

# Martin County JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

Nine pages



## Second Pridefest

-Photo by Jason Greene

The 2nd Annual Loogootee Pridefest was held last Saturday in downtown Loogootee. The festival was recently approved by the city council to be held downtown after months of back and forth. More than 300 people attended. The 3rd Annual Pridefest is scheduled for September 6, 2025.

## Commissioners discuss road, bridge issues at biweekly meeting

The Martin County Commissioners met Thursday morning, September 5.

Highway Secretary Theresa Ray stated all equipment is running. Resident Walt Waggoner thanked the highway department for doing brush cutting in Mitchell. Resident Helen Arvin stated she had come to the commissioners four weeks ago requesting potholes be filled on East 550 South and that has yet to be done. Secretary Ray said the work order is on their board and Commissioner George stated the road is listed to be worked on and the highway department will get to the repair.

Commissioner Summers asked Ray if she knew when Mount Calvary Road is getting paved. She replied that they did the chip and seal back in July and they should be starting paving anytime. She said she will reach out to Milestone and the consultant.

Emergency Management Agency Director Monty Wolf reported his department helped Shoals with another fire this week. He said he and Deputy Director Andy Ringwald have contacted other county fire chiefs, and they believe it is time to issue a burn ban for the county.

### Martin County under burn ban

Martin County has issued a burn ban effective as of Thursday, September 5.

Pursuant to the provisions of IC 10-14-3-29, effective immediately, the following activities are prohibited in Martin County:

1) Campfires and other recreational fires, unless enclosed in a fire ring with dimensions of 23 inches in diameter by 6 inches high or larger;

2) Open burn of any kind using conventional fuel such as wood, or other combustible matter, with the exception of grills fueled by charcoal briquettes or propane;

3) The burning of debris, such as timber of vegetation, including such debris that results from building construction activities and/or windstorm debris; and

4) The use of burn barrels for any open burning at residential structures.

Charcoal from permitted grills shall not be removed from the grills until the charcoal has been thoroughly extinguished.

Limit personal use of fireworks to those that do not leave the ground, refrain from using aerial firework devices.

Wolf stated there is a chance of rain tomorrow, but he does not believe it will be nearly enough to get rid of the dryness. The commissioners approved issuing a burn ban.

County Attorney David Lett stated it was approved at the last commissioners' meeting to increase the veteran's marker allowance from \$100 to \$150. He said raising the allowance must be done by ordinance. The commissioners then approved an ordinance retroactive to January 1, 2024.

Commissioner George stated the Brickyard Road Bridge is being replaced using federal aid and the county will need funds as a match. He asked Attorney Lett if options could be explored on how to come up with the match. Attorney Lett stated he is going to look into funding options. Commissioner George said the project started out with a \$200,000 match years ago but is well above that now. Attorney Lett asked when the funds were needed. Commissioner George replied that it will be needed between November and the beginning of the year. He said no matter what, the county would have to pay back the federal funds already paid if they were to back out of the project.

Auditor Michelle Norris provided an update regarding the repair of the interior automatic doors of the courthouse. She said she contacted K&K Automatic Doors to ask them to contact M&M Electric to get together to see what is needed to run the 120V service to the operators. K&K stated they would contact M&M that day, but Auditor Norris has not yet received an update.

Walt Waggoner stated he would like to see the county using maintainers on the roads. He said he was in Indian Springs Lane in Lawrence County and their highway department was pulling a maintainer behind a dump truck. He said the benefit of a maintainer would be that neither the stone nor road base is cut away, the road is shaped up. Commissioner George stated the highway department has one nice maintainer and another which is an older model.

The next commissioners' meeting will be held Tuesday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m.

## County council holds 2025 budget public hearing but no budget has been established

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT

Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council held two meetings over the past week pertaining to the 2025 budget. The first meeting was last Thursday, September 5 with the second being Monday, September 9.

The council held budget hearings on August 5 and no cuts were made at that time. The budget was submitted to the county's financial advisor, FSG, and included all the requests from each department, including raises from 5-7 percent, new positions for the probation department, a new position for the Purdue Extension office, and additional funds to increase salaries but remove the insurance opt out option. The council wanted to submit the budget as it was and see what FSG advised.

At last Thursday's meeting, FSG presented the sustainability report to the council. Charlie Joyce, with FSG, stated the county has been able to build back up the cash balance at the end of each year and with the increase in income tax and assessed value on properties, the county has more revenue coming in. Joyce explained however, that if the county chooses to give all employees a \$4,000 raise to offset the removal of the \$4,000 insurance opt out payment, it will cause the county to eat into the surplus funds. The council is awaiting a decision by the commissioners whether to stop providing the \$4,000 to employees who choose not to take the county's insurance. The goal of the opt out payment when it started was to entice employees not to take county insurance, which costs more money. Martin County is the only county known that provides an opt out option and the legality of it has been questioned as incentivizing health insurance. If the county were to provide \$4,000 to all full-time employees (around 72 total), it would cost an additional \$290,000. The opt out payments currently cost around \$132,000 with 33 people taking it. The \$4,000 extra in the salary for employees who already take insurance was to offset the cost of their

portion of the health insurance premiums, which would be increased. It was discussed that some of the people who currently opt out of insurance may want to enroll in it after the change which would increase costs further. Auditor Michelle Norris also noted that adding the \$4,000 onto salaries would cost around \$30,000 in extra PERF (Public Employees Retirement Fund) and that would have to be considered. The council discussed leaving in the \$290,000 and the \$132,000 for 2025 until the commissioners decide what they want to do with the policy.

Also not included in the budget for 2025 was the purchase of the former Old National Bank building, the renovations for the bank building and the recently purchased Shoals Recycling building along with \$750,000 that is needed to pay for the matching money in the federal grant for the replacement of the bridge on Brickyard Road. The council has been considering taking out a \$3.5 million bond for those expenses. Joyce said that adding in the opt out changes, the bridge and the capital improvements would not work, and the county would not be able to do it financially. He advised the council against using EDIT funds to pay for the capital projects because he has seen other counties do this and they ran out of money. He recommended the county keep the EDIT fund as plentiful as possible, especially considering it pays for health insurance premiums and they don't know what kind of increase the county will see for next year.

Another issue discussed was the out-of-county inmate money and the risk that this could go away at any time. The 2025 budget includes \$350,000 for that revenue. Joyce said the county collected \$509,000 in out-of-county inmate revenue in 2023 and while they expect it to go down, he believes they will still reach the \$350,000 amount in 2025.

The county also had \$300,000 in investment revenue last year. It is expected to be the same amount this year. Next year, the

(See 'BUDGET' on page 3)



## Robotix grant

-Photo provided

A \$2,500 Duke Energy Foundation grant was awarded to the Shoals Community Schools, Jug Rox Robotix team. The mission of the robotics program is to build science, engineering, technology, and math skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership. Shown above, from left to right, are Coach Mallory Waggoner, students Ava Turpen, Charleigh Long, Arthena Smith, Jasmine Jones, and Hanna Cook; Kurt Phegley of Duke Energy, and students Mason Lake and Noah McCracken, and Coach Tristan Peterson.



My (final) Point of View

By Courtney Hughett  
Martin County Journal  
Publisher

As many already know, my husband and I are moving out of Martin County soon. So, it's with a heavy heart that I inform my readers that the Martin County Journal will end on September 25, 2024. That will be my last issue. As of now, unless someone can do what I couldn't, the Martin County Humane Society Animal Shelter and the Spay/Neuter Clinic are closing too. I operate all three of them.

