extension Office had several members provide feedback regarding 4-H and Martin County's youth. The extension received \$22,000 from the county this year but the extension would like to have \$99,000 for 2025. Neely Richer, who was at the meeting representing the extension, said they would like to start a leadership program and hire a second extension educator to assist current educator Dena Held. It was noted that 10 percent of Martin County's youth are involved in 4-H, and they would like to get more involved in the schools to see that increase.

Council Member Bowling asked Clerk Julie Fithian if she could look into the county going back to paper election ballots and hand counting. Clerk Fithian said she agrees this needs to be done because it's the only way to have a "free and fair

election." She said a current presidential candidate also wants to eliminate mail in ballots and early voting and she is paying two women for four weeks of sitting in the courthouse every day to handle early voters which costs a lot of money. Council Member Bowling agreed that there would be a cost savings if they would go back to paper ballots and hand counting and asked Fithian if she could check on how much that would save the county. Council Member Dant said he felt that was taking Martin County backward.

The council discussed with Sheriff Josh Greene the inability to keep employees in the sheriff's department. Greene said even after the council approved the large raises the past few years, he still cannot keep staff. He said he has open full and part-time positions for jailer, cook and dispatch and has several other employees who have indicated they are leaving. Greene was asked how many employees he has, and Greene said around 30, with 25-26 of them being full-time. Greene said he can't keep employees when they can go to other police departments and receive a salary of \$20,000 more.

The council also discussed the Vigo County inmates and how many Greene currently has. Greene said they got down to less than 20 Vigo County inmates in the first few months of this year, but it has picked back up now, and he believes right now he has 41. He said he doesn't know what the future looks like in regard to continuing to have inmates from Vigo County, but he does have other counties begging for open beds. Greene said he made \$154,000 from December through May from Vigo County. The council said they will keep the \$300,000 in income for next year's budget for the housing of out-of-county inmates.

Greene reported that they recently purchased four new F-150 trucks and their oldest vehicle in their fleet is now a 2020. Greene also told the council they need to look at the police pension that has substantially increased with the increased salaries in the past few years. He said

LOOGOOTE

(Continued from page one)

quotes needed to be compared and tabled a decision on the extrication equipment.

Thomas also told the board that they are continuing to replace firefighters' gear with the plan to purchase five more sets by October. The cost of each set is \$3,972. He said after these five, they will need to purchase 10 more sets and then are good on personal gear for five years when they will have to start replacing them again. The board asked Clerk-Treasurer Lori Carrico to see if there is enough money available in the LOIT (Local Option Income Tax) fund and report back.

Police Chief Jim Hunt explained they are receiving a huge volume of calls about dogs being at large. Hunt said they are unsure if the dogs are owned because very few have collars. He said they received 11 calls about stray dogs in the past four days. Mayor Ader said they have tried to wait on the county to get some sort of animal control established but it hasn't happened. He said the county has a \$15 million surplus and the city does not so the county needs to be responsible for funding animal control. (Editor's note: Martin County does not have a \$15 million surplus. The total to operate the county each year is \$15 million, in all departments.) During the council meeting, Council Member Dave Smith said it is a problem and he understands that Josh and Courtney Hughett did the work for a long

they are currently paying \$40,000 a year in interest for the police pension.

Without any cuts, the auditor will submit the budget as presented by all departments, including the increases, and wait on feedback from FSG to see if it can be funded at those amounts.

time and don't want to do it anymore and they can't blame them for that. He said now the city is stuck and it's a Loogootee problem and a county and Shoals problem. He said they set up a meeting with the sheriff this summer to get something worked out with animal control but he didn't show up so the city is going to have to take the lead. He said they can work with the current humane society board of directors to get some direction and the community foundation to help with funding, but they have to do more than just talk about it, they have to do something. Chief Hunt said everyone thinks it's easy to set up kennels at the police department and take in stray dogs. He asked who is going to feed the dog, walk it, and find a home for it. He said that's not the solution. He said they need something long term. He said they don't have the time to go on dog calls and there is nothing they can do anyway. He said the city needs an animal control officer to handle the calls and somewhere to take them. He said they are lucky to have Dr. Alexandra Loughmiller who provides medical care for free. (Editor's note: Dr. Loughmiller does not provide medical care for free.) Hunt said the shelter will have to be expanded and remodeled to hold the number of animals that need to be taken in. The council ended the discussion by saying they need to sit down with county officials and get something worked out.

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MICHAEL BUTLER

Michael R. Butler passed away at 6:48 a.m. Monday, August 12, 2024, at his home. A resident of Loogootee, he was 59.

He was born September 25, 1964, in Evansville; son of Robert L. and Joanne Butler.

Michael retired from Peabody Energy after 27 years in the mining industry. He held various positions while working and retired as a mine manager. Michael owned and operated Butler Taxidermy Services for over 20 years. He was a member of the Dogwood Coon Club and the Alfordsville Christian Church. Michael loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert L. Butler.

Michael is survived by his wife, Carra Butler of Loogootee; children, Leah Butler of Loogootee and Cole Butler of Evansville; mother, Joanne (Raymond) Morris of Evansville; siblings, Bill (June) Butler of Bolingbrook, IL, Don (Sandy) Butler of Winslow, Jim (Mary) Butler of Evansville, David Butler of Vincennes, and Brandon (Amy) Butler of Monrovia; five nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, August 16 at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

Visitation will be held Thursday, August 15 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Blake Funeral Home and Friday, August 16 from 10 a.m. to the time of service at the funeral home.

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee is honored to serve the family of Michael R. Butler.

KRISTIN WRIGHT

Kristin L. Wright passed away Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at home. A resident of Jasper, she was 33.

She was born in Bedford on July 13, 1991; daughter of Alan L. Roller and Jillette (Wade) Lukens. She married Steven Wright Jr. on June 11, 2016.

She was a 2010 graduate from Bedford North Lawrence High School.

Kristin took care of everyone. She had a passion for her children and family. She helped clean houses for the elderly and disabled. She always tried to make the quality of life better for others.

