

Martin County JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Eight pages

County's jobless rate dips to 3.2 percent in October

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Martin County's unemployment rate edged down slightly in October to 3.2 percent, down from 3.6 percent the month before. The county had the sixth lowest jobless rate in the state for October.

In October, the county had 5,425 residents in the workforce and 172 of them were without jobs. In September, there were 5,301 residents able to work and 193 of them were unemployed.

In October of last year, Martin County's jobless rate was 2.3 percent with 5,393 residents in the workforce and 126 of them without work.

Daviess County's jobless rate moved from 3.2 percent in September to 2.7 percent in October. The county had the lowest jobless rate of the 92 Indiana counties for October.

In October, the county had 16,485 residents in the workforce and 445 of them were unemployed. In September, there were 16,266 residents able to work and 514 of them were out of work. In October of 2019, Daviess County's unemployment rate was 2.3 percent with 16,769 residents in the workforce and 382 of them were unemployed.

Dubois County's unemployment rate dipped down to 3.3 percent for October, down from 3.8 percent in September. The county had the seventh lowest jobless rate in the state for October, tied with Hamilton, LaGrange and Warrick counties.

In October, the county had 22,265 res-

idents in the workforce with 735 of them without jobs. In September, there were 21,773 residents able to work and 838 of them were unemployed.

In October of last year, Dubois County's jobless rate was 2.1 percent with 22,952 residents able to work and 482 of them unemployed.

Greene County's unemployment rate dropped a full percentage point from September to October, moving from 5.1 percent to 4.1 percent. The county sat right in the middle of the rankings in Indiana for October at 44th place.

In October, the county had 13,303 residents in the workforce with 550 of them unemployed. In September, there were 13,202 residents able to work and 676 of them were without work. In October of last year, Greene County's jobless rate was 3.5 percent with 13,780 residents in the workforce and 482 of them without jobs.

The top ten spots in the state for lowest jobless rate for October were Daviess County at 2.7 percent, Posey County at 3 percent, Union, Boone and Adams counties at 3.1 percent; Martin County at 3.2 percent, and Warrick, LaGrange, Hamilton and Dubois counties at 3.3 percent.

The top ten spots in the state for highest jobless rate for October were Orange County at 8.2 percent, Lake County at 7 percent, Fayette County at 6.5 percent, LaPorte County at 6.3 percent, Marion County at 6.2 percent, St. Joseph County at 6.1 percent, Howard County at 5.5 percent. (See 'RATE' on page 2)

Shoals Town Council holds special meeting to open timber bids

The Shoals Town Council met in a special session Monday, November 23. Those in attendance were Council Members Cecil Ragsdale, Cary D. Albright, and Clint Hoffman; Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge, Town Attorney Dave Lett, Steve Deckard, with the Shoals News; and Steven Moffitt with Mark Morin Logging, Inc.

Attorney Dave Lett opened the two sealed timber bids that were received for 205 acres owned by the Town of Shoals on Sherfick School Road. The first bid was from Mark Morin Logging, Inc. in the amount of \$51,000 with a choice cut of 500 trees. The second bid was from

Indiana Timber & Veneer LLC in the amount of \$45,000 with 300 choice cut trees. Councilman Ragsdale made a motion to table the decision in order to take the bids under advisement until the next meeting to be held on Monday, December 14. Councilman Albright made the second and all were in favor.

Council Member Albright made a motion to appoint Council Member Ragsdale to Martin County Tourism Board with Council Member Hoffman making the second and all were in favor.

Clerk-Treasurer Rutledge told the board a CARES fund needed to be created. Council Member Albright made a motion to create the fund with Council Member Hoffman making the second. Rutledge then presented Resolution 2020-3 "Resolution to provide for Reimbursement of Public Health and Safety Payroll Costs with CARES Act Funding". Council Member Hoffman made a motion to pass the resolution with Council Member Albright making the second and all were in favor.

Rutledge stated that the open enrollment for the employee health insurance had been completed under the plan the board renewed for 2021 which was the same plan thru AIM Medical Trust with a 5.3 percent premium increase and changes made to the eligibility coverages as made by the board.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 14 at 6 p.m.

Five residents have died from COVID-19

Since the beginning of November, Martin County has seen a daily increase in the number of cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The total number of positive cases for Martin County is now at 358 and five Martin County residents have died as a result of COVID-19.

To date 2,372 residents have been tested.

The Martin County Health Department requests that if someone in your household is symptomatic or has been exposed to someone who is COVID-19 positive, please do not attend any family events over the Thanksgiving holiday. For the sake of your family, friends and loved ones PLEASE STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK or if you have been told to isolate or quarantine. Even though you feel fine, you could be infectious to others up to 48 hours before your symptoms begin. You can develop symptoms 2-14 days after exposure.

Wear a mask when you are around others. Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Avoid close contact with people who are sick or have been exposed to someone positive for COVID-19. Cover any coughs or sneezes with a tissue. If someone in your household is sick, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces several times daily.

There is a lot of confusion regarding isolation and quarantine. The following information explains the difference between

isolation and quarantine:

Isolation is keeping the infected person away from others, even in their home. Isolation is for a period of 10 days from the date of symptom onset or until symptoms have resolved. Isolation for asymptomatic Covid-19 positive person is 10 days from the date the positive test was collected. (See below)

Quarantine is keeping someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others. Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they have symptoms or know they are sick. (See below)

A close contact is someone who, in the 48 hours before the Covid-19 positive person developed symptoms or the positive test was collected, meets 1 or more of the situations below:

- * You were within 6 feet of a Covid-19 positive person for a total of 15 minutes or more
- * You provided care at home to someone sick with Covid-19
- * You had direct physical contact with someone with Covid-19 (hugged or kissed them)
- * You shared eating or drinking utensils with someone with Covid-19
- * Someone with Covid-19 sneezed, coughed or got respiratory droplets on you
- * You live in a household with someone who is sick with or tested positive for Covid-19

(See 'COVID' on page 2)

Shoals woman tells parents' love story at Catholic War Veterans meeting

BY BUD ERLER
Catholic War Veterans Commander

The Catholic War Veterans of Martin County commemorated the 75th anniversary (1945-2020) of the WWII allied victory in Europe at their most recent monthly meeting on November 15. The keynote guest speaker was Shoals resident Marie B. Hawkins, narrating from manuscript her parents' actual saga in stirring, yet fascinating, imagery and detail.

Marie's dad, an Army soldier, was born Bert A. Denny, Jr. on May 13, 1923, in Downey voted as new Loogootee Clerk-Treasurer

The Martin County Democrat Party held a caucus last Thursday, November

18 to pick a replacement for Loogootee Clerk-Treasurer. Current Clerk-Treasurer Carol Harder is resigning the position on December 31, 2020. Roger Downey was voted in, 3-1 to replace Harder. Ron Gilbert received one vote.