What led up to this? Let me explain the history the best I can, as briefly as I can, but it's a lot. 15 years is a long time. To start, I moved back to Martin County in 2007. I grew up here and my mom moved my family away in 1995 when I was almost 18 years old. I met my husband, Josh, in 1996 and we got married in 1998. I finally convinced him, after years of begging, to move to Loogootee. Josh grew up in Brown County which is where we lived when I convinced him to come back to my hometown. My years growing up in Loogootee were amazing and I wanted my kids to experience that too.

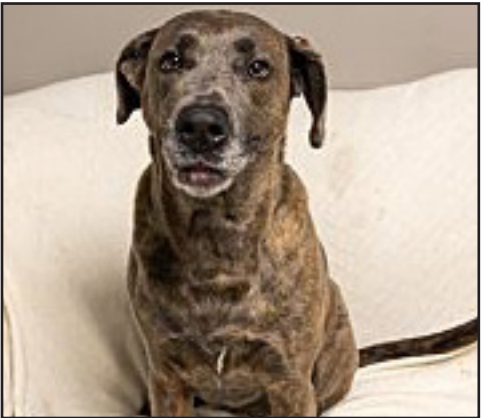
In 2010, I started volunteering with the Martin County Humane Society. I learned shortly after moving back to the county that there was no animal shelter, and it was mind blowing to me. So, I got involved. In 2012, my husband and I took over the humane society with the goal of getting a no-kill animal shelter built as soon as possible. For a year leading up to the shelter being built, we had all the dogs and cats at our house, with an average of 40 at any given time. Trying to keep that many animals safe from the weather was truly one of the hardest things I have ever done. It was a nightmare. They were all in kennels in my yard, dealing with the heat of the summer and the snow and freezing of winter. I hated every single second of it.

At the end of 2012 we hired a contractor to build the shell of the animal shelter. There wasn't much money so we had to try to do what we could with what we had. A contractor built the shell of the shelter for \$20,000, and my husband and sons put up the interior walls and kennels and finished the inside. We had volunteers come in and help finish out and paint the drywall. We traveled around to other animal shelters in the region to see what they did and then crafted our own system to get everything up and running. We were able to move all the dogs and cats from my house to the shelter in June of 2013. It was a glorious day when we were able to get them into a building

ANIMAL SHELTER

*Pet of the Week*

Abby is our last dog at the shelter. Please help us find a home for her!



ABBY is a female hound mix, 7+ years old. She is very sweet, loves to play toys but she will hide them from you during a game of fetch. She is scared of thunder storms so she needs an inside home. She is not suited in a home with cats or small dogs. She is spayed and up to date on shots. She is fine with children. Adoption fee is \$0. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit [www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org](http://www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org).

with a roof! The shelter was not completely finished but it was good enough for us and we figured that over time, we would do what we could when we could, as money allowed. We were just thrilled to have the animals inside and safe.

Also in 2010, I started the Martin County Journal. I have been in journalism since 1998, starting at the Brown County Democrat in Nashville. After leaving The Loogootee Tribune, I wanted something to do related to journalism, so I planned to do The Journal as a "hobby". I am extremely passionate about informing the public and take it very seriously. I didn't know The Journal would turn into what it is today, with more than 3,000 people getting it every week. I've tried all these years to provide the public with unbiased, factual reporting and I never wavered on that, despite being pressured to do so from time to time.

Once the animal shelter was built, though, the dogs and cats became my focus. Having 50 beating hearts you are responsible for makes you shift your priorities. The Journal took a backseat to my care of the animals. The humane society became my full-time job, putting in 40-50 hours a week, sometimes more depending on the situation. The Journal was something I did in my "spare time". And my husband was right there with me when he wasn't at work, with the shelter and my paper. The Journal was my only income, so I had to keep doing it even if it was part-time and even if I didn't get to cover nearly all the things I would have liked to. My two boys also grew up knowing mom and dad were going to be at the animal shelter ALL the time and our lives would center around what was going on there first. They didn't always like it, but they understood.

There is no way to completely explain what the last decade-plus has been like. My passion for animals kept me going this long and over the years Josh and I reached a few breaking points but kept hanging on somehow. Earlier this year, that breaking point snapped. I can't really pinpoint exactly what did it because there were many things happening around that time.

I have spent years and years and years trying to get our county and city officials to understand the importance of providing animal services to Martin County. I had no idea when I started that it would be this hard. Every time I thought I was getting somewhere; I was knocked back down. We did finally get animal control established, thanks to former sheriff Travis Roush, back in 2016, but that has now been ripped away too. I fought that as well and lost.

My husband and I have done the work for zero pay, gave up our nights, weekends, holidays, anniversaries, birthdays, and vacations to provide animal services for Martin County and we would have been okay with that forever if the powers that be at the county and city level would have just helped us. Taken at least one burden off us. If they would have backed us up. But nope. They wanted us to take care of all Martin County's animal problems, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year AND find the money to do all of it too. And then, as of the end of last year, do the law enforcement portion again as well when animal control was taken away. They also didn't defend us from public abuse. Often, they would agree with the person complaining that we needed to do more. They would call us at home to let us know when a constituent had a problem we needed to solve right away. All I ever wanted was for them to say, "We appreciate you guys devoting your life to this for free for our county, so how can we help make it easier". To acknowledge that they were

getting a service provided to their county, their constituents, that most other counties provide, without having to pay a single salary or benefit. But no, they always made us feel like they were doing us a favor by giving anything at all. For several years the county council only gave us \$4,800 and I fought and fought year after year to get that increased little by little up to \$15,000 in 2022 and then Commissioner Cody Roush spoke up for us last budget time and got them to go up \$2,000 more for 2024. There were years we would get cut back down and I would have to go fight all over again. The city council was equally as hard to deal with. Everything was a fight or a negotiation. I have listened to the county council president say, "the humane society needs to be more self-sufficient". I have listened to a former member of the city council say, "the humane society doesn't do anything". I've heard enough. I've done enough. I can't force people to care about something they don't care about.

So, for over a decade, I have figured out how to keep a \$60,000 operation afloat, taking in 250-300 dogs and cats a year on an average of \$8,700 a year. That was the only money we knew we would get year after year, the rest we had to raise or find or spend from our own pocket. I don't think people realize how hard this was. The dogs and cats that entered the shelter were not dogs and cats that Josh and I produced. They were from the residents of Martin County.

After COVID happened, we lost our transport for spay/neuter to Pets Alive. So, since Indiana law requires all dogs and cats from shelters to be spayed/neutered prior to adoption, we were paying \$250-\$300 per dog to have them fixed at full-service vets. We couldn't afford it. So, I got busy writing grants to build a spay/neuter clinic. That opened in 2021 and has since performed almost 3,000 surgeries.

We started doing wellness clinics to provide low-cost vaccines, testing and microchips. We opened a food pantry for residents who were struggling to feed their pets. We did TNR (trap/neuter/release) all over the county to help control the feral cat population and were able to fix hundreds and hundreds of cats. We did anything and everything we could think of to help the county and make it a better place to live and a better place for animals. But none of that was ever enough. We could never prove our worth.