Everyone was family to Kristin. She enjoyed fishing, the outdoors, and spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Steven Wright Jr. of Jasper; three children, Bria



KRISTIN WRIGHT

Hattabaugh, Kolton Wright, and Waylon Wright; mother, Jillette Lukens of Mitchell; father, Alan Roller of Loogootee; stepfather, Tim Bradley of Loogootee; three siblings, Kayla (Summer) Whaley of Loogootee, Austin Bradley of Loogootee, and Jordan (Emily) Roller of Shoals; nephew, Wyatt Roller of Shoals, God sisters, Alyssa (Roberto) Arellano, Jenna Holley, and Nikki (Dale) Miller, all of Michigan, two aunts, Phyllis Mullins and Annetta Wells; and uncle, Roger Roller.

She is preceded in death by her maternal grandmother, Marcia; paternal grandparents, Lewis Roller and Wanda Roller; great-grandparents, Harry and Ruth Allen; cousin, Benjamin Fuesler; and aunt, Marcella Stevens.

A funeral service for Kristin L. Wright was held this morning, Wednesday, August 14 at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, with burial following in Fairview Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family.

Online condolences may be made to www.becherkluesner.com.

ED NOLLEY

Edward Raymond Nolley passed away Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at Memorial Hospital and Healthcare Center. A resident of Loogootee, he was 70.

He was born May 16, 1954, in Washington; son of the late Edward M. "Poppy" and Cecilia (Arvin) Nolley.

Ed graduated from Loogootee High School with the class of 1972.

He married Tina Strunk on March 28, 1998, and she survives.

Ed retired from Crane Army Ammunition Activity and was currently employed with ASJ Solutions as a contractor as NSW Crane.

He was a member of St. Martin Catholic Church and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. He also was a member of the Veteran of Foreign War Post 9395, American Legion Post 120, Knights of Columbus Council 732, and the St. Martin's Men's Club. Ed served in the United States Army from 1972 to 1975. He was proud to be a veteran.

Ed enjoyed spending time with his family, golfing, and watching the Cin-



ED NOLLEY

Candy Souerdike.

Ed is survived by wife, Tina Nolley of Loogootee; six children, Mandi (Chris) Backofen of Indianapolis, Jessi (AJ) Mattingly of Jasper, Ross (Meagan) Nolley of French Lick, Allison (Nick) Hembree of Loogootee, Adrienne (Jeremy) Carr of Dubois, and Gabe Nolley of Washington; 14 grandchildren, Grayce, Mylee, Zoey, Brayden, Maycee, Leah, Wyatt, Cash, Jolee, Ollie, Colt, Finley, Abe, and Eleanor; ten siblings, Jane (the late Jerry) Bowling of Montgomery, Rachel (Dave) Burris of Sellersburg, Karin (Jim) Chandler, Teresa Nolley, Sharon (the late Kevin) Sutton, Frank Nolley, Donna Souerdike, Chris (Norman) Bratton, Helen (Clay) Dearwester, and Dennis (Gina) Nolley, all of Loogootee. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker on Monday, August 12 at St. Martin Catholic Church in Whitfield. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.

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

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Indiana is honored to serve the family of Edward Raymond Nolley.

BRIAN BYRD

Brian Byrd passed away Monday, August 5, 2024, at his home. A resident of Newberry, he was 51.

He was born April 16, 1973, in Washington; son of Gary and Brenda Byrd.

Brian graduated from Loogootee High School – the class of 1991. He worked in landscaping for many years and loved watching movies.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gary Byrd; maternal grandparents, Carl and Phyllis Dages and paternal grandparents, Harold and Beverly Byrd.

Brian is survived by his mother, Bren-

da (Jim) Franklin of Loogootee; sister, Nikki (Justin) Hayden of Loogootee; nephews, Keelan Hayden (fiancée, Ryleigh) and Conner Hayden; and niece, Lyla Hayden.

A private graveside service will be held.

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

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Indiana is honored to serve the family of Brian Byrd.

SAMUEL CUMMINGS

Floyd Samuel "Sam" Cummings Jr., formerly of Loogootee, Indiana passed away August 7, 2024, at St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville. A resident of Shoals, he was 66.



SAM CUMMINGS

He was born October 6, 1957, in Terre Haute; son of the late Floyd Sr. and Ila Mae (Blaine) Cummings.

Sam was a United States Navy Veteran, serving his country for 8 years.

He worked at various HVAC and factories doing maintenance. Sam loved collecting, he collected clocks and was known to buy broken clocks and repair them as gifts for his family and friends. He was a very generous man and would help anyone. Sam loved his family and spending time with his cats, Dixie, Pixie, Trouble, and Lady.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Floyd Sr. and Ila Cummings; his sister, Debbie Hobson; his step-son, Derrick Wells; his brothers-in-law, Floyd Goodman and Dennis Hobson; and his nephew, Jay Camp.

Sam is survived by his sisters, Marsha (Jim) Camp, Becky (Eddie) Rogers, Pat (Dave) Gardner, and Brenda Goodman; his step-children, Jessica Hogan and Matthew Wells; and several nieces, and nephews.


Cremation was chosen according to Sam's wishes, a private family burial will take place at a later date in Spring Hill Cemetery in Beecher City, Illinois.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Martin County Humane Society in memory of Sam.


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

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Martin County Sheriff's Department activity log

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

6:23 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

9:09 a.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner and Deputy Erwin responded.

9:45 a.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Deputy Erwin responded.

10:14 a.m. - Received a report of an accident northeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Deputy Erwin, Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner and Big John's Towing responded. No one was transported.

12:36 p.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

12:39 p.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries south of Shoals. Deputy Erwin responded.

1:27 p.m. - Received a call requesting assistance north of Shoals. Deputy Erwin responded.

1:33 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn in Loogootee.

1:45 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Shoals.

1:55 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

2:35 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle south of Loogootee. Deputy Erwin responded.

2:40 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Big John's Towing responded.

