

Martin County JOURNAL



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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

Ten pages



Shown above are Shoals High School students who attended the National Beta Convention in Evansville. In the front row, from left to right, are Lillie Bauer, Ellie Roush, Kenley Shaw, Andrew Banks, Carson Shaw, and Keegan Bearden. In the second row are Olivia Wright, Katie Brett, Peyton Sutton, Olivia Harker, Kade Weidenbenner, Wyatt Boyd, Gage Gilbert, Asher Wright, and Hailey Hennette. In the third row are Acelyn Braun, Quinn Dishman, Emma-gale Wininger, Kemily Wininger, Logan Davis, Emma Holt, Lydia Cook, Hannah Cook, Skylar Boyd, Morgan Crossen, Madison Quinn, and Janna Albright. In the back row are Brooklyn Greene, Malachi McNabb, Ashur Dishman, Skylar Smith, Avaley Braun, Luke Troutman, Hunter Spurgeon, Eli Stoll, Alexis Rush, and Mason Kerr. Others participating were Sarah Albright, Ruby Harder, Rator Hoffman, Bryson Holt, Lucas Jordan, Olivia Jordan, Ava Perry, Rylan Perry, Gracie Shaw, Taylor Turpin, and Krisha Villanueva.

Shoals High School Beta attend State Convention

Shoals High School Senior Beta Members competed in the 2022 Indiana State Beta Convention at Evansville. A total of 48 students competed - 38 on site and 10 online. Students represented their school and community by competing in multiple projects and events and received multiple awards. Many students qualified to compete in nationals this summer.

Hunter Spurgeon ran for State Beta

President. Shoals has not had a student run for a candidate position in over a decade. Audra Deckard was the most recent as she ran for secretary in 2011. Even though Hunter did not get elected as the State Beta President, Beta sponsors said they are excited about his future opportunities because of what skills he gained while running for candidacy. Alexis

(See 'SHOALS BETA' on page 3)



Loogootee Senior Beta travels to State Convention in Evansville

The Loogootee Senior Beta Club traveled to Indiana State Beta Convention in Evansville on November 11-12.

Forty-four of Loogootee's top students competed in a variety of academic, artistic, and team competitions against students from all over the state.

The competition winners were the following:

1st place
9th grade Biomedical- 1st place Owen Tompkins
Speech- Division 1st place, Dalton Strange
Engineering- 1st place: Tom Denyer, Addy Lengacher, Hannah Venters, Noah

Esch
Painting- 1st place, Ella Parker
Solo Instrumentalist- Tom Denyer (piano)
Recyclable Art- 1st place, Marley McAtee
Sculpture- 1st place, Kieragen Napier
Service Learning Showcase- 1st place: Madison Ramsey, Breanna Eckerle, Ca-cia Wilcoxen
2nd place
12th grade French- 2nd place Ava Summers
10th grade Math- 2nd place, Breanna Courter
(See 'LHS BETA' on page 2)

Shoals students present solar lighting research to town council

The Shoals Town Council met Monday, November 14. In attendance were Council Members Cary D. Albright, Clint Hoffman, and Cecil Ragsdale; Town Attorney Dave Lett, Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge, Deputy Clerk Whitney Haulk, Shoals Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jim Hamby, Sarah Correll, with Ice Miller LLP; Kevin Boyd, Lorna Troutman, Mandi Holt, Mason Lake, Jonathan Kreitler, Emmalyn McNabb, and Casie Sumner.

Mason Lake, Emmalyn McNabb and Jonathan Kreitler and their coach Lorna Troutman with the Shoals RoxStars Robotix Team presented the town council members research they have done on solar energy and switching areas of the town lighting over to solar powered. The research included annual savings figures they calculated along with costs involved for switching street lighting to solar powered. The council thanked the students for their efforts and said they are always looking for ways to save the town money and appreciate the research done and think it will be helpful in the future. Troutman thanked Clerk-Treasurer Rutledge and Shoals Volunteer Fire Chief Jim Hamby for coming to the team's sessions previously and speaking and providing information to the team for their research. Rutledge thanked the students for taking an interest and caring about their community.

Attorney Lett presented a contract he had reviewed for Quality H2O, a contractor that will be assisting with the installation of the new water meters. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve the contract with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed. Clerk-Treasurer Rutledge provided an update that as of today, 228 new electronic read water meters had been installed.

Attorney Lett introduced Sara Correll, with Ice Miller LLP. Ms. Correll stated

everything was on track for the bond issuance with SRF and stated the pre-closing meeting would be Friday November 18 at 10 a.m. with the closing being December 2, 2022.

Kevin Boyd came before the council to request approval to place a RV/camper on a lot he owns at 8th and Main streets. Boyd stated has a renter wanting to rent it. He said the lot already has all utilities and presented photos of the camper and it would meet requirements of underpinning etc., if approved. Attorney Lett asked if there was a time term on the rental agreement. Boyd stated the renters said it could be two years. Council Member Ragsdale stated there is an ordinance in place and the council wants to follow it and asked Boyd how long it had been since there was a mobile home on that lot and Boyd replied about ten years. Council Member Hoffman stated his vote to approve was no and Council Member Ragsdale followed up and a no vote as well and the request was denied.

Clerk-Treasurer Rutledge presented invoice #2 for E&B Paving for the paving project with the Community Crossings grant. Rutledge stated invoice #1 had been paid, the engineer had approved for invoice #2 to be paid and invoice #3 would not be paid until all items on the punch list are complete. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve payment of the invoice with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed. Next Rutledge presented two invoices for the Ballpark Revitalization Project Phase II for Game Time Inc. for the playground that was delivered and ARK Fencing as the new fencing had been put up. Rutledge stated the invoices are being paid in full from the grant funds received. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve the invoices with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

(See 'SHOALS' on page 2)

Martin County's jobless rate bumps up to 2.5 percent for October

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Martin County's unemployment rate moved from 2 percent in September to 2.5 percent in October. The county had the 24th lowest jobless rate in the state for October, tied with 10 other counties.

In October, the county had 5,479 residents in the workforce and 135 of them were unemployed. In September, there were 5,430 residents able to work and 108 of them were without jobs.

In October of last year, Martin County's jobless rate was 1.7 percent with 5,341 residents in the workforce and 92 of them unemployed.

Daviess County's jobless rate bumped up from 1.6 percent in September to 2.2 percent in October. The county had the fourth lowest jobless rate in the state for October, tied with Adams, Hamilton and Steuben counties.

In October, the county had 16,446 residents in the workforce and 362 of them unemployed. In September, there were 16,395 residents able to work and 257 of them without jobs.

In October of 2021, Daviess County's unemployment rate was 1.8 percent with 16,314 residents in the workforce and 294 of them without work.

Dubois County's unemployment rate also moved up in October to 2.3 percent, from 1.7 percent in September. The county had the 8th lowest jobless rate in the state for October, tied with six other counties.

In October, the county had 21,669 residents in the workforce with 496 of them unemployed. In September, there were 21,468 residents able to work and 368 of them without jobs. In October of last year, Dubois County's jobless rate was 1.6 percent with 21,664 residents in the workforce and 345 of them without work.

Greene County's jobless rate moved from 2.5 percent in September to 3.1 percent in October. The county had the 16th highest jobless rate in the state for October, tied with Newton, Blackford and Cass counties.