There are only so many hours in a day. Taking care of an average of 50 dogs and cats two times a day, morning and night; a huge volume of phone calls, emails, social media messages; having open hours multiple times a week with adoptions outside of open hours, dogs and cats being thrown over the fence or left in boxes on the front porch or thrown out of a car in the parking lot or left in carriers along the street; being screamed and/or cursed at multiple times a week, being hauled into meetings to answer to why we haven't solved cat issues on North Oak Street or dog issues on Cale Road, trying to organize fundraisers to keep the lights on, writing every grant I can find, being harassed in the grocery store or gas station about someone's neighbor having too many cats or a dog that won't stay home, getting calls on our personal cell phones at 3 a.m. because a litter of baby kittens was found abandoned, having an animal brought to you that is barely hanging on to life, having people show up at your house, and on and on and on. Our elected officials didn't have to deal with it, we did. They didn't have to lay awake at night wondering if the litter of puppies that were dumped in the front yard would break with parvo or if the sick kittens we took in would live through the night or

if we were going to have enough money this month to pay the electric bill or if we were going to get some angry resident screaming at us the next day because we couldn't come pick up a stray dog. They didn't have to take in emaciated animals that were bones wrapped in skin, transport animals in their own car to the vet multiple times a week, get screamed at by the mom when we said her two-year-old couldn't volunteer to walk dogs, go to a hoarding case with 72 dogs and rescue them during a polar vortex, or the hoarding case with 62 dogs or the three with 19 each or the one with 30. I could tell you story after story, but it doesn't matter now.

We had a lot of supporters and volunteers over the years and while they would pull me aside and tell me they appreciated all that we were doing, it didn't erase the hurt. It didn't take away the many times I had a member of the public get in my face because I didn't have room to take in their pet they no longer wanted, or the multiple times members of the public called me and Josh "worthless". I had someone post on social media that they hoped Josh and I "rot in hell". And people griped about us on social media all the time. What we did was never enough. It stung over and over and over. And over time, it makes you bitter. I got to the point where I didn't even like myself anymore. I was always waiting for the next shoe to drop and avoided people and places because I was mentally shutting down. I shut people out. You can only take abuse for so long before you start believing that you are all those things people say you are.

It was all a slap in the face when we thought we were doing something good, and we really were just trying to help. I've been a complete fool for a really long time.

I can walk away though knowing Josh and I have saved 2,661 dogs and cats and I loved every single one of them like they were my own. THEY are the reason we did it as long as we did, and I don't regret any of that part. My happiness came from their happiness, watching them thrive after being so sick, watching them play when they had never been able to play, watching them experience love when they had never had love. It gave me the strength every day to keep doing it. It was never the animals' fault. They were my joy. Every day I walked into that shelter and saw them, it gave me the "this is worth it". Their lives are worth it.

Since Josh and I stopped solving all the animal issues earlier this year, it's already become a huge problem, and we knew it would. We have just handled it for a really long time and now no one is handling it. Josh and I will never get any peace living here, which is why we are leaving. People will never stop contacting us. People stopping us while we are grocery shopping or just getting gas will never stop. People showing up at our house will never stop.

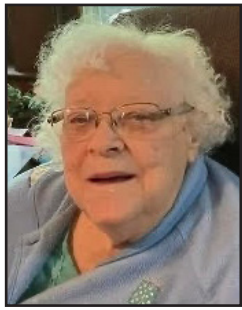
The next several years will be very telling for this county. I've been following Martin County government for more than 15 years and I've never seen it like this before. I'm just being honest - I am pretty sure you all know that I have always been honest with you. Please pay attention to what is going on in your community and get involved.

I don't regret helping any of the animals we helped, and I don't regret a single issue of the Martin County Journal. But Josh and I need to pass the baton to someone else now. Please, please in the future, try to treat people with kindness, who are doing their best to make this county a better place to live. Don't run them off. I will always love Martin County; I just can't live here anymore.



## HELEN PORTER

Helen Porter, a loving matriarch and cherished resident of Loogootee, passed away peacefully on August 30, 2024. She was 93.



## HELEN PORTER

She was born September 22, 1930, in Daviess County. Helen grew up in a time of simplicity and embodied the virtues of faith, family, and friendship throughout her life.

As a devoted homemaker and skilled presser at the local dry cleaners, Helen dedicated her days to nurturing her family and contributing to her community. Married to the late Sylvester Porter on February 25, 1957, the couple built a life founded on love and mutual respect.

Helen's life was one of unwavering care and service to others. An avid gardener, her hands brought forth the beau-

ty of nature's bounty, while her sewing skills created warmth and comfort for her loved ones. Music filled her home, and her faith in God was the cornerstone of her existence. She relished every moment spent playing and laughing with her grandchildren, instilling in them values of kindness and compassion.

She is survived by her two daughters, Rachel Hendricks (Chuck) and Paula Potts. Helen's legacy also lives on through her many grandchildren: Lindsay Potts, Brittany Potts, Dawson Potts, Ally Potts, Rob McGovren, Shawn Hendricks, Michael Hendricks (Christina), Felicia Searcy, and Nanette Hendricks; her cherished great-grandchildren: Iridessa Potts, Jackelyn McCracken (Luke), Aaron Paul, Ember McGovren, Domminik Hendricks, Sasha Hendricks, Mackeinze Hendricks, Zane Sturgeon, Drake Sturgeon, Carson Hendricks, Carter Hendricks, Tyler Weixel (Dionna), and Lela Hendricks; and her treasured great-great-grandchildren: Daegn McCracken, Drystan Mc-

Cracken, Kaliah Weixel, Diane Palmer-ton, and Aubrey Simikian.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Sylvester; her parents, Paul and Laura Myers; and her brothers, Harry, Robert, Donald, and Rex Myers. Helen's memory will be honored as a loving, faith-filled, and friendly soul who made the world a better place for all who knew her.

A celebration of life for Helen and Sylvester will be held at a later date. Fond memories and condolences can be made to [www.gillsince1872.com](http://www.gillsince1872.com). Fredrick and Son-Gill Funeral Home is honored to be entrusted with Mrs. Porter's arrangements.

## EILEEN SALMON

Eileen M. Salmon passed away Friday, August 30, 2024, at her home. A resident of Washington, she was 60.

She was born August 31, 1963, in North Dakota and adopted by the late Paul and Patricia (Clements) O'Connor

of Montgomery.

Eileen enjoyed cooking and caring for others. She always put a smile on her family and friends faces.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Patricia O'Connor and brother, Steve O'Connor.

Eileen is survived by her daughters, Courtney Seals (John Ader) of Loogootee, Audra Seals of Bruceville, and Brittany Seals of Louisville; granddaughter, Aspen Salmon (Norman Jefferson) of Monroe City; sister, Janet (John) Beckman of Jasper; three nieces, Christin, Cheri, and Ashlee; and one nephew, Kevin.

Eileen wished to be cremated and private services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry.

Condolences may be made online at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com).

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Indiana is honored to serve the family of Eileen M. Salmon.

# BUDGET

(Continued from page one)

amount is expected to be around \$230,000 and \$125,000 in 2026, but it is all based on the interest rates which are expected to drop over the next few years.

The council discussed the ambulance service and how the county will pay for the \$1.35 million it will cost to keep it in operation next year. Council Member Jordan Dant asked what the county needed to do to get the LIT EMS tax implemented which would reduce the EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) by .2 percent and move it into the new EMS tax. This would cover around \$503,000 of the ambulance service expenses but would also take away \$88,000 from the City of Loogootee, \$31,000 From the Town of Shoals and \$7,000 from the Town of Crane. It would also move \$376,000 the county receives in EDIT to the new EMS tax. The county is currently paying a large portion of the ambulance employees' salaries from EDIT. Joyce said the county is currently footing the bill for the entire ambulance service from county funds so the money may be taken away from the city and towns, but they will now be contributing to an ambulance service they also use. Joyce said it is too late to get the change done for 2025 however and it will have to wait until 2026. Council Member Dant asked if there is a way they can do it anyway for 2025 Joyce said the council has already gone past the deadlines to get that done for next year.

