

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 12, Issue 41

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

Seven pages

Young resident concerned about business owner in Loogootee

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Makenzie Wagoner attended the Loogootee City Council meeting Tuesday night, October 12, to express her concern about a registered sex offender who opened a tattoo shop in downtown Loogootee. Wagoner asked why, if the mayor and the chief of police knew this man was a sex offender, they didn't notify the schools, or the preschool located behind the tattoo shop. Mayor Noel Harty said that he didn't know the owner of the tattoo shop was a registered sex offender until five days after he attended the ribbon cutting. He said once he learned, he had a meeting with the leaders of churches in that area. Wagoner asked why there was no check prior to the tattoo shop being opened. A member of the audience said it would be up to the person who owns the building to check on their renter.

Another member of the audience said that nothing can be done about it now however the city could possibly prevent it from happening in the future.

City Attorney Isha Wright-Ryan passed out a press release from Chief of Police Jim Floyd and Martin County Sheriff's Deputy Josh Seymour who serves as the sex offender registry administrator. In the release, the two officers say they are aware of the concern regarding the business owner however there is no legal authority to prohibit him from having a business in that location. It states that they are bound by the law as written and encouraged anyone with concerns to contact their state representatives.

Wagoner, in tears, requested the city's help with preventing registered violent sex offenders from being so close to children. She said she in no way wants to defame anyone or prevent someone from operating a business, her concern is where the business is located.

A member of the audience told Wagoner that she needs to go to the statehouse to get the laws changed. Wagoner said she understands that, but it starts with having backing from the community. She said as a 19-year-old, she is blown away by the fact that she is the only person stand-

ing up against this. Mayor Harty said he would be happy to set up a meeting with the state representatives and he agrees with what Wagoner is saying.

In other business, a public hearing was held prior to the start of the meeting for comment on the 2022 budget. No patrons in attendance spoke.

Clerk-Treasurer Roger Downey presented the 2021 pool report showing the pool had a loss this year totaling \$11,853.96. He noted that there is \$150 in petty cash that has not been turned in. He said he was told a member of the park board has the money, but it has not been brought into the clerk-treasurer's office. Don Greene, who was in the audience and is a member of the park board, said the money was dropped off in the drop box outside the municipal building.

(See 'LOGOOTE' on page 2)

Group of taxpayers sign petition against approval of the 2022 county budget

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

A group of Martin County taxpayers, led by Mike Engleman, have filed a petition against the approval of the 2022 county budget. According to the petition, the signers are against the council raising taxes twice in the past four years, say the council have failed to curb spending and have failed to eliminate "non-obligatory" positions. They have requested that the council discuss these issues prior to adopting the budget at their meeting on October 18 at 6 p.m.

Ten signatures were required on the petition however 24 people signed. Engleman said he has received several more signatures since the deadline to turn in the petition, which was Monday.

The Martin County Council will now decide how they would like to proceed on the 2022 budget.

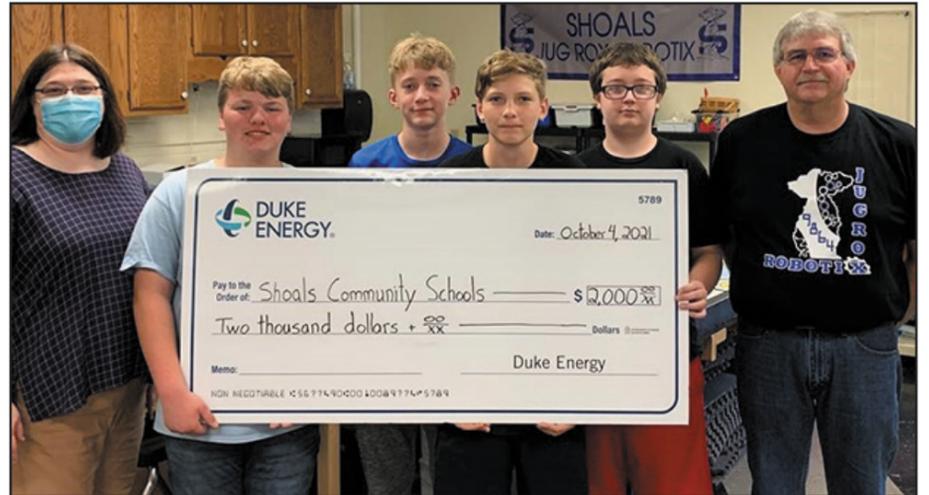
Anyone who cannot attend the meeting in person and would like to join virtually, can request a Zoom invitation by calling the Martin County Auditor's Office at 812-247-3731.

Town of Shoals Municipal Manager Kevin Crecelius receives award



-Photo provided

Shown above, from left to right, are Lance Asbell (Intern), Whitney Haulk (Deputy Clerk Treasurer) Cary D. Albright (Town Council President) Kevin Crecelius (Municipal Utilities Manager), Sierra Rutledge (Clerk Treasurer) Caitlin Sanders (General Laborer) and Todd Eckert (Town Marshal)



-Photo provided

Team members available for the Duke Energy check presentation, from left to right, are coach Jennifer Mauntel, Hunter Sipes, Isaiah Roush, Rator Hoffman, Ashur Dishman and coach Dean Troutman.

Jug Rox Robotics receive donation

Kurt Phegley, a representative from Duke Energy, visited the Shoals Community Schools Robotics Lab on October 4. He talked to the FTC team about how robotics can prepare students for future jobs and kickstart engineering careers. The robotics team had the opportunity to talk to him about their team and the new season. It was an opportunity for students to learn about careers in the STEM field and how actions they are taking now will be impactful in the future.

Jug Rox Robotix was also presented with a \$2,000 check from the Duke En-

ergy Foundation through their Powerful Communities Local Impact grant. The Shoals Community School Corporation would like to thank Duke Energy for their very generous grant to support Jug Rox Robotix as they try their best to make it to national competition this robotics season. The grant will help with purchasing robot parts, travel, and other expenses involved with the robotics program. The 2021-2022 FIRST Tech Challenge robotics season has kicked off and the team is busy designing their robot for this season.

Shoals Council goes over grant proposal for wastewater improvements

The Shoals Town Council met Monday, October 4. In attendance were Council Members Cary D. Albright, Clint Hoffman, and Cecil Ragsdale; Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge, Brian Fleck, with HWC Engineering, and Matt Sward, with SIDC.