In October, the county had 13,634 residents in the workforce with 429 of them unemployed. In September, there were

(See 'RATE' on page 3)

SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

Rutledge requested approval to create two new funds: "SVFD DNR Grant Fund" for a \$5,000 grant the fire department received from DNR and a "Sewer Construction Fund" for the upcoming wastewater systems improvement project and a fund needed to be established for the OCRA funds that will be received. Council Member Hoffman made a motion to approve the funds with Council Member Ragsdale making the second and the motion passed. Next Rutledge stated the additional appropriations as advertised on October 26 needed to be approved: ARPA Fund; Water Meter System Infrastructure Updates \$125,000 and Water Booster Station Infrastructure Updates \$25,000. EDIT Fund: Professional Services \$10,000, Transfer to CCMG \$9,000. Council Member Hoffman made a motion to approve the additional appropriations as advertised with Council Member Ragsdale making the second and the motion passed.

Rutledge stated the 1782 Budget 2023 Notice had no changes and she had signed and submitted to DLGF for the final budget order. She also presented approval for the renewal of bonds for the clerk-treasurer and deputy clerk-treasurer for 2023 as required by statute. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

Rutledge stated at the December meeting she would be presenting the 2023 Center and Halbert Township fire protection contracts and that Chief Hamby has stated no change in the amount. Chief Hamby stated both townships had now passed a CCI Tax and that has been put in place. Rutledge presented a Springhill Cemetery plot buyback for Mary Doney Koontz for six lots in section HH Lot 223 for a total of \$240. Council Member Hoffman made a motion to approve the buyback with Council Member Ragsdale making the second and the motion passed.

Rutledge stated the town had been asked to participate in the Shoals High School College and Career Fair to allow the students the opportunity to talk to the town about future careers that fall under the town. She said the town will have a booth and be available and the fair is on November 22.

Rutledge stated the council needed to set the year-end meeting date and it was decided to set it as Friday, December 30 at 9 a.m. She also stated the 2023 meeting dates would need to be passed at the December meeting and asked the council if they wanted any change in the date/time. It was decided to be the same for now.

Rutledge stated the wayfinding signs had started to arrive. She said, to date, the town has received \$3,725 in donations for the Christmas lights and almost to the goal of the cost of \$4,260.

Rutledge presented meter deposit and applies for C. Nugent and N. Mundy. Council Member Hoffman made a motion to approve with Council Member Ragsdale making the second and the motion passed. Rutledge requested approval to pay the invoices due to Utility Supply Company for the electronic read meter system change over since all ARPA funds had been received. After discussion approval to pay was given. Rutledge stated that all items to implement the new sewer rate increase had been sent to the software company but it takes 4-6 weeks to build the new rate increases and that the new input had not been received back yet. Once it is received back, the work can be done on the town's end and the new rate will take effect. Rutledge stated she expected the new rate to be on the December bills.

Council Member Albright opened a letter received from a resident Jack Bough. Bough was requesting approval to place a brand-new modular home on the lot he currently owns on High Street and included pictures of the home that would be brought in. Bough stated the lot currently has a modular and he was unable to attend the meeting due to work but the old modular would be removed and the new modular put in the same place with a full concrete block foundation and all requirements would be met per the ordinance. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

Fire Chief Jim Hamby stated the DNR grant received was a matching grant, so the town has to provide \$5,000 for the matching funds. Rutledge said DNR timber funds should be received soon and may amount to the match needed. Hamby stated the grant is to fund a brush skid unit. Hamby asked about the previously discussed ordinance for passing a fine schedule for extinguishing trash burning fires. The fire department has had to continuously respond to the same residences to put out trash burning fires which is illegal in town limits per state laws and IDEM requirements. The suggested fines for the ordinance were \$100 first offense, \$250 second offense and \$500 for a third offense. Attorney Lett stated he would have the ordinance prepared and ready for approval at the next session meeting.

The next regular town council meeting will be Monday, December 12 at 5:59 p.m. at the Shoals Town Hall.



Loogootee Middle School Beta participate in state competition

National Beta members from Loogootee Middle School are celebrating their recent participation in the Indiana Junior Beta State Convention. They were announced as winners of the following competitions: First place champion and qualifying for national competition: Performance Solo by Isaiah Jones; Engineering Team - Team Leader William Lyon, Noah Hagar, Cooper VanHoy, and Clayton Miller; Living Literature Team - Team Leader Kaylee Hawkins, Jade Lawson, Libby Swartzentruber, Kimberlie Stoll, Savannah Green, Rylee Gibson, Alivia Fox, Madison Davis, Jocelyn Craney, Sophia Toy and Lauren Nolan; and Recyclable Art - Maycee Hembree. Second place winners: Black & White Photography - Noah Hager; English Language Arts Seventh Grade - Madison Davis; Quiz Bowl Team - Carter Walton, Alaina Diamond, Jacob Venters and Kaylee Hawkins; Robotics Team - Team Co-Leader Reed Brittain, Co-Leader Brendan Green, Lucas Helderman, Mitchell Walton, Carter Downey, Chase Miller and Henry Humerickhouse; and Three Dimensional Design - Team Lead Austin Willis, Rhett Whitney and Jacob Venters. Third place winners: Drawing Junior - Alivia Fox.

National Beta's State Conventions allow students the opportunity to compete in various academic and STEM-based, virtual and performing arts competitions. Indiana State Convention was offered as a hybrid event. This gave students the opportunity to compete either virtually or onsite at Evansville depending on their level of comfort. These victories at the state level provide an opportunity to compete at the national level. National Convention will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky, during Summer 2023.

As her fifth year of sponsoring Loogootee's Junior Beta Club, Alisha Bailey says

that she wants to make sure her students have the opportunity to grow through Beta Club that she had as a teenager. "It was a big part of my high school experience, and I hope that I am able to help my students create positive memories of their own. Every year the kids own a bigger piece of my heart, and I'm starting to see younger brothers and sisters which makes it even more personal for me!" When asked about what it means to be a Beta, Bailey answers with the four pillars of the Beta Club motto, "It's about leadership, character, achievement and, so importantly, service."

With more than 500,000 active members and 9,000 clubs nationally and internationally, National Beta has become the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. National Beta promotes the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students. National Junior Beta includes grades 4-8 and National Senior Beta includes grades 9-12. Visit betaclub.org for more information.

LHS BETA

(Continued from page one)

10th grade Social Studies- 2nd place, Luke Guy

12th grade Social Studies- 2nd place, Abigail Fischer

9th grade Social Studies- 2nd place, Dalton Strange

Color Photography- 2nd place, Hiyori Yokoyama

Drawing- 3rd place, Macey Wathen

10th grade Agriscience- 3rd place Mackenzie Craney

Creative Writing- 3rd place, Owen Tompkins

Onsite Painting- 3rd place, Madison Esch

Doorbusters: Free Pearl Earrings with any purchase (while supplies last)

Sterling Silver Tanzanite Earrings - \$19 • Sterling Silver Diamond Pendant & Earring Set - \$149

Black Friday
Storewide
SALE
Friday, November 25th
9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Register to Win Free Prizes All Day!

Up to 60% off Estate & Clearance Jewelry
20% off Citizen Eco-Drive Watches

Buy an engagement ring for \$1,995 or more, and receive 50% off a wedding band purchase

COUPON
\$25 OFF A PURCHASE OF \$199 OR MORE
Expires November 25, 2022. Not valid with any other offers



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of JASPER

3770 N. Newton Street
Jasper, IN 47546
(812) 482-4833
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OBITUARIES

MARY "JOYCE" BOWMAN

Mary "Joyce" Bowman passed away peacefully Friday November 18, 2022,



JOYCE BOWMAN

at Daviess Community Hospital in Washington, surrounded by love and family. A resident of Loogootee, she was 84.

She was born March 3, 1938, in Washington; daughter of Lowell and Mabel (Frank-

lin) Bowman.

Joyce was a mother, a beloved grandmother, and a devout woman of God. She was an involved member of the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee. Joyce has left behind a legacy of selflessness, volunteering to help with funeral dinners and other parish events. She frequently donated to a multitude of charities including St. John's Indian School, Boys Town, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, among others. Joyce cared for others, people and animals alike; there was never a friend, grandchild, or stray cat that left her house hungry.