Others vying for the seat but not receiving any votes were Brandi Hennette, Gianna Armstrong, Teresa George and Jennifer Tedrow.

Downey will take over the position on January 1, 2021. He will serve the remaining three years of Harder's term.



The Catholic War Veterans presented Marie Hawkins with print version (shown above) of the famous French Impressionism artist, Pierre-Auguste Renoir's 1876 masterpiece entitled 'Bal du moulin de la Galette', in honor of her parents' story.

Terre Haute, Vigo County. Bert's parents were Bert E. Denny, Sr. and Beulah Mae Orman (Denny). The Denny family relocated to Shoals where the rest of the family resided. They had Denny's Truck Stop, along Hwy. 50, where Marie grew-up and today is Marie's home and location of American Tree Experts, Inc., a business which Marie directs and manages with her spouse, Rodney, and adjunctively, the site of Marie's clothing alterations business and shop.

Marie's mother was born Simone Angel Seguin (Denny) on April 20, 1922 in the village of Enghin les Bains, just outside Paris, France. Simone came from a fairly wealthy, not 'rich, rich' background, using Marie's wording. Simone was a sec-

(See 'HAWKINS' on page 2)

Happy
Thanksgiving
From Our Family
To Yours
Josh, Courtney, Wyatt,
and Alex Hughett
Martin County
JOURNAL

COVID

(Continued from page one)

Isolation guidelines for the symptomatic/positive person: they need to isolate away from others in the household in a separate bedroom and bathroom from the rest of the household for at least 10 days from symptom onset or until symptoms resolve if symptoms last longer than 10 days. If it is not possible for the positive person to use a separate bedroom & bathroom, then the other household members quarantine period starts after Covid-19 positive person's isolation period has ended.

Quarantine guidelines for close contact or household members of a Covid-19 positive person: ALL household members/close contacts to a Covid-19 positive are required to quarantine for 14 days from the date of the LAST EXPOSURE to the Covid-19 positive person. Household members who have continued exposure to the sick/positive person will begin their 14 day quarantine after the household member ends their isolation period. Situations that would require the quarantine period to start after the positive person's isolation period has ended include parents of small children who don't have someone else who can care for them, household members who so not have a separate bedroom & bathroom from

the positive person, or caregivers of positive/symptomatic household members who are unable to care for themselves.

If a person in quarantine gets tested, they still must complete the 14-day quarantine period even if they get a negative test result. Symptoms can begin 2-14 days after exposure to an infected person. If they develop symptoms while in quarantine, they would begin an isolation period of 10 days from symptom onset. Testing is recommended for anyone in quarantine that develops symptoms.

If someone in your household is symptomatic for Covid-19, all household members should stay at home until the symptomatic person is tested or receives an alternate diagnosis from their doctor. If someone in your household has recently been tested for Covid-19, all household members should stay at home until they receive their results. The symptomatic person should isolate away from the rest of the household until results are received or until they see their doctor. Examples of alternate diagnosis could include strep throat, flu, etc. If the household member's Covid-19 test is negative or they receive an alternate diagnosis, asymptomatic household members can return to normal activities.

RATE

percent, Starke County at 5.4 percent, and Madison, Miami, Switzerland and Vigo counties at 5.2 percent.

Indiana's unemployment rate drops to 5.0 percent for October, and the national rate is 6.9 percent. The monthly unemployment rate is a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicator that reflects the number of unemployed people seeking employment within the prior four weeks as a percentage of the labor force.

Indiana's labor force had a net decrease of 7,271 over the previous month. This

was a result of a decrease of 41,803 unemployed residents and an increase of 34,532 employed residents. Indiana's total labor force, which includes both Hoosiers employed and those seeking employment, stands at 3.34 million, and the state's 63.1 percent labor force participation rate remains above the national rate of 61.7 percent.

Learn more about how unemployment rates are calculated here: <http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov/infographics/employment-status.asp>.

HAWKINS

(Continued from page one)

retary to French General Charles Andre' Joseph Marie de Gaulle, a hero of France who is noted for his guidance of free-France following the expulsion of Nazis.

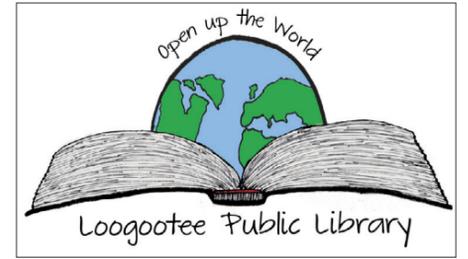
Bert met Simone while she was walking down the street in her hometown, near the location Bert was working on Army equipment. Bert laid eyes on Simone, and by Marie's poignant narration, Bert walked into the middle of the street, removed his head covering, bowed to Simone with his arm across his chest holding his head covering; Marie then emphasizes, "The rest was history!"

Marie strongly noted that she couldn't imagine what Simone was thinking upon her arrival in Martin County. Simone was strictly a person used to city life, coming here a shock to her. Furthermore, it required \$5,000 (a lot of money in 1946), and five reference letters written by five Shoals residents attesting that Bert was a good person and would take care of Simone.

Simone lived in Shoals until her death on July 23, 2008. Bert passed away on July 15, 2005.

At the conclusion of Marie's presentation, the CWV Post Commander, on behalf of himself, the members, and all friends of the organization, with honor, awarded to Marie a print version of the famous French Impressionism artist, Pierre-Auguste Renoir's 1876 masterpiece entitled 'Bal du moulin de la Galette', translated 'Dance at Le Moulin de la Galette'. This work depicts the working-class merriment of French citizens on a typical Sunday afternoon dressed formally for dancing, picnicking, and celebration of their culture. It must be undoubtedly admitted that we American citizens do enjoy this human spirit depicted by both Marie's moving account, furthered by Renoir's own con-

ception of what human nature upholds in thought and outward behavior, that goodness is stronger than all evil, however, most significantly, that Hope must be sought after, continuously, for freedom to grow and be handed-on to those coming in later generations.



BY DARLA WAGLER

Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

The library will be closed November 26-28 so staff can spend time with family for Thanksgiving.

Beginning December 1, 2020, the library building will be closed on Mondays and Fridays but you can ring the bell on the south door (door that faces the Food Pantry) to pick up books, send faxes or make copies. The hours will be Mondays 10-7, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10-4. Saturdays 11-1. Schedule can change as needed.

Assistant Librarian Carolyn Parsons-Downey will hold her next book discussion group on Monday, December 7 at 5:30. "Giver of the Stars" by Jo Jo Moyes is the selected book. Social distancing and mask wearing will be required. Call Carolyn if you plan to attend.

New Books:

DVD: "When Calls the Heart Season 7" and "Richard Jewell".