Council Member Albright opened the floor to Matt Sward, with SIDC, to conduct the public hearing for the wastewater drinking grant thru OCRA. Sward stated the public hearing was advertised in the Shoals News on September 22 and the purpose of the meeting was to provide citizens the opportunity to express their views on community development and housing activities pertain-

ing to the project within the Town of Shoals. The proposed project includes replacing CIPP lining and manhole rehabilitation within the wastewater collection system, replacing the existing influent screen at the wastewater treatment plant with a mechanical screen and installing a new force man and encased pipe along the bridge over the White River. The estimated project cost is \$1.9 million. The grant being requested is \$700,000 and the local match of \$1.2 million would be obtained from SRF Funds. Sward asked for any comments from the council concerning the importance of the project. Council Member

(See 'SHOALS' on page 2)

Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) honored Town of Shoals Municipal Utilities Manager Kevin Crecelius with the 2021 Ivan H. Brinegar Municipal Management Award during the President's Reception at the annual AIM Ideas Summit held this year at the French Lick Resort.

Each year AIM presents the Ivan H. Brinegar Municipal Management Award to an appointed official with a minimum of 10 years of city or town service who displays strong leadership, contributions to the community, and serves as a role model to citizens and other municipal officials. A seven-member panel of qualified judges selected this year's winner from a competitive field and record number of nominees from around the state of Indiana.

Crecelius has been with the Town of Shoals since 2006 dedicating over 15

years of service to the Shoals community. He holds all licensing and manages the town's aging water and wastewater system with the skill of a blacksmith, carpenter, chemist, engineer and electrician. On top of caring for the utilities, Crecelius oversees storm water, street department, cemetery, general town operations and needs along with much more. He comes from the old school ways where baling wire and duct tape can fix just about anything temporarily. Crecelius wears many hats in a day's work and provides the town with services that are expected each day and does so at a very minimal cost. The Town of Shoals is very thankful for Kevin's many contributions to the community over the years.



LOOGOOTEE

(Continued from page one)

Downey said they didn't get it and noted that his office isn't in charge of the drop box, that falls to the utilities' clerks. The mayor said they will look into what happened to the money. Downey said if the money is returned, it will add the \$150 back onto the pool revenue.

Angie Risacher, Alliance Director, told the mayor and the council that the city was recently named as one of the best places to retire by Money Magazine. She said this needs to be marketed and asked if the city has any money to put toward promoting it. The mayor said he would meet with her later this week to discuss it.

Cameron Hedrick talked to the council about building a new website for the city. Hedrick said the city's current site is poorly constructed and outdated. He provided a proposal to the city with an initial cost of \$6,720 with an \$18 per hour charge for any additional work outside of the creation of the site. The site would also come with a \$1,170 annual charge for hosting and maintenance. Hedrick said the website would provide a place for residents to go to communicate with the city and can also be a place where announcements and events can be listed.

Council Member Teresa Nolley asked if training would be provided. Hedrick said it would. Mayor Harty said the current site is difficult to navigate, and his administrative assistant has tried to do updates but had difficulty with it. Hedrick said he would train staff so they would know how to do updates. The council decided to look over Hedrick's proposal and discuss it at the next meeting.

A resident on Pine Street told the council that work being done for RTC installing fiber lines in the south end of the city

has been very sloppy and asked the council how RTC can be kept accountable for their subcontractors. He said they did a good job on the north end of the city but changed crews once they moved to the south side. He said they are causing damage that has cost him money to repair. Mayor Harty said he would look into reimbursing the resident the \$200 he had requested. Another resident in the audience complained about the contractors for RTC leaving their equipment stuck out in the roadway on State Road 550. He said it is a hazard and he almost collided with the equipment a few times. The mayor requested that anyone who has issues with the work being done by RTC's contractors contact him and he will get that information directly to RTC.

A resident in Green Acres complained about his neighbor who erected a fence that he said is nothing but fence posts and string. He said it is dangerous to the children playing who may run into the string. He said he had talked to Tim Hudson who is the city's building commissioner but has yet to see Hudson at the property. He said he knows there is an ordinance in place regarding construction of fences in the city and this fence doesn't follow those guidelines. The mayor said he will follow up with Hudson and see what can be done.

A resident who lives on the square in Loogootee asked why the Summerfest sign was still hanging on the building on the square. He said the mayor told him at the last meeting that it would be taken care of but it has not. The mayor said he will follow up with the building owners but he knows they have plans for the building very soon including a new roof and a mural painted on the side of the building.

SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

Albright stated it is a project that has been in dire need for several years now and that they must address it now as the system was put in in the 1960's. Sward asked if there were any questions or comments from the floor. He stated the proposal was due October 15 and the application is due to OCRA in December. Another public hearing will be held in December. Sward stated the preliminary approval for SRF funds was given and presented Resolution 2021-03 a "Resolution Regarding Planning Efforts and Recent Stimulus Allocations" for approval. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve with Council Member Hoffman making the second and all were in favor.

Brian Fleck, with HWC Engineering, came before the council to discuss the ADA and Title VI Plan. Fleck stated Rutledge had previously submitted a Title VI and ADA plan as they are now requiring it to receive Community Crossings funds. The ADA plan has to have an updated "self evaluation" portion. Rutledge stated the "self evaluation" portion is very detailed pertaining to roads and sidewalks. Fleck presented an "hourly not to exceed" agreement for HWC to complete the self evaluation. Rutledge stated the deadline to submit the evaluation by December 31, 2021. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve the agreement with Council Member Hoffman making the second.

Rutledge stated she was still working with INDOT for the wayfinding signs, and they have sent her an agreement for

approval. She said Mr. Fleck took the time to look through it and a design and maintenance plan and has to be signed off and stamped by an engineer that has to be submitted before approving the agreement. Fleck stated it would be the same with an "hourly not to exceed" agreement to complete the work needing completed. The council authorized Fleck to put together an agreement for the town to review. Fleck advised the council to wait to approve the INDOT agreement until HWC can review it further.

Council Member Albright brought up the property near the ballpark and an update. Rutledge stated Attorney Lett unexpectedly had to miss the meeting and let her know he should have everything for the council concerning the ballpark property and the changes requested to Ordinance 2019-1 at the November regular session for their review.