Joyce dedicated 33 years before retiring from RCA in Bloomington, Indiana. She enjoyed gardening and spending time with her family. She will be missed by all that had the privilege of knowing her, most of all by her family.

Joyce is preceded in death by her parents, Lowell and Mabel Bowman; her

granddaughter, Stormy; her sister, Iva Lundy; and her half-brothers, Bill and Charlie Myers.

She is survived by her children, Doug (Karen) Bowman of Washington; Dan (Lori) Bowman of Windsor, Colorado; David (Stephanie) Bowman of Shoals, and Todd (Jackie) Bowman of Washington; her grandchildren, Zane, Seth, Kade, Kaitlin, Kassandra, Noah, Kaylee, Whitney, Shawn, Greg, Nicholas, Jacob, Lucy, and Milo; her great-grandchildren, Alexavier, Ezequiel, Gage, Sterling, Hunter, Skye, Brodie, Harlow, Ava, Evan, Ryla, Oliver, and Jameson, and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker this morning, Wednesday November 23, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee. Burial followed in St. John Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. John Catholic Church for Masses in honor of Joyce.

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

ETHAN FIELDS

Ethan Raymond Fields passed away peacefully on Monday November 21, 2022, at his home. A resident of Loogootee, he was 30.

He was born August 30, 1992, in Jasper; son of Mark and Mary (Williams) Fields.

Ethan graduated from Loogootee High



ETHAN FIELDS

School with the Class of 2011. He was a member of the St. John Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee. Ethan loved taking rides in classic cars, boating on the river, and riding motorcycles with his Dad. He enjoyed spending time with his family camping and going to the beach in Florida.

He is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Jerome and Dorothy Williams; paternal grandmother, Sharon Fields and his uncles, Joe Williams and Delbert Fields Jr.

Ethan is survived by his parents, Mark and Mary (Williams) Fields of Loogootee; sister, Mindy (Jarrod) Rose of Loogootee; his nephew, Asher Rose of Loogootee; his grandfather, Delbert Fields of Loogootee; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker at 11 a.m. Friday November 25 at St. John Evangelist Catholic Church. Burial will follow at St. Martin Catholic Cemetery in Loogootee.

Visitation will be held Friday November 25, from 9 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. at St. John Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Autism Society of Indiana in memory of Ethan.

Online condolences can be made at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Blake Funeral Homes is honored to serve the family of Ethan Fields.

SHOALS BETA

(Continued from page one)

Rush was Hunter's campaign manager. She gave a one-minute speech on stage. Hunter then gave a two-minute speech about leadership and spreading kindness. A campaign skit of 20 students was prepared with the theme of helping others. To wrap up Hunter's campaign rally, he answered a 30-second question to conclude his appearance on stage.

Shoals Senior Beta Chapter participated in the statewide community service project to create cards for Heart to Heart Hospice patients and caretakers. They decorated cards and wrote comforting words for both.

2022 Indiana Senior State Beta Convention Results

Agriscience 10th grade: 2nd place - Ava Perry

Apparel Design: 2nd place - Krisha Villanueva, Janna Albright, Hunter Spurgeon

Color Photography Division 1: 2nd Place - Olivia Harker

Digital Art Division 2: 3rd Place - Ruby Harder

Jewelry Division 1: 2nd Place - Brooklyn Greene

Jewelry Division 2: 3rd Place - Ellie Roush

Mixed Media Division 1: 2nd Place - Morgan Crossen

Pottery Division 1: 2nd Place - Wyatt Boyd

Robotics: 2nd Place - Skylar Smith, Ashur Dishman, Luke Troutman, Malachi McNabb

Sculpture Division 1: 3rd Place - Skylar Boyd

Social Studies 11th grade: 3rd Place - Carson Shaw

Spanish 12th grade: 3rd Place - Ashur Dishman

Technology: 2nd Place - Taylor Turpin, Olivia Jordan, Lucas Jordan

Two-Dimensional: 3rd Place - Janna Albright, Luke Troutman, Krisha Villanueva, Hunter Spurgeon, Taylor Turpin, Hailey Hennette

Woodworking Division 1: 3rd Place - Mason Kerr

G.O.L.D. Key Award (Growing Opportunities by Leadership Development) was rewarded to Shoals High School Beta Chapter for at least 10 percent growth in convention attendance.

Congratulations to Lydia Cook, Shoals Beta Senior, for winning \$750 for the Indiana Senior Scholarship for her character, involvement, and leadership.

RATE

(Continued from page one)

13,617 residents able to work and 338 of them without jobs.

In October of 2021, Greene County's jobless rate was 2.5 percent with 13,533 residents able to work and 335 of them without jobs.

The top ten spots in the state with the highest jobless rate for October were Howard County at 4.8 percent, Fayette County at 4.2 percent, Lake County at 4.1 percent, Miami County at 3.6 percent, LaPorte and Starke counties at 3.5 percent, Noble and Vigo counties at 3.4 percent, Sullivan County at 3.3 percent, and Clay, Delaware, Lawrence, Orange, St. Joseph and Vermillion counties at 3.2 percent.

The top ten spots in the state with the lowest jobless rate for October were Ohio, Gibson and Boone counties at 2.1 percent; Steuben, Hamilton, Daviess and Adams counties at 2.2 percent; and Whitley, White, Wells, Posey, Hendricks, Dubois and Benton counties at 2.3 percent.

Indiana's unemployment rate in October stands at 3.0 percent, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. By comparison, the national unemployment rate in October stands at 3.7 percent, compared to 3.5 percent in September.

In addition, Indiana's labor force participation rate is 63.3 percent for October, remaining above the national rate of 62.2 percent. Indiana's total labor force, which includes both Hoosiers employed and those seeking employment, stands at 3,397,335 - a decrease of 3,724 from the previous month.

Letters to Santa!

November 22nd - December 23, Santa's Mailbox will be in front of Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals.

Please feel free to let your child use this to mail their letters to Santa!

QUEEN-LEE CHAPEL
GEORGE FUNERAL HOME, LLC
411 High Street
Shoals, Indiana 47381
812-247-3101

Please join us for the

5th Annual

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

to be held

Thursday, November 25

from 11 am-1 pm

in the Lower Level of

St. John's Center

in Loogootee.

Free of Charge.

Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

9:06 a.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries in Crane. Corporal Wells responded.

10:38 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check on an ATV in Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

11:41 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

12:08 p.m. - Received a call from Health Net requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Corporal Wells, Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

1:20 p.m. - Received a report of cows out on US 231 South. Left message for owner.

3:18 p.m. - Received a request for an officer east of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

4:28 p.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard north of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

4:48 p.m. - Received a request for extra patrol in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins was notified.

6:04 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver heading north on US 231 South. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

6:39 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:38 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-cow accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins, Loogootee Fire Department, Haysville Fire Department Martin County EMS and Big John's Towing responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:11 p.m. - Received a report of a possible fire northeast of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

3:10 a.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard in Shoals. Captain Reed responded.

3:45 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance northeast of Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Officer Sims responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:37 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

8:39 a.m. - Received a report of a stalled vehicle northwest of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

8:46 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:15 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 heading west. All Martin County Law Enforcement were advised.

11:02 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS, ISP Trooper Beaver, Corporal Wells and Deputy Hawkins responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

11:57 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 2 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:00 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to remote court.

2:32 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to remote court.

2:58 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting cows on the roadway south of Loogootee. Dispatch notified the owner.

5:03 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance northwest of Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department

responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:39 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to an officer. Deputy Hawkins responded.

