

Martin County JOURNAL

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Ten pages



The myth and mystery about the lost Town of Hindostan II

BY BOB GREENE

Late Martin County Historian

This is the second in a series of articles, submitted by Martin County Historical Society President Bill Greene, leading up to the Second Annual Hindostan Days to be held October 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hindostan Falls.

In 1828, the Town of Hindostan is said to have “died out” and the town was never occupied again. Something tragic evidently did happen in Hindostan, but did every citizen actually catch a mystery disease and die? Contrary to the belief that there are no records of Hindostan or early Martin County, we have been studying these exact records since before we started this column. We have studied the goings-on at Hindostan from its beginning 1818 all the way up to 1855. The Martin County Courthouse is full of the history of Hindostan in the commissioners’ books, probate books, recorder’s books and the court records. We must remember that there are no recorded deaths in Martin County prior to 1882, so the only record we have is the probate book. This is only our assumption as to what happened at Hindostan. What we discovered is there was a sickness at Hindostan in 1820. At least 232 people died in a seven-month period that year. The same sickness struck at Vincennes that same year and was blamed on “yellow fever,” which was carried by the mosquito. In 1820, the water level of the river was very low, and the grasses and weeds grew tall and became a hot bed of mosquito larvae. Yellow fever is very contagious. Contrary to the belief that there were no doctors at Hindostan, there were actually three doctors at Hindostan during the 1820s. By the year 1825, people had begun to leave the area, either moving to Mount Pleasant, on further west, or some even went back east. And in 1828 the county seat was moved to Mt. Pleasant.

We know that the ferries ran all the way up in to the 1840s. And the famous mills were still in operation in 1855.

During the 1820s, the proprietors were trying to get the town established, but there were many obstacles in the way. Such as... the depression of 1819-1820, people would move into the Hindostan area and buy property on “notes.” They were not able to pay these notes. Many, many lawsuits were filed between the proprietors and the citizens during the 1820s. So many debts were accumulated by the citizens of Hindostan that eventually many fled the area.

Constituents question 2023 county budget

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT

Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council held a contentious public hearing for the 2023 budget on Monday night, September 12.

Greg Guerrettaz, with FSG, the county’s financial advisor, joined the meeting via telephone. Guerrettaz went through each fund, with amounts, for public comment. The majority of comments from the audience came at the review of the general fund for 2023, which is \$3,828,043. Guerrettaz said they balanced the budget for next year within \$10,000.

Sheriff Josh Greene told the council he was confused as to why they put in \$250,000 projected income from housing out-of-county inmates when he told them at the budget workshop a few weeks ago that he would continue with maintaining 15 inmates, as did the previous sheriff. He said at 15 inmates, the projected income would be \$191,465, not \$250,000.

A few members of the audience asked why the county was putting that money in the budget when it wasn’t a guarantee.

Jacki Dant, from the audience, asked what would happen if the out-of-county inmates stopped coming in. Guerrettaz said it would put the budget into a deficit by \$100,000.

Dant replied that the county would be operating at a deficit of \$90,000 then if the budget was balanced within \$10,000.

Council Member Barb McFeaters asked Guerrettaz if he heard Dant’s statement.

Dant replied that she didn’t ask the financial advisor, she was asking the council. She said they were the ones who are in charge of the budget and Guerrettaz is there to only advise. She said she didn’t know why he has to be involved in every

meeting pertaining to the finances and has to make all the decision for the council. She again asked McFeaters if they are going to be in a \$90,000 deficit if they lose Vigo County inmates.

McFeaters started to say if they lose Vigo County inmates and before she could finish Dant interrupted saying they actually will lose Vigo County inmates because Vigo County has built a new jail.

McFeaters said she knows the new jail has been built but it’s her understanding that it is still not big enough for the number of inmates they have.

Dant argued that they are still banking on having that money next year.

McFeaters said they are not banking on it.

Dant replied that they are if they are putting it in next year’s budget but do not know if the county will still have Vigo County inmates.

Guerrettaz asked if Vigo County was the only place the county could get inmates.

Sheriff Greene said it is currently only Vigo County.

Council Member Randy Winger said he personally doesn’t like using any of the inmate income in the budget. He said he has always felt that money should be used as surplus funds and not budgeted.

Sheriff Greene said the council should plan on having zero out-of-county inmates and whatever they get will be a bonus.

Council Member Warren Albright then told the financial advisor that he guesses they need to put the inmate revenue at zero. “They act like this is a bunch of money, but it all goes back into the jail,” said Albright on the phone to Guerrettaz.

Members of the audience asked Albright how that money goes back into the jail. Albright replied that if you look at the

budget, the sheriff’s department spends much more than they are bringing in.

Audience members asked why the money goes into the general fund then. Albright said the state makes the rules on how money is allocated.

An audience member asked Albright again if he is saying all the money the sheriff’s department brings in goes back into the jail. Albright said again that the sheriff’s department spends much more than they take in.

Jared Walton, in the audience, asked Albright if putting the inmate revenue at zero means he will now turn around and say the sheriff’s department can’t get new vehicles, etc.

Albright said they put together a plan to replace the sheriff’s vehicles together, based on the amount of extra money they were taking in housing Vigo County inmates. “If we can’t bring it in, it’s got to be cut somewhere,” he said. He said the council has done a lot for the sheriff’s department including multiple raises.

Walton said the county council turned down raises for deputies twice and a private citizen had to donate the money last year so they could get them.

Council Member Buck Stiles said a private citizen donated the money for the raises and now the county is going to have to figure out how to continue those raises after this year. He asked where that money is going to come from.

“That’s your job,” said Walton. “I’m not going to be here so it ain’t my f***ing job,” replied Stiles.

“Wow, that’s real professional,” said Jacki Dant.

“That is professional, that is professional,” said Stiles.

Stiles said someone else would have

(See 'BUDGET' on page 10)

City Council looks at police department for cuts

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT

Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee City Council held a budget workshop last Tuesday, September 6. Clerk-Treasurer Roger Downey told the council that over the past few years, the city has been operating with a deficit. He said the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) will not let this keep happening. Downey and Jay Southwood, with NJS & Associates, the city’s financial consultant, went through the budget.

Loogootee Mayor backtracks on dispatch changes

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT

Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee City Council met Monday night, September 12. Following their budget workshop held last week, the council still had to find around \$90,000 to cut from next year’s budget - \$30,000 from the general fund and \$60,000 that they found was not budgeted for next year’s city election.

On Monday night, Mayor Noel Harty said he learned from the clerk-treasurer that the election may only cost around \$40,000. He recommended taking \$23,000 out of riverboat fund, \$35,000 from the rainy day fund and \$58,000 from LOIT (local option income tax) and transfer to general fund for a total of \$116,000 to cover the shortfall.

Mayor Harty said they had discussed

get on their own and found \$113,500 in cuts in this year’s general fund. According to the DLGF, another \$116,500 still has to be taken out of next year’s budget.

Downey said the city, in 2020, took in \$937,650 in general fund revenue but spent \$1,007,412. Then in 2021, the city took in \$704,403 in tax revenue and spent \$1,158,208.

Council Member Teresa Nolley asked where the money came from if the city didn’t have it. Downey replied that the money is in the city’s bank account but cutting the city’s dispatch hours at their budget workshop, to save money. He said since that meeting, he has received a lot of negative feedback from employees, council members and the public. So, he believes they should leave dispatch hours as is which would add an additional \$40,000 back into the budget.

Council Member Rick Norris said he is not in favor of cutting dispatch hours. He said someone walking into the police department to get help needs to have a dispatcher available. Council Member Carroll Rayhill agreed.

Council Member Tim Lawrence asked how they are going to maintain the budget if they are taking money from other funds instead of making cuts. The mayor said they will have to figure something out eventually.

(See 'BACKTRACK' on page 2)

was not budgeted to be spent.

Downey recommended the council look at the police department. He said the spending there has almost doubled over

(See 'CUTS' on page 2)

Commissioners approve purchases for ambulance service

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT

Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners held a special meeting Friday, September 9 to make decisions on a few more ambulance service-related issues.

Auditor Michelle Norris talked to the commissioners about getting a credit card for the ambulance service. Norris said Ambulance Director Jeramey Osborn is making \$10,000 purchases at a time. She said he’s been using the commissioners’ card which has a limit of \$20,000. The commissioners approved a card for the ambulance service with a \$30,000 credit limit. They said Osborn can also continue to use the commissioners’ credit card. Osborn said once everything is up and running, he won’t need to use them as much.

The commissioners approved spending \$16,898 with Area One to install a camera system, entry alarm system and

(See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)

CUTS

(Continued from page one)

the past few years. In 2019, the police department spent \$198,174. That increased to \$278,471 in 2020 and then to \$351,902 last year. He said based on what has been spent so far this year, the expenses for 2022 for the city police will be \$369,017.

Downey said the city used to have four full-time police officers and now have six. He said they used to have 3-4 part-time police officers and that has now increased to 6-7. He told Police Chief Aaron Means, who was in the audience, that he is not trying to pick on the police department but everything they spend comes out of the general fund. The fire department spending does too. Downey said some of the part-time officers have not worked a shift at all this year, but the city still has to pay for uniforms and equipment for those officers. Council Member Nolley said she understands what Downey is saying and that they have to look at these little things that add up. She said the budgets keep getting bigger and bigger each year.

It was noted that the police department's uniform fund currently has a negative balance of around \$7,000 and money has to be found somewhere to get that fund back into the positive.

The council discussed the school resource officer position. Loogootee School pays the city \$28,000 to help fund the school resource officer. The city pays the remaining amount plus benefits.

Kelly Rayhill, who serves as the SRO, works for the city during summers, school

vacations and snow days. Council Member Nolley said the school has many opportunities to apply for grants to help pay more for the SRO. Mayor Harty said he can talk to the superintendent and find out. Nolley replied that she believes the school receives safety grants but is not using those funds to pay for the SRO. Discussion ensued on how Shoals School pays for their own resource officers.