Clerk-Treasurer Rutledge reminded the council that water mains flushing would take place October 10-12 by the utility employees. She reminded them that the dumpster would be onsite for fall clean-up October 15-17.

Rutledge let the council know that out of the three grants that were submitted in the 2021 Martin County Community Foundation Impact grant cycle, two were partially funded. She said the one submitted for the Shoals Volunteer Fire Department for the replacement of the SCBA bottles was awarded in the amount of \$13,871 and the "Lets Light Up Shoals" grant submitted was awarded in the amount of \$10,000.

The next regular town council meeting will be Monday, November 8.

Lady Lions Volleyball move on to sectional this Thursday

The Loogootee Varsity Volleyball Team defeated Bedford North Lawrence last Thursday in three sets, 25-17, 25-15, and 25-19. The girls go into sectional with a 23-7 record. The girls will face off against Lighthouse Christian this Saturday, at 10 a.m. at home. The championship game starts at 7 p.m.

Against Bedford, Abbey Fuhrman led the team in serving points with 14 and had five kills. Brooklyn Summers had a team-high 12 assists and contributed 13 serving points and nine digs. Sydnee Wittmer led the team in kills with nine, Ashlynn Gilbert had five. Kyleigh Courter had a team-high 21 digs and Jocelyn Strange added nine. Grace Lingenfelter finished with 11 serving points.

Jocelyn Strange broke the all-time career digs record against Bedford North Lawrence, which was 1,350 and been held by Kristine Lagree since 2008.

The Loogootee Junior Varsity, last Tuesday, also defeated Bedford North Lawrence in two sets, 25-21 and 25-18.

Abigail Nonte led in serving points with eight followed by Lindsey Nolan with seven and Addy Lengacher and Ashley Greene with four each. Lengacher led in assists with 10 and Greene had four

kills. Cacia Wilcoxon had a team-high six kills, Breanna Courter had four kills and six assists. Alana Hedrick finished with four kills and Nolan had five digs. The varsity Lady Lions defeated South Knox last week in three sets, 25-13, 25-15, and 25-15.

Abbey Fuhrman and Brooklyn Summers each had 14 serving points and Summers also added 18 assists and 11 digs. Fuhrman also contributed 10 kills. Kylie VanHoy finished the matches with nine serving points, 10 assists and eight digs. Sydnee Wittmer led in kills with 11 and Haylie Mathies added 10. Grace Lingenfelter finished with nine digs and Jocelyn Strange had eight.

The junior varsity girls were defeated by South Knox in three sets, 25-13, 22-25, and 13-15.

Addy Lengacher led in serving points with 16 and had seven assists. Abigail Nonte contributed six points and seven digs. Alana Hedrick led in kills with seven followed by Vittoria Zoia with six and Ashlynn Gilbert and Ava Fuhrman with three each. Gilbert also had four serving points. Breanna Courter had a team-high 14 assists with Lindsey Nolan leading in digs with 11.

CLASSIFIED ADS

YARD SALE

HUGE ESTATE/YARD SALE Friday, October 15, 12-6 and Saturday, October 16, 8-2 at 10931 N 900 E Odon. 1996 Ford truck, four-wheeler, furniture, washer, dryer, office desks and chairs, vintage books and cookbooks, tools, games, toys, drapes, decorations, new and used purses, holiday dishes, garage items, craft show items, medical supplies, clothes up to 3X, shoes, household items, and lots of miscellaneous. Worth your drive!

HELP WANTED

Office Cleaning Help Wanted

Part-time office cleaning in Loogootee every Saturday for 2.5 hours.

Please call 812-827-3145 for an interview.

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OBITUARIES

ILENE EVERMAN

Dorothy Ilene (Morgan) Everman passed away at 12:13 p.m. Thursday, October 7 at Hillside Manor in Washington. She was 97.



She was born March 15, 1924, in Montgomery; daughter of Calaway and Laura (Chestnut) Morgan. She married Francis Everman on November 17, 1945, in Washington, and he preceded her in death on September 17, 2005. She graduated from Montgomery High School, with the Class of 1941.

Ilene was mostly a homemaker but also worked at Reliance Manufacturing making parachutes during the war. She managed the Daviess County 4-H Fairgrounds for several years and was an active volunteer at the Daviess County Museum and the Martin County Genealogical Society. Her passion in life was collecting family history. She had thousands and thousands of pages of genealogy, not just of her family but of many families in the area. She loved history

and prided herself on things she collected and saved over her lifetime that have since been donated to the Martin County Historical Society and the Loogootee Public Library. She also enjoyed helping her granddaughter by volunteering at the Martin County Humane Society and she loved animals. She also was an avid gardener and loved all flowers and had an amazing green thumb.

She is survived by two sons, George (Sandra) Everman and Richard (Jill) Everman of Dubois; seven grandchildren, Tyra (John) Forest of Oakland City, Courtney (Josh) Hughett of Loogootee, Bart Everman of Vermont, Lisa (Jeff) Patrick of Brown County, Shayna (Marc) Otto of Terre Haute, Shannelle (Matt) Kline of Dubois and Crit (Codi) Everman of Haysville; and many great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, one son, James, at birth; sister, Irene Summers; half siblings, Everett, Joe, Thomas and Russell Morgan, Lavada and Ruth Perkins and Harold Chestnut; and step siblings, Henry, Robert, Ray, and Jewell Raney and Letha Hughes.

A graveside service was held Monday, October 11 at Bethany Cemetery in

Montgomery.

Becher-Kluesner Funeral Home in Jasper was in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions in Ilene's honor may be made to the Bethany Cemetery c/o Bethany Church 1139 S St Rd 57 Washington IN 47501.

Online condolences may be made at www.becherkluesner.com

CAROLYN HOWELL

Carolyn S. (Sutton) Howell passed away October 4, 2021. She was 83.



CAROLYN HOWELL

Dedicated wife, loving mother, and Nana extraordinaire, Carolyn was born on April 20, 1938; daughter of Kenneth L and Alfretta J. Sutton (both deceased).

She grew up in Rutherford Township, Martin County with her five siblings: sisters, Louise (Harold) Parsons of Loogootee, Peggy (Robert - D) Watson of New Mexico and Marla (Robert) Combs of Loogootee, and brothers Jerald (Elaine - D) Sutton of the State of Washington and Michael

(Trudy) Sutton of Loogootee, who all survive.