2:57 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn south of Shoals.

3:52 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

3:57 p.m. - Received a call requesting a deputy in Shoals. Deputy Erwin responded.

4:27 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:35 p.m. - Received a call from the Care Center advising of request for ambulance in Shoals. Advised they are already enroute.

5:05 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant and Deputy Erwin responded.

5:40 p.m. - Received a call reporting a tree limb hanging over the roadway in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

6:08 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

7:28 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver on US 231 North, traveling south. Loogootee Officer Garab and Big John's Towing responded.

11:23 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a domestic dispute in Crane. Deputy Shields and Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

10:07 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:32 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

2:44 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check northeast of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

3:24 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50, traveling west. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner, Captain Gibson and Deputy Baumgart responded.

3:30 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting the same vehicle. Advised units are enroute.

5:51 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner and Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

6:21 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Garab and Deputy Baumgart responded.

6:42 p.m. - Received a request for a house unlock southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department responded.

9:07 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

9:45 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

10:53 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible domestic dispute northeast of Shoals. Major Reed, Deputy Baumgart and Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

11:59 p.m. - Received a report of a car fire south of Loogootee. Major Reed, Haysville Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded.

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

7:11 a.m. - Received a report of an abandoned vehicle east of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

12:23 p.m. - Received a call requesting a deputy southwest of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

1:30 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Loogootee Chief Hunt responded.

2:12 p.m. - Received a call requesting extra patrol in Loogootee. All units were advised.

3:16 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Loogootee Officer Clark responded.

3:29 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

5:13 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible theft north of Shoals. Deputy Baumgart responded.

5:35 p.m. - Received a call reporting property damage in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

5:46 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check northeast of Shoals. Deputy Baumgart responded.

6:54 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

6:54 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt responded.

7:12 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting to speak with an officer. Loogootee Chief Hunt responded.

8:02 a.m. - Received multiple 911 calls reporting a two-vehicle crash just east of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Medic 2, Shoals Fire Department, Chief Deputy Keller and Big John's Towing responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:53 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle east of Loogootee. Sheriff Greene and Chief Deputy Keller responded.

11:55 a.m. - Received a call from Area 1 Protection advising of a commercial burglar alarm east of Loogootee. Keyholder advised to disregard.

1:12 p.m. - Received a report of a single vehicle accident west of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Chief Hunt and Big John's Towing responded. Medic

1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital. Daviess County was also notified.

1:36 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance east of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:44 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle east of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

3:31 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Captain Gibson responded.

3:40 p.m. - Received a call reporting a car in a ditch southwest of Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

3:50 p.m. - Received a call from Care Center requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:06 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

4:49 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

4:55 p.m. - Received a report of a possible domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

5:45 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious male in Loogootee. Deputy Baumgart responded.

6:28 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Clark responded.

7:57 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Clark responded.

8:47 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department responded.

9:26 p.m. - Received a call from Urgent Response requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department and Deputy Baumgart responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

5:10 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Medic 3, Haysville Fire Department and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:40 a.m. - Received a report of a fire alarm east of Shoals. Keyholder advised to disregard.

8:31 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious male in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

9:17 a.m. - Received a call requesting assistance northeast of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

11:42 a.m. - Received a call requesting traffic control east of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

12:29 p.m. - Received a request to speak with an officer. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

1:06 p.m. - Received a call reporting Loogootee Schools will be doing a fire drill today.

2:00 p.m. - Received a call requesting assistance in Shoals. Captain Gibson and Deputy Branham responded.

3:35 p.m. - Received a request to speak with a deputy. Deputy Baumgart responded.

3:45 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

4:10 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible theft south of Loogootee. Deputy Branham and Deputy Shields responded.

ed.

4:40 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Knox County. The caller was advised to call Knox County.

5:56 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check on a trailer north of Loogootee. Deputy Baumgart responded.

7:20 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, Captain Gibson, Sergeant Wells, Deputy Baumgart and Loogootee Officer Garab responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

8:42 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231 South, traveling north. Deputy Shields responded.

9:59 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance Southeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Lost River Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

7:38 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to an officer. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

10:42 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver north of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt responded.

11:43 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver in Orange County. Advised Orange County Dispatch.

11:50 a.m. - Received a call reporting an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

12:17 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:07 p.m. - Received a call requesting vehicle identification numbers check north of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells responded.

1:14 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver south of Loogootee. Indiana State Police responded.

1:16 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

1:36 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

4:11 p.m. - Received a call reporting a commercial burglar alarm in Crane Village. Sergeant Wells responded.

6:20 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, and Loogootee Officer Garab responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:39 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Garab, Deputy Shields, and Martin County Medic 1 responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

1:28 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

1:43 a.m. - Received a call reporting a suicidal individual in Vigo County. Advised Vigo County Dispatch.

6:20 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a lift assist in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

8:06 a.m. - Received a report of a found dog east of Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller and Loogootee Chief Hunt were advised.

8:59 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting alarm system testing in Crane Village.

9:01 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to a deputy. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

(See 'SHERIFF'S LOG' on page 5)

Martin County real estate transfers

Anthony C. Abel and Bobbie L. Abel, of Martin County, Indiana to **James C. Kahler and Deanna L. Kahler and Bradley J. Kahler**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 55 in the original plat of West Shoals, now Shoals, Indiana.

Joseph Sturgis, of Martin County, Indiana to **Lloyd Burch and Linda L. Burch**, of Hamilton County, Indiana, Lot Number 2 in Houghton’s Addition to the City of Loogootee, Martin County, Indiana, except nine feet off the west side of said Lot Number 2. Also, that part of Lot Number 3 in Houghton’s Addition to the City of Loogootee, Martin County, Indiana.

Tracy French and Karla French, of Martin County, Indiana to **Tracy French**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 30 in Doe Run Subdivision.

Ryan Knight, of Martin County, Indiana to **David Paul Allen**, of Lake County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 16, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, containing 1 acre, more or less.