The library phone number is 812-295-3713 or check out the website www.loogootee.lib.in.us or like us on Facebook. The library has free Wi-Fi service available for patrons.

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Martin County JOURNAL

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CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 148, Loogootee, IN 47553
Phone: 812-259-4309
Fax: 1-888-380-2761
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Martin County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications to fill open PART-TIME JAIL OFFICERS AND DISPATCHER POSITIONS

Applications:

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.

Requirements:

1. Be a citizen of the United States
2. Be at least 18 years of age
3. Have a high school diploma or GED
4. Cannot have any Felony, Misdemeanor Battery or Domestic Violence convictions
5. Be willing to submit to pre-employment drug screening
6. Ability and willingness to work a variety of shifts, including evenings, weekends and some holidays

Compensation:

Part-time Jail Officers: up to \$12.50 per hour
Part-time Dispatchers: up to \$12.00 per hour
Advancement opportunities are available

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

The City of Loogootee is accepting applications for a Utility Clerk position to begin as a part-time and become a permanent full-time position.

Applications may be picked up at the Utility or Mayors' offices
8 am-4 pm, Monday - Friday.

Deadline for applications is December 11th, 2020.

In His Hands Daycare is hiring Full-time for our Toddler room!

Applicants must be 18 years of age, have a high school diploma, or GED, must be willing to do trainings (mostly online), and be flexible.

We are located in Dover Hill on State Rd 450, just north of Shoals!

Contact Kirstie at 812-709-9080, Crystal at 812-631-5676, or email us at inhishands318@gmail.com

OBITUARIES

LOUIS MOORE

Louis James Moore passed away on Monday, November 16, 2020 at Daviess Community Hospital. A resident of Washington, he was 87.

He was born June 8, 1933 in Medora; the son of Tullis R and Ruby Ann (Atchison) Moore. Louis graduated from Loogootee High School. He enlisted in the Army and served in Germany. Louis retired from US Gypsum. He was a member of the American Legion.

He is survived by nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Russell T. Moore and John R. Moore and two sisters, Vera Louise Spalding and Chlois Moore.

Military Graveside Rites were given by the Washington American Legion and VFW on Friday, November 20 at Bethany Cemetery with Father Paul Ferguson officiating.

Condolences can be sent to the family online at www.edleemortuary.com. All arrangements were entrusted to Ed Lee Mortuary.

LLOYD JONES

Lloyd Hayden Jones passed away November 23, 2020. A resident of Greenwood, he was 88.



He was born January 13, 1932 in Shoals; the son of Frank and May Dietrick Jones.

He proudly served his country in the United States Marines during the Korean War. He was a member of the F.O.P. and enjoyed coin collecting. He was employed with the IMPD as Sergeant and retired after 28 years as a detective in the Burglary and Larceny division. He then worked with Chase Bank for 10 years in security.

Survivors include his children, Deborah Browning, Sandy (Tom) McKnight, Becky (David) Passmore, Eric Bodenheimer and Jeff (Audrey) Jones; grandchildren, Greg Browning, Justin Jones, Chad Foster, Justin Boyd, Matthew Hamilton, Martin Boyd, Kurtis Schnepf, Kara Jones, Desiree Jones, Haylee Boyd, Nick Jones, Steven Moffatt and Sawyer Moffatt; 14 great grandchildren, and brother, Jackson Jones.

He was preceded in death by his wives, Norma M. Jones and Gwendolyn Jones; and his siblings, Helen Brown, Jean Chestnut, Floyd Jones, Leo Jones and Olive Wininger.

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, masks are required, and social distancing should be practiced during all the services. For those unable to attend you can watch the service livestream on the GH Hermann Facebook page. Visitation will be Friday, November 27 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at G. H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home at The Gardens of Olive Branch, 1605 S. State Road 135, followed by the service at 1 p.m. He will be laid to rest at Greenwood Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Police Protective Fund or the Wounded Warriors. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.ggherrmann.com.

JOSEPH WALL

Joseph R. Wall Jr. passed away at 2:36 pm Wednesday, November 17, 2020 at his home. A resident of Vincennes, he was 79.



He was born October 21, 1941 in Vincennes; son of Joseph Richard and Kathryn (Tade) Wall Sr.

Joe served his country in the Air Force and was a member of the American Legion Post #120 and the V.F.W. in Loogootee.

Surviving are his daughters, Kathryn A. Wall Mitchell and her husband, Tony of Robinson; Lisa Keown and her, husband Tracy, of Carmel; Gayle Quayle of Nashville, Tennessee; and Tamara Chanley and her husband, Brian, of Vincennes; his grandchildren, Jennifer Hill, Brandt Mitchell, Paisley Mitchell, Bayden Keown, Eric Thompson, Erika McMurtrey, Erin Thompson, Connor Fiechter, Jordan Chanley, Sydney Chanley; and her nephews, Tony Clark and Sam Clark.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Frankie Clark.

Graveside services were held Friday, November 20 at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Goodwin-Sievers Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Joseph Wall.

BETTY ERVIN

Betty J. Ervin, formerly of Shoals, passed away November 20, 2020 at the Miller's Merry Manor in Mooresville. A resident of Mooresville, she was 87.

She was born January 23, 1933 in Dubois County; son of Harry and Caroline



BETTY ERVIN

(Krodel) Braun. She married John W. Ervin on February 27, 1954 and he preceded her in death in 2000.

She was a homemaker and was of the Lutheran faith.

Survivors include one son, Michael Ervin of Plainfield; two daughters, Nancy Jones of Paragon and Cathy McCartney of Indianapolis; eight grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, grandson, Michael McCartney; three brothers, Cleo Braun, Kurt Braun, and Willis Braun; and one sister, Artis Bowling.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 28 at the Queen-Lee Chapel of Thorne-George Family Funeral Homes. Burial will follow in Hawkins Cemetery.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.queenlee.com.

DON STRANGE

Don K. Strange passed away at 4:46 p.m. Thursday, November 19, 2020 at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper. A resident of Loogootee, he was 64.

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



SHIVA is a female kitten, around 3-4 months old. She is very sweet, very playful, and loves other cats. Adoption fee is \$45. The shelter is open by appointment only and an adoption application is required to schedule an appointment. For more info, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.

He was born July 27, 1956 in Burn City; son of the late William "Bill" and Mary (Pridemore) Strange. Don married Naomi Arvin on July 2, 1977 and she survives.

He loved antique cars and looked forward to attending the Frog Follies each year in Evansville. He loved his family, especially his grandchildren. Don attended the Loogootee Christian Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Mary Strange and brother-in-law, Steve Atchley.

He is survived by his wife, Naomi Strange of Loogootee; children, Eric Strange and Jessica (Zach) Madley, both of Loogootee; grandchildren, William and Paisley Strange, Jayden Seitz and Collin Madley; siblings, Doris (Doug) King, Bill (Marty) Strange, Kathy (Claude) King, Cheryl Atchley, Gerald "Mouse" Strange, Karen Overman and Rhonda (Steve) Arvin; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, November 23 at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee. Burial followed in Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Blake Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Don K. Strange.

