

# Martin County JOURNAL

Year 12, Issue 48

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021

Eight pages

## Commissioners discuss bridge issue, bids

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners held a short 16-minute meeting Tuesday night, November 30. With Auditor Bobbie Abel, Highway Superintendent Scott Seals and Commissioner Aaron Summers gone to a conference and Sheriff Travis Roush in training, there wasn't much to discuss.

Highway Secretary Terri Alcorn asked the commissioners if they were ready to approve the bids for stone, bituminous and culverts that were opened at the last meeting. County Attorney Dave Lett recommended the commissioners not approve the culvert bids. He said he thinks the commissioners would be better off playing the market. Commissioner Paul George said he believes the highway superintendent did want to approve the culvert bids. Commissioners George and Cody Roush decided to approve the bids for stone and bituminous and table approval of culvert bids until after they speak to the superintendent.

Alcorn said she heard people were driving over the gravel blockade in front of bridge 44 on Deep Cut Lake Road. Commissioner George suggested someone from the highway department check it out. It was noted that they may have to use concrete barriers if the gravel isn't working to stop people.

The commissioners approved the courthouse being closed December 9 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. for the courthouse employees' Christmas party.

The commissioners approved a contract for voting machine maintenance for \$585 a year for three years.

(See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)

## Local Tri Kappa chapter celebrates 80th birthday

November 29, 1941 was a special day for the members of the Loogootee-Shoals Delta Tau Chapter of Tri Kappa as that is the day the local chapter was chartered. When the 17 ladies signed the petition to establish a local chapter in 1941, they started what continues to be a unified group of ladies working together for the betterment of the community.

As members gathered for their November meeting, the 80th birthday of the chapter was celebrated with birthday cake and a display of memorabilia from over the years including the petition to become a chapter, items from the two Province Conventions that were hosted by the chapter and numerous photographs. Members enjoyed reminiscing about the accomplishments of the chapter over the past eight decades.

Over the decades the chapter has provided many service projects in the community and conducted various fundraisers to support these endeavors. In 1947, the chapter began selling pecans which continues to be the major fundraising project and over the years a variety of nuts has been added to the selection. The chapter supports the local schools and gives valedictorian and salutatorian awards and a scholarship to graduating seniors



-Photo provided

Students from Loogootee High School competed in the State Beta Convention on November 19 and 20 in Evansville.

## Loogootee students compete at State Beta Convention

The 31st Annual Indiana State Beta Convention was held in Evansville at the Old National Events Plaza on November 19-20.

Loogootee Junior Grace Gingerich presided over the Convention as the State Beta Secretary. Award winners are as follows:

### First Place Winners

Social Studies 9: Luke Guy  
Jewelry Div. II: Jacob Lengacher  
Sculpture Div. II: Kieragen Napier  
Apparel Design: Katie Callison, Lauren Holt, Annalise Powell, Kylie VanHoy

### Second Place Winners

Agriscience 10: Mackenzie Craney  
Agriscience 12: Rory Tippery  
Math 10: Drew Walker  
Social Studies 11: Euan Graves  
Spanish 12: Isaac Arvin  
On-site Drawing Div. II: Shawna Mason

Marketing and Communications: Tessa Bradley, Grace Foddrill, Chantel Greene, Morgen Wolfe

3D Design: Lindsey Nolan, Caroline Walker, Brooklyn Summers

### Third Place Winners

Language Arts 9: Ashley Green  
Science 9: Noah Esch  
Science 10: Reis Whitney  
Mixed Media Div. II: Tasha Kreilein  
Mixed Media Div. I: Ella Parker  
Painting Div. II: Grace Gingerich  
Recyclable Art Div. II: Chantel Greene  
Woodworking Div. II: Kortni Rumble  
Woodworking Div. I: Issac Waggner/Leighton Jeffers

Quiz Bowl: Nick Keller, Jacob Lengacher, Reece Tippery, Rory Tippery

Robotics: Yamac Akdal, Isaac Arvin, Noah Esch, Euan Graves, Nick Keller, Daniel Miller, Nicholas Poole, Brady Taylor



-Photo provided

Shown above are members of the active chapter with over 25 years of service to Tri Kappa. From left to right are Audrey Robinson, Barb McFeaters, Kathy Lingenfelter, Pam Summers, Judy Treffinger, Judy Kluesner and Beth Lett. Not pictured are Karla Eckerle and Brenda Strange.

and contributes annually to the Martin County Museum, Humane Society, Martin County SOAR, the 4-H Council, the public library, and others, and in 2002 a Tri Kappa Fund was established with the Martin County Community Foundation. The Riley Hospital for Children at Indianapolis is the recipient of support from Tri Kappa chapters throughout the state.