Carolyn attended Loogootee High School and was her class salutatorian. She married Robert (Bob) E. Howell on May 11, 1957. He died at the age of 85 on January 22, 2020. Carolyn and Bob had one son, Robert Joseph Howell.

Carolyn worked as a customer service representative for U.S. Gypsum Company. Due to her debilitating arthritis, she retired early in 1994. Carolyn attended St. Mary Catholic Church in Shoals.

In addition to her siblings, Carolyn is survived by her son, Robert Joseph, and his wife, Kimberly Howell. Carolyn considered herself blessed to have four amazing grandchildren to love and spoil, granddaughter, Mackenzie L. Crooks of Southgate, Kentucky and grandsons, Brian J. Howell of Shoals, Evan R Howell of Shoals and Jared D Crooks of Lawrenceville, Illinois were Carolyn's pride and joy.

Carolyn requested cremation. Private services were held.

~LETTER TO THE EDITOR~

'Thank you from the bottom of our hearts'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

To everyone who attended and/or contributed to the recent benefit held for our family: We are overwhelmed by the love, support, and generosity we have been shown during this difficult time. We are truly blessed to live in such a supportive community. We deeply appreciate each and every contribution. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The Sparks Family Todd, Jennifer, Colten, and Emilyn

Help with Medicare enrollment at Shoals Library

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is partnering with Shoals Public Library to help local residents navigate their Medicare options. Medicare beneficiaries will have the opportunity to meet individually with trained SHIP volunteers to discuss their plan options and enrollment for the upcoming year. SHIP is a free and impartial Medicare information, education and counseling program provided by the Indiana Department of Insurance.

Local residents are invited to attend one of the following events at Shoals Public Library: October 21, October 28, November 4, November 18, December 2. The times for each day are 1-5 p.m.

To schedule your appointment for

one of the upcoming events, contact the Shoals Public Library at 812-247-3838. For the health and safety of the attendees, all state and local guidelines will be followed during appointments. For more information on SHIP services or a complete list of events, contact SHIP at 1-800-452-4800 or visit medicare.in.gov.

Medicare Open Enrollment Period
Medicare Open Enrollment Period is from October 15 through December 7. It is the one time a year that all Medicare beneficiaries can make changes to their prescription drug plans or advantage plans for the upcoming year. During this time Medicare beneficiaries can compare and enroll into plans to ensure their health coverage needs will be met in 2022.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

8:00 a.m. - Received a report of possible trespassing in Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

12:34 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:57 p.m. - Received a report of an altercation in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Floyd, ISP Trooper Beaver, and Major Keller responded.

3:14 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231 near Loogootee. Major Keller and Loogootee Police responded.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

5:13 a.m. - Received a report of a theft in Shoals. Captain Reed responded.

10:56 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:55 p.m. - Corporal Seymour took two inmates to court.

1:35 p.m. - Corporal Seymour took two inmates to court.

1:45 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver south of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson responded.

2:13 p.m. - Corporal Seymour took one inmate to court.

7:49 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

2:58 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee Officer Means, Loogootee Officer Albright, and Captain Reed responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:10 a.m. - Received a report of a theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Floyd responded.

10:25 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

11:00 a.m. - Corporal Seymour took one inmate to court.

5:09 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire and Martin County Ambulance re-

sponded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

6:07 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

11:06 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

10:00 a.m. - Corporal Seymour took three inmates to court.

10:40 a.m. - Corporal Seymour took two inmates to court.

12:49 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231 near Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Floyd responded.

1:15 p.m. - Received a report of a dispute in Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

2:25 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:36 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Major Keller, Deputy Wells, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:56 p.m. - Received a cat complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

9:26 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:39 a.m. - Received a report of vandalism south of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

10:48 a.m. - Received a report of an accident on US 231 near Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins, Loogootee Officer Wells, Martin County Ambulance, and Crane Fire responded. No one was transported.

1:08 p.m. - Received a report of property damage south of Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

2:17 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

2:38 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Crane. Deputy Hawkins, Deputy Wells, and ISP responded.

5:17 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:21 p.m. - Received a report of an accident near Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

1:17 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Crane. Deputy Shaw, Martin County Ambulance, Taylor Township (Greene County) Fire, Crane Fire, and Air Evac responded. The subject was transported to Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

10:38 a.m. - Received a report of a semi with defective equipment on US 50. Major Keller responded.

3:32 p.m. - Major Keller, Town Marshal Eckert, Loogootee Officer Seymour, Loogootee Officer Means, and ISP Trooper Beaver assisted with a traffic detail in the county.

4:08 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on SR 150. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

4:41 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported

the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

12:17 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231 near Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Means responded.

9:15 a.m. - Received an alarm call near Shoals. The keyholder was notified.

9:46 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene assisted a motorist with a vehicle identification check west of Shoals.

10:47 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:55 a.m. - Received a report of an accident on SR 150, east of Shoals. Mar-

tin County Ambulance, Shoals Fire, and Chief Deputy Greene responded. No one was transported.

12:02 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231 near Loogootee. Loogootee Police responded.

1:12 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Police responded.

2:47 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Deputy Shaw, Martin County Ambulance, and Shoals Fire responded. No one was transported.

4:11 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded.

The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

Martin County real estate transfers

Delores Ragsdale, of Martin County, Indiana to **BoMac's, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the west half of Section 30, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.890 acres, more or less.

James C. Stoughton and Donna R. Stoughton, of Martin County, Indiana to **Highland Ministry, Inc.**, of Daviess County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of Section 8 and a part of the northeast quarter of Section 17, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Halbert Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 15.63 acres, more or less.

Jason D. Tinkle, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jason D. Tinkle and Bethany Tinkle**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West.

BoMac's, LLC, of Martin County, Indiana to **T&B Baker Properties, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the west half of Section 30, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.890 acres, more or less.

Daniel Lee Goepfner, of Martin County, Indiana to the **State of Indiana**, a part of the northeast quarter of Section 9, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, Halbert Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.013 acre, more or less.

Mark O. Wagner to Levi Graber and Marilyn Graber, a part of the southeast quarter of Section 20, and a part

of the southwest quarter of Section 21, all in Township 4 North, Range 3 West, situated in Mitcheltree Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 123.88 acres, more or less.