Mayor Noel Harty said he and the police chief have discussed cutting the city's dispatch hours and have the sheriff's department dispatchers take over some of the day. He said they do have to pay the county to handle the city's dispatch calls but it is much less than what the city pays to operate their own dispatch. He believes it is \$12,000 but could not remember if that is one or two times a year. Currently, the city is spending around \$80,000 a year providing their own dispatch for city residents.

Mayor Harty said they wouldn't want to eliminate dispatch completely for the city but suggested cutting it down to only 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The county would handle 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. during the week and then all hours on the weekends.

The mayor asked everyone else what they thought about this.

"It's a start," said Council Member Tim Lawrence. Council Member Teresa Nolley said she didn't think the city needed to have their own dispatchers at all.

Fire Chief JD Flynn, who was in the

audience, said they stopped having the sheriff's department handle their dispatch for a reason. He said they had issues with the county handling calls to emergency services.

Clerk-Treasurer Downey said the county handled the city's dispatch calls for several years.

Flynn replied that he was vocal about issues with it when they did.

Downey said the county had issues with the city too. "It's a two-way street," he said.

Flynn said the county does not keep activity reports which have to be sent to the state fire marshal and insurance companies. He said the state isn't very happy about it. He said the city dispatchers end up having to backtrack on those calls and do the job for the county.

Mayor Harty said having dispatch during the weekdays in the city police department would still cost around \$27,560 plus what is paid to the county, but would save the city around \$40,000 a year. He told the clerk-treasurer to go ahead and include that cut in next year's budget.

The council cut \$2,500 from the police department's equipment repair fund, \$7,000 from the workman's compensation line item, \$3,000 from the part-time police officer's fund, \$20,000 from the employee share fund, \$2,000 from city promotion, \$500 from the police K9 vet fee fund because the city does not currently have a police K9, and \$2,000 from office equipment. They also decided to move \$47,277

The mayor turned to other council members and asked how they felt about purchasing the server. No one responded.

The mayor then stated the city has operated for a long time without a server and he believes they can go a few more months without one.

Clerk-Treasurer Downey apologized to the representative in the audience, from one of the companies who gave a quote. He told him he was sorry they wasted his time.

The mayor looked at Council Members Norris and Rayhill and asked if they feel the same way he does about purchasing the server. Norris replied he didn't think they needed to spend the money since they needed to make so many cuts to the budget.

Moving on, the council voted to approve the \$113,000 in cuts from this year's general fund the clerk-treasurer and financial advisor made prior to the budget workshop last week.

At the end of the meeting, Tim Salsman, from the audience, said he had approached the mayor about putting a flowerpot in front of his residence, which is on the city square, and the mayor never got back to him. He said he would decorate the flowerpot as well, with his own decorations. Salsman also asked if the city funded the "Jesus" signs that have been placed around town and if the city workers are the ones who put out the signs, per the new rule set by the city council.

The mayor replied he had no issue with the flowerpot being placed in front of Salsman's home and asked the other council members their opinion and there was little response. The mayor said the "Jesus" signs are mostly placed on private property. He did not respond regarding the signs that were on city property.

Gianna Armstrong, from the audience, asked if Salsman could put anything he wished into the flowerpot.

Council Member Nolley said they do not tell residents what they can put in their own flowerpots. She said she believes the city has nuisance laws pertaining to the city streets and if something in the flowerpot falls into that category, they can deal with it at that time.

from the community capital improvement funds and put in the general fund.

Mayor Harty said some the money in those capital improvement funds was to pay for the repaving of the municipal building parking lot. He estimates the cost to be \$60,000 and the school had agreed to pay \$15,000 since the lot is shared with JFK Gym. Council Member Nolley suggested only paving part of the parking lot. Mayor Harty said they could but it would look bad only doing part of it. He said he has also received complaints about the sidewalks around the municipal building.

It was also discussed to take \$6,000 out of the improvements to city buildings fund. The mayor said they wanted to remodel the bathrooms in the municipal building. He said they could just use the other \$6,000 left in that fund.

Toward the end of the meeting, Clerk-Treasurer Roger Downey noted the city hadn't budgeted for next year's election. He said it is estimated to cost \$60,000 for both a Primary and General Election. He said that would have to be put back in the general fund as well.

This left \$32,250 that still needed to be cut from the 2023 budget plus the \$60,000 that had to be found for the city election next year. There are also several funds that currently have a negative balance that have to be corrected. It was decided that council members would take home the budget and find more cuts prior to the council meeting on Monday night. Clerk-Treasurer Downey said they have to have all the cuts done by the end of September.

COMMISSIONERS —

(Continued from page one)

smoke alarms at the civil defense building for the ambulance service. Area One requires half of the money now and half after the completion. The money will come from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

Osborn requested permission to purchase two recliners, one rocker recliner and two end tables from Bargain Barn in Ferdinand for \$3,545 to put in the common room at the civil defense building for ambulance employees. The commissioners approved the purchase using ARPA funds. Osborn expects the living area of the civil defense building to be useable by the end of next week. He said the crew has been sleeping on couches and air mattresses in the interim. The heating and air have not been installed yet however Osborn was meeting with the company that evening.

The commissioners agreed to pay \$21,269.10, from ARPA funds, to outfit two ambulances with radios and pagers. Osborn received multiple quotes however J&K Communications was the lowest.

Osborn said five full sharps containers and some medications were left behind at the former ambulance building in Loogootee. He has been asked to remove those items. The commissioners suggested returning them to the previous ambulance director so he can dispose of them.

The commissioners agreed to pay the final invoice for the previous ambulance service for the 21 days they provided service in August. Commissioner Cody Roush questioned whether they should hold onto that payment to see if any issues arise where they would need reimbursement from the former service. Commissioner Paul George said he didn't have an issue paying them for their last days providing service.

Auditor Norris asked the commissioners if they wanted to provide a death benefit, called Hero's Honor, to the EMS staff. The benefit pays \$225,000 if an employee is killed in the line of duty. The cost is \$100 per employee. The sheriff's department staff already has the benefit. The commissioners asked the auditor to find out what fund the sheriff's department uses to pay for the benefit.

BACKTRACK

(Continued from page one)

Council Member Teresa Nolley said they are just "kicking the can down the road".

Gerard Shoultz and Gianna Armstrong, who both serve as dispatchers for the city, said from the audience that they believe cutting dispatch hours is not a good idea. Armstrong said with the city growing, they should not cut back on public safety. Shoultz agreed saying the "defund the police" movement is taking place all over and he doesn't want to see it here.

The mayor told the council that with the total cuts made, he recommends giving a one dollar per hour raise to all city employees for next year, including himself and the clerk-treasurer. He said the exceptions would be the fire department and pool employees. The fire chief would receive a \$500 raise to \$4,000 a year; the assistant chief would move up to \$2,500; the fire captain would bump to \$1,500 and the fire lieutenant would receive go to \$1,250 a year. The city pool manager would now receive \$13 per hour, the assistant manager would receive \$12 per hour, lifeguards would get \$11 per hour and concession workers would receive \$9 per hour. The city attorney was not included in the raises. The mayor asked for the council's approval on the raise recommendations. Clerk-Treasurer Roger Downey asked if the mayor was going to pass out the list of raise recommendations so the council could see them. The mayor said he just explained what the recommendations were. Downey said the council could at least see them before approving. The council ultimately approved the recommendations with Council Members Nolley and Lawrence voting against.

Council Member Nolley said the city will also have to address the more than \$7,000 that is currently negative in the police clothing allowance line item. She said they are going to have to find money somewhere to fix that. She also asked where the \$30,000 is coming from to remove residents' yard debris that is placed on the city's lot on North Oak Street. The mayor replied that they will probably take that out of EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) funds.

The mayor said he talked to the Loogootee School Superintendent Dr. Harmon about the school applying for grants to help pay for the school resource officer. The school currently pays the city \$28,000 toward the position with the city paying the rest, including benefits. According to the mayor, Dr. Harmon said they only receive \$15,000 a year in safety grants and there are not any other grants available at this time.

In other business, the mayor said he had quotes for purchasing a new server for the municipal building but said he doesn't think this is the right time to spend the money. He said he wanted his opposition known.

Council Member Downey said this is the first time he is hearing that the mayor is opposed to buying a server.

"Well, you're hearing it now," said Mayor Harty.

Downey replied that he thought they were going to allow the companies who gave quotes to do presentations.

The mayor replied he wasn't even aware that they were asking for quotes for a server, and he found out second-hand.

Downey replied that this isn't true. He said the former police chief had requested purchasing a server a year ago. He said the chief had asked for it to be budgeted for this year and everyone was excited about it. He said the mayor was aware they were going to get three quotes for the project and now suddenly, he is against it.

The mayor said he was never in favor of getting a new server.

"Why didn't you tell me that?" asked Downey.

The mayor replied that he's telling him now.

Downey said they could have saved everyone a lot of time if the mayor would have informed him of this earlier.

Council Member Nolley asked how many companies were present at the meeting to give presentations.

Downey replied there was just one because someone told RTC not to attend the meeting.

Nolley said she would like to hear the one company representative's presentation, that was in attendance.

OBITUARIES

BOB PRATHER

Robert D. "Bob" Prather passed away September 8, 2022. A resident of Loogootee, he was 94.



He was born July 28, 1928, in Martin County.

On January 5, 1952, he married Sarah Jane Kays, who preceded him in death in 2012. He was also

predeceased by his mother, Mabel Summers, in 2012. He was a graduate of Loogootee High School and was honored as a recipient of the distinguished alumni award.