Melissa D. Fields, Cynthia K. Phillips, and Randall E. Johnson, of Martin County, Indiana to **Amber D. Fields**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lots 89, 90 and 91, and also a part of Lot 92, all in the Town of Dover Hill, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.638 acre.

Shelby McAtee, of Dubois County, Indiana to **Kavan Wagler**, of Daviess County, Indiana, a portion of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 5, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, Ruthersford Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1 acre, more or less.

Danny Joe Salmon and Ashley Ann Salmon, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Jonathan Wagler and Marie Wagler**, of Daviess County, Indiana, the east half of Lot Number 76 and Lot Number 77 in Campbell and Breen’s Addition to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Goodwill Cemetery, of Martin County, Indiana to **Darvin and Darla Wagler**, of Martin County, Indiana, two spaces, plot 782 in Goodwill Cemetery, Loogootee.

D&L Construction, LLC, of Indiana to **Chris J. Klosinski and Melissa J. Klosinski**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the south half of Section 3, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 5.49 acres, more or less.

Connie L. Norris, of Martin County, Indiana to **James Dalton Higdon and Rachel Robinson**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 13 in Block H in Loogootee Land Company’s Addition in the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Brenda J. Rodgers, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jeremy M. Davis and Allyson Nolan**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part

COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCINGS

August 2

Enrique Ortiz Bartolon, convicted of knowingly or intentionally operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 0 days.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

August 1

Rikki R. Albright vs. Kevin A. Albright, petition for dissolution of marriage.

August 2

Jeanette Blackwell vs. Randall Blackwell, petition for dissolution of marriage.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suits Filed

August 1

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Melissa F. Graber, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Teresa A. Holt, complaint.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Timothy Daniel Parke of French Lick and Shery Lynn Cook of French Lick.

Thomas Joseph Harbison of Loogootee and Tiffany Louise Allen of Loogootee.

of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 7, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, Halbert Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.55 acres, more or less.

Corey A. Jones to Glen Conway, Lots Numbered 43 and 44 in the original plat of West Shoals, now Shoals, Indiana.

Gary D. Knepp and Marsha R. Knepp, of Martin County, Indiana to **Christopher N. Deckard**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: A part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.33 acres, more or less. Tract II: A portion of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, of the Second Principal Meridian, lying in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.473 acres, more or less.

Charles Andrew Kline and Carla S. Kline, of Martin County, Indiana to **David James Sullivan**, of Greene County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 18, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, containing 1 acre, more or less.

Charles L. Osborne and Cindy J. Osborne, of Martin County, Indiana to **Marilyn Ann Gorley**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 5, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, containing 4 acres, more or less.

ARRESTS

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

4:21 a.m. - Richard Gingerich, 61, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Garab and charged with possession of methamphetamine and resisting law enforcement. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

6:06 p.m. - Danny Arthur, 29, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Garab and charged with battery on a minor. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

12:39 a.m. - Jeffery Dotterweich, 43, of Jasper, was arrested by Deputy Baumgart and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-controlled substance. He is being held on \$3,000 10% bond.

6:30 p.m. - Jerry Holt, 58, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Shields and charged with invasion of privacy. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

11:34 p.m. - Kirk Kidwell, 52, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Erwin and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana and intimidation. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

8:59 p.m. - Travis Bottoms, 42, of Worthington, was arrested by Deputy Sheilds and charged with possession of methamphetamine and driving while suspended prior. He is being held at \$15,000 10% bond.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

11:30 p.m. - Krista Michael, 31, of Bloomington, was arrested by Deputy Erwin and charged with possession of paraphernalia, possession of a syringe, and possession of marijuana. She is being held without bond.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

5:05 a.m. - Peggy Stoll, 51, of Loogootee was arrested by Deputy Erwin and charged with domestic battery, intimidation, and criminal mischief. She is being held without bond. Officer Clark assisted with the arrest.

8:45 p.m. - Steven Kiser, 61, of Loogootee, was arrested by ISP Trooper Lents and charged with resisting law enforcement with a vehicle, and reckless driving. He is being held at \$15,000 10% bond.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

3:16 p.m. - Officer Clark responded to a call on Poplar Street.

5:35 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call at the Loogootee Public Library.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

12:08 a.m. - Officer Clark responded to a call near Taco Bell.

6:54 a.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call near Corner Café.

8:51 a.m. - Chief Hunt and Officer Rayhill responded to a call near the Loogootee Police Department.

11:04 a.m. - Officer Rayhill responded to a call on Southwest Third Street.

12:08 p.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a funeral detail.

1:11 a.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call on 200 North.

1:37 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Brickyard Road.

3:52 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Main Street.

4:55 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on North Oak Street.

6:28 p.m. - Officer Clark responded to a call on West Washington Street.

7:57 p.m. - Officer Clark responded to a call at Sunset Trailer Court.

8:47 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a call on Mt. Calvary Road.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

5:10 a.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Beard Road.

8:34 a.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on South Oak Street.

9:17 a.m. - Chief Hunt and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call at the Loogootee City Park.

7:20 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Garab responded to a medical call on Kentucky Avenue.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

SHERIFF'S LOG

(Continued from page 4)

sponded.

10:06 a.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard north of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt and Deputy Branham responded.

10:53 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt responded.

11:38 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

1:00 p.m. - Received multiple calls reporting scam phone calls.

1:07 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting assistance north of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt and Deputy Branham responded.

1:36 p.m. - Received multiple calls reporting scam calls in Martin County. Advised Martin County Law Enforcement.

3:55 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to a deputy. Corporal Hawkins responded.

5:11 p.m. - Received a call requesting assistance from a deputy. Deputy Branham responded.

6:23 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, and Loogootee Officer Clark responded. No one was transported.

11:07 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver south of Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

3:40 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, and Indian Creek Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

4:21 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Deputy Erwin, Loogootee Officer Baumgart, Loogootee Officer Clark, Martin County Medic 2, and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

10:03 a.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on US Highway 50.

10:45 a.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call on US Highway 231.