Each November those with over 10 years of membership are honored. Audrey Robinson, who is serving as Province III Officer this 2021-23 term, was presented with a silver keepsake box in recognition of her 25 years of member-

ship. She is the only member who has held all chapter offices, some more than one time and this is the first year she has not held a chapter office since 1998. Only two other members of Delta Tau Chapter have served as Province III Officer, Beth Lett during the 1979-81 term and Faryl Armstrong for the 2003-05 biennium. The Province Officer serves as a liaison between the chapters in the province and the state officers.

Other members with over 25 years of service are Barb McFeaters (26 years), Karla Eckerle (28), Kathy Lingenfelter (See 'TRI KAPPA' on page 2)

## Fugitive captured after hiding under bridge near Shoals

On Thursday, November 18, members of the Martin County Sheriff's Office's Crisis Response Unit (CRU) captured Brandon Crowder, 39 of Shoals. Crowder was wanted on a Martin County Warrant for the following charges: kidnapping, a Level 3 Felony; domestic battery resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 Felony; intimidation, a Level 5 Felony; strangulation, a Level 6 Felony; and three counts of domestic Battery, Level 6 Felonies.

Deputy John Wells of the Martin County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator of the case. The warrant was issued by the Honorable Lynne E. Ellis on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. The Martin County Sheriff's Office requested the public's help in locating the subject on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, via a social media post.

On Thursday, November 18, the sheriff's office was receiving information that Crowder was in the Shoals area, but had difficulty confirming the validity of the information, because multiple locations were being cited for Crowders whereabouts. Multiple deputies, disguised as deer hunters, were deployed to possible locations. Later, around 5 p.m., actionable information was received that Crowder was under a bridge, which crossed Beaver Creek, on US Highway 150, approximately a half mile southeast of Shoals. Two members of the tactical team scouted the bridge for confirmation, and indeed spotted Crowder dressed in full camouflage attire under the west side of the bridge.

The sheriff requested the rest of the CRU to converge on the bridge after identity confirmation of Crowder. Then, the sheriff deployed a stun grenade, immediately preceding the CRU's assault on Crowder's position, led by Chief Deputy Greene. Crowder was arrested (See 'FUGITIVE' on page 2)



This year's Loogootee Christmas Stroll will take place in downtown Loogootee on Saturday, December 4 from 12-4 p.m. and Sunday December 5 from 4-8 p.m. The annual Christmas parade will begin at 6 p.m. with the Christmas tree lighting following.

Participants can take photos with Santa in the former Englert's building from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday and again on Sunday after the parade. Vendors will be set up in the former Englert's building on JFK Avenue both days, throughout the Stroll.

A gingerbread house competition will take place, also from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday and 4-6 p.m. on Sunday. You can "vote" for your favorite by placing coins in the bucket in front of the gingerbread house of your choice.

# TRI KAPPA

(Continued from page one)

(30), Pam Summers (30), Brenda Strange (34), Judy Treffinger (45), Judy Kluesner (49) and Beth Lett (51). Members with over 10 years of membership are Pam Loughmiller, Jill Walker, Lisa Arvin, Terry Swayze, Amy Waggoner, Melissa Courter, Peggy Mattingly, Donna Graber, Katie Milligan, Amber Smith, Dena Lyon, Kristi Ausbrooks, and Ashley Graber.

Special recognition was given to Dorothy Albright who has been a member of Tri Kappa for 70 years. She was initiated

at Bicknell in 1951 and affiliated with the Loogootee-Shoals Chapter in 1963. She was an active member for 62 years serving as chapter president 1968-69 and she has been a Sustaining member the past 8 years.