Survivors include a sister, Rosalie Abner, and children, Lana Burch (Tony Smith), Brent Prather (Brenda), Kerry Prather (Cindy) and Jill Prather; as well as five grandchildren, Brandy Mackie (Rick), Brett Deckard (Josh), Brooke Willis (Zac), Katie Gillaspay (Nick), and Robbie Prather; and six great-grandchildren, Alexis Mackie, Aiden Mackie, Riley Deckard, Drew Deckard, Parker Willis and Paige Willis.

Bob enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1945 and began his service during the final phase of World War II. He was recalled

to active duty during the Korean Conflict and served a tour in Korea. After his honorable discharge, Bob began his career at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (then the Naval Weapons Support Center) in Crane, ultimately becoming a munitions logistician and systems analyst. He worked at both NSWC Crane and at the Navy Department in Washington, DC, and he traveled frequently to U.S. Navy installations throughout the world. He retired after more than 40 years of government service in 1996 and immediately began a second career with CACI, a private international provider of support services for national security missions and government transformation. He retired from CACI in 2008. During his military and professional career, Bob visited 26 foreign countries.

In retirement, Bob assumed an active role in the development of the Westgate@Crane Technology Park, serving on the advisory board that worked with private companies and organizations serving NWSC Crane to create economic development opportunities for area citizens. Bob helped provide information technology support for the K of C and VFW organizations. He was a long-time board member of the Martin County Community Foundation.

Throughout his adult life, Bob was a member of St. John's Catholic Church in Loogootee. He was a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus (K of C). He was a member and Past Commander of American Legion Post 120 and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9395. He was recognized by the VFW Post 9395 in 2022 as the last surviving veteran of World War II in Martin County.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker at 1 p.m. today, Wednesday, September 14 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee, Indiana. Burial followed in St. John Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Knights of Columbus Council 732, American Legion Post 120 or the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9395 in care of Blake Funeral Home, P.O. Box 116, Loogootee, Indiana 47553.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Robert D. Prather.

JANICE REYNOLDS

Janice Reynolds passed away at 7:47 p.m. Monday, September 5, 2022, at I.U. Health Bedford Hospital. A resident of Oolitic, she was 79.

She was born July 11, 1943, in Bedford; daughter of Gerald and Virginia (Chastain) Keller. She married Jerry Reynolds, and he preceded her in death.

She was a homemaker and member of the Oolitic Church of Christ. She loved ball games and races.

Survivors include three daughters, Brooklyn Reynolds and fiancé, Zach Pridemore, of Bedford; grandchildren, Grayson and Avery Reynolds Pridemore; Carol Baker, of Loogootee, and Theresa Matthews and husband, Dennis, of Bedford; three sons, Jeff Reynolds, Mike Reynolds, and Justin Reynolds, all of Oolitic; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a daughter, Julie Reynolds and a son, Timothy (in infancy).

Graveside services were conducted Thursday, September 8 at Hilltop Cemetery in Avoca with Bro. Paul Guthrie officiating.

CAROLE SMITH

Carole Ann Smith passed away Saturday, September 10, 2022, at Eastgate Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Washington. A resident of Washington, she was 79.

She was born September 28, 1942, in Indiana; daughter of Lee and Ella (Smith) McCauley.

Carole graduated from Washington High School in 1960. She was a member of the Christian Faith. Carole was an avid Indiana Pacers Fan and Indianapolis Colts. Carole spent many years providing childcare and babysitting to her family and friends. She loved her family and will be deeply missed.

She was preceded in death by her par-



ents, Lee and Ella McCauley, one grandchild, and three infant grandchildren.

Carole is survived by her children, Stephanie (Bill) Clark of Montgomery, Rick

(Pam) Lankford of Mooresville, Cordell Lankford of Washington, and William (Jennifer) Smith of Dubois; 13 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, her siblings, Betty (Dick) Haynes of Bloomington and Rick McCauley of Florida, three nieces, and several cousins.

Cremation was chosen according to Carole's wishes. Burial will be held at a later date.

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

Arrangements provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee. Online condolences can be made at www.blakefuneralhomes.com.

QUEEN-LEE CHAPEL
GEORGE FUNERAL CARE, LLC
431 High Street
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812-247-3101

The Queen-Lee Chapel has served the Shoals and Martin County community for nearly a century. Carrying on the tradition of quality and compassionate service started by the Queen and Lee family is Derek and Abby George along with their two boys, Hudson and Kellen. They have been a part of the community since 2016 and have now solely purchased the funeral home. Derek will continue to manage the day-to-day operations serving you. We look forward to the privilege of our family serving yours for the years to come.

Martin County JOURNAL

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

4:06 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County EMS and Lost River Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:30 a.m. - Received an animal complaint. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

2:07 p.m. - Received a report of a residential burglar alarm west of Shoals. The keyholder was notified.

5:38 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Crane. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

7:26 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on Highway 231 South, heading towards Loogootee. Advised all Martin County Law Enforcement.

8:58 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle south of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Seymour and Corporal Wells responded.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:38 a.m. - Corporal Wells transported two inmates to court.

9:13 a.m. - Corporal Wells transported two inmates to court.

9:55 a.m. - Corporal Wells transported two inmates to court.

1:11 p.m. - Corporal Wells transported two inmates to court.

2:35 p.m. - Corporal Wells transported two inmates to court.

3:31 p.m. - Received a call advising the alarm at the Shoals Community Schools was a false alarm. All Martin County Law Enforcement was advised.

5:27 p.m. - Received a call from Area One Protection reporting a commercial burglar alarm in Shoals. Advised it was an accident.

6:52 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

8:09 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down southwest of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson and Shoals Fire Department responded.

9:54 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:27 p.m. - Received a call from a medical alarm company requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded. No one was transported.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

1:22 a.m. - Received a report of an abandoned vehicle near Crane. Reserve Deputy Commander Gammon responded.

5:02 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver south of Loogootee. Reserved Deputy Commander responded.

10:43 a.m. - Received a call from a medical alarm company requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded and transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

11:45 a.m. - Received a request for an identification number check on a trailer southeast of Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

12:02 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down southeast of Loogootee. Martin County Highway Department was notified.

3:48 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a stalled vehicle in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means responded.

3:53 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

9:46 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:03 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Daviess

County Medic 2 responded.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:42 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

10:52 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

11:43 a.m. - Received a request for a lift assist northeast of Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

11:54 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Chief Means responded. No one was transported.

11:55 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident in Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller, Daviess County EMS and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Daviess County EMS transported.

12:47 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:19 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

3:15 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an officer north of Loogootee. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

7:14 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Loogootee Officer Seymour and Reserve Deputy Harmon responded. Martin County EMS transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

7:20 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver northwest of Shoals. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

7:50 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

8:30 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance an officer north of Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Reserve Deputy Harmon and Loogootee Officer Seymour responded. Martin County EMS transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

12:08 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:56 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

10:23 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle in Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

3:46 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

3:46 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver heading west on US 50. Advised all Martin County Law Enforcement and Daviess County.

5:16 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle east of Shoals. Reserve Deputy Shaw, Shoals Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded.

6:05 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute north of Shoals. Reserve Deputy Shaw and Loogootee Chief Means responded.

7:53 p.m. - Received a report of a verbal dispute in Shoals. Reserve Deputy Shaw responded.

8:22 p.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries east of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means, Reserve Deputy Shaw and Big John's responded. REMC was notified of pole damage.

11:30 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

11:39 p.m. - Received a request for an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

1:12 a.m. - Received a report from Area One Protection of a burglar alarm north

of Loogootee. Reserve Deputy Shaw and Deputy Branham responded.

7:57 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

8:45 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check in Shoals. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

9:02 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance. Daviess County Medic 2 transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

2:32 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:44 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

11:32 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer to a domestic dispute north of Shoals. Deputy Branham, Loogootee Officer Sims and the department of child services responded.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

12:25 a.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check southwest of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims and Deputy Branham responded.

12:32 a.m. - Received multiple 911 and landline calls requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS, Shoals Fire Department and Reserve Deputy Shaw responded. Martin County EMS transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:26 a.m. - Received a call from Guardian Medical reporting a medical alarm press in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County EMS responded. No one was transported.

7:38 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. ISP Trooper Beaver, Reserve Deputy Harmon and Big John's Towing responded.

9:55 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:35 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident north of Shoals. Reserve Deputy Harmon, Martin County EMS, Shoals Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded. Martin County EMS transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

4:06 p.m. - Received a call from Area One Protection reporting a burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sey-

mour responded.

6:01 p.m. - Received a call from Loogootee Dispatch advising of a disabled vehicle in Loogootee. Reserve Deputy Harmon and Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

6:06 p.m. - Received a report of suspicious persons south of Loogootee. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

6:18 p.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries in Shoals. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

9:04 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down northeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Sergeant Gibson responded.

10:52 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

ARRESTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

12:01 a.m. - Nicholas Baker, 36, of Loogootee, was arrested by Reserve Deputy Shaw on a Martin County Warrant with additional charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia and possession of a legend drug.

6:03 p.m. - Anson Wagler, 27, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Seymour on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

11:08 p.m. - Cameron Gregory, 23, of Washington, was arrested by Reserve Deputy Shaw and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, driving while suspended and possession of a controlled substance. He is being held without bond.

2:37 a.m. - Nathaniel Robinson, 27, of Washington, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Erwin and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-prior, operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

5:49 p.m. - Joseph Kidwell, 44, of Bedford, was arrested by Reserve Deputy Harmon and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-controlled substance, endangerment and reckless driving. He is being held without bond.

Sunday, September 11

12:30 a.m. - Tabitha Norman, 27, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Branham and charged with domestic battery and domestic battery in the presence of a minor. She is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

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COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCINGS September 2

James L. Nicholson, convicted of domestic battery, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 520 days with 365 days suspended and credit for 124 actual days previously served plus 31 Class P credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation. Also convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 84 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 42 actual days previously served plus 42 Class A credit days.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED September 2

William M. Aishe, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed.