Raoul Gabhart and Victoria Coleman, formerly known as Victoria Gabhart to **James Coulter and Blaire Coulter**, a part of the northeast quarter of Section 20, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 52.5 acres, more or less.

Raoul P. Gabhart and Victoria M. Coleman, formerly known as Victoria M. Gabhart to **James Coulter and Blaire Coulter**, that portion of the northeast quarter of Section 20, Township 3 North, Range 3 West of the second principal meridian, Halbert Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 10 acres, more or less.

ARRESTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

11:08 a.m. - Jessica Nelson, 31, of Edwardsport, was arrested on a Martin County warrant and is being held without bond.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

12:16 a.m. - Rhonda Taylor, 61, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Shaw and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated and is being held on a \$3,000 10% bond.

COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL JUDGMENTS AND SENTENCING October 5

David M. Baugh, Jr., convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 540 days with 532 days suspended and credit for 4 actual days previously served plus 4 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED October 5

David M. Baugh, Jr., visiting a common nuisance - controlled substances, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT DISMISSED October 5

Crane Credit Union vs. Devin Breneman, civil collection, dismissed.

MARRIAGE LICENSES September 29

Ronald L. Neal of French Lick and Brenda E. Sergeant of Shoals.

October 1

Derek L. Sipes of Shoals and Andrea M. Qualkenbush of Shoals.

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National unemployment decreases to 4.8 percent

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 194,000 in September, and the unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point to 4.8 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week. Notable job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, in professional and business services, in retail trade, and in transportation and warehousing. Employment in public education declined over the month.

This news release presents statistics from two monthly surveys. The household survey measures labor force status, including unemployment, by demographic characteristics. The establishment survey measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry.

Household Survey Data

The unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point to 4.8 percent in September. The number of unemployed persons fell by 710,000 to 7.7 million. Both measures are down considerably from their highs at the end of the February-April 2020 recession. However, they remain above their levels prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (3.5 percent and 5.7 million, respectively, in February 2020).

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (4.7 percent), adult women (4.2 percent), Whites (4.2 percent), and Blacks (7.9 percent) declined in September.

The jobless rates for teenagers (11.5 percent), Asians (4.2 percent), and Hispanics (6.3 percent) showed little change over the month.

Among the unemployed, the number of permanent job losers declined by 236,000 to 2.3 million in September but is 953,000 higher than in February 2020. The number of persons on temporary layoff, at 1.1 million, changed little in September. This measure is down considerably from the high of 18.0 million in April 2020 but is 374,000 above the February 2020 level. The number of reentrants to the labor force decreased by 198,000 in September to 2.3 million, after increasing by a similar amount in August. (Reentrants are persons who previously worked but were not in the labor force prior to beginning their job search.)

The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) de-

creased by 496,000 in September to 2.7 million but is 1.6 million higher than in February 2020. The long-term unemployed accounted for 34.5 percent of the total unemployed in September. The number of persons jobless less than 5 weeks, at 2.2 million, changed little.

The labor force participation rate was little changed at 61.6 percent in September and has remained within a narrow range of 61.4 percent to 61.7 percent since June 2020. The participation rate is 1.7 percentage points lower than in February 2020. The employment-population ratio, at 58.7 percent, edged up in September. This measure is up from its low of 51.3 percent in April 2020 but remains below the figure of 61.1 percent in February 2020.

In September, the number of persons employed part time for economic reasons, at 4.5 million, was essentially unchanged for the second month in a row. There were 4.4 million persons in this category in February 2020. These individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part time because their hours had been reduced or they were unable to find full-time jobs.

The number of persons not in the labor force who currently want a job was 6.0 million in September, little changed over the month but up by 959,000 since February 2020. These individuals were not counted as unemployed because they were not actively looking for work during the last 4 weeks or were unavailable to take a job.

Among those not in the labor force who wanted a job, the number of persons marginally attached to the labor force edged up to 1.7 million in September, following a decline in the prior month. These individuals wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but had not looked for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. The number of discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, was 450,000 in September, little changed from the previous month.

Household Survey Supplemental Data

In September, 13.2 percent of employed persons teleworked because of the coronavirus pandemic, little changed from

the prior month. These data refer to employed persons who teleworked or worked at home for pay at some point in the last 4 weeks specifically because of the pandemic.

In September, 5.0 million persons reported that they had been unable to work because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic--that is, they did not work at all or worked fewer hours at some point in the last 4 weeks due to the pandemic. This measure is down from 5.6 million in August. Among those who reported in September that they were unable to work because of pandemic-related closures or lost business, 15.5 percent received at least some pay from their employer for the hours not worked, little changed from the prior month.

Among those not in the labor force in September, 1.6 million persons were prevented from looking for work due to the pandemic, little changed from August. (To be counted as unemployed, by definition, individuals must be either actively looking for work or on temporary layoff.)

These supplemental data come from questions added to the household survey beginning in May 2020 to help gauge the effects of the pandemic on the labor market. The data are not seasonally adjusted. Tables with estimates from the supplemental questions for all months are available online at www.bls.gov/cps/effects-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic.htm.

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 194,000 in September. Thus far this year, monthly job growth has averaged 561,000. Nonfarm employment has increased by 17.4 million since a recent trough in April 2020 but is down by 5.0 million, or 3.3 percent, from its pre-pandemic level in February 2020. In September, notable job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, in professional and business services, in retail trade, and in transportation and warehousing. Employment in public education declined over the month.

Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 74,000 in September, with continued job growth in arts, entertainment, and recreation (+43,000). Employment in food services and drinking places changed little for the second consecutive month, compared with an average monthly gain of 197,000 from January through July. Employment in leisure and hospitality is down by 1.6 million, or 9.4 percent, since February 2020.

Professional and business services added 60,000 jobs in September. Employment continued to increase in architectural and engineering services (+15,000), management and technical consulting services (+15,000), and computer systems design and related services (+9,000). Employment in professional and business services is 385,000 below its level in February 2020.

In September, employment in retail trade rose by 56,000, following 2 months of little change. Over the month, employment gains occurred in clothing and clothing accessories stores (+27,000), general merchandise stores (+16,000), and building material and garden supply stores (+16,000). These gains were partially offset by a loss in food and beverage stores (-12,000). Retail trade employment is 202,000 lower than its level in February 2020.