11:53 a.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call at McDonald’s.

12:21 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Cedar Street.

1:36 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call at On The Fly.

6:20 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Garab responded to a medical call on Cedar Street.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

1:28 a.m. - Officer Garab performed a vehicle unlock at Marathon gas station.

10:06 a.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call on US Highway 231.

10:53 a.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call on Broadway Street.

1:07 p.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call on Wood School Road.

6:23 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Clark responded to a medical call on Bellbrook Road.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

4:21 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department, Officer Clark and Officer Baumgart responded to a medical call on US Highway 231.

9:42 a.m. - Officer Harmon responded to a call at IGA grocery store.

12:38 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner and Officer Harmon responded to a call near On The Fly.

1:06 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a medical call at McDonald’s.

7:17 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Clark responded to a call near Dairy Master.

7:50 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on US Highway 231.

8:17 p.m. - Officer Clark responded to a call at Redemption Church.

9:47 p.m. - Officer Baumgart responded to a call near Goodwill Cemetery Road.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

No calls to report.

Man arrested in Martin County after vehicle pursuit

Last Saturday evening, a vehicle pursuit led to the arrest of Steven A. Kiser, 61, of Odon. He was incarcerated in Martin County to face preliminary charges for resisting law enforcement with a motor vehicle (Level 6 Felony), leaving the scene of a property damage crash (B Misdemeanor) and reckless driving (C Misdemeanor).

On Saturday, August 10, at approximately 8:15 p.m., Indiana State Police Master Trooper Jarrod Lents initiated a traffic stop on a 2019 Buick passenger car on US 50 near 2nd Street in Loogootee for traveling 51-mph in a 35-mph zone. The driver of the Buick, later identified as Steven Kiser, did not stop and led the trooper on a vehicle pursuit with speeds up over 80-mph. The chase continued into Daviess County, where the Buick left the roadway and ran over a mailbox. The Buick turned around and drove back into Loogootee. The vehicle pulled into a church parking area and came to a stop. Kiser was taken into custody without incident.

Master Trooper Lents was assisted by Trooper Andrew Watson, the Martin County Sheriff’s Office, and the Loogootee Police Department.

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



PURE COUNTRY Throwback By Dan Gregory

Originally published October 24, 2017

I can't help my grandkids with second grade math. The "new" math method being taught in our schools has been a topic that continues to confound many parents, grandparents, and in at least some cases, teachers. I had a conversation with a teacher from Wisconsin this past weekend on this subject and she did enlighten me, at least from an educator's perspective.

This all started last year when my grandson brought his math homework to our kitchen table and asked me to help him with it. I had heard a few rumblings about a new math method being taught, but this was my first exposure to it. I was left with a feeling of failure that I couldn't grasp the new method of solving simple math questions. Not only that, I couldn't help but wonder why the change?

I loved math when going to school. My teachers used math flash cards and so did my mom in our old farmhouse kitchen back in the late 50's. Getting the answers correct and quick was so easy with the methods taught back then. My question now is what was wrong with it?

The teacher I spoke with blamed the change on people too far outside of education. She said many states had filed their objection to the new system, citing the difficulty in teaching math, especially when considering most of the population was taught a different system for decades, if not centuries. My thoughts exactly. I could visualize the frustration of thousands of people struggling to grasp the new system when trying to teach and those of us who try and help the youngsters with homework.

So, that leads me to some questions:

1. Who are the geniuses that decided this was an improvement?

2. And how is the new system better?

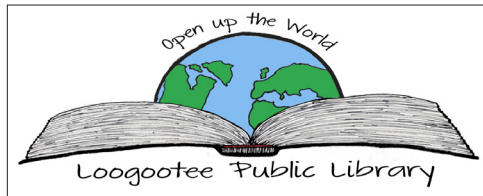
I'm pretty sure if teachers and parents had been given the opportunity to address this change, the outcome would have been different.

I also understand that kids are much smarter than we sometimes give them credit for. They can learn anything if given the right instruction. So, absent a change back to the old way, it may well fall to them to teach us older folks the new way.

I read where one kid turned his homework in and had the correct answer to the

addition problem. It was a simple problem, almost any kid could just look at it and get it correct. There was a follow-up question that asked "how" did they get the answer? His reply, "I did it my way." There was supposed to be a formula answer to that question using the new math method. His in-correct answer was, "I did it my way." God Bless that kid.

Life is Good.



BY DARLA WAGLER

Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

VU Adult Education has partnered with the library for High School Equivalency Boot Camp. They will be here to provide you with an accelerated learning opportunity in order to obtain your GED for free. Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9 a.m. to noon. It begins September 9, 2024. Call 812-602-4130 to register.

VU sponsors a free computer class for individuals wanting to learn the basics or beyond. The next class is Saturday, August 17 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Children's Sensory Hour facilitated by Elizabeth Mathias is Monday, August 19 at 3 p.m.

Fiber Arts & Crafts will be held on Thursday, August 22, at 5 p.m.

New Books:

Mystery: "The Lost Coast" By Jonathan & Jesse Kellerman, "Shadow of a Doubt" by Brad Thor, "Fire and Bones" by Kathy Reichs, and Peach Tea Smash" by Laura Childs.

Inspiration Fiction: "Who is Mary" by Linda Byler.

Children's Books: "The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman" by Gennifer Choldenko, "Red, White and Blue: Our Flag Matters to Me and You": by Dr. Ben Carson.

Library hours: Monday 10-6, Tuesday 10-5, Closed on Wednesday, Thursday 10-6, 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Loogootee School Board meeting

The Loogootee School Board will meet Thursday, August 15 at 5 p.m. in the high school media center. The meeting is open to the public.

Truck and Tractor Pull

The Martin County Truck and Tractor Pull will be held Friday, August 16 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, August 17 at 6 p.m. at the 4-H fairgrounds. Friday will feature antique tractors and Saturday will be farm stock. General admission is \$10 and children seven and under get in free. Concessions will be available. For more information, contact Dan Wagler at 812-617-5286.