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AUCTION

BIDDING OPENS: December 15th, 8 am EST

BIDDING CLOSES: December 16th, 6 pm EST

**4
Tracts**

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BLOOMFIELD, IN

**208.5 +/- total
acres**

PROPERTY LOCATION: 2927 W 275 S, Bloomfield, IN 47424

OPEN HOUSE December 1st • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. EST

Dave Bonnell: 812.343.4313 | Todd Litten: 812.327.2466



HLS# PDB-12578
Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer, IN Auct. Lic.
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OWNER: ROBERT DAVIDSON LLC



800.424.2324 | halderman.com

Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

9:27 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Martin County Ambulance, Lost River Fire, Air Evac, ICO Everhart, and Shoals Fire responded.

9:50 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231, south of Loogootee. All units were advised.

12:21 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 towards Loogootee. All units were advised.

3:27 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett and Deputy Lents were advised.

3:49 p.m. - Received a report of a disturbance in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill, Deputy Lents, and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

4:24 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance, Sheriff Roush, and Deputy Lents responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

5:22 p.m. - Received report of a car-deer accident near Loogootee. Sergeant Reed responded.

5:30 p.m. - Received a report of a fire north of Shoals. Martin County Ambulance, Indian Creek Fire, Martin County Civil Defense, and Deputy Lents responded.

6:03 p.m. - Received an alarm call in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

7:39 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check east of Shoals. ISP Trooper Brummet responded.

7:46 p.m. - Received a report of an accident on US 50, east of Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded.

8:26 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver near Shoals. Deputy Lents and Deputy Flanagan responded.

9:25 p.m. - Received a report of harassment west of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

1:58 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Daviess County Ambulance transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

2:01 a.m. - Received a request for lift assistance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

7:20 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Shoals. Major Keller, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

8:15 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

10:15 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took three inmates to court.

10:30 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:30 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

12:31 p.m. - Received a report of a fire north of Shoals. Indian Creek Fire and Major Keller responded.

1:26 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill and ISP Trooper Beaver responded. All was okay.

1:50 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

4:43 p.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist with a vehicle identification check west of Shoals.

10:01 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

5:50 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident on US 231, south of Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded.

7:21 a.m. - Received a report of an accident south of Loogootee on US 231. Deputy Gibson, Loogootee Captain Hennette, Haysville Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded.

9:00 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:13 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee on US 231. Deputy Gibson responded.

9:38 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle near Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

9:42 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee Fire, and Loogootee Captain Hennette responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:57 a.m. - Received report of an accident on US 231, south of Loogootee. Deputy Gibson, Haysville Fire, and Dubois County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:09 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Daviess County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

10:46 a.m. - Received a request for lift assistance north of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

12:15 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. No one was transported.

4:00 p.m. - Received a report of trespassing near Shoals. Deputy Gibson and ICO Doane responded.

11:05 p.m. - Received a report of spotlighting north of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan was notified.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:56 a.m. - Deputy Lents performed a vehicle identification check East of Shoals.

9:52 a.m. - Deputy Lents performed a vehicle identification check near Shoals.

10:26 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. No one was transported.

10:30 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

11:00 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took three inmates to court.

11:05 a.m. - Received a report of a brush fire southeast of Shoals. Deputy Lents, Lost River Fire, and Hoosier National Forest responded.

1:30 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down north of Shoals. Martin County Highway responded.

1:45 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

2:23 p.m. - Received a report of an accident on US 50 in Shoals. Deputy Lents, Deputy Seymour, Martin County Ambulance, and Shoals Fire responded.

3:03 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

3:25 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

4:34 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic problem in Loogootee. Loogootee Police and Deputy Lents responded.

5:35 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin Coun-

ty Ambulance transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

6:49 p.m. - Received a report of a woods fire near Shoals. Shoals Fire, Martin County Civil Defense, and Deputy Barnett responded.

6:52 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

11:50 p.m. - Received a report of an accident on US 50, west of Shoals. Deputy Barnett, Shoals Fire, Martin County Ambulance, ISP Trooper Nolan, Loogootee Officer McBeth, and Air Evac responded. The subject was transported to the University of Louisville Hospital.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

3:44 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident on US 231, south of Loogootee. Deputy Barnett responded.

7:13 a.m. - Received a request for medical assistance in Loogootee. Deputy Lents, Loogootee Sergeant Floyd and Martin County Ambulance responded.

8:26 a.m. - Received a report of a commercial alarm in Shoals. Deputy Seymour responded.

11:23 a.m. - Received multiple reports of a sick deer in Martin County. South Region and Deputy Lents responded.

12:56 p.m. - Deputy Lents assisted in retrieving personal property.

2:40 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver near Loogootee. ISP Trooper Beaver and Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

6:48 p.m. - Received a report of a car-

deer accident in Martin County. ISP responded.

7:06 p.m. - Deputy Barnett responded to a citizen requesting to speak to a deputy.

9:25 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle in Shoals. Shoals Town Marshal Eckert and Big John's Towing responded.

9:53 p.m. - Received a report of a stolen vehicle in Shoals. Shoals Town Marshal Eckert, Deputy Barnett, ISP Trooper Nolan and Martin County Ambulance responded.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

11:15 a.m. - Subject on station to fill out a voluntary statement referencing harassment.

8:05 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Barnett responded.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

12:10 a.m. - Received a request for medical assistance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported one to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:47 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Deputy Lents responded.

2:50 p.m. - Received a report of a motion sensor alarm at a building in Loogootee. Key holder, ISP Trooper Beaver and Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

5:15 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Lents responded.

Police: Buckle up and designate a sober driver

Thanksgiving is normally one of the busiest travel times of the year. While the pandemic may have impacted plans with family this year, the Indiana State Police wants to remind motorists who do use the road to buckle up and drive sober this holiday season.

"Due to the pandemic, we anticipate fewer vehicles on the road, but precautions still need to be taken, like wearing a seat belt and designating a sober driver," stated Lieutenant Jason Allen, Indiana State Police Jasper Post Commander. "Let's work together to make sure everyone gets to their planned destination safely."

Many traffic deaths and injuries could be prevented by wearing a seat belt. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), from 1975 to 2017, seat belts have saved an estimated 374,196 lives. While Indiana's seat belt usage rate is above 90 percent, more than half of the people who were killed in motor vehicle crashes last year were not buckled up.

Drinking and driving is also deadly and completely preventable. Every day, almost 30 people in the U.S. die in drunk

driving crashes, NHTSA data shows. That's approximately one person every 50 minutes.