Tri Kappa is a philanthropic organization located only in Indiana that promotes charity, culture and education since its founding in 1901. The officers of the Loogootee-Shoals Chapter for the 2021-23 term are President Pam Loughmiller, Vice President Sammi Nelson, Recording Secretary Tiffani Sergent, Corresponding Secretary Peggy Mattingly, and Treasurer Dena Lyon. Katie Milligan, as immediate past president, serves as the Adviser and Pam Summers is the Pledge Trainer.

## COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

Prior to closing the meeting, Commissioner George thanked Sydnee Blankenbaker, who was at the meeting as the minute taker in place of Auditor Abel, for her work in the auditor's office. Blankenbaker is leaving employment in the courthouse at the end of the week to take another job.

## FUGITIVE

(Continued from page one)

without incident or injury to him or any deputies.

All charges are merely allegations, and all suspects are considered innocent unless or until proven guilty in a court of law.

*Serving Martin County Since 1937!*



**Ask us about the advantage of pre-arranging!**



**QUEEN-LEE CHAPEL**

Thorne-George Family Funeral Homes, Inc.

**Shoals • 812-247-3101**

Thank you to everyone for the calls, messages, visits, gifts, food, cards and other expressions of sympathy during this difficult time.

Special thanks to Pastor Jim Lilly, Michelle Bruner and the staff at Queen-Lee Chapel.

Sincerely,  
The Family of Darrel Salmon

**Sunday, December 5**

**Beginning at 3:00 pm**  
**Before the Christmas Parade!**



The meal is available by donation.

A variety of soups for your enjoyment!

*in the previous library building*  
**106 N. Line St.**

**Silent Auction!!**



This Fundraiser is Sponsored by  
**Friends of Loogootee Library**

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## FOR RENT

**FOR RENT** 2 bedroom mobile home In Shoals. Located on private lot with a storage building Phone 812-295-4728

## HELP WANTED

### SHOALS SCHOOL CORPORATION TREASURER

Posting Date: 11/24/2021

Job Opening: Corporation Treasurer

Qualifications: Preferred degree, training, or certification in business and/or accounting or relevant work experience.

Pay: Salary set by the Board of School Trustees

Start Date: December 2021- TBD

Benefits: Health/Life Insurance, PERF Covered Position, Paid Leave Days

Position Details: Twelve (12) Months/260 Days

Apply To: Candace Roush, Superintendent

11741 Ironton Road

Shoals IN 47581

Phone: 812-247-2060

Email: roushc@shoals.k12.in.us

The online application can be found on the website [www.shoals.k12.in.us](http://www.shoals.k12.in.us) under the superintendent's page and click on the jobs tab or at the following link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdS8kSyfVeJhLs9\\_EgAcTdP6Xw-fcs\\_UR6lvYQEy\\_IrYSrZOOQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdS8kSyfVeJhLs9_EgAcTdP6Xw-fcs_UR6lvYQEy_IrYSrZOOQ/viewform)

Date: December 7th or until filled

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**The Martin County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications for the following positions:**

- **Full-Time Jail Officers - \$17.00 per hour**
- **Part-Time Jail Officers - \$15.00 per hour**
- **Part-Time Dispatchers - \$15.00 per hour**
- **Part-Time Cooks - \$13.00 per hour**

Minimum Requirements:

- High School Diploma or GED
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Citizen of the United States
- Must not have any Felony or Misdemeanor Battery or Domestic Violence Convictions
- Be willing to submit to pre-employment drug screening
- Ability 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. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled.**

# OBITUARIES

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MARTIN COUNTY JOURNAL

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

## TERRY TERRELL

Terry L. Terrell passed November 24, 2021, at his home. A resident of Shoals, he was 77.



TERRY TERRELL

He was born May 22, 1944, in Forest, Indiana; son of Roy and Nellie (Thomas) Terrell.

He married Beverly A. Henson on August 27, 1982. They lived in Kokomo, Indiana where Terry worked at Chrysler for 35 years; then retired and moved to Shoals in 1999.

Terry was a United States Army Veteran, and was a member of the Loogootee Christian Church, the V.F.W. and the Shoals Eagles #2442. He loved Notre Dame football and passed that love down to his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by three children, Thomas Eric (Samantha) Terrell of Kokomo, Lori Beth Wheasler of Danville, and Stacy Joanne Wright Terrell of Shoals; eight grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren; sisters, Patricia (Kenny) Parker and Nancy Tate, both Forest; and brothers, Jerry (Anna) Terrell of Fayette, Missouri, and Richard (Diane) Terrell of Forest.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Nellie Terrell, and one sister, Betty Jewell.