The council then discussed the bond that has been considered to help pay for the capital projects. Joyce, said there is the

possibility that the state will start requiring referendums on any new bonds after this year. He said this is mostly pertaining to school corporations at this time who are taking out bonds without getting taxpayer approval first. He said this may affect the county if it's up to the voter whether or not they approve of the capital projects proposed and the bond issue. He said approving the bond this year would prevent the possible referendum requirement. He said time is running out if they county wants to get the bond in place for next year anyway. He said the county can take some money from EDIT to pay for part of the projects and take out a bond for the rest. He said a \$3 million bond now would have an estimated 5 percent interest. He said the current property tax growth rate leaves room for the county to add new debt without increasing property taxes for 2025. He said they would have to run the numbers, however, based on how much the county wants to borrow and the interest rate at that time. And this doesn't include the impact beyond 2025.

Part of the money the county wanted to borrow is to pay for the \$750,000 needed for the 20 percent match on the Brickyard Road bridge replacement. That money is due by the end of the year. The total amount of the bridge replacement is around \$5 million and if the county backs out of the federal project now, which has been in the works for several years, they will have to pay for costs that have been incurred so far which would be more than the \$750,000. If the county doesn't do the bond, they will have to take that money

out of the EDIT fund which currently has around \$2.1 million.

Joyce also noted that changes in the Indiana Statehouse may put more of a cap on property taxes and the county will lose revenue there too. He said the current Republican candidate for governor wants to put a freeze on property tax increases.

The council ended last Thursday's meeting without making any decisions on the budget.

At Monday night's meeting, a public hearing was held for the 2025 budget. Without a budget being in place at this time, no resident was in attendance to provide comment. The public hearing did start the remonstrance process which allows 10 or more taxpayers to object to the budget. It is unknown how this would happen without a budget that has been set by the council. The council is supposed to adopt the 2025 budget on October 7. Council Member Dant said they need to set up another meeting to go through it and see what can be cut. They set that meeting for Monday, September 16 at 5:30 p.m.

At the end of the meeting, resident Steven Shout spent over an hour debating with the council about spending. Shout explained that he felt the council was overspending taxpayer money frivolously by purchasing buildings that do not benefit the taxpayer. He said it's just more government overreach. Council Member Monty Gregory said the former Old National Bank building and Shoals recycling building were purchased to plan for the county's future growth. Shout replied that the county isn't going to grow if people are priced out due to taxes and they leave. He said the bank building could have been left open to be purchased by another bank and the recycling center building could have been sold to someone who wants to open a car maintenance business. He said the county buying up these properties eliminates the tax revenue that would have been gained from those businesses. Council Member Gregory said the county has to have a place to store old documents and the bank building basement is the place for those documents. He said they owe it to the county's founders to protect the county's history. Shout said there needs to be more transparency by the county government and they need to spend more time considering the taxpayer than doing what they want to do. He asked each council member if they felt their constituents would want lower taxes or the county to purchase buildings. Many of the council members would not give straight answers or answer at all. Shout said he plans to get more involved in what the county is doing and will be going to the commissioners' meeting next. He said he will gather tax-

payers to start attending meetings and put the pressure on the county council, if he has to. He said the council needs to spend money on increasing the sheriff's department employees' salaries first and foremost and doing repairs in the jail. Council Member Gregory said they have increased the sheriff's department employee salaries several times over the past several years and they did what they could. He said increasing them more means they need more money. Shout said they can cut in other places to accommodate what needs to be done.

Council Member Adam Greene said the Martin County Alliance was working with banks to move into the former Old National Bank building prior to the county buying it. He said he was even trying to buy it so he could rent it out to a bank. He made a motion to have all considerations for the bank building to stop until the Alliance can see if a bank would be interested in the building. Council Member Warren Albright said he doesn't understand why a bank hasn't come to the commissioners before now if there was one interested. Greene said Old National had a non-compete clause in place up until recently. The council then all voted in favor of ceasing any money being spent on the bank building until potential banks were contacted.

In other business Monday night, Sheriff Josh Greene told the council that he is losing employees at a rapid pace. He requested the council approve him paying overtime instead of comp time to keep employees happy. He said he is down to four dispatchers running the jail and they are accumulating major comp time but it's not helping their paychecks. He said he is getting ready to lose a few more deputies and will be down to 50 percent of what he needs soon with no current applicants to take any positions. The council approved Greene to pay overtime wherever needed to keep positions covered.

The council approved Community Corrections Director Danielle Murphy's request to increase her case manager 1 position's salary to a maximum of \$24.24 up from \$20.20, where the person maxed out. She said the case manager 1 position does more than the case manager 2 position and they were both in the same salary range. She has money from her project income to cover the change.

The council approved \$160,000 to cover health insurance premiums for the rest of the year from the EDIT fund. \$575,000 was budgeted for 2024 but it wasn't enough. Auditor Norris said they now have 54 employees on health insurance when it was just 39 employees at the start of the year. \$780,000 budgeted for next year.

**NOW OFFERING**

**MONUMENTS TO  
MARTIN COUNTY  
& SURROUNDING  
AREAS**

**ENDLESS  
CUSTOMIZATION  
OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

**QUEEN-LEE CHAPEL**  
GEORGE FUNERAL CARE, LLC  
431 High Street  
Shoals, Indiana 47581  
812-247-3101



## Martin County Sheriff's Department activity log

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

11:00 a.m. - Received a call requesting a deputy north of Loogootee. Deputy Baumgart responded.

11:01 a.m. - Received a call reporting a trespasser in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Branham responded.

12:46 p.m. - Received an animal complaint north of Shoals. Deputy Baumgart responded.

3:30 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Loogootee Officer Branham responded.

6:06 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle south of Shoals. Deputy Baumgart and Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

7:51 p.m. - Received a call requesting extra patrol east of Shoals. Major Reed responded.

9:09 p.m. - Received a request for officers in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Garab and Major Reed responded.

10:25 p.m. - Received a report of a commercial burglar alarm in Shoals. Major Reed responded.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

3:24 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department, Major Reed and Loogootee Officer Garab responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

7:26 a.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner and Deputy Baumgart responded.

1:21 p.m. - Received a report of a possible break-in in Crane Village. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner, Deputy Baumgart and Indiana Conservation Officer Graber responded.

2:39 p.m. - Received a call requesting a deputy in Crane Village. Deputy Baumgart responded.

3:15 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner, Deputy Baumgart and Sternberg's Towing responded. No one was transported.

6:12 p.m. - Received multiple 911 calls reporting an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Clark and Deputy Baumgart responded.

6:54 p.m. - Received a request to speak with a deputy. Deputy Baumgart responded.

8:43 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting assistance southwest of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Major Reed and Indiana Conservation Officer Fuhrman responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:31 p.m. - Received a report of a moped in a ditch southeast of Shoals. Major Reed responded.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

3:49 a.m. - Received a call from ADT advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Clark responded.

6:47 a.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

7:16 a.m. - Received a call from Johnson Control advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Crane. Keyholder advised to disregard.

7:28 a.m. - Received a call reporting a counterfeit bill in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

8:24 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, Loogootee Chief Hunt, Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner and Deputy Baumgart responded. Medic 1 transported one pa-

tient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:33 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting the fire department in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department responded. Duke Energy was contacted.

11:55 a.m. - Received an animal complaint north of Shoals. Deputy Baumgart responded.

2:23 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded but did not transport.

2:51 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded but did not transport.

3:12 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:16 p.m. - Received a call from Lawrence County advising they had received a 911 call from a Martin County address reporting a structure fire just south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department, Lost River Fire Department, Martin County Civil Defense, Sergeant Wells, Deputy Baumgart and Reserve Deputy Dorsey responded.

4:04 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check southeast of Shoals.

4:30 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check north of Loogootee. Deputy Baumgart responded.