In Indiana, there were 106 people killed in alcohol-impaired collisions in 2019, representing 13 percent of the state's traffic fatalities.

"In a year when miles traveled are down, traffic fatalities are up 9 percent from this time last year," said Rob Duckworth, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Traffic Safety Director. "Slower speeds and wearing seat belts are two of the best ways to prevent further fatalities, along with driving sober."

Further, vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of death for kids between the ages of 8 and 15. For families with children, it's important to have a properly installed child safety seat or booster seat for each child. Parents can visit www.childseat.in.gov for a list of locations and a toll-free phone number to speak with experts about the proper installation of child safety seats.

Troopers ask Hoosiers to report suspected impaired or aggressive drivers by calling 911. Give a location, vehicle description, and direction of travel.



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COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & SENTENCINGS

October 15

Phillip E. Babcock, convicted of operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 913 days with 885 days suspended and credit for 14 actual days previously served plus 14 Class A credit days. Defendant received 24 months of probation.

Lee Michael Secrest, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 700 days with 300 days suspended and credit for 5 actual days previously served plus 5 Class A credit days. Defendant to serve 390 days as executed sentence at the Indiana Department of Corrections and may serve said sentence on electronically monitored home detention through the Martin County Probation Department. Defendant received 9 months of probation.

October 20

Julie E. Lents, convicted of domestic battery, a Level 6 Felony and operating a

vehicle as a habitual traffic violator with habitual criminal enhancement, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced on the first count to serve 300 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 14 actual days previously served plus 3 Class P credit days. Defendant to serve 283 days on electronic monitored home detention through the Martin County Probation Department. Sentenced on the second count to serve 112 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 56 actual days previously served plus 56 Class A credit days.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

October 15

Phillip E. Babcock, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed.

October 20

Julie E. Lents, strangulation, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

November 12

Discover Bank vs. Marty G. Peek, civil collection.

Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Joshua Kane Lewis, civil collection.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGEMENTS

November 23

Judgment in favor of the plaintiffs Linda and Lloyd Burch and against the defendant Peggy Stoll in the amount of \$477.19.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

November 20

Cynthia Downey of Loogootee and Daniel A. Vanbibber Jr. of Lawrenceville, Illinois.

November 23

Corey D. Ivey of Shoals and Barbara J. Sanders of Shoals.

ARRESTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

2:00 a.m. - Justin Lacey, 28, of Orleans, was arrested by Deputy Flanagan and charged with possession of a schedule drug, possession of marijuana, driving while suspended prior, and a Lawrence County warrant. He is being held without bond.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

11:54 a.m. - Michael Bakerian, 43, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Sergeant Floyd on a Martin County warrant and is being held without bond.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

12:25 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a report of excessive speed coming into Loogootee on US 50 West.

2:10 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to an accident involving an animal on US 231 South.

3:50 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to Cedar Street in reference to a report of an out-of-control youth.

6:07 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a burglar alarm at a local business on JFK Avenue.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

10:24 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Norris Street.

11:11 a.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a report of a truck losing pallets along the roadway.

2:00 p.m. - Chief Rayhill completed a welfare check.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

9:41 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Locust Street.

9:56 a.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to assist a stranded semi on Broadway Street.

10:11 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Vine Street.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

10:29 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call at a local business.

1:52 p.m. - Chief Rayhill completed a vehicle check.

3:27 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a property damage accident on West Broadway Street.

4:36 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a domestic disturbance on Reason Avenue.

5:39 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Vine Street.

6:55 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Friends Creek Road.

8:59 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a civil disturbance on North Line Street.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:13 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted with a medical call on Mt. Calvary Road.

2:40 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a report of a possible impaired driver.

4:37 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a report of a semi hitting a sign on West Broadway Street.

7:03 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a

report of two youths riding dangerously in traffic on bicycles on SW Second Street.

7:58 p.m. - A caller reported an erratic driver.

11:05 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department on a domestic disturbance.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

12:48 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a report of a request for extra patrol around a residence due to possible trespassing.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

2:53 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to an alarm at a local business.

5:15 p.m. - A caller reported an accident involving an animal on US 231 South.

6:25 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a noise complaint on Bloomfield Road.

Real estate transfers

Robert E. Taylor and Sabra D. Taylor to Jonathon M. Culbertson and Rachel S. Culbertson, a tract of land in Section 25, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, containing 2 acres.

Jesse D. Sergent and Donna E. Sergent, of Martin County, Indiana to **Kevin R. Boyd and Riza L. Boyd**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot #1 in Freeman's Addition to the Town of Shoals, Indiana.

Karlene F. Kent, of Martin County, Indiana to **Mark V. Sherwood**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 10, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.21 acre, more or less. Also, a part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 10, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.6 acres, more or less.

Christopher C. Craig and Michele L. Craig, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Kendrick J. Wagler and Kelby J. Wagler**, of Martin County, Indiana, the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter, containing 4 acres, more or less.

Gregory A. Tarr, of Martin County, Indiana to **Seth L. Davis**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 28, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing approximately 1.32 acres, more or less.

Scammers are stealing Hoosiers' identities to claim unemployment benefits

A growing number of scammers are filing claims for unemployment benefits using other people's names and identities, Attorney General Curtis Hill said today. Over the course of 2020, he said, the Office of Attorney General has recorded an exponential increase in the number of consumer complaints involving this type of fraud.

The scammers are stealing personal information such as dates of birth, Social Security numbers and home addresses — and routing benefit payments to accounts over which the scammers have control.

"These deceivers steal the identities of others, who are generally employed, in order to file fraudulent claims," Attorney General Hill said. "If someone uses your name in this fashion, you may learn about it from your employer or from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, which processes unemployment claims. In many cases, payments may already have been regularly deposited into someone else's account by the time you learn of the fraud."

From April 18 to May 18 this year, the Office of the Attorney General received just three unemployment-related identity theft complaints. Cases trended upward throughout 2020, and from October 18 to November 18, the office received 157 such complaints.

Certain patterns seem to indicate the scammers are targeting the identities of people they know are busy working during the COVID-19 pandemic, Attor-

ney General Hill said, such as doctors, nurses and others in health care.

While the wrongfully taken funds come from the public treasury, the person whose identity has been stolen by scammers can also suffer negative consequences. Besides having fraudulently filed for unemployment benefits, the scammers might also have the personal information needed to gain access to victims' bank and other accounts as well.

In addition, if left unresolved, these instances of fraud could interfere with people's legitimate efforts going forward to apply for unemployment benefits should they lose their jobs.

If you learn that your identity has been fraudulently used in a claim for unemployment benefits, you should report it to the Office of the Attorney General via <https://indianaattorneygeneral.secure.force.com/IDTheftComplaintForm>.