James L. Nicholson, operating a ve-

hicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Thomas D. Freeman, knowingly or intentionally operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed; no valid driver's license, a Class C Infraction, dismissed.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT New Suits Filed September 6

Jaret Wright vs. Audra Lyon, eviction.

SMALL CLAIMS DISMISSED September 1

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. David H. Long, complaint, dismissed.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Nathaniel D. Crays, complaint, dismissed.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Wyatt Matthew Wade of Loogootee and Savannah Hasler McAtee of Loogootee.

Martin County real estate transfers

Darrell D. Courtright and Terri A. Bate to Jessica P. Courtright, a portion of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in the City of Loogootee, Indiana, containing 0.30 acre, more or less.

Neal T. Sheetz, of Martin County, Indiana to **Christopher D. Sheetz**, of Martin County, Indiana, the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 9, Township 1 North, Range 3 West, containing 40 acres, more or less. Also, the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 9, Township 1 North, Range 3 West, containing 40 acres, more or less.

Keith D. Keller, of Martin County, Indiana to **Keith D. Keller and Lori Keller**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: A portion of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, Rutherford Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.099 acres, more or less. Tract II: Part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, containing 1.02 acres, more or less. Tract III: Part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, containing 1 acre, more or less.

Wayne Summers a/k/a Vance Wayne Summers and Diana Summers, of Martin County, Indiana to **Miller Acquisitions, LLC**, of Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West. More commonly known as 601 Park Street, Loogootee IN 47553.

Kyle D. Jones, of Martin County, Indiana to **Tyler M. Trambaugh**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, containing .17 acre, more or less.

Tracy L. Wenzel and Tamara D. Lannan, of Martin County, Indiana and **Mary Lou Harding**, of Monroe County, Indiana to **the State of Indiana**, a part of the south half of the northeast quarter of Section 30, and part of the south half of the northwest quarter of Section 29, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.312 acres, more or less. A part of the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 29, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.029 acres, more or less.

Richard L. Reckelhoff, of Dubois County, Indiana to **Wayne Summers a/k/a Vance Wayne Summers and Diana Summers**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West. More commonly known as 601 Park Street, Loogootee IN 47553.

Gene Jax, LLC, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Irishred Properties, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lots Numbered 25, 26, 27 and 28 in Risacher's Second Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana. Also, Lots Numbered 20 and 21 in Risacher's Fourth Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana. Lot Number 22 in Risacher's Fourth Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

~LETTERS TO THE EDITOR~

'I waited for my voice to be heard'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

I attended the budget hearing meeting of the Martin County Council on Monday, September 12. I was very disappointed at how the meeting went. I waited for this meeting for my voice to be heard as a taxpaying citizen of Martin County and I was interrupted and cussed at by a sitting county councilman, Buck Stiles. I would like to thank the public once again for voting him out of office. His service on the council has been an embarrassment to Martin County and its residents.

Jared Walton
Loogootee

'Things you should know before you vote'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

The Martin County Clerk's Office has received many questions regarding the

ballot for this election. I thought it would be a good idea to share those questions and answers.

If I did not vote in the Primary, can I vote in the General? Yes, as long as your registration is up to date. Your registration remains active until you don't vote in two General Elections. Deadline to update/register to vote is October 11, 2022.

I am a registered Democrat/Republican and I want to change parties? In Indiana, you are a registered voter. You are not tied to any particular party. You do have a vote history, but you can change your party preference at any time by choosing that party's ballot in the Primary. For the General, all candidates appear on the same ballot. You can choose any party for any race. It does not have to be the same party.

I want to vote a "straight party" ballot but one of the candidates is a different party. What should I do? At the beginning of the ballot, it asks you if you want to vote straight party. If you

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

7:26 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a report of an erratic driver nearing Loogootee on US 231 South.

8:57 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to assist with traffic control on US 231 South, due to a stranded semi trailer.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:16 a.m. - Chief Means responded to a report of a male harassing females in a local business.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

2:45 p.m. - Chief Means responded to a report of an erratic driver nearing Loogootee on US 231 North.

3:42 p.m. - Chief Means responded to assist a possible stranded semi on West Broadway Street.

4:27 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department was dispatched to assist with traffic control for the stranded semi on West Broadway Street.

9:47 p.m. - Officer Seymour removed debris from US 231 South.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

11:57 a.m. - Chief Means and first responders were dispatched to a personal injury accident on North JFK Avenue.

12:48 p.m. - Chief Means spoke with a complainant regarding vandalism at his residence.

2:00 p.m. - Officer Seymour assisted with a vehicle unlock.

7:14 p.m. - Officer Seymour assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department

and EMS with a medical call.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

3:46 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a report of a possible impaired driver on US 50 West.

6:07 p.m. - Chief Means assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a possible impaired driver and a domestic dispute.

11:32 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department was dispatched to a possible fire on State Road 550.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10

12:05 p.m. - Officer Seymour completed a vehicle check.

12:40 p.m. - Officer Seymour spoke with a complainant regarding a theft.

3:29 p.m. - Officers Seymour and Sims assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a fleeing vehicle and arrest.

11:39 p.m. - Officer Sims assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a report of a domestic disturbance.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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

9:58 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Park Street.

4:00 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a residential burglar alarm.

6:01 p.m. - Officer Seymour assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with traffic control on US 231 North, due to a stranded motorist.



Councilman's Corner

By Shoals Town
Council President
Cary D. Albright

This past week I experienced a very unique public meeting. I have chaired several different types of meetings from your regular sit-down public meeting to Zoom meetings, team meetings, virtual and a half dozen others. Yet, I've never had to conduct a public meeting in a parking lot. At the last moment for our bid opening for the wastewater project (that has been three years in the making), the lead engineer had a positive Covid test. All of this we are doing is on a very stringent timeline due to funding that must be spent and work done in order to reduce our cost of the project. This was an advertised public meeting at 6 o'clock to be held at the Shoals Town Hall. The engineer had mild symptoms, yet we had to recognize Covid protocol. So, the engineer pulled in the parking lot at the American Legion, set up a lawn chair in front of his vehicle and put together his necessary paperwork. Your councilmen and Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge, along with the bidding party with our SIDC funding representative, stood in the lower town hall parking lot. Your clerk-treasurer collected the bid went up and set it down on the American Legion parking lot and

the engineer retrieved and open the bid and read the bid out loud. As he read the bid, he checked the boxes on his checklist confirming all requirements for opening the bid were met. Then the bid was taken under advisement to be further reviewed by the engineering firm. So, to say the least, it was a very unique public meeting.

Roughly 30 days ago we had a pre-bid conference and invited contractors to come in and receive information on our project. We had two interested construction firms. This is not uncommon on a project like we are doing, especially during these uncommon times. Even though we're considering a multi-million-dollar project, it's still not big enough to attract the big companies. On the other hand, is too large for small companies. One-to-three-million-dollar projects right now are, for lack of a better word, being cherry picked! The project we're doing across the bridge is especially a very challenging and complex project that requires an expertise that not many contractors doing work in this price range have. So, what's our next step?

The engineers review the bid and report back to us whether all specifications were met or not. In the last three years the project cost has been estimated at several different amounts. First, it was 1.3 million then 1.5 million then it went to 1.9 million. Personally, I have used 1.9 million since the beginning of the project was discussed. Let's keep in mind this project was discussed before Covid was even thought of. Covid shutting down manufacturing has changed the way we provide and keep your existing services (water, wastewater and street). Comparable prices on labor and materials from three years ago have exceeded 30 to 50 percent pulse in price. Of course, the figures I'm quoting are all rounded figures. The bottom line is the quote received came in at \$2.3 million dollars. That's \$800,000 more than the engineers expected and \$400,000 more than I expected. So, we have our work cut out for us. And all of this is on a very strict timeframe. I wish we could just adjust the project as we choose but we cannot do that. We have follow the rules and timelines to utilize the partial government funding we have applied for. Stay tuned for more updates.

Shop Shoals! Bo-Mac's

Julie Fithian
Martin County Elections Clerk

More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



Sean had long heard of the story of a family tradition. It seems that his father, his grandfather, and his great grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 21st birthday. On that special day, they would walk across the lake to their local pub, "Murphy's Bar" for their first legal drink.

So, when Sean's 21st birthday arrived, he and his friend, Mick, took a boat, rowed out to the middle of the lake, and Sean stepped out of the boat. He immediately sank, and nearly drowned. He was only saved by Mick who managed to pull him back into the boat.

Furious, and confused, he went to see his grandmother, and said, "Gran, it's my 21st birthday, so why can't I walk across the water like my father, my grandfather and his father before him?"

Grandma looked deep into Sean's troubled eyes, looked at him with kind benevolent eyes and said, "Because they were all born in January, and the lake was frozen over. You were born in August."

THOUGHTS

*I failed my driver's test today. The instructor asked me, "What do you do at a red light?" I said, "I usually check my emails and see what people are up to on Facebook."

*How to clean a mini-blind: Step 1: Throw it away and just buy a new one.

*Taco Cat spelled backwards is Taco Cat.

*It's another hot day, so I've taken all my clothes off and opened every window...I feel so much better, although the other people on the bus don't seem so pleased.

*My Facebook page has been hacked again. Please do not accept any marriage proposals from me.

*I have natural beauty, but time keeps doing unnatural things to it.

*Where does all my money go? It's like, hocus, pocus, I'm brokus.

*When a woman says, "Correct me if I'm wrong," Do not under any, I mean any, circumstances, do it.

*Egg salad is still chicken salad when you think about it.

*You know when you buy a bag of salad and it gets all brown and soggy? Cookies don't do that.

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



KITTENS! The shelter has more than 20 kittens available for adoption - all colors and personalities. An approved adoption application is required to set up an appointment. Adoption fee is \$45 and includes spay/neuter and vaccinations. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.