Community corrections meetings

The Martin County Community Corrections Advisory Board will meet in executive session Thursday, September 5 at 8:30 a.m. at the community corrections office at 211 SE 1st Street in Loogootee. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss personnel records classified as confidential by state and federal statutes as authorized by I.C. 5-14-1.5-5.1 (b)(7). The meeting is closed to the public. An open meeting will follow the closed-door meeting at around 8:30 a.m.

Dog/Cat Wellness Clinic

The next scheduled dog and cat wellness clinic at the Martin County Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic will be Friday, August 16 from 5-6 p.m. The clinic offers low-cost vaccines, testing, microchips, nail trims, etc. No appointment is required, first come first serve.

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

to attend.

St. Vincent Food Pantry

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

Free lunch for kids

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

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the recycling center located at 500 Industrial Park Drive in Loogootee. The meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

Soil and Water meetings

The Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) meets the third Tuesday of the month at the SWCD office located at 404 JFK Avenue in Loogootee. The meetings are at 7:30 p.m. (April-October) and at 6:30 p.m. (November-March). Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Please call 812-295-3149 for assistance.



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Saturday (Breakfast Only!) 6:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
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I apologize to anyone who visited the Indiana State Fair and was confused by my last column. I was unaware of some of the changes that had been made at the fair. The 4-H garden and floriculture exhibits have been moved to the Centennial Pavilion, the former boys' dormitory. The commercial building is closed, and the vendors have moved into the old Horticulture building. It is a smaller building, so there are fewer commercial vendors. There are much-improved livestock facilities and a new Farm Bureau Pavilion. The pioneer village has been expanded, offering more space for craftsmen and glimpses into history. I hope no one got lost because of my errors. The Indiana State Fair is still a great exposition of Hoosier agriculture. It continues through August 18.

My fair activities left me with a day between fairgrounds visits, so I made a fun side trip north to Shipshewana. It had been several years since I had visited the flea market there, but I was not disappointed. This is a gardener's dream market. There are several vendors that offer plants. The quality of plants was excellent, and I found some varieties that I had not seen in garden centers. There are also many vendors offering garden tools and décor. The flea market is only open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, so plan accordingly.

If you are in the area, you may wish to consider another stop at a unique garden. The Krider World's Fair Garden in Middlebury is small, at just over two acres, but it is full of whimsy and history. The garden was originally installed at the 1934 Chicago World's Fair, and was disassembled and reconstructed in Middlebury after that exposition. Middlebury is only seven miles from Shipshewana, and also offers several nice places to shop and eat.

As if my travels were not enough to

keep me away from my garden, I found myself spending a lot of time watching the Summer Olympics. I found myself watching for sites that were familiar. I was especially intrigued by the setting of the equestrian events—the grounds of the Palace of Versailles. Watching gave rise to memories of my visits there.

King Louis XIII purchased the property in the early 1600's to use it as a country chateau. He also had the original gardens constructed. However, it was Louis XIV who ordered the construction of the grand palace and the opulent gardens. The central axis of the gardens is the Grand Canal, which is surrounded by numerous bosquets, parterres and formal gardens.

Louis XIV had been impressed with the fountains of Rome and considered numerous fountains to be a symbol of his importance. However, the fountains presented a great problem for landscape designer Andre Le Notre. The fountains of Rome work because of the mountains surrounding the city. The Romans had learned the art of using progressively smaller pipes to build up water pressure. However, there are no mountains around Versailles. Le Notre devised an ingenious hydraulic pump system that is still in use today, but even that would not make all of the fountains work at the same time. The solution was to just activate the fountains the king could see. When he went into the gardens, a servant went ahead to turn on the next fountain before he arrived. Another servant followed him to shut off the fountain he had passed, since the water pressure could not run multiple fountains at the same time. If you visit Versailles today, you will see beautiful water shows that would have pleased Louis XIV but would have been impossible in his day. If you ever travel to France, I suggest you make a visit to Versailles a part of your itinerary.

USDA updates farm loan programs to increase profitability for agricultural producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced changes to the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Loan Programs, effective September 25, 2024 — changes that are intended to increase opportunities for farmers and ranchers to be financially viable. These improvements, part of the Enhancing Program Access and Delivery for Farm Loans rule, demonstrate USDA's commitment to improving farm profitability through farm loans designed to provide important financing options used by producers to cover operating expenses and purchase land and equipment.

"USDA recognizes that Farm Service Agency's loan making and servicing activities are critical for producers, especially in tough times. Providing borrowers the financial freedom to increase profits, save for long-term needs and make strategic investments is the best way to ensure the nation's farmers and ranchers can build financial equity and resilience," said Zach Ducheneaux, FSA Administrator. "Implementing these improvements to our Farm Loan Programs is the next step in our ongoing commitment to removing lending barriers that may prevent access to credit for borrowers, especially those who need it most."

Farm loan policy changes outlined in the Enhancing Program Access and Delivery for Farm Loans rule, are designed to better assist borrowers to make strategic investments in the enhancement or expansion of their agricultural operations.

The three most notable policy changes include:

Establishing a new low-interest installment set-aside program for financially distressed borrowers. Eligible financially distressed borrowers can defer up to one annual loan installment per qualified loan at a reduced interest rate, providing a simpler and expedited option to resolve financial distress in addition to FSA's existing loan servicing programs.

Providing all eligible loan applicants access to flexible repayment terms that can increase profitability and help build working capital reserves and savings. By creating upfront positive cash flow, borrowers can find opportunities in their farm operating plan budgets to include a reasonable margin for increased working capital reserves and savings, including for retirement and education.

Reducing additional loan security requirements to enable borrowers to leverage equity. This reduces the amount of additional security required for direct farm loans, including reducing the frequency borrowers must use their personal residence as additional collateral for a farm loan.