Additionally, you should report it to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development at www.in.gov/dwd/indiana-unemployment/fraud/. Finally, you should also file a report with local law enforcement and the Indiana State Police, which offers an online form at www.in.gov/dwd/files/ISP-UI-Fraud-Report.pdf that that can be filled out and emailed to uifraud@isp.IN.gov.

You may read more about this type of scam on the Federal Trade Commission's website at www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/06/scammer-getting-unemployment-benefits-your-name.

CONFUSED ABOUT MEDICARE? I CAN HELP!

The Annual Election Period (AEP) For Medicare will end on December 7th. I would be pleased to assist you in your decision regarding your health insurance.

Call George Doyle at 317-847-2532

George Doyle is not connected with the Federal Medicare program. This is a solicitation for insurance and a licensed agent may contact you.

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2 DAY ONLINE ESTATE AUCTION

Located in Loogootee, IN ~ Address will be given to winning bidders at close of auction

Dec. 1 & 2 ~ 7pm each evening!

Lots start closing on Tuesday & Wednesday at 7pm.

This is a 2 Day Estate Auction with over 1,000 lots! Features a wide variety of furniture, household items, antiques & collectibles, tools, & so much more!

PICK UP: Thursday (December 3) from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

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More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



I didn't live most of my life on a farm, but I knew a lot of farm families and loved their way of life. The following is for my farm friends.

WISE ADVICE FROM A FARMER'S WIFE

*Whenever you return a borrowed pie pan, make sure it's got a warm pie in it.

*Invite lots of folks to supper. You can always add more water to the soup.

*There's no such thing as woman's work on a farm. There's just work.

*Make home a happy place for the children. Everybody returns to their happy place.

*Always keep a small light on in the kitchen window at night.

*If your man gets his truck stuck in the field, don't go in after him. Throw him a rope and pull him out with the tractor.

*Keep the kerosene lamp away from the milk cow's leg.

*It's a whole lot easier to get breakfast from a chicken than a pig.

*Always pat the chickens when you take their eggs.

*It's easy to clean an empty house, but hard to live in one.

*All children spill milk. Learn to smile and wipe it up.

*Homemade's always better'n store bought.

*A tongue's like a knife. The sharper it is the deeper it cuts.

*A good neighbor always knows when to visit and when to leave.

*A city dog wants to run out the door, but a country dog stays on the porch 'cause he's not fenced-in.

*Always light birthday candles from the middle outward.

*Nothin' gets the frustrations out better'n splittin' wood.

*The longer dress hem, the more trusting the husband.

*Enjoy doing your children's laundry. Someday they'll be gone.

*You'll never catch a runnin' chicken but if you throw seed around the back door you'll have a skillet full by supper.

*Biscuits brown better with a little butter brushed on 'em.

*Check your shoelaces before runnin' to help somebody.

*Visit old people who can't get out. Someday you'll be one.

*The softer you talk, the closer folks'll listen.

*The colder the outhouse, the warmer the bed.

THOUGHTS

*I'm just going to flip this omelette here, and...I'm having scrambled eggs.

*A wife asked her husband if he knew what her favorite flower was. Apparently "Gold Medal" was not the correct answer.

*Me: I want to take a trip.

Bank Account: I highly suggest it be a trip to work.

*There should be a calorie refund for things that didn't taste as good as you expected.

SIGNS

*Have you noticed "The" and "IRS" spells theirs?

*A few puns make me numb but math puns make me number.

*My friend was explaining electricity and I was like watt?

*I was kidnapped by mimes. They did unspeakable things to me.

Make someone smile today!

Millions of Hoosiers eligible for money after Equifax settlement

Attorney General Curtis Hill last week urged Hoosiers to visit IndianaEquifaxClaims.com and file a claim for a restitution payment in light of the massive 2017 Equifax data breach. The last day for Hoosiers to file claims is December 16, but Attorney General Hill said Hoosiers should file their claims as soon as possible.

The Equifax data breach occurred from May 2017 to July 2017 and impacted approximately 147 million Americans, including roughly 3.9 million Indiana residents. The breach compromised Social Security numbers, dates of birth, addresses and, in some cases, driver's license numbers and credit card information. Attorney General Hill sued Equifax following the data breach and secured a settlement with the company, which agreed to pay the state of Indiana \$19.5 million.

Indiana was one of two states that opted not to participate in a multistate settlement with Equifax in July 2019. Instead, the Office of the Indiana Attorney General opted to file its own lawsuit against the company. As a result, Indiana received more money than any of the states that participated in the multistate settlement,

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chamber meeting

The Martin County Chamber of Commerce will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 9 at noon at the West Boggs Activity Center. Zoom is also available for this meeting. Contact the chamber for more information at 812-295-4093.

Food pantry hours

The Loogootee United Methodist Food Pantry will be open the first, second, third and fifth Thursdays of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and also the first Monday of the month from 5-6:30 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 6 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.

Please join us for the
3rd Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner
to be held
Thursday, November 26
from 11 am-1 pm
at the Martin County Community Building
Turkey, stuffing and all the sides
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In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser, Purdue University
Master Gardener

As Thanksgiving rolls around, we take stock of our lives and the many things for which we are thankful. It is amazing the number garden-related things that make that list.

I am foremost thankful for being able to garden at Sandhill Gardens. To me, it is a little piece of paradise on a ridge in Orange County. My grandparents moved to this property 96 years ago, and I am thankful that my grandmother, Bertha Hooten, planted many perennials and shrubs that still grace the gardens. I am also thankful that my grandmother passed on so much of her love of plants and her knowledge. She taught me to use plants in many ways. Plants have brought me and her pleasure over the years. Plants have fed us and even treated hurts and illnesses. I am thankful that she showed me which wild plants are good for eating and also the ones that have medicinal uses. I thank God who gave such plants to us and cannot help but wonder if there is a plant out there which will hold the key to ending the covid pandemic.

I am thankful for the large maple trees that grace my gardens and provide shade to my home. I am thankful that my uncle, as a teenager, planted those trees and thank God that they have thrived and brought much pleasure to many for nearly a century.

I am thankful for the cliff that separates the gardens from the wooded area of my property. The cliff discourages deer and other creatures from invading the gardens. It also provides a view that is truly priceless. I know of no place better to watch a sunset. (That is why the moon garden is located right at the edge of the cliff.)

I am thankful for water at the top of the hill. As a child, we carried almost all of our water from a cave spring at the bot-

tom of the cliff. Now, I have water readily available and that is a fact for which I am truly thankful. I still catch rainwater to use in the gardens, but if there is a dry spell and the barrels run dry, I do not have to lug buckets up the path around the cliff to keep my plants growing.

I am thankful for the help I receive in the gardens, especially the assistance that comes from some great nieces and nephews. Passing on the knowledge of gardening to them is one of the purest of delights for me. I relish the days when they join me in the gardens, and I share in the wonder as they discover sights, scents and tastes in the gardens. I pray that they will learn the joy of gardening and carry on the tradition.