Funeral services were held Saturday, November 27 at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals officiated by Pastor Colleen Harden. Burial followed in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at [www.queenlee.com](http://www.queenlee.com).

The Queen-Lee Chapel of the Thorne-George Family Funeral Homes has been entrusted with the arrangements.

## PHYLLIS CUNDIFF

Phyllis Fern Cundiff passed away at her residence November 26, 2021. A resident of Loogootee, she was 83.



PHYLLIS CUNDIFF

She was born September 28, 1938, in Bloomington; daughter of Ernest and Jessie (Smith) Moser.

She was a retired Ammunition Specialist at Crane, was a member of the Shoals Christian Church and the Red Hat Society of Martin County.

Survivors include her children, Vanessa (Bob) Everett, Tony (Angie) Cundiff and Traci (David) Cornelius; grandchildren, Brandon Cundiff, Kiel (Jenn) Sargent, Kristen Sargent and fiancé, Dan Miller; Toni (Josh) Wilson, Philip (Jill) Cornelius, Katelyn (Josh) Rooney and Chase Cornelius; nine great-grandchildren with one expected in January; siblings, Richard (Karen) Moser, Pat Suits; sister-in-law, Karen Wilson and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Helen Rainey; and two brothers, David Earl Moser and George Dale Moser.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

The Queen-Lee Chapel of the Thorne-George Family Funeral Homes has been entrusted with the arrangements.

## GERALD WILCOXEN

Gerald Lee Wilcoxen Jr. passed away November 19, 2021. A resident of Springfield, Missouri, he was 67.

He was born April 24, 1954, in Dover Hill; son of Gerald and Ruby Wilcoxen. He graduated in 1972 from Shoals High School.

Gerald was proud to have served as a US Marine. He enjoyed hunting deer and squirrel and fishing. He also loved to eat. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3934 and American Legion Post 69.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gerald Wilcoxen Sr. and baby sister, Debbie; grandparents, Frank and Clara Wilcoxen and George and Mamie Parson; and in-laws, Charles and Rose Johnson.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Cathy Wilcoxen; children, Gary Scott Wilcoxen and wife, Christie, of Loogootee; Shaun Wilcoxen and wife, Brandy and Michael Winger Jr. and wife, Ida, all of Springfield, Missouri; grandchildren, Chase Wilcoxen and wife, Hannah; Cade Wilcoxen, Conner Wilcoxen, Cacia Wilcoxen, Clara Wilcoxen, Bailey Wilcoxen, Daryan Winger and Katelyn Choate; great-granddaughters, Sophia and Chloe Winger; mother, Ruby Wilcoxen of Shoals; sisters, Evelyn Hellums and Barbara Ivey of Shoals; brothers-in-law, Charlie Johnson and wife, Arlene, and Kenneth Johnson of Springfield, Missouri; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

## JEFFREY HEMBREE

Jeffrey Dennis Hembree passed away Friday, November 26, 2021, at his home. A resident of Loogootee, he was 63.

He was born September 21, 1958, in Washington; son of John Kenneth and Janet Sue Elizabeth (Street) Hembree.

Jeff married Paula Cole on August 21, 1982, and she survives. Jeff worked for Street Construction for nearly 30 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and the outdoors.

He was preceded in death by his father, John Hembree.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Paula Hembree of Loogootee; children, Nick (Allison) Hembree of Loogootee, Emma (Ethan) Frye of Loogootee and Alex (Logan) Hembree of Odon; grandchildren, Mylee, Maycee, Cash and Colt Hembree, Liam Frye and Baby Girl Frye due in January 2022; mother, Janet Sue Hembree of Loogootee; siblings, Debbi (Greg) Davis of Loogootee, Beck (Tom) Robertson of Haysville and Junior (Cindy) Hembree of Haysville; many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held this morning, Wednesday, December 1 at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee. Burial followed at Hindostan Cemetery.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent to Hindostan UMC Cemetery Fund.

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee is honored to serve the family of Jeffrey Hembree.