OUR LANGUAGE

1. English is the only language where you drive in parkways and park in driveways.

2. It's also the only language where you recite in a play and play in a recital.

3. Your fingers have fingertips, but your toes don't have toetips.

4. You can tiptoe but not tipfinger.

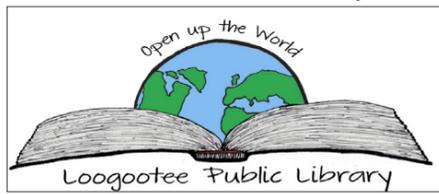
5. The word queue is just a "Q" followed by four silent letters.

6. Jail and prison are synonyms, but jailer and prisoner are antonyms.

7. When you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship it's called cargo.

Tsunami---T is silent
Honest---H is silent
Psychology---P is silent
Knife---K is silent
Wife---Husband is silent

Make someone smile today!



BY DARLA WAGLER

Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

Movin Monkeys meet at 10:15-11 a.m. on Mondays and is for birth to preschool children. Stations are set up for parents/grandparents to play with the littles. On Tuesdays from 10:15-11 a.m. Little Learners for preschool kids. Home school kids are welcome too.

Computer (digital) class taught by VU instructor Mr. Hamlin will be held on Saturday, October 22. This is a free program offered to the community to help with computer and digital skills. If you have computer, cell phone or iPad questions, Mr. Hamlin is happy to teach you the basics.

Friends of Loogootee Library (FOLL) will have a huge Book/Yard sale on Saturday, September 24 from 8 a.m.-noon.

Emilia Ballet Fundraiser on October 8 at 7 p.m. Jasper Arts Center, VUJC. Tickets are \$10. Visit emiliaaballett.com on Facebook. Directed by Cheryl Wellum Wagner and produced by Lilian Lukomski. All proceeds will be donated to the Loogootee Public Library.

New Books:

Mystery: "Blow Back" by James Patterson and "Oath of Loyalty" by Vince Flynn.

Inspiration Fiction: "A Time to Bloom" by Lauraine Snelling, Love Conquers All" by Linda Byler, "Crossfire" by Lynette Eason, and "Beneath the Bending Skies" by Jane Kirkpatrick.

DVDs: "Minions: The Rise of Gru", "Heartland Season 14", and "Jurassic World Dominion".

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Loogootee School Board meeting

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

Dog/cat wellness clinic

The Martin County Humane Society Animal Shelter will hold their monthly wellness clinic Friday, September 16 from 5-6 p.m. Low cost services such as vaccinations, microchips and disease testing are offered. No appointment is required.

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Mental Health Task Force

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

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

St. Vincent Food Pantry

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

Local recovery meetings

Daviess/Martin Indiana Retired Teachers Association meeting

The Daviess/Martin Indiana Retired Teachers Association met at the Gasthof restaurant on Friday, September 9. President Ramona Lennen led the members in the pledge of allegiance and conducted the meeting. The minutes of the August meeting, submitted by Nancy Adams, and the treasurer's report, submitted by David Lennen, were read and approved. Lawana Hand gave the community service report and told of examples of services not counted. She reminded the group that volunteer hours of any retired teacher count even if they're not a member of the association.

It was decided that the recipient of the donations from the Pennies from Heaven project for this semester will be Camp Illiana. The candy brought for Washington High School and Washington Junior High School has been delivered and was appreciated. Members were reminded to bring candy for the Washington Elementary Schools in November. The fall workshop for areas 8 and 9 will be Wednesday, September 21 at the Gasthof. There are seven new teachers in the Daviess and Martin County schools and the drawing was made for the first-year teacher award. The recipient will be announced later.

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

Free lunch for kids

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

SOAR Tutoring

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

Solid waste board

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

Soil and Water meetings

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

The meeting program was presented by Mary Lou Gotwald who gave a presentation on hummingbirds. She said hummingbirds have 360 species and are native only to the Americas. It's believed they evolved from the swift family millions of years ago. They can fly in reverse and can sometimes hover. She stated that hummingbirds are a symbol of good luck and remind us to live the sweet life and 'extract sweetness and pollinate ideas.'

Janice Riley provided the door prizes, and they were won by Marian McCracken, Ramona Lennen and Linda Strosnider. Those attending the meeting were Ramona Lennen, David Lennen, Nancy Adams, Arlene Owens, Alana Thompson, Janice Riley, Rosie Winger, Vicky Bauernfiend, Linda Strosnider, Marian McCracken, Lawana Hand, Peg Neidigh, Pat Brochin and guest Mary Lou Gotwald.

The next meeting will be Friday, November 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the Gasthof. All retired teachers living in Daviess and Martin County are invited to attend. After the blessing was sung the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

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Scientists say the sense of smell is closely connected with the part of the brain where memories are stored. That plays a big part in the way we experience our gardens through the sense of smell. I have had numerous people who have asked me where to get starts of specific roses that their mothers or grandmothers grew. At Sandhill Gardens, I have a pink old-fashioned shrub rose that has an intoxicating scent. That rose was planted by my grandmother, Bertha Hooten, in the 1920's. Nearly all my cousins have taken starts from that rose over the years, as it is a direct connection with their childhood memories.

No scent is more prominent in the garden than the scent of lilacs. I still have four old syringus vulgaris, or common lilacs, which my grandmother planted here nearly a century ago. However, the scent of the other lilacs that I have added over the decades is very similar. By having so many different species and varieties, I can make that scent and its connected memories linger for a couple of months.

I also have a garden scent that connects me with my other grandmother. Ada Purkhiser was not one to grow many flowers, **Spring Mill SP hosts Tri Kappa candlelight tour**

The Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc. will host its 55th annual Candlelight Tour of Spring Mill State Park's Pioneer Village on Saturday, September 17 from 4 to 9 p.m.

In mid-1800s attire, Tri Kappa members and their families, along with Spring Mill employees and volunteers, will re-enact pioneer life by occupying the houses and buildings of the village.

The tour will include music by traditional bands. Tri Kappa members will sell concession and food items in the Carriage House along with beans and cornbread at the Sheeks House.

Visitors are asked to bring a flashlight because it will be dark when they return to their vehicle. Buses will shuttle visitors with overnight accommodations from the campground and inn parking lots to the village thanks to grants from the Lawrence County Community Foundation and Lawrence County Tourism

Park entrance fees of \$7 for in-state vehicles and \$9 for out-of-state vehicles apply for this event.

Tri Kappa is a statewide sorority that supports many community projects. The tour is a popular kickoff event for the Persimmon Festival in Mitchell.

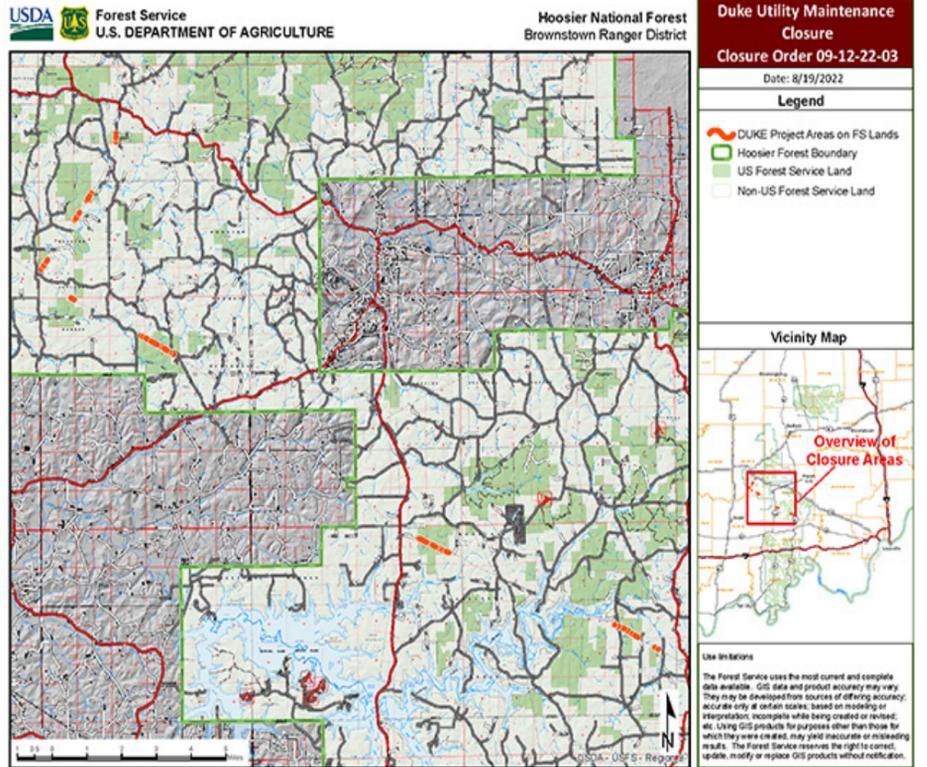
but her spice cakes were legendary. While visiting the Louisville Zoo several years ago, I caught the scent of a spice cake. Actually, it was the blooms of the Korean spice viburnum. I knew right then that I had to add that scent to my garden. It is one of the earliest scented shrubs of the spring and the blooms and scent lasts for about three weeks.

There are many other trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants which bear scented flowers, each triggering its own memories. Peonies, daffodils, magnolias, mock oranges and all spice keep the scents going in the garden. As with the pleasure of different textures, these scents stimulate the olfactory receptors of my blind friends, allowing them to enjoy yet another aspect of my garden.

Of course, the real reason that flowers have scents is to attract their specific pollinators. The scents guide the insects, birds and bats to the nectar, and the process results in the transfer of pollen to other blooms. Some of the sweetest scents are stronger at night in order to attract bats and moths. Not all scents are necessarily pleasant to most humans. Some plants are pollinated by flies and emit the scent of rotting flesh to attract the flies. I usually plant such specimens in out-of-the-way locations, but I must admit, I have had a lot of amusement in getting visitors to sniff the offensive scent of the giant dragon arum flowers.