Employment in transportation and warehousing increased by 47,000 in September, in line with gains in the prior 2 months. In September, job gains continued in warehousing and storage (+16,000), couriers and messengers (+13,000), and air transportation (+10,000). Employment in transportation and warehousing is 72,000 above its pre-pandemic level in February 2020.

Employment in the information industry

increased by 32,000 in September. Gains occurred in motion picture and sound recording industries (+14,000); in publishing industries, except Internet (+11,000); and in data processing, hosting, and related services (+6,000). Employment in information is down by 108,000 since February 2020.

In September, social assistance added 30,000 jobs, led by a gain in child day care services (+18,000). Employment in social assistance is 204,000 lower than in February 2020.

Employment in manufacturing increased by 26,000 in September, with gains in fabricated metal products (+8,000), machinery (+6,000), and printing and related support activities (+4,000). These gains were partially offset by a decline of 6,000 in motor vehicles and parts. Manufacturing employment is down by 353,000 since February 2020.

Construction employment rose by 22,000 in September but has shown little net change thus far this year. Employment in construction is 201,000 below its February 2020 level.

In September, employment in wholesale trade increased by 17,000, almost entirely in the durable goods component (+16,000). Employment in wholesale trade is down by 159,000 since February 2020.

Mining employment continued to trend up in September (+5,000), reflecting growth in support activities for mining (+4,000). Mining employment has risen by 59,000 since a trough in August 2020 but is 93,000 below a peak in January 2019.

In September, employment decreased by 144,000 in local government education and by 17,000 in state government education. Employment changed little in private education (-19,000). Most back-to-school hiring typically occurs in September. Hiring this September was lower than usual, resulting in a decline after seasonal adjustment. Recent employment changes are challenging to interpret, as pandemic-related staffing fluctuations in public and private education have distorted the normal seasonal hiring and layoff patterns. Since February 2020, employment is down by 310,000 in local government education, by 194,000 in state government education, and by 172,000 in private education.

Employment in health care changed little in September (-18,000). Job losses occurred in nursing and residential care facilities (-38,000) and hospitals (-8,000), while ambulatory health care services added jobs (+28,000). Employment in health care is down by 524,000 since February 2020, with nursing and residential care facilities accounting for about four-fifths of the loss.

In September, employment showed little change in financial activities and in other services.

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 19 cents to \$30.85 in September, following large increases in the prior 5 months. In September, average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees rose by 14 cents to \$26.15. The data for recent months suggest that the rising demand for labor associated with the recovery from the pandemic may have put upward pressure on wages. However, because average hourly earnings vary widely across industries, the large employment fluctuations since February 2020 complicate the analysis of recent trends in average hourly earnings.

In September, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.2 hour to 34.8 hours. In manufacturing, the average workweek was unchanged at 40.4 hours, and overtime edged up by 0.1 hour to 3.3 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.1 hour to 34.2 hours.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

12:27 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department was dispatched to a report of a gas line hit on SR 550 near Eastgate Avenue.

12:55 p.m. - Chief Floyd responded to a property damage accident in Chuckles parking lot.

2:50 p.m. - Chief Floyd responded to a report of a disturbance on South Oak Street.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

8:36 a.m. - Chief Floyd responded to a report of a stranded motorist on West Broadway Street.

10:52 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call at the Loogootee Elementary School.

2:28 p.m. - Chief Floyd assisted a stranded motorist on US 50 East.

7:54 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on North Oak Street.

8:33 p.m. - Officers Means and Allbright responded to a report of a suspicious person trespassing on complainant's property.

11:10 p.m. - Officers Means and Allbright responded to an alarm at a local business.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

5:10 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call at Country Place Apartments.

6:08 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Redbud Street.

9:45 p.m. - Officers McBeth and Allbright assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a domestic dispute.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

12:42 p.m. - Chief Floyd responded to a report of a possible impaired driver nearing Loogootee on US 231.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

10:49 a.m. - First responders and Officer Wells were dispatched to an accident on US 231 North.

6:01 p.m. - Officers Means and Allbright responded to a trespassing complaint at a local business.

7:46 p.m. - Officers Means and Allbright responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle parked near a local church.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

1:17 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call in Crane.

4:13 p.m. - Officer Seymour assisted with a charity jeep ride.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

12:17 a.m. - Officer Means responded to a report of a reckless driver nearing Loogootee on US 231 South.

1:01 a.m. - Officer Means assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a report of a young boy walking on US 50 East.

10:50 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call at Redwing Trailer Court.

1:12 p.m. - Caller reported that someone hit a pole in the American Legion parking lot.

More Neat Stuff

By Ann Ackerman



I realize that I haven't been a teenager for quite some time, but my mother would probably say that I was guilty of some of the following when I was. Enjoy!

RULES FROM TEENAGERS

- *When the trash is full, put more trash on it.
- *After drinking water from a cup, drink more water from a different cup.
- *When the ice cube tray is empty, store it in the refrigerator.
- *When you need something specific from the store, ask if you can stay in the car.
- *After saying "coming," don't come.
- *If you scrunch up a towel correctly, you can make it stay wet.
- *Leave three squares of toilet paper so you don't have to change the roll.
- *Leave a half swallow of milk in the container, put it back in the fridge, say, "It's not empty."
- *Load ice cubes in your hydro flask with 60 percent accuracy.
- *When sitting on a couch, any location within arms' length is appropriate for storing used food wrappers.
- *The water you accidentally spilled makes the floor slippery. Quickly exit to safety.
- *When the dishwasher is empty, put your dirty dishes in the sink.
- *Wait a few weeks to unpack.
- *The proper way to hang a towel is to not.
- *The ground is your closet's largest shelf. Use it accordingly.
- *Empty food boxes go back in the pan-

try.

- *When you hear "dinner!" immediately start a lengthy activity like taking a nap.
- *All your shoes should be white.
- *Also, they should block the doorway.
- *Tidy your room by putting clean clothes in the wash.