## LINDA SMITH

Linda Marcella (Hoyt) Smith passed away November 25, 2021, at her home. A resident of Huron, she was 72.

She was born September 18, 1949, in Indianapolis; daughter of Gustave and Phyllis (Fordyce) Hoyt. She married John D. Smith and he preceded her in death.

She graduated Clearwater High School, Clearwater, Florida, attended Brigham Young University, was previously employed at the U.S. Postal Service in Indianapolis, and retired from Michael's Place Children's Home.

She is survived by her brother Michael (Mary) Hoyt; godson and nephew, M.C. Hoyt; three nieces, Kelly Johnson, Angie Hoyt, and Shannon Hoyt; nephew, Ricky Hoyt; and two aunts, Nancy Hart and Janet Freels.

Preceding her in death are her mother and father; and three brothers, Jim Hoyt,

Rick Hoyt and Edward Hoyt.

Funeral services are at 1 p.m. Friday, December 3 at Queen-Lee Funeral Home in Shoals with burial in the Port Williams Cemetery. Visitation will be 11 a.m. Friday until the time of service.

The Queen-Lee Chapel of the Thorne-George Family Funeral Homes has been entrusted with the arrangements.

## JACKIE DAVIS

Jaqueline "Jackie" Davis passed to her heavenly eternal home on the glorious day of Monday, November 29, 2021. A resident of Bloomington, she was 57. She was at Stonecroft Health Campus with her dear friend Patricia Benson at her bedside.



JACKIE DAVIS

She was born January 16, 1964, in Loogootee; the youngest child of Charles Frank Davis and Rita (Carrico) Davis. Jackie attended high school in Loogootee and later studied Culinary Arts at Ivy Tech in Bloomington. She worked in several different positions doing home healthcare and domestic work as she was always eager to try new things.

Jackie's faith in a power greater than herself allowed her to accept her diagnosis of terminal brain cancer with grace and courage. She often said people might say, 'why me God'? But I say, 'why not me'. Her ability to live each day, especially the last weeks of her life, full of trials and challenges, was fueled by Christ's spirit. She took comfort from her friendships with Bill W. and Dr. Bob, Jim W., and Roseanne S.

She was preceded in death by her par-

ents, brothers, Larry, Charles Dwight, Martin, Edward and Scott Davis; sisters, Karen Wagler and Merriam Porter; and nephews, John D. Wagler (Karen) and Jeremy Davis (Dwight).

She is survived by her brothers, Ronald, Richard and Gregory Davis; sisters, Mary Davis and Barbara Spurgeon; nieces and nephews, Jason and Jeff (Ronald), William Michael (Karen), Billy Jo (Mary), Jordan, Whitney, Jackie, and Colton (Larry), Joshua, Patricia and Pricilla (Dwight), Charles and Rita (Edward), Tammy (Merriam), Richard Jr, Nathan, Angela, and Jenny (Richard), Brandy, Terry, and Kelly (Barbara), Justin and Tia (Scott) and Cassie and Jessica (Gregory); 20 great nieces and 24 great nephews.

Jackie was passionate about her faith, friends, fishing, and fun. There was never a dull moment when Jackie was around. She had the gift of making an average day anything but. She made the most of every situation presented to her and embraced most difficulty as a challenge to grow. Everyone who met Jackie quickly became her dear friend. She listened closely to people and celebrated the fact that all of us have our own story to tell. She cared deeply about everyone she met and had an open-door policy at her apartment in Bloomington.

The family and friends would like to thank the staff at Stonecroft Health Campus for their compassionate care and to many others who helped Jackie through the last few weeks of her life. Memorial contributions can be sent to the Amethyst House P.O. Box 11, Bloomington, IN 47402. A celebration of Jackie's life will be announced shortly as well a church service in her hometown of Loogootee. Online condolences can be made at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com).

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## Martin County Sheriff's Department log

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

5:01 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Shaw responded.

6:59 a.m. - Received a report of suspicious person in Loogootee. Sheriff Roush was notified.

9:45 a.m. - Received a request for a welfare check northeast of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene was notified.

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

11:22 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:30 p.m. - Received a report of a theft in Loogootee. ISP was notified.

2:24 p.m. - Received a dog complaint southwest of Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

2:45 p.m. - Received five accidental 911 calls

5:30 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. Major Keller responded.