8:45 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock south of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

11:40 p.m. - Received a call from Orange County EMS requesting an ambulance in West Baden. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to IU Health Paoli.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

2:23 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver heading north on US 231 South. Captain Reed and Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

4:43 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Shoals. Captain Reed responded.

8:18 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check northwest of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

10:12 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County EMS, Lost River Fire Department and Deputy Hawkins responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Health in Paoli.

11:23 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

2:00 p.m. - Received an animal complaint southeast of Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

2:02 p.m. - Received a 911 call from Crane base. Transferred call to Crane 911.

3:54 p.m. - Received an animal complaint northeast of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

7:10 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident north of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

2:35 a.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries north of Loogootee. Captain Reed, Loogootee Officer Sims and Big John's Towing responded.

4:06 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims and Big John's Towing responded.

5:51 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock north of Shoals. Captain Reed responded.

8:00 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Corporal Wells, Loogootee Chief Means and Big John's Towing responded. No transport was needed.

9:16 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

9:50 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to remote court.

10:27 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check southeast of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

10:46 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

11:31 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to remote court.

12:20 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County EMS, Lost River Fire Department, Sheriff Greene and Corporal Wells responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:05 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to remote court.

1:29 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Loogootee Fire De-

partment and Corporal Wells responded. Martin County Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:31 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to remote court.

3:28 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means and Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

4:01 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

4:23 p.m. - Received a report of someone breaking into a vehicle in Shoals. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

7:35 p.m. - Received a call from Intra-da Emergency Services advising of a 911 call on Crane Base. Called the emergency number to advise.

8:11 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance

9:16 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident in Shoals. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

11:00 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

4:22 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a lift assist in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

4:29 a.m. - Received a 911 call advised to disregard the lift assist. Advised Medic 1.

5:40 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance northeast of Shoals. Martin County EMS responded and transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

9:29 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

2:30 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle southeast of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

2:53 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a fire in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department, Loogootee Officer Seymour and Corporal Wells responded.

3:56 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Crane. Corporal Wells responded.

4:34 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock east of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

5:13 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident with no injuries south of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

6:20 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

6:30 p.m. - Received a report of suspicious vehicles in the roadway north of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Seymour, Loogootee Officer Erwin and Deputy Long responded.

7:30 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a structure fire in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department, Loogootee Officer Erwin, Deputy Branham and Martin County Medic 1 responded. No one was transported.

8:13 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

9:45 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance northeast of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

12:01 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Shoals. Deputy Branham, Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Medic 1 responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:30 a.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries in Shoals. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

10:40 a.m. - Received a report of a car-

deer accident northeast of Shoals. ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

12:12 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to a conservation officer. Indiana Conservation Officer Fuhrman responded.

1:54 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a field fire in Daviess County. Transferred call to Daviess County 911.

2:43 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check on a trailer. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

3:16 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver south of Shoals. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

3:35 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check south of Loogootee. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

5:03 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver in Shoals. Reserve Deputy Harmon responded.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

3:25 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin and Deputy Branham responded.

3:45 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:56 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Deputy Branham, Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County EMS responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

7:44 a.m. - Received a call from Guardian Medical requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Medic 2 responded. No one was transported.

9:14 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a horse in the roadway southeast of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

12:55 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to an officer. Deputy Hawkins responded.

5:51 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

6:37 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department, Deputy Hawkins and Martin County EMS Medic 1 responded. No one was transported.

7:00 p.m. - Received a report of a possible domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin and Corporal Wells responded.

8:00 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County EMS Medic 1 responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:39 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

11:53 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident northeast of Shoals. Martin County EMS Medic 1, Corporal Wells, Loogootee Officer Erwin and Big John's Towing responded.

ARRESTS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

4:00 p.m. - Jerry Holt, 56, of Shoals, was arrested for a probation violation. He is being held without bond.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

3:27 p.m. - Dylan Bruner, 28, of Shoals, was arrested on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

4:14 a.m. - Judy Harker, 57, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Erwin and charged with domestic battery. She is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING

November 9

Ona L. Wiles, convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony and driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced on count one to serve 240 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 94 actual days previously served plus 94 Class A credit days. Sentenced on count two to serve 240 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 94 actual days previously served plus 94 Class A credit days.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

November 9

Steven Goodpaster, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

November 14

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Joseph Benge, civil collection.

Mark E. Scherschel vs. James D. Roudebush, Jill K. Roudebush, John P. Roudebush, et al, civil plenary.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

November 9

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Discover Bank and against the defendant Bonnie Reedy in the amount of \$6,280.77.

CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

November 10

Capital One Bank vs. Tina Shaw, civil collection, dismissed.

November 15

TD Bank USA vs. Terrin Ball, civil collection, dismissed.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

November 9

Brian Anthony Dant of Loogootee and Sonja Michelle Gormley of Loogootee.

Indiana Missing Children's Day Poster Contest open for submissions

The Indiana State Police is proud to partner again in 2023 with the U.S. Department of Justice in promoting the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 25th as National Missing Children's Day. This day is dedicated to encouraging parents, guardians, caregivers and all concerned individuals with the well-being of children to make child safety a priority. It serves as a reminder to continue our efforts to reunite missing children with their families and loved ones. It also serves as an occasion to honor those who are dedicated to this very noble cause. The National Missing Children's Poster Contest provides an opportunity for schools, law enforcement, and parents/guardians to discuss and promote child safety.

The state winner will receive a national award certificate from the U.S. Department of Justice and their poster will be selected to go to the national judging competition. The national winner, along with his/her parents and teacher, and the state manager will be invited to Washington, D.C. to participate in the U.S. Department of Justice's National Missing Children's Day ceremony.

Some important facts about the contest:

-There is NO LIMIT on the number of posters a school can submit.

-Only one (1) poster per student is allowed for submission.

-Students who submit posters MUST be in the 5th grade.

-Artwork should reflect the theme "Bringing Our Missing Children Home." This phrase MUST appear somewhere on the poster.

-The theme may be depicted in the artwork through one or a combination of illustrations and can be created using media such as acrylics, watercolor, pencils, charcoal, magic markers, spray paint, crayons and pastels. Digitally produced images, collages, cut-outs and stamping WILL NOT be eligible for consideration.

-The finished poster MUST measure 8 1/2 X 14 inches.

-The poster must be submitted with a COMPLETED application, which includes a description of the poster and a brief biography of the artist.

All poster contest rules can be found here: [2023 Poster Contest Packet.pdf](https://www.indianapolispd.com/2023-Poster-Contest-Packet.pdf)

Deadline for submissions from participating organizations to be received by Sergeant Seth Tumey is February 7, 2023.

Submissions are to be sent to: Indiana State Police Museum Attn: Sergeant Seth Tumey, 8660 E 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

If ever a child goes missing, contact your local police department or dial 9-1-1. It is also a good idea to keep an updated picture or cell phone image, and a DNA sample from your child.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

12:09 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department assisted EMS with a medical call on Southwest Second Street.

9:25 p.m. - Officer Sims and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to a traffic accident on Highway 231 South.

10:11 p.m. - Officer Sims and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to a report of smoke coming from a residence on Brickyard Road.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:24 a.m. - School Resource Officer Rayhill provided a welfare check.

1:56 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a disturbance at a local business.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

8:28 p.m. - Officer Sims responded to a downed power line on Fairview Street.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:54 a.m. - Chief Means and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to a traffic accident on Broadway Street.

9:53 a.m. - Chief Means assisted with a vehicle unlock on Day Road.

1:35 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department assisted EMS with a medical call on High Street.

3:41 p.m. - Chief Means provided a

welfare check on South Oak Street.

5:24 p.m. - Chief Means assisted with a vehicle unlock on Southwest Third Street.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

10:14 a.m. - Officer Seymour spoke with a subject regarding mail tampering.

2:00 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a fire on Industrial Park Drive.