5:18 p.m. - Received a call reporting a disabled vehicle south of Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

8:11 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible trespasser in Loogootee. Sergeant Wells responded.

8:46 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver on US 50, traveling West. Sergeant Wells responded.

9:01 p.m. - Received a call requesting a tow truck south of Shoals. Big John's Towing responded.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

2:53 a.m. - Received a call from Daviess County advising of an abandoned vehicle. Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

9:02 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Deputy Branham responded.

10:17 a.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt responded.

10:47 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Deputy Baumgart responded.

12:46 p.m. - Received a 911 call on Crane Base. Transferred call to Crane 911.

12:55 p.m. - Received a request for the fire department in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

2:34 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle north of Loogootee. Captain Gibson responded.

2:45 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

4:09 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a disabled vehicle in Loogootee. Captain Gibson and Sergeant Wells responded.

7:07 p.m. - Received a call from Dubois County advising of a possible ATV accident. Deputy Shields responded and advised the caller to call DNR.

9:50 p.m. - Received a report of a possible traffic hazard north of Loogootee. Deputy Shields responded.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

8:28 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock southeast of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

12:03 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check in Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

3:34 p.m. - Received a call from Dubois County requesting assistance. Captain Gibson and Deputy Shields responded.

4:09 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a single vehicle accident south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Haysville

Fire Department, Captain Gibson, Loogootee Officer Garab and Big John's Towing responded. No one was transported.

4:25 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

6:40 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance northeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 responded but did not transport.

7:00 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

7:20 p.m. - Received a call requesting a deputy in Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

8:17 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check northeast of Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

10:05 p.m. - Received a call from Life Alert advising of a medical alarm press south of Loogootee. Requesting a welfare check. Loogootee Officer Garab and Deputy Shields responded.

11:55 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a traffic hazard south of Loogootee. Deputy Erwin and Loogootee Officer Garab responded.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

4:10 a.m. - Received a call reporting a fire in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

8:02 a.m. - Received a 911 call from a Knox County address. Contacted Knox County with information.

8:58 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Deputy Branham responded.

9:08 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver on US 50, traveling east. Deputy Shields responded.

10:26 a.m. - Received two 911 calls reporting a tree limb in the roadway east of Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

11:25 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

11:47 a.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Hunt responded.

2:03 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check southeast of Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

2:32 p.m. - Received a request to speak with a deputy. Deputy Branham responded.

3:31 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. LPD Sergeant Wagoner responded.

4:19 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:39 p.m. - Received a call requesting assistance east of Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

4:55 p.m. - Received a call reporting an abandoned vehicle southeast of Loogootee. Sheriff Greene responded.

5:36 p.m. - Received a call from Lifeline alarms reporting a fall detection southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire responded.

6:00 p.m. - Received a call reporting a power line down south of Shoals. REMC responded.

6:44 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious male east of Loogootee. Deputy Shields responded.

6:50 p.m. - Received a call reporting drug paraphernalia east of Loogootee. Deputy Shields responded.

8:40 p.m. - Received a call reporting an accident with no injuries in Shoals. Deputy Erwin responded.

10:12 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a vehicle hitting a tree in the roadway

west of Shoals. Deputy Erwin and Big John's Towing responded.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

5:25 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:45 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner, Loogootee Reserve Captain Harmon and Corporal Hawkins responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:31 p.m. - Received a call requesting the fire department south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Hawkins responded.

1:40 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible theft north of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

2:47 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle east of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

4:05 p.m. - Received a report of an abandoned vehicle east of Shoals. Indiana Conservation Officer Haywood and Big John's Towing responded.

6:19 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Corporal Hawkins responded.

7:04 p.m. - Received a call reporting a reckless driver on US 231 South, traveling north. Deputy Erwin responded.

9:01 p.m. - Received an animal complaint northwest of Shoals. Deputy Erwin responded.

11:07 p.m. - Received a report of a loud explosion type noise in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Clark and Deputy Erwin responded.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

10:49 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Corporal Hawkins responded.

12:32 p.m. - Received a call requesting officers south of Loogootee. ISP Master Trooper Lents, Sergeant Wells, Corporal Hawkins and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

12:34 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Corporal Hawkins returned the call.

2:28 p.m. - Received a report of someone burning east of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

2:59 p.m. - Received a report of a trespasser south of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

4:28 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded. No one was transported.

4:30 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance to same address in Loogootee for a different individual. Medic 1 did not transport.

4:40 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a structure fire south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department, Corporal Hawkins, Martin County Medic 2 responded. No one was transported. REMC and the Fire Marshall were notified.

4:50 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

5:26 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible traffic hazard northeast of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

5:44 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 transporting one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:18 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Clark and Corporal Hawkins responded.



# COURT NEWS

## CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCINGS

### August 28

Amanda Dawn Boyd, convicted of unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 730 days with 654 days suspended and credit for 38 actual days previously served plus 38 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

August 30  
Kathy Welborn, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 60 days with 56 days suspended and credit for 2 actual days previously served plus 2 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

## CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

### August 28

Amanda Dawn Boyd, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; residential entry, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

August 30  
Kathy Welborn, refusal to submit to a breath or chemical test, a Class C Infraction, dismissed.

## CIVIL COURT

### New Suits Filed

### August 28

# Martin County real estate transfers

**Randall S. Bell, Rhonda K. Parker and Ryan D. Bell to Chad M. Wade and Karla Wade**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 16 and Lot Number 17 in Ackerman’s Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana. Also, Lot Number 18 in Ackerman’s Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

**Jeffrey Tyler Reed and Katherine F. Reed f/k/a Katherine F. Ulrich**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Meghan N. Mathies**, of Daviess County, Indiana, Lot Number 31 in Ackerman’s Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

**Harmon Crone and Lee Roy Patton**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Austin Taylor**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the west half of the northeast quarter and a part of the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 5 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 59.52 acres, more or less. More commonly known as 23838 Graded Road, Williams IN 47470.

**Hunter Land**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Hunter C. Land and Erin B. Land**, of Martin County, Indiana, property located in the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

**Clearwater Investment Properties**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Clearwater Investment Properties**, of Martin County, Indiana, property located in the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Carrie Drew, civil collection.

August 30  
OneMain Financial Group, LLC vs. Glenn Brumble, civil collection. September 3

Donald R. Buchanan III vs. Sandy Arthur Buchanan, petition for dissolution of marriage.

## CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

### August 19

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff LVNV Funding, LLC and against the defendant James Bex in the amount of \$960.56.

## CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

### September 3

Citibank vs. Prestin Hart, civil collection, dismissed.

## SMALL CLAIMS COURT

### New Suits Filed

### September 3

Ken and Dana Miller vs. Eric and Mary Rasico, eviction.

August 30  
Jerrad Lee VanMeter of Loogootee and Chana Marie Cain of Loogootee.

Nathaniel Thomas Robinson of Loogootee and Courtney Marie Howell of Loogootee.

Beverly Yvonne McCormick of Shoals and Larry J. Nelson of Shoals.

LLC, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Sabrina Danielle Keller and Derek Andrew Keller**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, City of Loogootee, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.422 acres, more or less.

# ARRESTS

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:18 p.m. - Brian Rausch, 47, of Evansville, was arrested by Deputy Erwin and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

5:44 a.m. - Austin Carter, 26, of Vincennes, was arrested by Deputy Erwin and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

12:21 a.m. - Shannon Buck, 47, of Indianapolis, was arrested by Deputy Erwin and charged with possession of methamphetamine. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

# Loogootee Police log

## MONDAY, AUGUST 26

2:53 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Clark responded to a medical call on Kentucky Avenue.

12:27 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Shoals.

5:15 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Hopper Lane in Shoals.