Not all garden scents come from flowers. Many plants have foliage that holds scents. The native spice bush leaves release a spicy smell when disturbed. Many herbs also release essential oils when touched. It is important to place such plants in areas where they will be touched, if only just brushed as we pass through the garden. I cannot help myself when I pass rosemary plants. I have to rub my hands on the foliage to get one of my favorite scents, and the oils linger on my hands for hours thereafter.

Of course, there are many other scents that are experienced in a garden. Soil will yield a scent when disturbed, especially when wet. Freshly mowed grass is a scent that evokes a lot of memories. Even the scent of fertilizers may trigger some memories. Another of my favorite scents is the smell that lingers after a thunderstorm. That scent is caused by ozone produced by lightning and makes one think of something that is very clean. Good or bad, the scents are part of the total experience of the garden. A gardener should make a conscious effort to ensure the scent of the garden welcomes visitors.



Temporary closure on the Hoosier National Forest

Duke Energy is planning right-of-way (ROW) maintenance work in their transmission corridor on sections of Hoosier National Forest system lands in Orange and Martin counties. Implementation will only take a few days, but weather conditions will determine when work can begin.

To ensure public safety near this maintenance work, the following areas are ordered closed until termination of this Emergency Order or 30 days from signature date, whichever comes first:

Township 2 North, Range 3 West, Sec-

tions 9, 20, 30 & 31, Martin County, Indiana,

Township 1 North, Range 3 west, Sections 6, 9 & 10, Martin County, Indiana

Township 1 South, Range 2 West, Sections 1 & 2, Orange County, Indiana

Township 1 South, Range 1 West, Sections 14, 15, 16 & 24, Orange County, Indiana

All within the Second Principal Meridian.

To ask questions or report concerns, please contact Jackie Contreras at (812) 547-9228.

DNR advises waterfowl hunters to be aware of possible highly pathogenic avian influenza surge

Indiana, along with many other states, was affected by an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza earlier this year.

Avian influenza declined through the summer months; however, some states have had a recent increase in wild bird deaths associated with the disease. DNR advises hunters to be aware of a potential resurgence of avian influenza as the waterfowl hunting seasons progress.

Indiana DNR partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to test hunter-harvested waterfowl for highly pathogenic avian influenza during early teal season at multiple DNR Fish & Wildlife areas, including Goose Pond, LaSalle, and Jasper-Pulaski.

Symptoms of avian influenza can differ depending on the individual animal, and some animals that have the virus do not display any symptoms.

Waterfowl with symptoms will often display unusual behaviors such as swimming in circles, tremors, a twisted neck, and/or have a general lack of coordination. In addition, sick birds may display nasal discharge, a cough, sneezing, and/

or diarrhea.

If you see birds displaying these signs, or if you find multiple dead birds in a single area, report the case to Indiana DNR at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife.

Hunters can several precautions to slow the spread of avian influenza:

- Do not harvest birds that appear obviously sick or found dead
 - Process birds outdoors or in a well-ventilated area
 - Wear gloves and wash hands before and after handling carcasses
 - Disinfect all equipment used on dead birds (e.g., knives, surfaces)
 - Refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, and touching your eyes during processing
 - Double-bag feathers and all bird remains before disposal. Place bird remains in the inner bag and tie it closed. Dispose of gloves in the outer bag before tying it closed.
 - Prevent contact between all parts of wild birds and domestic birds
 - Cook meat thoroughly
- Read more about avian influenza at on.IN.gov/avian-flu.

The Martin County Republican Central Committee invites the public to the annual

GOP FISH FRY

Friday, September 16 at 6 p.m.
at the Martin State Forest Shelter house.

Meet your Republican Candidates

All food and drinks plus music will be free.

-Paid for by the Martin County Republican Central Committee

Welcome to tranquility!

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USDA offering farm loans for underserved and beginning farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers farm ownership and farm operating loans to underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers. Underserved or beginning farmers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for FSA direct or guaranteed loans.

"Farming is a capital-intensive business and FSA is committed to helping producers start and maintain their agricultural operations," said Julia A. Wickard, FSA State Executive Director in Indiana. "FSA loans are designed to make sure that everyone has access to credit including underserved and beginning farmers."

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, underserved groups are American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

In order to qualify as a beginning farmer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation. For farm ownership purposes, the applicant must not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county at the time of application. All direct farm ownership applicants must have participated in the business operations of a farm for at least three years out of the last 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted to FSA. Substitutions for as much as the full three years of experience may be made depending on education, military experience, participation with a SCORE mentor, and farm management experience as a hired hand. Your local FSA office will be able to provide more details on acceptable substitutions.

If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage and all entity members must be eligible beginning farmers. At least one of the members must have three years or more experience in the business operations of a farm prior to the date the application is submitted.

Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program offers two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans.

Farm ownership loan funds may be used to purchase or enlarge a farm; purchase easements or rights of way needed in the farm's operation; build or improve buildings such as a dwelling or barn; promote soil and water conservation and development; and pay closing costs.

Farm operating loan funds may be used to purchase livestock, poultry, farm equipment, fertilizer, and other materials necessary to operate a farm. Operating loan funds can also be used for family living expenses; refinancing debts under certain conditions; paying salaries for hired farm laborers; installing or improving water systems for home, livestock or irrigation use; and other similar improvements.

Repayment terms for direct operating loans are scheduled from one to seven years. Financing for direct farm ownership loans cannot exceed 40 years. Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the government's cost of borrowing. Guaranteed loan terms and interest rates are set by the lender.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, please contact your local FSA office or visit farmers.gov.

Farmer sentiment improves, but farmers still concerned about rising costs and inflation

BY KAMI GOODWIN
Purdue University News Service

The Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer farmer sentiment index rose 14 points in August to a reading of 117. The rise in the overall measure of agricultural producer sentiment was driven by increases in both the Index of Current Conditions, which rose 9 points to 118, and the Index of Future Expectations, which climbed 16 points to 116. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted Aug. 15-19, after The U.S. Department of Agriculture released both the August Crop Production and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates reports.

"Producers in the August survey were less worried about their farm's financial situation than in July, although they remain concerned about a possible cost/price squeeze," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

This month, more producers indicated they're expecting better financial performance for their farms in 2022 and the upcoming year, as the Farm Financial Performance Index improved 11 points to a reading of 99. Both corn and soybean prices rallied from their July lows into mid-August which, along with expectations for good yields, helped explain some of the improvement in financial performance expectations.

At the same time, there continues to be a tremendous amount of uncertainty among producers regarding the future cost of items they purchase both for their farms and family usage. When asked about their biggest concerns for the next year, over half (53 percent) of respondents chose higher input costs, followed by rising interest rates (14 percent), input availability (12 percent), and lower output prices (11 percent). On the farm level, there is a big disparity in opinions among farmers regarding whether input prices will retreat or escalate in 2023. Approximately four out of 10 producers expect crop input prices in 2023 to be either unchanged or possibly decline by as much as 10 percent, compared to 2022. On the other hand, just over half of all producers expect input prices to rise from 1% to 20 percent. At the consumer level, nearly half (48 percent) of respondents said they expect the rate of inflation for consumer items during the next 12 months to be in the 0 to 6 percent range. Compared to previous barometer surveys, more producers this month said they expect inflation to be in the upper end of that range than those who felt that way earlier this year.

Producers continue to view now as a bad time to make large farm machinery

and building investments. In a follow-up question, nearly half (49%) of those who said it is a bad time for investing cited increasing prices as the primary reason. The Farm Capital Investment Index remains near its record low but was up 3 points to a reading of 39 in August.

Upward pressure on cash rental rates for Corn Belt farmland in 2023 seems likely. Four out of 10 corn and soybean producers expect farmland cash rental rates to rise in 2023 compared to 2022. This month, 27 percent of respondents said they expect rates to rise up to 5 percent compared to 39 percent of respondents who expect rates to rise between 5 percent and 10 percent in 2023.

Expectations for both short- and long-term farmland values were nearly unchanged over the previous month. Among survey respondents who say they expect farmland values to rise over the next five years, well over half (57%) chose non-farm investor demand as the main reason they expect values to rise.

To understand producers' exposure to and experiences with companies offering payments for capturing carbon, this month's survey asked respondents if they've engaged in these types of discussions and the payments being offered. In August, 9 percent of respondents said they have engaged in discussions with companies offering payments for carbon capture, the highest percentage of respondents since the question was first included in the survey. Of those who engaged in discussions, 75 percent said the payment rate per metric ton of carbon offered was less than \$20, and just 1 percent said they have signed a carbon contract. Respondents who engaged in discussions and chose not to sign a contract were asked the minimum payment per acre they would accept to enroll their farm in a carbon capture program. Two-thirds of those respondents said the payment rate needed to be at least \$30 per acre, suggesting that payment rates need to rise to encourage more participation in carbon capture programs.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report. The site also offers additional resources – such as past reports, charts and survey methodology – and a form to sign up for monthly barometer email updates and webinars.

Each month, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture provides a short video analysis of the barometer results. For even more information, check out the Purdue Commercial AgCast podcast. It includes a detailed breakdown of each month's barometer, in addition to a discussion of recent agricultural news that affects farmers.

The Ag Economy Barometer, Index of Current Conditions and Index of Future Expectations are available on the Bloomberg Terminal under the following ticker symbols: AGECBARO, AGEC-CURC and AGECFTEX.

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

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

Full-Time Jail Officers - \$17.00 per hour

Full-Time Dispatchers - \$15.00 per hour

Part-Time Jailer or Dispatcher - \$15.00 per hour

Minimum Requirements:

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

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

Martin County Humane Society WELLNESS CLINIC

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Shoals School Board makes staff changes, gets administrator reports

The Shoals School Board met September 8. Board members in attendance were Drexel Turpin, Eva George, Jerry Braun, Annette Taylor, and Jenell Hoffman. Staff in attendance were Kindra Hovis, Josh Mullis, Audrey Gibson, and Kacey Jones. Patrons in attendance were Ashley Clouse, Lorna, Dean, and Luke Troutman.