6:25 p.m. - Officer Seymour assisted a broken-down motorist on Highway 231.

7:27 p.m. - Officers Seymour and Erwin, along with the Loogootee Fire Department, responded to a possible house fire on Kentucky Avenue.

8:47 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department was dispatched to a medical call on Love Cemetery Road.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

3:25 a.m. - Officer Erwin responded to a domestic dispute on Vincennes Street.

6:56 a.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department was dispatched to North Line Street for a medical call.

7:44 a.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department was dispatched to a medical call on Cedar Street.

6:58 p.m. - Officer Erwin responded to a verbal argument on Vincennes Street.

Martin County real estate transfers

Mark W. Arvin, of Martin County, Indiana to Northern Property and Development, LLC, of Daviess County, Indiana, that portion of the northeast quarter and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West of the Second Principal Meridian, lying partially in the City of Loogootee, Martin County, Indiana, containing 18.602 acres, more or less.

Katherine L. Hoffman to the **Katherine L. Hoffman Revocable Trust**, a portion of land in the northeast quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, more commonly known as 7074 US Highway 50 W, Shoals IN 47581.

Ernest Arthur to **Scott E. Vaught and Jill D. Vaught**, Lot Number 118 in the original Town of Crane.

Mark W. Arvin, of Martin County, Indiana to **Greene's Properties, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana, that portion of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, of the Second Principal Meridian, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 2.934 acres, more or less.

Steven D. Ragsdale and Mary A. Ragsdale to **The Mary A. Ragsdale Revocable Trust**, a part of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter and part of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, all in Section 32, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, containing 17.08 acres, more or less. More commonly known as 10687 Sherfick School Road, Shoals IN 47581.

John E. Day, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jonathan R. Wagler**, of Daviess County, Indiana, Lot Number 33 in Roger's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Jennifer L. Swartzentruber to **Christine Marley**, Lot Number 22 in Summers

Cannon & Crane Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Jennifer Etapa, of Martin County, Indiana to **Tony Allen and Trenady Allen**, a tract of land in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 7, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 2.868 acres, more or less. More commonly known as 1051 Webb Road, Loogootee IN 47553.

Mark W. Arvin, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jared D. Wagler and Darrell J. Wagler**, of Daviess County, Indiana, that portion of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, of the Second Principal Meridian, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.391 acres, more or less.

Latest edition of the Indiana State Police Road Show

Catch the latest edition of the "Indiana State Police Road Show" radio program on the Indiana State Police YouTube Channel at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQ0GxKaRrCM

This week's show features Deputy Chief Mike Pruitt of the Bargersville Fire Department. Mike joins the show to talk about his deployment to Hurricane Ian with Indiana Task Force One.

The radio program was titled "Signal-10" in the early 1960's when it was first started by two troopers in northern Indiana. The name was later changed to the "Indiana State Police Road Show" and is the longest continuously aired state police public service program in Indiana.

Radio stations across Indiana and the nation are invited to download and air for FREE this public service program sponsored by the Indiana State Police Alliance and Cops for Kids, a subsidiary of the Indiana State Police Alliance.

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SPRJ55189

Spacious home in Shoals

Spacious home on 2.36 acres, in Shoals! The main floor has 3 bedrooms & 2 full baths! The full walk-out basement has the potential for 2 additional bedrooms/1 full bath with plenty living space! 3,804 square feet. \$259,000



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More Neat Stuff



I'M SO OLD THAT:

I have dialed a rotary phone (that didn't have an answering machine),

Recorded a song that I love off a transistor radio onto a tape recorder,

Watched a black and white TV (with less than 10 channels) that had foil on the rabbit ears antennas,

Taken a long walk without counting the steps and eaten food that I didn't take pictures of.

THOUGHTS

*By replacing your morning coffee with green tea, you can lose up to 87 percent of what little joy you still have left in your life.

*Nine times out of 10 times, if I lose something it's because I put it in a safe place.

*Just blew some sugar off my donut. Dieting is so hard.

*Diet tip: Eat food off other people's plates. Those are their calories. They don't count.

*I've come to the conclusion that I have a memory like an Etch-a-sketch. I shake my head and forget everything!

*New research suggests drinking coffee in the morning helps others live longer.

*When you teach a wolf to meditate, he becomes Aware Wolf.

*If you love someone, set them free. If they come back, it means nobody else liked them. Set them free again.

*Why does a milking stool only have three legs? Because the cow has the udder.

*Every older person is a younger person wondering what the hell happened.

*I don't always have time to fold and put away laundry, but when I do, I don't.

*It's kinda funny how being old doesn't seem so old now that I'm old.

*I work hard at my job, but if the opportunity to become a rich housewife arises, I'm taking it.

*Tip for our survival: Dinosaurs didn't have wine. Look what happened to them.

*Never ask a woman drinking wine

straight from the bottle how she's doing.

*Getting older is just one body part after another saying "Ha, ha, you think that's bad. Watch this!"

A lovely woman from the country died. She found herself outside a beautiful garden with splashing fountains and bright flowers, but she was alone, and the gate was locked. When St. Peter finally came by, the woman said to him, "This is surely a wonderful place. It must be heaven. How do I get in?"

You have to spell a word, said the saint. "What word might that be?"

"Love," said he. Well, she spelled it all right and was admitted through the Gates of Heaven.

About a year later, St. Peter asked this woman if she would mind guarding the Gates for a short while for him. While she was waiting, her husband arrived.

"How've you been?" she asked.

"Oh, not bad," he said, "I married the pretty nurse who took care of you, and then I won the lottery. I sold our little cottage and bought a lovely mansion. My wife and I traveled round the world. Today I was skiing and broke my neck and...and here I am. How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word."

"What word?"

"Czechoslovakia"

Make someone smile today!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Loogootee Zoning meeting

The Loogootee Zoning Board of Appeals will meet Monday, December 12 at 5 p.m. in the council meeting room of the municipal building, prior to the monthly city council meeting. The item for review by the board is the placement of two tiny rental homes at 102 Park Street. The meeting is open to the public.

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.

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!

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the 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.

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.

Attorney General warns Hoosiers of utility scams

On a monthly basis, many Hoosiers worry about the costs of paying utility bills. Their concerns intensify when the arrival of cold, wintry weather forces them to crank up their furnaces to heat their homes.

Attorney General Todd Rokita is warning Hoosiers to stay alert for scammers who try to take advantage of their fears.

He advises watching out for certain tell-tale tactics. Often, Attorney General Rokita said, scammers will:

-Call to tell you that you have utility payments overdue and that you must pay right away — often through unorthodox methods such as wiring money or using gift cards.

-Call "as a courtesy" to let you know you overpaid your utility bill — and asking for personal information they supposedly need to refund your money.

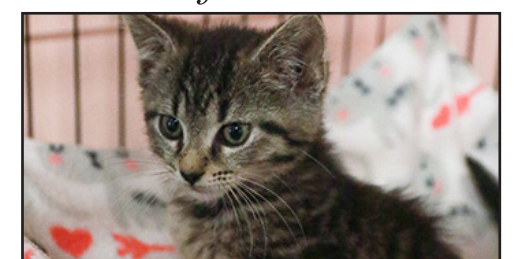
-Send you an email or text with a link indicating that you have an overdue bill or invoice.

-Show up at your house unexpectedly to supposedly make needed repairs to equipment such as gas meters — and saying you must pay on the spot to keep the heat on.

Don't fall for such schemes.

If you believe you have been the victim of any scam or attempted scam, call Attorney General Rokita's office at 1-800-382-5516 or go to indianaconsumer.com.

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



KITTENS! The shelter has three "candy" kittens still available for adoption - Kit Kat, Skittles and Twix. They are around 20 weeks old now. 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.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all voters who got out on Election Day and voted. It has been an honor to serve you in my current term and I look forward to serving you for another term. I appreciate all of the support I have received.