I am thankful for the many garden gifts I have received this year. Many readers of this column have come to visit and I am always happy to share the garden with them. Several have added to my collection of antique garden tools and seed catalogues of years gone by. I am also thankful that I have modern tools and do not have to rely on some of the tools in my collection. I love the old weed whips, scythes and reel mowers, but I am thankful that my motorized weed cutters and my zero-turning radius mower make much quicker work of cutting the lawn.

In a year when I have lost many friends and family members, I am truly thankful that I am able to garden. It may take me a little longer to accomplish some tasks, but God has granted me relatively good health and I am able to continue to care for this garden that means so much to me.

Finally, I am thankful for you, my readers. I cherish the notes I receive from you and am flattered that you call with questions about your own gardens. May you all have a wonderful holiday as you count your many blessings.

Purdue to host free virtual 2021 Top Farmer Conference

BY TORRIE SHERIDAN
Purdue University News Service

The Purdue Top Farmer Conference, a management program for farmers that features some of the nation's top experts on marketing, risk management and crop production, will take place January 8, live via the Zoom meeting platform.

"This year has brought an abundance of challenges and uncertain economic conditions for the ag industry," said James Mintert, Purdue professor of agricultural economics and director of the Center for Commercial Agriculture. "Although the pandemic prevents us from gathering in person for the conference as we have traditionally done for decades, it is perhaps more important than ever that we continue to bring farmers information on how to translate this year's challenge into next year's success. Meeting virtually will allow farmers to hear from thought leaders and experts, as well as network with peers during this interactive online session."

The conference, designed specifically for farmers and agribusiness professionals, will focus on addressing the economic environment and future implications and strategies to improve growers' odds of success. The conference will feature three of the nation's top experts on the agricultural economy and include thoughtful, innovative breakout discussions following the presentations.

Conference topics will include the ag economy outlook from both a macro and

consumer perspective, ag trade prospects and implications for farmland values. During the discussion breakouts, participants will interact with other attendees and consider strategic responses to this challenging economic environment.

Iowa State University's Wendong Zhang, an expert on Chinese agriculture and U.S. farmland values, will provide insight into drivers of change in China's food system and implications for Midwest farmland values. Jason Henderson, Purdue's senior associate dean in the College of Agriculture, will discuss prospects for world economic recovery in 2021 and implications for U.S. agriculture. Jayson Lusk, distinguished professor of agricultural economics at Purdue, will examine what changing consumer behavior will mean for U.S. agriculture.

The conference will take place 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. Registration for the three-hour virtual event is free, with space being limited to 300 participants. The conference will not be recorded; therefore, participants will need to register and attend the event live. Participants will receive an email upon registration with the Zoom meeting link and details on how to join the conference at its scheduled time.

The conference is sponsored by Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture and Farm Credit Mid-America. For more information or to register, contact Sarah Zahn at smithse@purdue.edu or 765-494-7004 or visit <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/program/top-farmer-conference-2021/>.

41 meat processors in Indiana awarded \$4 million

Announced on Monday, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture awarded \$4 million to 41 Indiana meat processing businesses through the Indiana Meat Processing Expansion & Development Grant Program. This funding was allocated to offset the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on local and small meat-processing agribusinesses in Indiana.

"Processing plants in our state are essential and this funding will help with a variety of necessities to strengthen this sector of our food supply chain," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. "These grants will address issues caused by COVID-19 and help meet consumer demands in both normal and emergency situations."

With a 50 percent cash match requirement for this grant opportunity, a total of at least \$8 million will be invested in the Indiana small meat processing economy as a result of the grant program.

Funding was made available through Indiana's allocation of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) dollars and was announced by Crouch. This funding was delegated via a competitive grant and was scored by representatives across a variety of both external organizations and state agencies.

The funding was provided to address impacts and cover expenses incurred due to the coronavirus pandemic. The awardees can use the funding in a variety of ways so long as it aims to improve food supply re-

silience through promoting worker safety, expanding meat processing capacity and/or increasing slaughter. Many businesses are using the grants to purchase equipment or modify their facilities for increased efficiency. Some are using the funding to train additional staff and purchase personal protective equipment. The 41 awarded meat processors are Hoosier businesses with less than 500 employees.

"The coronavirus pandemic highlighted our nation's delicate food supply chain, and it was clear we need workable options to get meat to markets and to protect consumers from supply chain disruptions," said ISDA Director Bruce Kettler. "Meat processors are essential for our state, contributing more than \$3.9 billion to our economy. It is vital we keep these businesses growing and operating safely."

The application process showed the industry had a significant need with 60 applicants and a total of \$6.8 million in funding requests. The list below highlights the 41 selected awardees and ISDA encourages Hoosier consumers to find a processor nearest them to shop local this holiday season.

Locally, grant awards went to Cannelburg Processing in Cannelburg for \$25,900, Merkley & Sons Packing in Jasper for \$96,000, and Odon Locker Inc. in Odon for \$75,700.

For a complete list of grantees, visit <https://www.in.gov/isda/>.

NRC accepts preliminary adoption of hunting changes

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC), during its bi-monthly meeting last Tuesday, accepted preliminary adoption of amendments to 312 IAC 9 related to hunting deer and wild turkeys, and trapping beavers.

Granting preliminary adoption starts a long and deliberative process, including a public comment period that includes the ability to participate in public hearings conducted by the NRC's Division of Hearings.

The amendments granted preliminary adoption include allowing hunters the option of using a 28-, 16-, or 10-gauge shotgun and .410 shotguns to hunt wild turkeys, in addition to having the option of using other equipment that is already legal in the spring and fall turkey season, as well as adding the #9 tungsten super shot. Additionally, it removes the restriction requiring the powder used in muzzleloaders for deer hunting to be loaded only from the muzzle end of the muzzleloader.

In other action, the NRC:

- Accepted consideration of amendments to Information Bulletin #2, Roster of Indiana Animals, Insects, and Plants that are Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened, or Rare (also described as Special Concern). The Division of Fish & Wildlife established committees in 1984 to serve as an advisory body in fulfilling the division's statutory responsibility for nongame and endangered species conservation in Indiana, including an annual review of the state's list of endangered and special concern species. This action included the addition of the long-eared owl, grasshopper sparrow, black-billed cuckoo, Hudsonian godwit, boreal chorus frog, false map turtle, and northern brook lamprey to the special concerns list.

- Approved final action to amend 312 IAC 5-9-4 by adding the embayments respectively known as Campground Cove and Sailboat Cove as locations on Prairie

Creek Reservoir where a person must not operate a boat at greater than idle speed.

- Approved final action to amend 312 IAC 5-6-5.6 by reducing the size of the Lake Manitou special boating zone.