The board approved the following personnel recommendations:

-Amanda Heckard resignation as treasurer effective September 5.

-Tim Sanders resignation as temporary 7th and 8th grade math teacher effective September 9.

-Whitney Andis resignation as elementary aide effective September 13.

-April Sutton as middle school math teacher

-Damien Holt as special education aide for the 22-23 school year.

-Jennifer Bridges, Damien Holt and Alyssa Fithian as substitutes.

-Amanda Miller as volunteer to host a lunch club through Redemption Church.

-Rebecca Rollins as elementary Beta sponsor

-Cindy McNabb as elementary Student Council sponsor

-Lindsey Douglas and Amanda Turpin as elementary Spell Bowl sponsors

-Jennifer Guinn as librarian

-Mimi Hawkins as elementary robotics sponsor

-Cassie Phillips as high school academic coach

-Mimi Hawkins and Megan Hawkins as high school Student Council sponsors

-Reva Troutman as Art Club sponsor and Dungeons and Dragons Club sponsor

-Terra Boyd as Science Club sponsor

-Deanna Hert and Beth Hembree as cook

-Kendra Wright as corporation treasurer (to begin full time October 10, however, begin training on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting next week).

-Lisa Elliott as substitute for corporation treasurer.

-Kenady Bratton as 5th grade girls' basketball coach

-Ashton Allbright as 6th grade girls' basketball coach

-Charlie Rollins as 7th grade girls' basketball coach

-Alisha Asbell as 8th grade girls' basketball coach

-Megan Hawkins as JV/varsity assistant basketball coach

-Sam Perry, Hope Fischer and Amy Money as volunteer girls' basketball coaches

-Michael Archer as 7th grade boys' basketball coach

-Sam Perry as 8th grade boys' basketball coach

-Juan Asbury as freshman boys' basketball coach

-Jon Perry as JV boys' basketball coach

-JD Turpin, Travis Brett and Darren Tanksley as volunteer boys' basketball coach

-Raysha Winger as varsity/JV cheer coach and varsity dance coach

-Whitney Andis and Breann Winger as volunteer softball coaches

The superintendent requested approval to offer a stipend to a staff member to be the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison. The board approved.

The board approved Shelby Sorrells to receive a stipend for completing her Child Development Associate Credential and the preschool to reimburse the SES Activity Fund for the payment of HiMama.

The board approved the Senior Beta to take an overnight trip in Evansville on November 11-12 for the State Convention.

The board approved the girls JBL to take place September through February.

The board approved the following fundraiser requests:

-The boys' basketball team to sell trash bags

-The high school cheer and dance teams

to sell trash bags and laundry detergent September 9-23

-Shoals Shop Class/Jug Rox Farms to sell a variety of fundraising items.

-The high school girls basketball team to sell Jug Rox apparel.

-Kenady Bratton and 4th grade students requested to sell various items made by students from the R.O.C.K.

The board approved accepting a donation from the United Methodist Church.

The board held first readings of the COVID-19 policy and the updated handbook policy.

Covid-19 Policy (first reading)

The superintendent requested permission to advertise for mowing for 2023, 2024, and 2025. The board approved.

The board approved the coach's handbook, online learning police and the high school improvement plan.

The 2023 budget proposal was given by Superintendent Hovis.

Middle School Principal Audrey Gibson stated that NWEA testing is all complete. Thank you to all the teachers and students. Mrs. Gibson wanted to thank Raysha Winger for creating data tables to track student growth and areas of support. August Student(s) of the Month were nominated by middle school staff and will be treated to a pizza lunch tomorrow, sponsored by Travis Brett at Indiana Farm Bureau. Midterm reports went home today. Middle school students participated in the first ECA fair last week. Students were able to visit different extracurricular booths and join various clubs. Fall athletics/clubs are doing great. They have started a "T-Shirt Tuesday" to promote a college-going culture. Teachers may wear a college shirt on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Manufacturing Day for 8th grade is October 7. After school tutoring in the middle school has started. The middle school students will be attending programs on September 23- Mental Health Awareness and September 30- Anti Bullying Program. Finally, she thanked Mr. Tim Sanders. SMS staff would like to wish him a happy retirement.

High School Principal Josh Mullis started his report by saying the August Students of the Month were celebrated and those included Freshman Emily Ballinger, Sophomore Gage Gilbert, Junior Luke Troutman, and Senior Lydia Cook. They all enjoyed food from Fay's Pizza. They appreciate Fay's partnership to help provide this meal for the students. Mr. Mullis had Luke Troutman, a junior at Shoals High School, explain the engineering class and what the students are working on and creating. He and his classmates created some gifts for the board members and wanted to thank them all for their support in the Career Pathway. A \$250 donation from Daviess-Martin County REMC was granted to the high school and this was used to purchase new American flags in the classrooms and in some common areas. They appreciate Daviess-Martin County REMC in their continuous support of the corporation. The Conexus Indiana newsletter recently highlighted the student-led coffee shop Shoals Grounds. A big thanks to Mrs. Perry and her students for their hard work. Conexus is a non-profit organization based in Indianapolis that helps connect technology, business, and educational initiatives. Over this past Labor Day weekend, they had 10 new piglets join the Shoals Family. Last Wednesday, August 31, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Martin County Alliance for Economic, Jessica Potts, came by and took a tour of the school. They appreciate Mrs. Potts for taking the time to learn more about their schools. Also, last Wednesday, August 31, Cammie Sanders organized an ECA Fair in the Auxiliary Gym. This event allowed the different clubs to set up tables with information regarding what their organization are all about so other students who might be interested in joining can be

informed of what is out there for them to look into. Again, thank you to Mrs. Sanders for her efforts in making this a huge success. Last Thursday, September 1, Mr. Mullis attended a meeting in Loogootee to discuss the plan to hopefully kick start the Mayor's Youth Council. They are in the process of trying to recruit 10 students to be a part of this. The plan is to collectively work with the Loogootee students to help fundraise for the county's ambulance service. This week the juniors have been busy this week taking the ASVAB. Thank you to David Campbell for proctoring this test to our students.

Superintendent Hovis started off by thanking Duke Energy for their recent donation of \$2,500 to the robotics program and a \$4,000 donation to their new STEM pathway. Shoals Schools was recently awarded the School Safety Grant, which helps fund the school resource officers. Ms. Hovis wanted to thank Sheriff Josh Greene and his deputies for filling in on days to ensure that the school had an officer on duty during the months of August and September. She also wanted to thank The Redemption Church for organizing the Backpack Blessings program, which began Friday, September 2. The high school Beta students help distribute these bags

Loogootee Lady Lions Volleyball results

The Loogootee High School Volleyball Team won the Loogootee Invitational this past Saturday, September 10. They defeated Paoli 25-11 and 25-19; Boonville 25-19 and 25-16 and Evansville Mater Dei in the championship 25-20, 21-25, and 15-11. The girls stand at 9-4 on the season.

For the day, Mallorie Sutton led in serving points with 17 followed by Lindsey Nolan with 15 and Kyleigh Courter and Brooklyn Summers with 14 each. Summers also had 30 assists and 21 digs. Courter added a team-high 32 digs and Nolan added 17 digs. Sydnee Wittmer led in assists with 35 and also had 18 kills. Cacia Wilcoxon led in kills with 19 and also had five blocks. Ashlynn Gilbert finished with 16 kills.

Last Thursday, the varsity Lady Lions defeated Forest Park in three sets, 25-14, 25-23, and 25-18. The junior varsity also got the win in three sets, 25-21, 11-25, and 15-13.

In varsity action, Brooklyn Summers led in points with 13 and also had three aces and 18 assists. Kyleigh Courter finished with 11 serving points with four aces and five digs and Mallorie Sutton had eight serving points and five kills. Sydnee Wittmer led in kills with 10 followed by Cacia Wilcoxon with seven, Alana Hedrick with six and Ashlynn Gilbert with five. Wittmer also added 14 assists, Lindsey Nolan had 10 digs and Breanna Courter had five.

In junior varsity play, Madison Ramsey led in kills with six and also had nine digs and 10 service points. Addy Lengacher had a team-high 16 assists, 11 digs and four serving points. Abbi Nonte led in digs with 13. Cora Consley finished with four points.

every Friday to classrooms and bus drivers. The Samaritan Center is looking into implementing a PreVenture program in the middle school. This program will help promote mental health and skill development and decrease youth substance use. Superintendent Hovis was excited to announce that the school cafeteria has been serving over 170 morning breakfasts, which is a record number. Students were excited to return from the Labor Day weekend to find that Sally, the school's pig, had given birth to her second litter of piglets. The piglets can be viewed in the school barn if anyone would like to visit. Ms. Hovis will be attending the Indiana School Board Association conference in Indianapolis on October 3 and 4. She closed by thanking the following people: Tim Sanders for his time at Shoals, Amanda Heckard for her time serving as the corporation treasurer and wished her the best of luck, Lisa Elliott for filling in and taking the time to train a new corporation treasurer, and Dr. Brent Comer (Mitchell Superintendent) and his corporation treasurer for assisting during this transitional time. She wanted to make note that the October board meeting date has been changed to October 6, at 6 p.m. in the central office board room. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Last Tuesday, September 6, the girls took on North Daviess. The varsity was defeated in three sets, 25-13, 25-18, and 25-13. The junior varsity got the win in three sets, 25-16, 22-25, and 15-9.

For the varsity squad, Mallorie Sutton led in serving points with 23, including six aces. Brooklyn Summers finished with six serving points, a team-high 18 assists and eight digs. Lindsey Nolan and Kyleigh Courter each added five points and seven digs. Breanna Courter finished with five kills and six digs and Sydnee Wittmer contributed nine kills and nine assists. Cacia Wilcoxon finished with seven kills.