-Sierra M. Rutledge

-Paid for by the Committee to Elect Sierra Rutledge



Dr. Andreas Hennig General Surgery

Andreas Hennig, D.O., was recently appointed to the active medical staff at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center. Dr. Hennig is a general surgeon who will be joining Marcus Kurucz, M.D., Joanne Leibe, D.O., M.P.H., Megan Stevenson, M.D., and Charles Tollett, Jr., M.D. at Memorial Surgical Associates.

Dr. Hennig received his medical school degree from Western University of Health Sciences in Lebanon, Oregon, and completed his general surgery residency at St. Anthony Hospital in Lakewood, Colorado. He recently completed an advanced gastrointestinal, minimally invasive surgery fellowship at Providence Portland Medical Center in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Hennig is a member of the American College of Surgeons, the American Foregut Society, and the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons. To schedule an appointment at Memorial Surgical Associates, please call 812-996-6580. Memorial Surgical Associates is located in the Medical Arts Building, Suite 220, at 721 W. 13th Street in Jasper, Indiana.



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In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser,
Purdue University Master Gardener

Dear Santa,
I would like to tell you that I have been good all year, but I do not want to lower my chances of getting gifts because of a fib. I have tried to be good, but it is hard to do.

On the chance that I make the nice list, I wanted to get my requests in early, just in case the elves need some time to make some of the more unusual requests. Even if I do not get anything, this list may give you some ideas for the good gardeners on your list.

As always, I would like rocks. I need some flagstone pavers to complete the walk into my moon garden. I would also like to have a large stone with "Sandhill Gardens" engraved on it to put at the end of the driveway. I need some fill gravel to do some leveling and make some gravel pathways in the gardens.

You did not bring the concrete hand chairs I requested last year, so I am asking again. I want to put these on a look-out area at the top of the cliff. You do not have to put them under the tree. You may leave them at the cliff, so I do not have to try to move them. I also need another seat for the garden. The bench in the rose garden broke recently and cannot be repaired. The roses are the attraction there, and I do not think the bench should detract from their beauty, so a simple stone slab resting on two stone pillars would be great.

There are some trees and shrubs I would like to add to the garden next year, including some more evergreens, more rhododendrons and more native flowering shrubs. They would be hard to find at this time, so perhaps you could just leave some gift certificates to some local nurseries. There are a lot of good nurseries in Southern Indiana, and I think you should support the local economy by purchasing gift certificates from them.

I love to share my garden in unique ways. I have seen a kaleidoscope that opens to allow one to place flowers, leaves and other objects into a chamber. One may then view them through the scope and the prisms will create interesting designs. I think this would be a great way to introduce children to the garden. Children are also fond of finding animals in the garden. Some small concrete animals that could be hidden beneath shrubs or within grass clumps would be nice.

I like herbal teas and I grow many herbs. I would like some infusers into

which herbs may be placed for making tea. These infusers allow loose-leaf tea to be made without the need for straining.

My Christmas tree is covered with many ornaments, but I can always find room for more. I have seen a blown glass monarch butterfly ornament that would look nice on the tree and could be displayed on a stand all year. There are some other garden-themed ornaments that would look good displayed with the butterfly.

I have some antique metal chairs and a beautiful antique bench that need to be sandblasted and painted. I have not found someone to do this, so I am asking for a sandblaster or soda blaster to try my hand at it.

One of my favorite winter-time garden activities is feeding and watching the birds. The price of bird seed has increased a lot this year, so I may not be able to keep the feeders filled. You could bring me some bird seed and some suet cakes to share with the birds. I would also like a heated birdbath for the cold days. A good digital camera would also allow me to take some pictures to share.

If you cannot bring me these gifts, please at least send your elves during the off season to help in the garden. I know a lot of older folks who would appreciate help more than any gifts. Compost from the reindeer barn would also be appreciated.

Yours truly,
Ralph

Hoosier Environmental Council hosting "Indiana's Energy Future" event

The Hoosier Environmental Council is hosting "Indiana's Energy Future: what do clean energy policies and incentives mean for you and your community?" on December 3 from 9 a.m. to noon (ET) at the StoneGate Arts and Education Center in Bedford at 931 15th Street.

This is a free community event open to the public. Coffee, fruit, and local pastries will be served. All attendees will hear how to take advantage of new consumer energy incentives, receive a sneak peek of how Indiana is developing to attract new industries and business opportunities, and learn about community energy resources to prepare for the new year.

Register now at: www.hecweb.org/events/.

NRC approves new nature preserve in Greene County, doubles Martin County's Bluffs of Beaver Bend

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) approved the dedication of Clemens Place on Clifty Creek Nature Preserve in Greene County during its regularly scheduled meeting yesterday at Fort Harrison State Park.

This 58-acre nature preserve includes a portion of the Clifty Creek canyon, which features towering sandstone bluffs and a karst sink.

The action increases the number of state-designated sites protected by the Nature Preserves Act to 297.

Also regarding nature preserves, the NRC approved the dedication of a 207-acre addition to Bluffs of Beaver Bend Nature Preserve in Martin County, nearly doubling its size to approximately 412 acres.

In other action of note, the NRC: Granted preliminary adoption to amend 312 IAC 1-1-26 and 312 IAC 6-7-5, which governs the Ordinary High Watermark on the Lake Michigan Coastline, aligning the rule with the Lake Michigan ordinary high water mark statute at IC 14-26-2.1-1. Granted preliminary adoption to amend 312 IAC 5-6-3.5, Special Boating Zones, and Temporary Structure

DNR holiday gift packs available for limited time

Cross those hard-to-buy-for people off your shopping list in a snap by giving them a 2023 holiday gift pack from the DNR.

A gift pack can be used the whole year, whether the recipient enjoys camping or sleeping in the comfort of an Indiana State Park Inn after enjoying the outdoors. The gift pack also saves you up to \$31 over buying the items individually. A limited quantity of gift packs is available.

The \$99 gift pack includes a 2023 resident annual entrance permit, a one-year subscription to Outdoor Indiana magazine (six issues), and one of two \$65 gift card options. One gift card option can be used at the campgrounds — another gift card option is a \$65 State Park Inns gift card. You also have the option of upgrading either to \$100 by paying \$35 more.

Indiana has 36 state park properties throughout the state. The entrance permit grants gate entrance for 2023 to all state park properties beginning January 1.

Standards on Clear Lake, to establish an idle zone on the Steuben County lake.

Approved the following meeting dates for next year: January 17, March 21, May 16, July 18, September 19, and November 21.

The NRC is an autonomous board that addresses topics pertaining to the DNR. More details on these and other actions are at nrc.IN.gov/meetings-and-minutes/current-meeting-agenda under "November Agenda."

The next regularly scheduled NRC meeting is January 17, also at Fort Harrison State Park.

NRC members include the DNR director, heads of three other state agencies (Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Destination Development Corporation, and the Indiana Department of Transportation), six citizens appointed by the governor on a bipartisan basis, the chair of the DNR's advisory council, and the president of the Indiana Academy of Science. The Academy of Science president and the agency heads, other than the DNR director, may appoint proxies to serve the commission in their absences.

The inns gift card can be used at any State Park Inn, as well as at the award-winning Pete Dye-designed golf course at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. The card can also be used for lodging, meals in the dining rooms, or gift purchases.

The camping gift card can be used toward the rental of campsites, cottages, group camps, recreation buildings, rent-a-camp cabins, shelters, youth and rally camps, and cabins (excluding inns-operated cabins).

The camping gift card may also be used to purchase daily entrance, lake permits, horse tags, and any other items sold at gatehouses and park-operated stores and gift shops. The camping gift card cannot be used at any privately operated concessions, camp stores, marinas, or saddle barns.