THOUGHTS

- *My two goals for today were to get out of bed and drink coffee. So far, I am a success.
- *I am a second-generation vegetarian. Cows eat grass. I eat cows.
- *Me yelling at squirrels in the street to move so they don't die is probably the same feeling God has watching me live.
- *You are in a line at TJ Maxx with just a shirt and by the time you get to the cashier, you've picked up some gourmet popcorn, a neck pillow, doggy bed, phone charger, LED lights, water bottle, some weights, Uno cards, and a yoga mat.
- *Aging is tricky. It's like you still feel young inside, but then every once in a while you catch a glimpse of yourself in the mirror and reality just smacks you in the face.
- *I told the waitress my steak was bad. She picked it up, slapped it, put it down and said, "If it gives you more trouble, let me know!"
- *Being an adult is mostly just going to bed when you don't want to and also waking up when you don't want to.

Make someone smile today!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Car show

A Fall Cruise In, presented by Route 50 Cruisers Car Club, will be held at Toy's Auto Parts at 105 Mill Street in Loogootee on Sunday, October 17 at 1 p.m. You can register at the welcome tent for prizes and dash plaques and two sponsor's choice trophies will be awarded. Food will be available. For more information, contact Mary at 295-6207 or find Route 50 Cruisers on Facebook.

Shoals School Board meeting

The Shoals School Board will meet Thursday, October 21 at 6 p.m. in the central administration office. The meeting is open to the public.

St. Vincent Food Pantry

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, on Park Street in Loogootee, is open the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December when they are open the third Thursday. The hours are 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Mental Health Task Force

The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 1-2 p.m. at the Community Learning Center on the Martin County Fairgrounds.

Celebrate Recovery meetings

Celebrate Recovery meetings will be held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Redemption Church in Loogootee. This is a Christ-centered recovery program and anyone is welcome to attend.

Local recovery meetings

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

Free lunch for kids

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 third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the recycling center located at 500 Industrial Park Drive in Loogootee. The meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

Soil and Water meetings

The Martin County 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.



-Photo provided

Shown above are the local Tri Kappa Officers who attended the recent convention. From left to right are Treasurer Dena Lyon, Corresponding Secretary Peggy Mattingly, Recording Secretary Tiffani Sergent, Province III Officer Audrey Robinson, President Pam Loughmiller and Vice President Sammi Nelson. Volunteers attending from the local chapter who helped throughout the day were Karen Slaven, Renee Street and Judy Treffinger.

Local Tri Kappas attend province convention, officer training

The Tri Kappa Province Convention and Officer Training was held recently in the Technology Building on the campus of Vincennes University-Jasper Center. It was hosted by Province I Officer Meagan Nolley of French Lick and Province III Officer Audrey Robinson of Loogootee.

All officers of the Loogootee-Shoals Delta Tau chapter attended.

The general session was opened by the province officers and state reports were given. The keynote speaker was Council President Janet Perry from the Paoli Delta Chapter.

Following lunch, the Fine Arts Committee Chair Stephanie Oyler of Bloomington gave a report and awards were presented to the winners of the competition. Local members Alisha Bailey and

Katie Milligan entered items in the competition. Long-time member of the Loogootee-Shoals chapter Faryl Armstrong, now a member of the Jasper Delta Chi Chapter, received second on her counted cross stitch entry and will be eligible to compete at the state convention in April of 2023 at French Lick.

The day ended with training sessions being held for delegates, all chapter officers and scholarship representatives.

Tri Kappa is a philanthropic organization existing only within Indiana. Membership totals nearly 8,000 in 144 active and 99 associate chapters. Tri Kappa members donate over \$1.5 million every year to the endeavors of charity, culture and education within their own communities and through state projects.

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True Value

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In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser,
Purdue University Master Gardener

The middle of October is the time to make some important decisions concerning the garden. It is a time of transition, as temperatures drop, and days grow shorter. Decisions made now will affect the garden for next year and beyond.

One decision is what plants to save. Many of the plants that provided color to our summer gardens are actually tropical and sub-tropical perennial plants. These plants may be used again next year if you are able to save them inside. However, one must decide if it is worth the trouble. My grandmother used to pot up her impatiens and keep them inside for the winter. Since impatiens are shade tolerant, they do not need to be in a window; bright indirect light will suffice. However, they are susceptible to mealybugs and sometimes that is more trouble than they are worth, especially when one considers that they are not expensive to buy in the spring as bedding plants. Another option is to take cuttings and put them in rooting vials. For some reason, the cuttings do not seem to get mealy bugs as much. I have some cutting vials that have magnets on them, so they make nice decorations on the refrigerator or other metal surfaces. As spring approaches, one may pot up the cuttings, which will have good root systems by then, and pinch them back to grow into bedding plants for next summer. Other plants which may be treated in the same way include coleus, pentas and vincas.

While there are many bulbs that bloom in the spring and are hardy in our climate, there are also many summer bulbs that are not exactly hardy. Sometimes, one may be able to save some of these plants in micro-climates created by walls or large rocks, which are heated during sunny periods and give off heat to the surrounding area at other times. You may know of people who have cannas, dahlias and

gladioli that return in such areas. A heavy layer of mulch applied after the frost kills the tops will increase the chances that such plants will return.

Elephant ears and other taro-related plants are more tropical and less likely to make it through the winter. However, one may dig them and save the bulbs in a cool, dark area. Many sources recommend putting the bulbs in wood shavings, peat moss or shredded paper. Do not store them in plastic containers, as they are prone to rotting when unable to breathe but do put them in containers that keep them safe from rodents. The same storage technique may be used for cannas, dahlias, gladioli, ornamental sweet potato and other tropical bulbs. Any of these bulbs may be potted up in late winter to give them an early start on next summer, if you have a space to do so. They will need bright light, as they will be spindly if grown in low-light conditions.

Many other tropical plants used in summer landscapes may be kept through the winter as house plants. I am afraid that I have far too many in this category, including tropical hibiscus, sienna, and many types of begonias. I also have a huge assortment of houseplants that have spent the summer outdoors, especially many which have been clustered around some fountains. These must be moved in before frosty mornings kill them. Done properly, one should water them well and check for insects in the soil. Do not be afraid to cut back plants to make it easier to keep them inside. They may grow thicker stems and do even better next summer when returned outside.

We have now passed the safe frost date of October 10, so I advise you to keep an eye on the weather forecast if you want to save plants for future use or to enjoy through the winter. Even a light frost can be fatal for the most sensitive plants.