6:00 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Shoals. Major Keller responded.

7:28 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department and Dubois County Ambulance responded.

7:33 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Shoals. Major Keller responded.

8:49 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins was notified.

8:51 p.m. - Received a report of suspicious person east of Shoals. Major Keller, Deputy Hawkins, ICO Hembree and Town Marshal Eckert responded.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

8:37 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Shoals. ISP was notified.

10:30 a.m. - Deputy Wells took two inmates to court.

11:00 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

12:16 p.m. - Received a cat complaint northeast of Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

12:28 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

1:12 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

2:00 p.m. - Deputy Wells took two inmates to court.

2:26 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:32 p.m. - Deputy Wells took one inmate to court.

3:41 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down north of Shoals. INDOT was notified.

5:08 p.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Shoals. Reserve Deputy Dorsey responded.

5:27 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

6:35 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident east of Loogootee. Major Keller responded.

9:08 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:05 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance re-

sponded but did not transport.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

3:22 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

9:24 a.m. - Received a report of a county road closure east of Shoals. All Martin County units were notified.

10:40 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

1:57 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident in Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

2:53 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Shoals. ISP was notified.

4:00 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

5:15 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver in Loogootee. Loogootee Police were notified.

5:54 p.m. - Sergeant Gibson assisted a motorist in Loogootee with a vehicle unlock.

6:11 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

8:55 p.m. - Received a report of a deceased deer on the roadway southeast of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

12:17 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Sergeant Gibson responded.

1:37 a.m. - Received a report of a theft in Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson was notified.

2:10 a.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wells and Deputy Shaw responded.

3:19 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Loogootee. Deputy Shaw responded.

4:13 a.m. - Received a report of a stranded vehicle east of Loogootee. Deputy Shaw responded.

8:45 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. ICO Mann, Haysville Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

4:34 p.m. - Received a dog complaint southeast of Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

7:00 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

10:09 p.m. - Received a report of a donkey complaint. Deputy Hawkins responded.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

5:02 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department, Deputy Shaw, and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:51 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Shaw responded.

6:01 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

7:38 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Major Keller, Loogootee Chief Means and Martin County Ambulance responded.

8:18 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to IU Health in Bedford.

9:26 a.m. - ISP Trooper Beaver assisted a motorist in Loogootee with a vehicle identification check.

10:19 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:57 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver south of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means responded.

12:39 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute south of Loogootee. Major Keller and Deputy Hawkins responded.

2:47 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:59 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

3:32 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:00 p.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard east of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

4:16 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:06 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance northeast of Shoals. Indian Creek Fire Department, Lawrence County Ambulance and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to IU Health in Bedford.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

12:24 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department, Deputy Shaw, and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

4:25 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department, Deputy Shaw and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

7:22 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

1:52 p.m. - Received a request for extra patrol northeast of Shoals. Deputy Wells was notified.

3:40 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

4:30 p.m. - Received a report of an accident southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department, Deputy Wells, Deputy Shaw, Shoals Fire Department and ICO Hembree and Martin County Ambulance responded.

5:55 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver south of Loogootee. Loogootee Police were notified.

7:11 p.m. - Received a noise complaint in Loogootee. Deputy Shaw responded.

7:52 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

11:33 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Shoals. Deputy Shaw responded.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

1:55 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Loogootee. Deputy Shaw responded.

10:22 p.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

1:44 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

2:00 p.m. - Deputy Wells assisted a motorist in Loogootee with a vehicle unlock.

2:04 p.m. - Received a report of property damage north of Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

3:55 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person south of Loogootee. Deputy Shaw responded.

3:59 p.m. - Received a report of suspicious person in Loogootee. Deputy Shaw responded.

7:56 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver southeast of Shoals. Deputy Shaw and ISP Trooper Ewing responded.

8:29 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Shaw and Loogootee Officer Wells responded.

10:55 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

10:49 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious loud noise that shook houses southeast of Shoals. Captain Reed responded.