The offer is available through December 31, 2022, or when sold out. Gift packs can be purchased only at shopIN-stateparks.com.

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<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">6-month</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4.40 %</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">APY*</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">9-month</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4.65 %</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">APY*</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1-year</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4.70 %</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">APY*</p> </div>
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Saturday, Nov. 26th

1:00PM-3:00PM

Sadie Miskuf

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Ways to stop the stigma placed on mental health

BY MELISSA JEREMIAH, RN CHCE
Director of Operations Hoosier Uplands
Home Health and Hospice

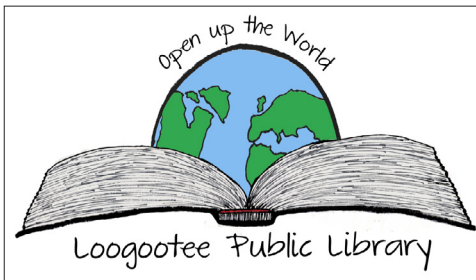
As we are entering into the holiday season, I thought this would be the best time of the year to remind everyone how important our mental health is.

Here's to a safe and healthy New Year!

1. Chose empowerment
2. Tell others how you feel
3. Get the treatment you need
4. Educate yourself and others
5. Open up to those who love you
6. Talk openly about mental health in your home and with friends and family
7. Remember physical and mental

8. Don't reject others
 9. Help to normalize mental health
 10. Show compassion for others
 11. Be honest about your treatment
- I would love to see the day where everyone who is struggling with a mental health issue would feel comfortable about opening up that they need to get help; without having the added pressure and fear that someone will make them feel stigmatized.

There is no difference between needing treatment for your blood pressure, diabetes, broken arm or cancer and needing treatment for your depression, anxiety, addiction or other mental health needs.



BY DARLA WAGLER
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 24-26, 2022, the library is closed for Thanksgiving.

On Sunday, December 4, from 2-6 p.m. at the Loogootee United Methodist Church Hall, the Friends of Loogootee Library (FOLL) will have a soup supper fundraiser. Soup, hot dog, and drink for a donation and desserts will be available. Silent auctions items will be available to bid on. Some of the Christmas Stroll vendors will be set up in the Family Life Hall and the Christmas Parade will start at 7 p.m.

On December 6 at 6 p.m., Carolyn's Book Club will discuss Skipping Christmas by John Grisham.

New Books:
Mystery: "Hunting Time" by Jeffery Deaver.

Fiction: "The Whittiers" by Danielle Steel, "The Choice" by Nora Roberts, and "A Christmas Story" by Richard Paul Evans.

Inspirational Fiction: "The Hidden Prince" by Tessa Afshar.

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.

RSV on the rise: Signs to watch for and tips for prevention

Currently across the country, there is an increase in the numbers of RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) cases. This has shown to also be leading to increased numbers of hospitalizations. The same is true at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper.

RSV is a respiratory virus that affects the younger population more intensely than the adult population. If you notice the below signs of RSV, please contact your health care provider:

- Difficulty breathing
- Fever that does not respond to medications
- Trouble with or concern about feedings/eating

Prevention is key! Doing these things will help protect your young children and babies from RSV this season:

- Handwashing – Adults before contact and children as often as possible
- Avoid contact with sick people
- Adults may not have 'bad' cold – RSV in adults presents as a mild cold.
- Other sick children – RSV will not always present as a major illness.

Home for Sale

Loogootee, IN

Online Auction: Wed., December 7 • 7:30pm ET




415 SW 3rd Street, Loogootee, IN

Open House: Mon., November 28th from 5-7pm ET





This home has 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom & Detached Garage. The roof to the home was replaced in 2022. High ceilings and spacious bedrooms! This home features a large mud room/laundry room and a screened in front porch. Don't miss this opportunity!



2 Beds



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<div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">INSURANCE</div> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">Kerns INSURANCE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">Ed Kerns, Owner/Agent Alyssa Kerns, Owner/Agent Luke Callison, Agent</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">LOOGOOTE (812) 295-9737 BEDFORD (812) 275-5899 Home Auto Business Health Life Medicare</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">INSURANCE</div> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">Terri Kelso Insurance</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">1211 S Meridian St, Ste 2, Washington, IN 204 S JFK Ave, Loogootee, IN 812-254-7770 or 812-295-5777 Fax 812-254-7778</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">Terri Kelso</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">OWNER terrikelso@att.net www.terrikelso.com</p> </div> </div> </div>	<div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">LAWYER</div> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">Isha E. Wright-Ryan</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">Attorney at Law</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">A Professional Corporation Telephone: 812-295-1096 200 John F. Kennedy Avenue Fax: 260-408-1760 P.O. Box 398 ishawrightryan@gmail.com Loogootee, IN 47553 www.ishalaw.com</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">MONUMENTS</div> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">MARTIN COUNTY MONUMENTS LLC</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">EST. 2020</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">Emma Letterman, Owner 812-709-2457 • emma.letterman@gmail.com</p> </div>
<div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">PHYSICIAN</div> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">Daviss-Martin Medical Clinic</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">David Nibel, MD Daniell Summers, FNP</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">Lab & X-ray Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">Daviss Community Hospital</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">Call us today for an appointment! 812-295-5095</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">REALTOR</div> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">Allie Jones</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">Your Local Agent</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">MIDWEST REALTY</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">1-812-709-0418</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">REALESTATEALLIE@OUTLOOK.COM</p>  </div>	<div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">STONE/GRAVEL</div> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">Fast Lane Farms</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">Stone • Ag Lime Sand • Gravel</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">Randy Wininger 812-709-0383 • rvcwininger@gmail.com 3201 St. Rd. 550, Shoals IN 47581</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">TRASH PICK-UP</div> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633;">KRB Disposal</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #006633;">Pickup household trash weekly NOW serving Martin & Daviss counties</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006633; font-size: 1.2em;">812-247-3115 or 812-247-3604</p>  </div>

NSA Crane reveals future base strategic plan, employment forecast, in fourth-annual State of the Installation Address

Naval Support Activity Crane delivered the fourth annual State of the Installation address during the White River Military Coordination Alliance's quarterly meeting, briefing the group on successes over the past year, ongoing initiatives and workforce needs, and upcoming projects including a future base master plan.

The annual State of the Installation address provides an opportunity for Team Crane to share its strategic goals and any operational changes or proposed construction projects that may impact the Alliance membership. Commander James L. Smith delivered his third and final address, as his three-year term as NSA Commander ends in summer 2023.

"Naval Support Activity Crane is eager to build upon and expand our community partnerships under a Future Base Design initiative designed to bring increased op-

timization, mission support efficiencies, and stronger ties to the community and services available outside the fence," said Smith. "Intergovernmental Support Agreements, Educational Partnerships with academia, and collaborative initiatives will aim to provide new and innovated ways to support NSA Crane while mutually benefiting the local community and the region."

Since the last State of the Installation in November 2021, Team Crane has successfully completed projects and implemented programs such as:

- Completing facility and infrastructure projects which include the Crane Army Ammunition Activity (CAAA) plating shop, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane (NSWC) Submarine Battery Evaluation Center, a new dining facility, and more than 65 additional public works projects;
- Renewing the Education Partnership

with Indiana University and expanding the collaboration with others;

-Receiving a Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscapes designation, only one of ten across the country;

-Executing Silent Swarm, a two-week technology experimentation event bringing in more than 150 Electromagnetic Warfare subject matter experts from industry, academia, and civilian and military personnel;

-And continuing to provide munitions and support to our nation's warfighters around the globe.