For the junior varsity team, Madison Ramsey led in kills with 12 and also had five digs. Addy Lengacher finished with 24 assists and seven serving points. Macy Knepp had five kills and Ashley Green had four. Breanna Eckerle led in serving points with 11 followed by Cora Consley with seven.

The varsity Lady Lions were defeated by Trinity Lutheran on August 30 in three sets, 25-27, 13-25, and 11-25. The junior varsity also lost 19-25 and 21-25.

For the varsity, Lindsey Nolan and Mallorie Sutton each had five serving points. Nolan also added 10 digs. Brooklyn Summers finished with a team-high 13 assists and had 11 digs. Sydnee Wittmer led in kills with six and also had six assists. Kyleigh Courter led in digs with 15 and Cacia Wilcoxon and Alana Hedrick each had four kills.

For the junior varsity, Madison Ramsey had 15 kills and nine digs. Addy Lengacher finished with 16 assists, seven digs and four serving points. Cora Consley led in digs with 14 and Abbi Nonte had five serving points with Macy Knepp adding four.

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BUDGET

(Continued from page one)
to find the \$80,000 needed to pay for the deputies' raises.

Dant replied that the guy they were paying who was on the phone is where they can get part of the money. She said the county council are not doing their jobs so they should take their salaries and pay the fee for the financial advisor.

Council Member Stiles told Dant she could have his salary for the rest of the year if she wants it. "I don't want anything to do with you," she said.

"That's good, I don't want anything to do with you either," said Stiles.

"Perfect," said Dant.

Council Member McFeaters interrupted and told Walton the council didn't turn down the deputies' raises, they just wanted to wait until January to make sure they had the money to pay for them, after the end of the year. She said no one wanted to wait and then the donation came. She said they didn't want to give raises and then find out they didn't have the money to pay for them and they were never against giving raises to the sheriff's department employees. She said it has been a misconception that the council is against the sheriff's department when they are not.

Council Member Sherri Bowling said to Sheriff Greene that the council was told for the past four years, by the former sheriff, they could get inmates from many different places and then when they couldn't give raises like the sheriff wanted last year, the inmate income suddenly started getting cut.

Greene said the former sheriff had promised to keep 15. He said he was clear to the council at their budget workshop that he would follow what the former sheriff promised. He said he didn't get a visit or phone call from anyone on the council to tell him they put \$250,000 in the budget. He said he doesn't want to set the county up for failure if they can't retain the out-of-county inmates. He said he would do the best he could, but he doesn't want the future council to be faced with making cuts if the inmates go away.

Council Member Randy Wininger said he agrees with Greene, and he feels sorry for the incoming council members who may be faced with losing those funds. "That's not fair to those guys," he said.

A member of the audience said they did a remonstrance last year for this same reason and wanted the budget cut instead.

He said he was told there would be serious cuts at the next budget hearing.

A member of the audience asked the Council President Albright if he feels they have cut enough of the budget to prepare for the cost of ambulance service after the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money is gone.

Albright replied there isn't the \$1.2 million estimate for having ambulance service available to cut from the budget.

The audience member agreed but asked if he feels comfortable that the council has cut enough to keep it going.

Albright said they don't know yet how much income they are going to get from insurance reimbursement so they are not sure how much money they are going to need. He said he personally believes the only way they are funding the ambulance service is through a tax increase.

The audience member asked again whether he thought they cut enough to compensate for the ambulance service.

Albright again said he didn't know. He said he was appointed president of the council, but he is only one vote. He said the only other thing they can do is start cutting money to nonprofits which he has wanted to do for a long time but hasn't gotten very far with the other council members.

Council Member McFeaters asked the auditor how much they cut in their budget workshop a few weeks ago. Norris replied they cut \$402,198 from salaries and \$223,337 from other areas in the general fund. It was noted that the \$402,198 was from what was requested in salaries by each department - eight-plus percent. The council approved a four percent increase.

The council and audience then discussed insurance and the increase for next year of 18-20 percent. The total cost for insurance for county employees for next year is estimated at \$655,000. Teresa Wininger, from the auditor's office, said they can't shop around for a new company at this time because they had a high claims year.

A member of the audience asked if the council would have another meeting where they will go through the budget to address concerns brought up that evening by their constituents.

Council Member Bowling said they will meet again when it is time for the budget adoption, next month.

Council Member Albright said the bud-

get is acceptable now as is, per the state.

Guerrettaz said the county ended 2021 with a \$1.6 million balance and they are hoping for that to increase to \$1.8 million for 2023. He said a few years ago, Martin County was close to bankruptcy, so they have come a long way to getting the budget stable again. He said the \$1.2 million that was thrust at them for the ambulance service was not expected and has been a huge obstacle. He said the ambulance service, at this time, is not fully funded.

Council Member Albright said he doesn't mean to throw the commissioners under the bus because they were caught in a tough situation, but they approved starting the ambulance service before the council could come up with the funding. "We know we have a problem," he said. "The commissioners knew it. We knew it," he said. He said the commissioners simply did what they had to do but it came so unexpectedly there was no way for the council to find a way to fund it. He said he agrees with what they did because the county had to have the service.

Dant, from the audience, asked if the county has enough money in ARPA to cover the ambulance service for a year so they can see how much it is actually going to cost, before implementing the new EMS local income tax. She said once they know how much income will be brought in, they can then decide if they have to do the LIT and maybe not put in for the maximum amount.

Albright said the maximum would bring in \$440,000 in additional tax and since the "wheels of government are slow" they have to deal with it now for it to take effect next year. He said if they don't, by this time next year, ARPA money will be gone, and they will have no way to fund the ambulance service. He said hopefully the insurance reimbursements will be better than what they are expecting.

Guerrettaz said, based on what other counties have seen, they could expect 40 percent of their ambulance budget to come back through billing but that is a guess. He said they have no other way to fund it unless they do the EMS local income tax. He said that's why the state created it, because other counties were in the same boat trying to pay for their ambulance service.

Guerrettaz said October 3 will be the day the council will adopt the 2023 budget. Then, 48 hours after the adoption, it

will be sent to the state for their approval.

Council Member Stiles asked if the township trustees could use some of their surplus funds to help the county. Guerrettaz said they could be asked but they are not mandated to give any money. Council Member McFeaters said one trustee has already said they won't give any money to help fund the ambulance service.

A few audience members asked again if the council will have another meeting prior to adoption.

McFeaters said she is fine with doing that if that's what the public wants but she doesn't know anywhere else they can cut. She said the departments don't ask for extra in their budget and haven't for years because they know Martin County is a poor county. She said she welcomes suggestions from the public, but she doesn't know herself where cuts can be made.

No additional meeting was scheduled and no official decision was made about removing the out-of-county inmate money from next year's budget.

The following are all the different funds in the 2023 budget and how much was advertised for each one:

- Casino/Riverboat \$21,000
- Rainy Day \$25,000
- General fund \$3,828,043
- Reassessment \$274,045
- Cumulative Voting Machine \$24,000
- LIT (Local Income Tax) \$284,658 (this fund is currently being used to pay for public safety such as jail meals, jail medical, a patrol car, etc.)
- Highway Department \$2,197,027 (funded by gas tax and can only be used for roads)
- Local Road and Streets \$172,000 (used as match for the Community Crossings grant)
- Cumulative Bridge \$277,875 (can be cut in half and moved to general fund, per Guerrettez, but they don't normally advise that. Council Member Albright said they have too many bridges needing work to mess with this money.)
- Health \$77,732
- EMS \$1,225,782
- Cumulative Cap Development \$109,001 (for capital improvements)
- EDIT \$1,462,800 (\$120,000 goes to the Martin County Alliance, with the rest spent going to county insurance and workman's compensation.)
- Jail treatment \$28,700 (grant)
- Public Health Base Grant \$25,000 (grant)
- ILHD Trust Account \$13,008
- ARPA Recovery Fund \$900,000 (Going to be used for the ambulance service)
- Local Health Maintenance Fund \$33,139
- Misdemeanor Fund \$9,450
- Supplemental Public Defender \$175,000
- Coroner Perpetuation \$16,500
- Local Statewide 911 \$294,484
- County Elected Officials Training \$2,500
- Supplemental Adult Probation \$70,500
- Supplemental Juvenile Probation \$2,000
- Alternative dispute \$1,000
- Prosecutor User Fund \$14,644
- Alcohol and Drugs \$39,000
- Co-Op Agreement for Emergency \$57,100
- Redevelopment Commission \$4,000
- Prosecutor IVD \$9,644
- Innkeepers \$25,000
- Project Income \$118,817
- CASA \$4,000
- TIF District \$75,000 (can only be used in the TIF district)
- Juvenile Community Corrections \$25,000 (grant)
- Drug Fund \$15,000 (grant)
- CTP \$8,500
- Community Corrections Donation \$2,258
- Bad Check Fee \$2,500
- Clerk's Perpetuation \$9,000 (for records retention)
- Community Corrections \$179,197 (grant)
- Clerk IVD \$10,000
- COVID clinic \$19,191
- Recorders Record Perpetuation \$10,000 (for records retention)
- Indiana State Opioid Response \$60,000 (grant)

Priya Alex, M.D. Family Medicine

Dr. Priya Alex is a family medicine provider who has joined the staff at Memorial Hospital's Loogootee Family Medicine.

Dr. Alex is originally from Ontario, Canada, and received her doctor of medicine degree at Saba University School of Medicine. She recently completed her residency at IU School of Medicine Family Medicine Residency at Memorial Hospital - Jasper.

Dr. Alex is accepting new patients. For more information, please call (812) 295-2812. Loogootee Family Medicine is located at 105 Cooper Street in Loogootee, Indiana.



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