## ARRESTS

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

9:26 p.m. - John Thorman, 61, of Shoals, was arrested by Major Keller and charged with public intoxication. He is being held on a \$5,000 10% bond.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8:50 p.m. - Nicholas Wathen, 36, of Loogootee was arrested by Loogootee Assistant Chief McBeth and charged with resisting law enforcement, battery on a law enforcement officer and disorderly conduct. His bond was set at \$15,000 10%.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

8:55 p.m. - Frank Wininger, 60, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Shaw and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated prior, operating a vehicle while intoxicated refusal, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment, possession of marijuana, and resisting law enforcement. He is being held on 15,000/10% bond with no driving.

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# COURT NEWS

## CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCINGS

**November 23**

Richard B. Allen, convicted of operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 357 days suspended and credit for 4 actual days previously served plus 4 Class A credit days. Defendant received 11 months of probation.

Jarle Castro-Ruiz, convicted of operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 0 days.

## CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

**November 23**

John Michael Mattingly, two counts of domestic battery, Level 6 Felonies, dismissed; invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Richard B. Allen, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

## CIVIL COURT

### New Suits Filed

**November 18**

Duke Energy Indiana, LLC vs. William A. Tolbert, Leah R. Tolbert and East Fork Water, Inc., civil plenary.

**November 19**

Wayne D. Souerdike vs. Terri E. De-witt-Souerdike, petition for dissolution of marriage.

**November 22**

Allison L. Braun vs. Jeremy W. Braun, petition for dissolution of marriage.

## CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

**November 15**

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant

Devin J. Breneman in the amount of \$2,267.22.

**November 23**

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Trust Bank and against the defendant Jason D. Wathen and Tina R. Wathen for mortgage foreclosure in the amount of \$190,776.66.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Discover Bank and against the defendant Marty Peek in the amount of \$5,720.87.

**November 23**

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff The Morris Plan Company of Terre Haute, Inc. and against the defendant Jonie Day in the amount of \$9,549.35.

## SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

**November 17**

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Crystal Barnett in the amount of \$2,057.03.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Stacy L. Taylor Marquis in the amount of \$1,255.35.

**November 18**

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Christopher Royston in the amount of \$415.82.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Lacey K. Braun in the amount of \$1,642.75.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Chad E. Chandler in the amount of \$2,927.69.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Raymond K. Chesser in the amount of \$6,511.26.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Glenda J. Barber in the amount of \$372.42.

## MARRIAGE LICENSES

Lee T. Mayo of Loogootee and Olivia N. Bell of Loogootee.

Wayne H. Weaver of Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania and Emily D. Strange of Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania.

# Loogootee Police log

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8:28 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Cedar Street.

11:50 a.m. - Chief Means assisted with a funeral procession.

4:15 p.m. - A caller reported dogs on his property that were not his.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

2:58 p.m. - Chief Means completed a security check at a residence.

4:49 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth completed a welfare check.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

1:45 a.m. - Officer Wells checked an active alarm at a local business.

2:37 a.m. - Officer Wells responded to the alarm at a local business that was activated again.

8:55 a.m. - Chief Means responded to a residential burglar alarm.

12:55 p.m. - A caller reported a phone scam.

6:55 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department was dispatched to a dumpster fire at the recycling center.

8:40 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

9:06 a.m. - Chief Means completed a welfare check and transport to emergency detention.

9:25 a.m. - Chief Means completed a vehicle check.

6:37 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth assisted with a custody issue.

8:43 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth responded to a car-deer accident on US 231 South near Redemption parking lot.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

11:43 a.m. - Chief Means and the Loogootee Fire Department assisted the Indiana State Police with a property damage accident on US 231 North at Bramble Road.

12:28 a.m. - Chief Means assisted the Indiana State Police with an arrest at a local business.

2:08 p.m. - Chief Means assisted the Martin County Animal Control Officer with a case.

6:10 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth responded to a property damage accident on US 231 South.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

2:33 p.m. - Officer Seymour assisted with a funeral procession.

5:38 p.m. - Caller advised of a controlled burn.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:40 p.m. - Officer Wells assisted with a report of an attempted suicide on East Broadway Street.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

7:00 a.m. - Caller reported possible illegal drug use.

8:14 a.m. - School Resource Officer Rayhill completed a welfare check.

11:15 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Bellgrade Drive.

1:21 p.m. - A local business reported a possible theft.

2:53 p.m. - Caller reported an erratic driver on West Washington Street.