7:31 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on Bellgrade Avenue.

7:53 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on Williams Street.

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

1:56 a.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on Clark Street.

1:55 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on US Highway 50.

6:35 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a call at the civil defense building.

9:00 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Cedar Street.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

1:55 a.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on Washington Street.

11:30 a.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call on North Line Street.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

11:01 a.m. - Sergeant Wagoner performed a funeral detail.

11:41 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Chief Hunt responded to a medical call on Bloomfield Road.

1:54 p.m. - Chief Hunt and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on North Line Street.

9:52 p.m. - Officer Hess responded to a medical call on Cedar Street.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

12:56 a.m. - Officer Clark responded to a call on US Highway 231.

4:10 a.m. - Officer Clark responded to a call on Broadway Street.

9:05 a.m. - Officer Harmon responded to a call at Country Court.

3:14 p.m. - Officer Harmon responded to a call on Butcher Boulevard.

3:22 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department, Chief Hunt and Officer Harmon responded to a call on Church Street.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

11:15 a.m. - Officer Hess responded to a call on US Highway 50.

11:38 a.m. - Officer Harmon responded to a call on Webb Road.

12:38 p.m. - Officer Harmon responded to a call on Terrace Drive.

2:08 p.m. - Officer Harmon responded to a call on North Oak Street.

4:09 p.m. - Officer Harmon responded to a call on US Highway 50.

5:13 p.m. - Officer Harmon responded to a medical call on Poplar Street.

10:08 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call at Marathon gas station.

10:52 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Garab responded to a call on Bramble Road.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

4:31 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on Mill Street.

11:01 a.m. - Officer Branham responded to a call on Vine Street.

6:06 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on Boyd Hollow Road.

9:09 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on Cedar Street.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

3:24 a.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on Fairview Lane.

11:55 a.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call near Dewey Street.

1:21 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Earl Street.

3:15 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on US Highway 231.

6:12 p.m. - Officer Clark responded to a call on Vine Street.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

3:49 a.m. - Officer Clark responded to a call at Smokers Host.

6:47 a.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call at Family Dollar.

8:24 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department, Chief Hunt and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a medical call on North Line Street.

2:52 p.m. - Chief Hunt and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call at Dollar General.

4:04 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Fairview Lane.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

2:53 a.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on US Highway 50.

3:06 a.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on US Highway 50.

10:57 a.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call at Marathon gas station.

4:09 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a call on US Highway 231.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

4:09 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on Bledsoe Lane.

4:25 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on Sheridan Street.

10:05 p.m. - Officer Garab responded to a call on US Highway 231.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

11:25 a.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call at McDonald’s.

11:47 a.m. - Chief Hunt responded to a call on Cedar Street.

3:31 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call at Ruler Grocery Store.

4:19 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a medical call on Half Moon Road.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:45 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department, Sergeant Wagoner and Officer Harmon responded to a medical call at West Boggs Park.

1:40 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Gate Road.

11:07 p.m. - Officer Clark responded to a call on Terrace Drive.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Notice of 30 Days for Public Comment

### Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Local Plan

### South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.

The South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc., an Equal Opportunity Employer, is requesting public comments regarding the WIOA 2024-2027 Local Plan of Services. The WIOA Local Plan is the primary vehicle for communicating the Board’s vision for the local WorkOne system and how it will provide services to meet the needs of job seekers and employers in the Indiana Counties of Brown, Daviess, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange and Owen.

The plan will be available for review on the web at [www.workonesouthcentral.org/](http://www.workonesouthcentral.org/) no later than 5:00 pm on August 23, 2024. The public comment period begins on August 23, 2024 and ends at 5:00 pm (EDT) on September 23, 2024. Written comments will be accepted by email at [southcentralregion8@gmail.com](mailto:southcentralregion8@gmail.com). Comments may also be submitted by US Mail to:

South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.  
Attn: Rob King  
333 S. Landmark Avenue  
Bloomington, IN 47403

# HINDOSTAN DAYS



## Remembering the Past

### SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 / 10AM-6PM

Please note that this is an outdoor venue with grassy walkways, areas with uneven ground, no running water, and extremely weak cell service. Please be prepared with water, mobility devices, and bring cash for food and vendors..

### CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Registration opens onsite at 930AM. Tournament starts at 10AM. Blind draw for teams. \$10/person.

### EGG TOSSING COMPETITION

Registration opens at the event at 1230PM. First egg flies at 1PM. Prizes for kids and adults.

### THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Local artisans, delicious food, live music, activities, talks, and more! Dive into the history of our gorgeous county and enjoy the calming waters of Hindostan Falls. Visit young entrepreneur booths and an early Native American encampment.





By Gordon Grindstaff

A little over 60 years ago, on a bright and sunny early June morning in Indianapolis, I found myself standing in front of the altar in Fountain Square's Saint Patrick's Catholic church. Why? Because after a year of courtship, I was about to enter into marriage with a pretty young lady named Carole, the same lady I have called Susie for the last 20 years.

The morning had been a frantic blur and before I knew it, the sounds of the wedding March began floating throughout the interior of St Patrick's massive interior and I looked up the center aisle to see the flower girl and the bridesmaids stepping towards the altar and then there was Susie, radiant in her beautiful well-earned white wedding dress, clinging to her father's arm.

The ceremony moved along swiftly and suddenly, we were holding hands and looking in one another's eyes preparing to repeat our marriage vows. Susie smiled at me and spoke right up.

"I take you to be my lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health until death do us part."

She didn't hesitate nor did I when it was my turn to profess my eternal love. The words in the vows were powerful words but the importance of what they stood for went right over my head. Especially the sickness part; who worried about sickness and health?? I was 24 years old; she was 22 and we were planning to live forever. Why would we bother to sit down and discuss what we might do if there was a serious illness?

Fast forward some 43 years: We were in Southwest Florida on New Year's Day of 2007 volunteering for the winter in a Florida State Park just north of Bonita Springs; our full time RV'ing adventure was entering its sixth year and I saw no reason for it ever to end; we were both in good health and felt better, both mentally and physically, than we had in years.

Four weeks later, six days before her 65th birthday, we were preparing for an afternoon cookout with friends when Carole complained of a terrible headache and lights flashing before her eyes. Before she could tell me anymore, her speech became garbled and unintelligible. Unbeknownst to us, she was experiencing the first of the many TIA's that we would see in the coming years. By the time we had completed a frantic trip to an overwhelmed Fort Myers hospital ER that had no answers, she was returning to her normal self.

For the next several months, I watched her like a hawk watches a field mouse hiding in the weeds but as time went on, she continued to be the same old Carole and the frightening episode faded into a hazy memory. Did we sit down after that and discuss future plans in case either of us became incapacitated? No.

Then, in the late summer of 2010, we were volunteering in a National Park in the San Juan Islands northwest of Seattle. We were planning an end of season party with park rangers and other volunteers. Carole was asked to be in charge of supplies for the party; she agreed and then, without batting an eye, she uttered a raunchy joke-like remark to the dozen people in attendance.

A few folks laughed nervously but I was shocked to the core. This had come out of the mouth of one of the most devout Catholic girls on the planet, a wom-

an who would have sprinkled holy water around anyone who might have said such a thing. I knew that something was wrong, but I didn't know what. (1) But did I take her aside and say that we better be prepared for something that might be happening? No again.

The following winter, in early 2011, we were back in Southwest Florida when my daughter noticed that in phone calls to her mother, she was repeating stories multiple times. Other very subtle changes began to creep into our lives; she became slow in answering questions or she would ask the same question multiple times. I would find odd things in the refrigerator. Was it just part of the aging process? How were we to know?