- Approved final adoption to amend 312 IAC 5-6-11 to remove the expiration of the special boating zone on Simonton Lake in Elkhart County.

- Accepted DNR's response to a citizen petition to not extend the no boating zone immediately downstream from the Twin Branch Dam on the St. Joseph River in Mishawaka.

The first NRC meeting for 2021 will be held Jan. 19 in Indianapolis.

More details on all actions taken by the NRC and supporting documents can be found at nrc.IN.gov/2354.htm.

The NRC is an autonomous board that addresses topics pertaining to the DNR and the NRC Division of Hearings.

NRC members include the DNR director, heads of three other state agencies (Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Office of Tourism Development, 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.

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#OptOutside with DNR on Black Friday

Looking for a great place to socially distance and avoid crowds on Black Friday? Give yourself some space and #OptOutside at a DNR property this year. "Opt Outside" on Black Friday and get free admission to any DNR property that charges a gate fee on that day.

You also can be entered in drawings for DNR annual passes, lake permits, Outdoor Indiana subscriptions, Smokey Bear materials, gift cards and DNR staffed outdoor experiences, among other items, just by choosing to #optoutside at a DNR property.

There are three main ways to participate:

1. Share your photos. Post photos of your outdoor Black Friday on DNR social media using the hashtag #OptOutsideIN2020. Posts that do not use that hashtag are not eligible for the drawings. DNR properties you can visit to participate include state parks, reservoirs, state forests, state fish & wildlife areas, nature preserves and off-road riding state recreation areas. There are "bonus" opportunities for tagging photos that show you or your family practicing #responsiblerecreation, checking out a #vistaview, enjoying #activeoutside recreation such as hunting, fishing, kayaking, or sharing a photo with the hashtag #maskuphoosiers. See additional details at on.IN.gov/optoutside.

DNR social media sites for posting include division and/or property pages as well as the links listed below.

- Indiana State Parks Facebook page: facebook.com/INdnrstateparksandreservoirs
- Indiana Fish & Wildlife Facebook page: facebook.com/INfishandwildlife
- Indiana State Forest Facebook page: facebook.com/INdnrforestry
- Indiana Outdoor Recreation Facebook page: facebook.com/INdnroutdoorrec
- DNR Facebook page: facebook.com/INdnr
- DNR Instagram feed: instagram.com/indianadnr

2. Stay overnight. Camp at a state park, reservoir or state forest recreation area, or stay at an Indiana State Park Inn on Black Friday. The hashtag #optoutsideINN or #optoutsideCAMP must be

used with your post to be eligible for the drawings. Find out more about winter camping facilities at stateparks.IN.gov/9655.htm. Make camping reservations at camp.IN.gov or inn reservations at IndianaInns.com.

3. Opt Outside Scavenger Hunt. Visit any DNR property and complete the #optoutside scavenger hunt on Black Friday then return it to SPContests@dnr.IN.gov to be entered in a separate drawing for prizes and experiences.

The scavenger hunt details and an overview of the prizes for drawings and participation are listed at on.IN.gov/optoutside.

Everyone who posts a photo as described, camps or stays at an Indiana state park inn, or participates in the scavenger hunt will be entered in a grand prize drawing for a gift pack from the outdoor gear retailer REI in Castleton. REI is a supporter of the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation and Indiana State Parks.

REI started the #optoutside initiative in 2015, announcing it would close its stores on Black Friday. For more information, visit rei.com/opt-outside. To read an REI blog about the benefits of being outdoors, visit rei.com/blog/news/a-dose-of-the-outdoors.

Register for guided hikes at Patoka Lake

Two guided hikes are coming up at Patoka Lake. The first, on Saturday, November 28, is a reschedule of an event that was rained out last weekend. Starting at 11:30 a.m., it will teach participants about what some animals do to prepare for winter and how they survive the extremes.

Hikers will meet at the lower beach parking lot, where the hike will begin. This trek will be 1.25 miles roundtrip on a paved bike trail. Midway, the group will stop at an overlook equipped with stone benches to take in the fall view of the lake.

Hikers should dress for the weather and plan to stop at the Nature Center for a restroom visit before heading to the beach. All other amenities along the hiking route will be closed for winter. Advance registration is required, as listed below.

Chamber of Commerce holds monthly meeting

The Martin County Chamber of Commerce met November 16 at Loogootee Public Library with lunch from Dairy Master. Present for the meeting were representatives from the following businesses: Hollies Eats & Treats -Theresa Abney, The Candy Mill-Carolyn Parsons-Downey, West Boggs Park-Jameson Hibbs, Loogootee Public Library-Darla Wagler, City of Loogootee-Noel Harty, KCARC-Bowling Manufacturing-Keith Peacock, Crane Credit Union-Sherry Wade, Daviess-Martin REMC-Adam Graber and Loughmiller Machine-Pam Loughmiller.

The treasurer's report was given by Sherry Wade. There are no extra expenses this month. Theresa Abney made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jameson Hibbs and all were in favor.

The secretary's report was given by Carolyn Parsons-Downey. The report was emailed out in October. Jameson Hibbs made a motion of accept the minutes, Theresa Abney seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

There was no program for the November meeting.

Old Business:

Officers for 2021 will be voted on in December, the names turned in for positions are as follow:

President: Noel Harty

Vice-President: Theresa Abney

Treasurer: Sherry Wade

Secretary: Mikki Harper-Bradley

Board Member: Adam Graber

The Chamber will start to include Zoom with their regular meetings. In December, they will be meeting on the 9th due to conflict of interest.

The Shoals Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 5 and the Loogootee Christmas Stroll and Parade on December 6, but could be canceled due to COVID-19.

Noel Harty is checking into buildings that the Chamber could rent for their new office location.

Upcoming events:

Farms to Family will be November 24, at the Loogootee United Methodist Church parking lot starting at 4 p.m.

November 21 there will be a Loogootee Christmas Stoll meeting. No time or location was given.

The Toy Store will be December 12. Pam Loughmiller said this year they will be short on toys, so please donate this year.

Jug Rock Café will have a Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday November 25 from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Please call 812-247-3544 to reserve your seat. A limited number of carry-out meals will be available.

The Loogootee Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 26 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Jameson Hibbs, with West Boggs Park, will hold A First Night Hike: Roaming in the Gloaming on Friday January 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Polar Plunge 2021 will be Saturday January 2 at 10:30 a.m. All money raised will go to the Summer Camp. This past summer they had at least 30 kids daily at camp. The disc golf courses have been marked off and the smaller one by the camping area will be ready by the late spring or early summer for use. The larger course over by the office will be ready by mid to late summer.

There was no door prize for the month of November.

Theresa Abney made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pam Loughmiller, and all were in favor.

The next chamber meeting will be December 9, at West Boggs Park Activity Center at noon.

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A Professional Corporation Telephone: 812-295-1096
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