CDR Smith's address included the following key updates about the installation, highlighting its priorities, upcoming plans and opportunities for community collaboration:

-Future mission growth and planning: NSA Crane will update its Installation Development Plan (Master Plan) in 2023, complete Horizontal Gap Analysis Studies for infrastructure capacity and performance, and initiate resiliency studies to analyze the base along with the surrounding area. CAAA and NSWC Crane also are participating in strategic planning processes for modernization, mission growth, and future base design, respectively.

-Improvements and infrastructure: More than \$150 million in construction projects and infrastructure improvements are currently underway on the installation including the CAAA rail holding yard and NSWC's strategic radiation testing modernization facility. Construction is ongoing for the Underwater Launch Test Complex, which represents a \$300 million investment in infrastructure that is scheduled to be completed in 2026.

-Recruitment and job trends: Through increased involvement at career fairs both virtually and in-person, social media postings, direct hiring authorities and engagement with direct commands, installation employment is expected to grow 3 to 5% over the next five years. NSWC Crane has hired over 1,300 individuals over the last three years, which represents the largest number seen since the 1980s.

-Opportunities for educational collab-

oration: Team Crane identified opportunities to continue to explore educational partnerships with state institutions that will build a strong talent pipeline to fill jobs. Currently there are multiple connections with universities and skilled trades such as the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Purdue University, conservation and environmental study efforts with Indiana University, Vincennes University business and industrial training program, and growing partnerships with Ivy Tech Community College.

In addition to Commander Smith's presentation, the Alliance was also briefed on initiatives and discussed 2023 plans, including:

-Activities of the Crane Regional Defense Group, a citizen-led grassroots subcommittee of the Alliance aimed to preserve the strategic value of Crane and bring economic growth to Southern Indiana by supporting local outreach and legislative initiatives;

-Updates on the Crane/Grissom Military Compatibility Legislation from consultant White & Smith;

-Identifying key committees for Alliance members to serve on and lead as a result of a member survey to increase engagement and continue to improve programming and communication with the communities;

-2023 implementation action items and goals for the next year.

"We are grateful for our partnership with Team Crane and its leadership as this address allows us to better understand how our communities can support the installation," said Cary Albright, Vice President of the White River Military Coordination Alliance. "We are looking forward to the completion of many ongoing initiatives and development opportunities, hope to continue to grow our relationship with the base as we move forward."

At the February 2023 Alliance meeting, members will assist their communities to prepare a State of the Community briefing to inform Crane leadership of planning efforts, future projects, and initiatives that may impact the installation.



-Photo provided

Make My Day grant

Shown above, from left to right, are Christmas Toy Store Co-Chair Pam Loughmiller and Martin County Community Foundation (MCCF) Board member Kelli Wilson. Kelli presented a \$500 Make My Day grant to buy toys for this year's Christmas Toy Store. The MCCF always likes to make someone's day, especially for some children's Christmas!

Community Action Leading Loogootee (CALL) presents:



Loogootee's Christmas Stroll

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH US!

Admission is free, so bring the whole family! There will be a lot of vendors and local businesses selling wonderful Christmas gifts!

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DECEMBER 4TH, 4-8PM.
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DECEMBER 4TH, 2-6PM


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DONATIONS ACCEPTED FOR FOOD

CHILI, CHICKEN NOODLE, TACO, POTATO, AND VEGETABLE SOUPS WITH HOT DOGS AND DESSERTS!

THERE WILL ALSO BE A SILENT AUCTION!

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Please send resume to mnorris@martincounty.in.gov

You may call the Auditor's office with questions at 812-247-3731
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SHOALS ELEMENTARY PRESCHOOL TEACHING ASSISTANT

Posting Date: October 31, 2022

Job Opening: Preschool Teaching Assistant

Qualifications: Must be able to engage and assist children with kindness and patience. Assist the lead teacher in imparting classroom instruction and ensuring the physical, social, cognitive, and educational excellence of children. Must be able to pass a paraprofessional exam. A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Must be self-motivated while contributing to a team atmosphere.

Details: 28.5 hours/week

Apply To: Shannon Wagoner, Shoals Community School Corporation
11749 Ironton Road
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Phone: 812-247-2085 Ext. 704
Email: wagoners@shoals.k12.in.us

Closing Date: Until filled

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

Compensation: \$15.00-\$17.67 per hour
Advancement opportunities are available.

Minimum Requirements:

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

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

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We are seeking F/T installers for a 300-mile radius from Orleans, IN. Very generous compensation-average pay is over \$1200 per day taking a two-person crew 6-8 hours and payment is typically disbursed immediately upon completion. Must have a dependable pickup, minimum 16' dual axle utility trailer, and own tools. Vehicle & business liability insurance required.

Serious inquiries only please.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Martin County Assessor's Office has an opening for a **Full-Time Deputy Assessor position.**

You must be able to analyze and process data entry for Real Property, Personal Property, Sales Disclosures and Real Estate transfers.

For more information, please contact the assessor's office for an application at 812-247-2070 or email cmcguire@martincounty.in.gov.

Troopers ramping up patrols during peak Thanksgiving travel

Thanksgiving is one of the busiest travel seasons of the year. AAA is predicting 54.6 million people will be heading out for the holiday. Of those, nearly 49 million will be traveling by car, a rebound to almost pre-pandemic levels. This time of year is also associated with higher drinking rates, which, combined with the sheer number of drivers on the road, makes it an especially dangerous time for motorists.

To prevent crashes, the Indiana State Police Jasper Post will ramp up enforcement as part of the Safe Family Travel campaign. Starting this week, officers will be out in greater numbers conducting saturation patrols designed to discourage impaired driving and promote seat belt use. Safe Family Travel operations begin before Thanksgiving each year and run through New Year's Day. The extra high-visibility enforcement is funded with grants provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI). Lt. Jason Allen, Commander of the Jasper Post, said, "The holiday season is a very special time of year. May you enjoy many blessings and fellowship with friends and family. Thank you for not drinking and driving and for doing your part to ensure everyone reaches their destination safely."

According to NHTSA, drunk driving and fatal crashes spike during the Thanksgiving holiday season. This can be attributed, in part, to cultural phenomena like "Blackout Wednesday" or "Drinks-giving," an event synonymous with heavy alcohol consumption. This year's holiday also comes at a time when fatal crashes and dangerous driving are up across the state and nation. In Indiana, 932 people lost their lives on the road last year, a 4% increase from 2020. Of those fatalities, 12 occurred during the Thanksgiving holiday season, with more than half (7) found unbuckled at the time of the crash. On average, approximately one-fourth of the state's traffic fatalities are caused by drunk drivers. "Impaired driving is life-threatening, but even more so around the holidays," said Robert Duckworth, ICJI Traffic Safety Director. "With so many ride options available, there's no reason that should be the case. We're asking everyone to plan accordingly and to make safety a priority. Our goal is zero fatalities this year."

With officers on high alert, motorists are encouraged to plan to get home safely by designating a sober driver or by using public transportation or a ride service like Uber or Lyft. Even if one drink is consumed, never drive impaired or let friends get behind the wheel if they've been drinking. It's also important to wear a seat belt, put away distractions and follow posted speed limits. Travelers are encouraged to check road conditions before each trip and to leave with plenty of time to reach their destination safely. "We're anticipating a very busy travel season this year, so for those sharing the road, remember to slow down, drive sober and buckle up," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "Most fatal crashes are avoidable, not inevitable. We want everyone to make it to the Thanksgiving table safely."

Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is illegal in Indiana and all 50 states. Those who choose to drive impaired are not only risking their life and the lives of others but also could face an arrest, jail time, and substantial fines and attorney fees. The average drunk driving arrest costs up to \$10,000. Motorists are encouraged to contact the department or call 911 if they encounter an impaired or unsafe driver on the road.

For safety tips, visit www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving.

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Email courtney@martincountyjournal.com