Additional Farm Loan Program Improvements

USDA's FSA has embarked on a comprehensive and systemic effort to ensure

equitable delivery of Farm Loan Programs and improve access to credit for small and mid-size family farms. FSA has also included additional data in its annual report to Congress to provide information that Congress, stakeholders, and the general public need to hold USDA accountable on the progress that has been made in improving services to underserved producers. This year's report shows FSA direct and guaranteed loans were made to a greater percentage of young and beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as improvements in the participation rates of minority borrowers. The report also highlights FSA's microloan program's new focus on urban agriculture operations and niche market lending, as well as increased support for producers seeking direct loans for farm ownership in the face of increasing land values across the country.

FSA has a significant initiative underway to streamline and automate the Farm Loan Program customer-facing business process. For the over 26,000 producers who submit a direct loan application annually, FSA has made several impactful improvements including:

The Loan Assistance Tool that provides customers with an interactive online, step-by-step guide to identifying the direct loan products that may be a fit for their business needs and to understanding the application process.

The Online Loan Application, an interactive, guided application that is paperless and provides helpful features including an electronic signature option, the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns, complete a balance sheet, and build a farm operating plan.

An online direct loan repayment feature that relieves borrowers from the necessity of calling, mailing, or visiting a local USDA Service Center to pay a loan installment.

A simplified direct loan paper application, reduced from 29 pages to 13 pages.

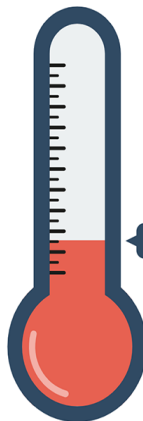
USDA encourages producers to reach out to their local FSA farm loan staff to ensure they fully understand the wide range of loan and servicing options available to assist with starting, expanding, or maintaining their agricultural operation. To conduct business with FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center.

FSA helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit, www.fsa.usda.gov.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR MATCHING GRANT

- Goodwill Cemetery of Loogootee has received a \$15,000 Challenge Grant from the Martin County Community Foundation to repave the roads within the cemetery. In order to receive these funds, the Cemetery Board must raise a matching \$15,000 by December 31 of this year. Only contributions received after May 29 (the date the Challenge Grant was awarded) will be counted toward the \$15,000 goal. It has been over 30 years since the roads were paved within the cemetery and there are portions that have crumbled and corners that require widening in order to prevent cars falling into mud. It is the desire of the Cemetery Board to ensure that the cemetery remains a peaceful, serene place for relatives and friends to visit their loved ones who have passed. Anyone wishing to contribute toward the \$15,000 goal can donate to the following address: Goodwill Cemetery, PO BOX 24, Loogootee, Indiana 47553.

GOAL: \$15,000



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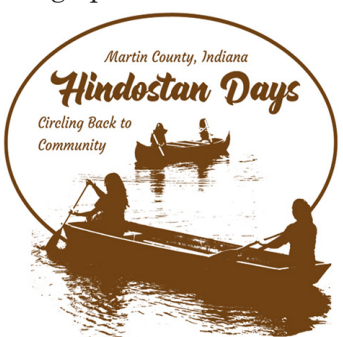
Loogootee (812) 295-2312	Shoals (812) 247-3321	Jasper (812) 634-2222	Washington (812) 254-2540
Sullivan (812) 268-5252	Martinsville (765) 342-6623	Linton (812) 847-4494	
Jasonville (812) 665-3969	Bicknell (812) 735-3545	Bloomfield (812) 384-4453	

4th Annual Hindostan Days Vendor Applications Open!

Hindostan Days vendor applications are now available and being accepted until September 1. Vendor applications can be picked up at the Martin County Historical Museum during open hours.

The 4th Annual Hindostan Days event will be held Saturday, 28th from 10 am-6 pm.

- Vendor spaces will be \$25 each.
- Vendor spaces will be 12x12.
- Vendor must provide own shade canopy (not required), tables, chairs, etc.
- Vendor spaces will be located in grassy areas.
- Vendors may purchase up to two (2) additional spaces.
- Vendor spaces will be assigned prior to the event date.



All guidelines are outlined in the vendor application form. The Hindostan Days Committee reserves the right to refuse any submitted vendor application form.

~LETTERS TO THE EDITOR~

'We can, and must, demand fiscal responsibility'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

Isn't it interesting that we elect "public servants" to run our communities, yet these same "servants" feel compelled to force us, the taxpaying public, to do what they want? This is painfully obvious, not only in regard to the Mid-States Corridor RDA but at the county council and board of commissioners' level. The councils and the boards are supposed to act as a check and balance on one another. What we are currently getting is nothing more than a big rubber stamp. What one group wants, the other group just rubber stamps it; especially, when it comes to spending money and raising taxes.

This big rubber stamp shows up every time the councils or the boards, or the Mid-States Corridor RDA, meets. The wants, and yes, the needs, of the taxpayers are never at the forefront of their thoughts; however, the "want" of new office space or a super-highway, needed or not, seems to be more important than being fiscally responsible. Office space, or an unneeded corridor, seems to be a better use of taxpayers' money than the proper maintenance of our county roads and equipment. The consensus of the councils and the boards seems to be, let the taxpayer pay taxes and then make them repair the county's roads themselves, at their expense. Sounds almost like double taxation.

The public having to maintain the county's roads seems to be the norm, as long as the public does not anger the councils or the boards or their legal representative, the county attorneys. If a taxpayer gets on their wrong side, they will put up every barrier they can to prevent one from helping upgrade or maintain the county's roads, right of ways and easements. What is really shameful is that there are roads in the county that haven't seen a county road crew in years; and some of those roads remind one of how they were in the early 1900s. We don't need speed bumps, the potholes are so big they deter, not only speeding, but any travel on them at all.

However, fear not, our councils and boards are working for us taxpayers. They say, just be patient and they will get our roads repaired "next year". Does this sound familiar? It should as this is what we hear about the Mid-States Corridor and all the benefits it will bring to our communities. These same councils and boards tell us we "need" the Mid-States Corridor, that it will solve all our transportation needs, next year. In the meantime, we pay taxes and do our own county road repairs using our own money and equipment. Oh, and by the way, we are told to keep our equipment off the roads as it tears them up.