State Dept. of Agriculture receives \$500,000 grant to support mental health and farm stress

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has received a \$500,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute for Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) Program. ISDA is partnering with the Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) and Purdue Extension to reduce mental health stigma and connect individuals engaged in agriculture-related occupations to existing stress assistance programs.

"The agricultural community is an extraordinary one with hard working people and unique challenges, both economically and socially," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "This funding will assist rural residents with stress and help communities ensure residents know there are available resources help close to home."

ISDA will be working with the IRHA to help those who live and work in agriculture to become more comfortable with mental health care options by holding 23 community workshops across Indiana. Conversations about mental health stigma and resources, as well as recognizing signs of those in mental health distress will be discussed. For a list of regional meetings and locations, please visit indianaruralhealth.org.

"Indiana is a very rural state with lots of farming and agricultural bases in many towns and cities. Our statewide workshops will work to provide these communities the tools they need to recognize

stress, related mental health issues and mental health crises that unfortunately can lead to suicide attempts," said Kathy Walker, Program Director, Indiana Rural Health Association. "Our workshops will provide skills to help everyone recognize signs of distress. Indiana Rural Health Association works to enhance the health and well-being of rural Hoosiers through leadership, education, advocacy, collaboration and resource development."

To supplement these activities, Purdue Extension will also survey and analyze the mental health call center landscape and capacity in Indiana and then create and deploy a specialized training module for mental health call center workers supporting farmers, farm families and agribusinesses.

"COVID, the breakdown of agricultural supply chains, price volatility and variable weather are just a few issues that have intensified the need for stronger supports for our farmers and agribusiness colleagues in times of stress," said Dr. Jason Henderson, Director of Purdue Extension. "Purdue Extension is excited to partner with ISDA and IRHA on this project to focus on resources and tools to support farm families through these difficult times."

Together ISDA, IRHA and Purdue Extension will highlight the importance of mental health care through broad promotions. This will include creating mental health promotional materials and visual reminders for the farming community that will be shared at events across Indiana, such as the Indiana State Fair.

Farmer sentiment declines in September, inflation expectations jump

BY TORRIE SHERIDAN
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The Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer declined in September, down 14 points to a reading of 124. With producers feeling less optimistic about both current conditions on their farming operations as well as their expectations for the future, this is the weakest farmer sentiment reading since July 2020 when the index stood at 118. The Index of Current Conditions declined 12 points to a reading of 140 and the Index of Future Expectations fell 16 points to a reading of 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 September 27-29.

The Farm Financial Performance Index was unchanged from last month with a reading of 110. However, examining the detailed responses reveals there was a shift among producers with regard to their farms' financial performance. In September, fewer farms said they expected their farm's financial performance to match last year's, while the percentages of producers expecting both worse and better financial performance rose.

"Although the combined responses left the Farm Financial Performance Index unchanged from a month earlier, the increasing divergence in expectations among respondents from August to September could reflect differences in how individual farms managed risk in a period of rapidly fluctuating commodity prices," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

The decline in farmer sentiment spilled over into the Farm Capital Investment Index, which declined 10 points to a reading of 43, down 50 percent since

Spring Mill Haunted Village is October 16

Spring Mill State Park will host its scary Haunted Village on Saturday, October 16 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Haunted Village is recommended for children age 12 and older, and interpretive naturalist Sheree Belt says it's going to be a SPOOKtacular time.

Participants will be required to wear bracelets, which will be available for purchase only on Saturday, October 16, starting at 8 a.m. in the pool parking lot. Entry to the pool parking lot will be allowed starting at 7 a.m. Bracelets cost \$5 each and will be limited to 10 per person. Only 2,500 bracelets will be sold, and they go fast.

Participants will need to keep their bracelets in a safe place. The park is not responsible for lost/stolen bracelets. No refunds will be provided. Those who pay the park gate fee in the morning to buy their bracelets and then leave the park will need to keep their park entrance receipt in order to re-enter later for the event. Those without a receipt or annual entrance pass will be responsible for paying the gate fee again. Once in line for the event, participants will not be allowed to hold spaces for friends or family.

Participants must wear their bracelet to enter Haunted Village. Second trips through the village will not be permitted.

For more information on this and other upcoming events at Spring Mill, call 812-849-3534 or email sbelt@dnr.IN.gov.

Spring Mill State Park (on.IN.gov/springmill) is at 3333 State Road 60 East, Mitchell, 47446.

the beginning of the year and the lowest investment index reading since April 2020. Fewer farmers this month said they planned to increase their machinery purchases than on the August survey as just 8 percent of respondents plan to increase purchases, down from 10% last month. In a follow-up question, over half (55 percent) of respondents reported that their farm machinery purchase plans have been impacted by low farm machinery inventories, likely contributing to weak sentiment regarding whether now is a good time to make large investments. Although plans for machinery purchases fell, producers' plans for new construction rose this month with 13% expecting to increase construction of grain bins and farm buildings, up from 8 percent in August.

Producer concerns about rising input costs rose sharply this month with over one-third of respondents saying they expect input prices to rise by more than 12 percent in the coming year, which is six times the average farm input inflation rate of the last decade. Inflation expectations were higher this month across the board with the percentage of respondents expecting input inflation to rise above 12 percent doubling since July with an increase to 34 percent, up from 21 percent last month.

Despite September's decline in farmer sentiment, farmers remain bullish about farmland values. The Short-Term and Long-Term Farmland Values Expectations Indices rose this month, with the long-term index hitting a record-high reading of 159, which is 4 points higher than the previous month. The short-term index rose 9 points to 155, which is its third-highest reading since data collection began in 2015. Additionally, about one-half of corn/soybean growers continue to say they expect farmland cash rental rates to rise above 2021 levels in 2022. Among growers who expect cash rents to increase, 44 percent said they expect rental rates to rise from 5 to less than 10 percent, and three out of ten respondents indicated they expect rates to rise by 10 percent or more.

In early 2020, about 70 percent of producers expected agricultural exports to increase over the next five years. Since then, farmer expectations regarding future agricultural trade prospects have continued to weaken with only a few exceptions. September recorded the lowest percentage (37 percent) of growers expecting agricultural exports to increase since the question was first posed early last year. Concerns regarding the future of agricultural trade could be another factor behind weakness in the Future Expectations Index.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report at <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/economybarometer/>. 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.