I swore then to seek some answers when we got back to Indiana in late spring. After multiple visits over a four-year time period, in April of 2015, her neurologist at Indiana University Neuroscience gave us a name for her condition: vascular dementia, which develops due to reduced blood flow to the brain. Although there is no cure for this God forsaken disease, we now were at least armed with the knowledge of what it was, so we went home and set out to preserve her existing functions for as long as was possible. Did we talk any at all about what the future might look like? Maybe, I just don't remember.

I settled into serving as her caregiver, becoming her hair stylist as well as the household chief cook and bottle washer and before long, with a few exceptions, both Susie and I became comfortable with the changes in our lives.

However, those life changes became more complicated in the middle of the pandemic; Carole suffered a mild stroke that mostly affected her speech, her mobility and her already declining cognitive abilities. After a weeklong hospital stay, she came home with me, partially mobile with some limitations but she could no longer care for herself; in addition, having been diagnosed with Aphasia, she now has only limited communication skills. It was too late to ask her then how she felt about nursing homes. For myself, I vowed never to place her in one.

So, here we are, almost 18 years from that first incident, 10 years from that dementia diagnosis and I have to tell you I have broken that vow. After a 2-week period when we both came down with COVID while she was in the middle of an extremely debilitating urinary tract infection, I came to the conclusion that despite my vow, at age 84, I am unable to care for her properly.

So, despite the fact that we never really talked about how we would feel about long term care, over the Labor Day weekend, I moved Carole into the memory care unit of a highly ranked Greenwood senior community where she continues her battle with one of the most evil diseases that anyone could ever imagine; a disease that, some unknowable day in the future, will steal her very being.

And me? For the time being, I am lost. But not to worry, I am taking steps to hopefully rectify that.

G2 notes:

1: Had I known enough at the time to do a little investigating, I would have found that personality changes are one of the symptoms of dementia that can come on suddenly.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Tourism Council meeting

The Martin County Tourism Council will meet Tuesday, September 17 at 5 p.m. at Hindostan Falls. Anyone interested in county tourism is invited to attend.

### 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.

### New hours for Hoosier Hills Food Bank Mobile Food Pantries and Senior Boxes

Beginning in September of 2024, the Families First Mobile Food Pantries, operated by Hoosier Hills Food Bank, at Mitchell, Shoals, and Orleans locations, will be distributing at a new time of 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Bedford location will remain 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. This also includes pickups for the CSFP (Senior Box) program that is run concurrently. The details for each of the pantries are as follows.

SHOALS: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month – Family Fellowship Church – 122 Miller St – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

ORLEANS: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month – Orleans Christian Church – 319 S Maple St – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

MITCHELL: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month – Mitchell First Church of God – 405 N 12<sup>th</sup> St – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BEDFORD: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month – Sherwood Oaks Christian Church – 508 Fellowship Dr. – 4-6 p.m.

HHFB's Families First Mobile Food Pantries are open to all, drive-through style. Low-income seniors over the age of 60 may inquire about enrolling in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Please call 812-334-8374 with any questions.



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## In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser  
Purdue University Master Gardener

What are those yellow, daisy-shaped flowers growing along the roads? This question has been posed to me many times, and there are many answers. There are actually several different genera, each with multiple species that may have daisy-like yellow flowers. Some are natives, and others were introduced and have naturalized. The question of native or introduced sometimes gets pretty muddled. Many native flowers were collected by early explorers and taken to Europe. Some were bred to form new cultivars, which eventually made their way back to Indiana, where they escaped from cultivation. These Nativars (cultivars of native plants) sometimes tend to out-compete the original species. Sometimes the native plants cross with the introduced plants, producing hybrids. Even the experts argue if these plants are considered native or invasive.

The easy answer to the question above would be to call all of them black-eyed Susans. Indeed, that common name is often applied to such flowers, but is usually reserved for plants in the genus Rudbeckia, and most often to the particular species Rudbeckia hirta. This common plant is a good example of a plant that has been the focus of breeding ef-

### Spring Mill State Park hosts Tri Kappa candlelight tour

The Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc. of Mitchell is hosting its 57<sup>th</sup> annual candlelight tour of Spring Mill State Park's Pioneer Village on Saturday, September 21, from 4 to 9 p.m.

In traditional dress, Tri Kappa members and their families, along with Spring Mill employees and volunteers, will reenact pioneer life in the village during the mid-1800s.

Pioneer crafts, demonstrations, and entertainment by musical groups will be a part of the tour. Guests are asked to bring a flashlight. Tri Kappa members will sell concession and food items in the Carriage House.

Buses will be available to shuttle visitors from the Lakeview Activity Center after all fields and parking lots are full. Shuttles will also be available for guests with overnight accommodations from the campground parking lot to the village. Bus shuttles for guests are provided by a grant through Lawrence County Tourism.

Park admission is \$7 per vehicle for in-state residents and \$9 per vehicle for out-of-state residents. The village tour is free with admission to the park. The tour has become a popular kickoff event for Mitchell's weeklong Persimmon Festival.

Tri Kappa is a statewide sorority that supports many community projects.

For more information visit on.IN.gov/springmillsp or call the park at 812-849-3534.

forts, with several cultivars now existing. It becomes difficult to determine the exact cultivar existing in a wild setting. Rudbeckia fulgida is also native, but is rare in Indiana, and some varieties are considered endangered.

The genus Helianthus is also common along Hoosier roadways. There are many species, and this genus has long been the subject of breeding efforts to produce the sunflowers that provide food, oil and other products, and also to provide the many garden sunflowers popular as annual plants in flower beds. We often see bees and other pollinators visiting plants of this genus, and their efforts result in many crosses. The seeds drop or are carried by animals, resulting in many stands of sunflowers. One particular native species that is presently in bloom is Helianthus tuberosa—the Jerusalem artichoke. They have been called the intersection of flowers, food and foraging. That common name is a big misnomer. The species has nothing to do with Jerusalem and they are only very distantly related to the artichoke. However, the tubers have been cultivated as a food crop for centuries by native peoples. They were one of the earliest plants taken by explorers back to Europe, where they became popular for food and livestock feed. In fact, the tuber was dubbed the greatest soup vegetable at a French food festival. The tubers fell out of favor as a vegetable for many years but have been making somewhat of a comeback. They may be eaten cooked, raw or pickled, and are often touted as a low-carb alternative to potatoes. They will propagate from seed or will re-grow from pieces of the tubers, so they often form dense colonies that are aggressive and will choke out competition.

While there are numerous species of sunflowers, some of the similar-looking flowers belong to the genus Heliopsis. This genus is commonly known as false sunflower.

The genus Silphium includes several species. Prairie dock, cup plant, compass plant and various rosinweeds are included in this genus. Most of them are tall plants with the flowers towering above some of the plant world's most interesting foliage. Many of the species are more common in marsh areas of northern Indiana, but the cup plant is common here in the south. The leaves actually form cups along the stem, where rain may be caught and will persist for some time. This plant is one that seems to attract the attention of visitors to my meadow.

Other genera producing yellow daisies include Coreopsis, Helenium, Verbena and Ratiba. Many of these also exist in the meadow at Sandhill Gardens.

Come to the garden open house on September 28 to have a look at some of these plants.



## PURE COUNTRY

Throwback

By Dan Gregory

Originally published September 9, 2013

I don't recall two growing years being so much different from each other than 2012 and 2013. I know I wrote this time last year about the unlikelihood of having back-to-back droughts as severe as 2012. I am very glad I got that prediction right. The pain and scars from the 2012 drought are still being felt and seen in some ways. The pain part is in the increased price of food due to grain production being non-existent in much of the Midwest as well as the pain for the farmers from having a very poor year for yields of anything growing. It should be noted that the farmers' pain isn't borne by them alone, but every supplier of the necessities of production also felt the pain of a year where not much got accomplished. The visible scars include trees that died for the lack of rainfall. All I can say about the weather of 2012 is I am glad it is over.