The Mid-States Corridor and its supporters are not our friends; and I'm beginning to think neither are our county councils and boards of commissioners. We, the tax-paying public, can make a difference. We can, and must, demand fiscal responsibility from the councils and the boards. We should demand a hiatus on new office

spaces and superhighways until all our county roads are in good repair. We need good local roads. We do not need another high-speed, multi-lane superhighway through our communities.

We must continue to tell our councils and boards "No" to the Mid-States Corridor and other frivolous expenditures.

Jim Arvin
Rutherford Township
Martin County

'New donors are always welcome'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

Many thanks to all who participated in the August blood drives. The Shoals drive had 30 successful donations, and the Loogootee drive had 48 successful donations.

I am grateful for all of you who continually support the American Red Cross mission of saving lives through blood donations. New donors are always welcome.

The next drives will be on October 2nd and 3rd and will be hosted by the Shoals Beta Club and the Loogootee Beta Club. You may make an appointment by using the American Red Cross app on your phone, calling 800-733-2767, or calling me at 247-3767 or 709-2579 (please leave a message).

Please join us,
Lynn Hawkins
American Red Cross Volunteer

'Be informed'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

Many people in this area still don't know much about the proposed Mid-States Corridor and how it will affect every resident in Dubois and Martin counties. It will basically split each county in two from top to bottom, with essentially no benefit to be gained. Unbelievably, some folks still know nothing at all about it.

Jason McCoy of Martin County and Teresa Kendall of Dubois County will present an informative program, "Truly Understanding the Mid-States Corridor" this Thursday, August 15 at VUJC in the CTIM auditorium. The presentation will open your eyes.

The program will start at 6 p.m. ET with doors opening at 5:45 p.m. The program will include presentations and a question-and-answer session and will end at 7:30 p.m.

I encourage everyone to make plans to attend. Encourage your neighbors to attend with you. Be informed. Learn how this proposed new-terrain highway will disrupt the lives of nearly every resident in Dubois and Martin counties and will essentially destroy the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of your friends and neighbors.

"An informed minority will always control an uninformed majority." Don't be part of the uninformed majority. Come Thursday night to be informed. August 15, 6 p.m. ET, VUJC in the CTIM auditorium. Bring your friends, bring your neighbors.

Sue Krampe
Ferdinand

Attorney General raising awareness of household products recalled in July

Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers of important consumer protection concerns for products recalled in July. The office encourages consumers to take advantage of opportunities available for those who purchase recalled items that could be harmful to their families.

"The summer is coming to an end and kids are spending their final days outside before returning to school," Attorney General Rokita said. "Don't let the beautiful weather be ruined by an outdoor item breaking down. If you have one of the recalled products, stop using it immediately and pursue resolution from the manufacturer immediately."

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

DGL Group Recalls Hover-1 Dynamo E-Scooters Due to Risk of Serious Injury and Crash Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Walmart.com

Textron Specialized Vehicles Recalls 2024 Arctic Cat Mountain 600 Snowmobiles Due to Crash Hazard

Stiger Recalls Besrey Twins Strollers Due to Entrapment, Fall and Choking Hazards; Violation of Federal Regulation for Strollers; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com

Ophanie Area Rugs Recalled Due to Fire Hazard; Violation of Federal Flammability Regulations; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com by Ophanie

Grand Rapids Chair Company Recalls Wood Dining Chairs Due to Fall Hazard

Razor Recalls Icon Electric Scooters Due to Fall Hazard

Torquay eTrading Recalls Essential Values Golf Grip Solvent and Golf Grip Kits Due to Risk of Poisoning; Violation of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act

Kawasaki USA Recalls Mule PRO 1000 Off-Highway Utility Vehicles Due to Fire Hazard

Clark Associates Recalls Lancaster Table & Seating Plastic Restaurant High Chairs Due to Fall Hazard

iFIT Recalls ProForm 50 LB Adjustable Dumbbells Due to Impact Injury Hazard

Toy Guns Recalled Due to Eye Injury Hazard; Failure to Meet Federal Safety Regulations for Projectile Toys; Sold Exclusively on Temu.com by Youjiu

BISSELL Recalls More Than 3 Million Steam Shot Handheld Steam Cleaners Due to Burn Hazard

Sassy Baby Recalls Manhattan Toy Brilliant Bee Rattles Due to Choking Hazard

CFMOTO Recalls ZFORCE 950 Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles (ROVs) Due to Crash and Tip-Over Hazards

TonGass Pool Drain Covers Recalled Due to Violation of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act and Entrapment Hazard; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com by TonGass

Best Lighting Products Recalls High Bay LED Light Fixtures Due to Fire Hazard

Children's Pajama Sets Recalled Due to Burn Hazard and Violation of Federal Flammability Standards; Sold Exclusively on Temu.com by JUVENNO KIDS

Children's Nightgowns Recalled Due to Burn Hazard; Violation of Federal Flammability Standards; Sold Exclusively on Temu.com by Lovely Angel

Claire's and Icing Stores Recalls Halloween Witch Hats Due to Burn Hazard and Violation of Federal Flammability Requirement

Atomi Recalls Smart Heaters Due to Fire and Burn Hazards

Ross Stores Recalls Armchairs Due to Fall and Injury Hazards

Children's Pajama Sets Recalled Due to Burn Hazard and Violation of Federal Flammability Standards; Sold Exclusively on Temu.com by Fashion Online

SWOMOG Children's Pajamas Recalled Due to Burn Hazard; Violation of Federal Flammability Regulations; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com by SWOMOG

American Honda Motor Recalls Off-Road Motorcycles Due to Crash and Injury Hazards

Hatch Baby Recalls Power Adapters Sold with Rest 1st Generation Sound Machines Due to Shock Hazard

Focussee Recalls Tideway Hair Dryers Due to Electrocution or Shock Hazard

If you believe you recently purchased a recalled product, stop using it, and check its recall notice (linked above for all products). Then 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 issued prior to July visit www.cpsc.gov/Recalls.

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