Having said all that negative stuff about the 2012 weather, the good news is 2013 is an exact opposite. While not perfect, the weather has been very good and the crops and all things growing are showing it. The combines started rolling around us a week ago and promise to increase activity in the weeks ahead. The truck traffic will be heavy once all the farmers start going at the same time. Grain driers will be heard throughout the land as the corn and beans are dried to a store-able moisture level. It is true that grain prices have fallen significantly with the plentiful moisture, supply and demand are still market forces to be reckoned with and managed.

Hay production this year has been good too. Son David used every bale he

had to keep his and a few hay customers going last year. He usually likes to have some left over in case of a bad year like 2012, and that line of thinking paid off. This year he has replaced it all and then some and is ready for the winter months to come and begin to take the hay out of the barns.

I know many people don't feel a connection to the land and weather like they used to. Most just notice that their yards turn brown, or maybe they are paying something more for food. The more agriculture falls into fewer hands the less noticeable weather issues are to the general population. In farm country, the weather is a constant concern.

To finish what is shaping up to be a very good year for farmers we need a few more things to happen. First, we need good harvest weather. Hurricane Ike came through five years ago this week and flattened what looked to be a good harvest. It turned a pleasurable task into a nightmare. We don't need that to happen again. Second, we need prices that reflect the cost of production to maintain the profitability and livelihood of those who farm the land. Lastly, I think we need to emphasize safety. Long days and nights lead to fatigue that can become disasters in a heartbeat in case of accidents.

The motoring public also plays a role in farm safety and needs to understand that farmers are experts at handling very large pieces of equipment, but roadways are largely not built for today's huge equipment. For the next few months everyone will be sharing the roadways and common sense, and courtesy will go a long way to get a safe and, fortunately bountiful, 2013 harvest complete.

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# Notes from the WIC Nutritionist

BY ELIZABETH WHITE  
Martin County WIC Nutritionist

Babies are great at communicating their needs to adults. However sometimes as adults it is hard for us to understand what they are trying to tell us since they can't "say" what they need. Watching baby's body cues is the best way to figure out what they are communicating. Some basic hunger cues might be keeping their hands near their mouth, bending their arms and legs, making sucking noises, puckering their lips, and rooting at parent's chest. A few cues that show baby is wanting to engage and play are having a relaxed face and body, following a voice and face, reaching toward you, staring at your face, and raising their head. Responding to baby's cues will help them be calm and happy.

A special thank you goes out to all the WIC clients who participated in the Farmer's Market benefit program this year. The redemption rate for the benefits was great. Another special thank you goes out to The Produce Patch for becoming an approved vendor to accept the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program benefits. And a HUGE thank you to all involved for being patient with the WIC staff as we learned the new electronic way to issue and redeem farmer's market benefits.

The WIC program provides supplemental nutritional foods, referrals, breastfeeding support, and nutrition education for pregnant women, nursing women, infants, and children 1-5 years. The Martin County WIC clinic is open Monday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Thursday 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Please call 812-407-4282 to make an appointment. Breastfeeding line: 812-226-9820

# Lady Lions go undefeated in Borden Round Robin

The Loogootee Varsity Volleyball Team went 3-0 in the Borden Round Robin last week. The girls defeated Corydon Central in three sets, 25-22, 22-25, and 15-7. They defeated Shoals in three sets, 24-26, 25-20, and 15-11 and defeated Borden in two sets, 25-18 and 25-20.

During the Corydon Central match, Alaina Diamond led in kills with nine and also had the most blocks with five. Addy Lengacher led the team in assists with 12 followed by Kaylee Hawkins with 11. Hawkins also had four aces. Breanna Courter finished with a team-high 11 digs while Addy Lengacher, Cacia Wilcoxon and Cora Consley each contributed four. Ava Fuhrman finished with four kills while Wilcoxon and Ashley Green each had three. Macy Knepp finished with three blocks.

During the Shoals matches, Cacia Wil-

coxen finished with 17 kills, Addy Lengacher had 24 assists and Alaina Diamond had five blocks. Breanna Courter led the team in digs with 10 and also had two aces. Jocelynn Sims contributed six digs and Ashley Green had four. Kaylee Hawkins had two aces.

Against Borden, Alaina Diamond finished with five kills and three blocks, Addy Lengacher had 19 assists and five digs, Breanna Courter had 11 digs, Jocelynn Sims and Aubrey Gilbert each had three aces with Cacia Wilcoxon with two. Sims also contributed six digs and Macy Knepp had four blocks.

The Lady Lions defeated Orleans last week in five sets, 25-22, 21-25, 27-25, 22-25, and 15-8.

Addy Lengacher finished with 10 serving points with two aces, 10 digs and 31 assists. Jocelynn Sims contributed 10

serving points with five aces and 16 digs. Breanna Courter had a team-high 21 digs and had nine serving points with two aces. Cacia Wilcoxon led the team in kills with 11 and in blocks with five. Alaina Dimond finished with 10 kills, Kaylee Hawkins had 14 assists and Cora Consley had two aces. Ava Fuhrman contributed two clocks.

The junior varsity Lady Lions also defeated Orleans in three sets, 22-25, 25-19, and 15-10.

Kaylee Hawkins led in serving points with eight and also had four aces, three kill, four assists and nine digs. Aubrey Gilbert finished with seven serving points with four aces and four kills. Madison Davis had six serving points, two kills and eight digs. Ava Jeffers contributed five serving points and three assists. Brooklyn Carrico led the team in digs with 11 and Jade Lawson had seven.

# ~LETTER TO THE EDITOR~

*'Continue to stand firm and continue to say no'*

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

In most political seasons dirty tricks abound; along with the usual October Surprise. These are used by the desperate in an attempt to sway elections. These same tactics are now being used by the Lochmueller Group, i.e. the Mid-States Corridor people. The recently funded Tier 2 Study is an example of the former, dirty tricks. The first is how did INDOT suddenly find \$15 million to conduct this study/survey after Mike Braun said there was no funding available?

Another dirty trick is the Tier 2 Study was to be done in Dubois County only. One can verify this by looking at the maps on the INDOT and Mid-States Corridor websites. So why then are the people in Martin and Daviess counties get-

ting letters and surveyors coming to their homes? Why are we finding survey stakes in our areas? Why are surveyors showing up on trial-cams? These questions can be verified by the comments on the Mid-States Corridor Facebook page.

What about the October Surprise? The Lochmueller group is in the process of setting up a "Community Response Committee". It may have a different name, but it is a false flag to convince those opposed to the Corridor that they have a voice and a representative on this committee/panel. They are planning on having one such anti-Corridor member and several pro-Corridor members. Here's something to think about, if the Mid-States Corridor folks really wanted a viable "Community Response Panel" they would ensure the membership was evenly divided between those for and those against the Corridor; and the panel would have actionable po-

tential. In other words, the panel could vote the project down. Do not be fooled as this is a ploy to get you to stop your protests.

Billboards, letters, surveyors and committees will not change our position on the Mid-States Corridor. Nothing has changed, the Corridor is not economically viable, it will not improve our communities' economic welfare, it will not reduce commute times, it will not be safer, it is not wanted, and it is not needed. The only future it will secure in Dubois, Martin or Daviess counties are the futures of Mike Braun, Shane Lindauer and Hank Menke. Again, beware of the wolves in sheep's clothing. Continue to stand firm and continue to say No. We can, and I assure you, we will stop the Mid-States Corridor.

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