8:48 p.m. - Caller reported a water leak.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

9:30 a.m. - Received a call regarding an earlier theft report at a local business.

3:55 p.m. - Chief Means completed a welfare check.

5:27 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Cedar Street.

11:34 p.m. - Assistant Chief McBeth completed a welfare check.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

3:01 p.m. - Chief Means completed a welfare check.

3:52 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Cooper Street.

5:09 p.m. - A report was received on an erratic driver on US 231 South.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

2:10 a.m. - Officer Wells responded to a report of a juvenile out of control on Jackson Street.

3:58 p.m. - Captain Rayhill responded to an alarm at a local business.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

8:00 a.m. - Chief Means assisted on a medical call on East Broadway Street.

10:19 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Bellbrook Avenue.

11:01 a.m. - Chief Means responded to a report of a possible impaired driver on US 231 South.

11:26 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Lomar Street.

3:37 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on South Kentucky Avenue.

4:21 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on North JFK Avenue.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

4:25 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Zehr Lane.

5:20 p.m. - Chief Means responded to a domestic disturbance on North Oak Street.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

10:27 a.m. - Officer Wells responded to an alarm at a local medical facility.

10:44 a.m. - Caller reported erratic driving on West Washington Street.

8:29 p.m. - Officer Wells responded to a deer accident on US 231 South.

10:19 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on West Vine Street.

## Real estate transfers

**Frederick Homes, LLC**, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Ronald Tavares**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 115 in the original Town of Crane.

**Steven L. Sheetz**, of Martin County, Indiana to **James M. Sheetz and Mark E. Sheetz and Mary Sheetz**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 10 in Block "D" in the Loogootee Land Company's Addition to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

**Joseph M. Sigel**, as bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville, of Vanderburgh County, Indiana to the **State of Indiana**, a part of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 5, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, Halbert Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.072 acres, more or less.

**Adam Divine**, of Martin County, Indiana to the **State of Indiana**, a part of the northwest quarter of Section 29, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, in Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.030 acres, more or less.

**Ethan J. Graber**, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Jordan Kaiser and Bethanie Knapp**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 13, Township 4 North, Range 5 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 2 acres, more or less.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



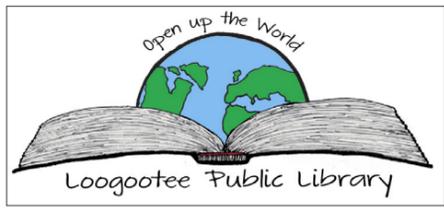
An old, blind Marine wanders into an all-girl biker bar by mistake. He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a shot of Jack Daniels.

After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, "Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?"

The bar immediately falls absolutely silent.

In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says, "Before you tell that joke, I think it is only fair, given that you are blind, that you should know five things:

1. The bartender is a blonde girl with a



**BY DARLA WAGLER**  
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

Fun programs for kids are scheduled this month on Saturday, December 4 and 18 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. During the week, Lego playtime is on Thursdays and craft time is on Fridays.

Carolyn's Book Club will meet on Thursday, December 9 at 6 p.m.

Sunday, December 5 from 3-5:30 p.m., FOLL is having a Soup Supper Fundraiser at the previous library building. Various homemade soups, hot dog, and fixins for a donation. Bake sale items and silent auction items available too. Eat in-house or take it to go.

Children's Yoga and Story Time by ShyAnn Hibbs will be on Tuesday, December 7 from 6-6:30 p.m. Pre-register please.

Yoga for Seniors will be held on Monday, December 6 from 9-10 a.m.

New Books:  
Mystery Fiction: "Autopsy" by Patricia Cornwell and "The Midnight Lock" by Jeffery Deaver.

Fiction: "Wish You Were Here" by Jodi Picoult and "Someone Perfect" by Mary Balogh.

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](http://www.loogootee.lib.in.us) or like us on Facebook. The library has free Wi-Fi service available for patrons.

baseball bat.

2. The bouncer is a blonde girl.
3. I'm a 6-foot tall, 175-pound blonde woman with a black belt in karate.
4. The woman sitting next to me is blonde and a professional weightlifter.
5. The lady to your right is blonde and a professional wrestler.

Now, think about it seriously, do you still wanna tell that blonde joke?"

The blind Marine thinks for a second, shakes his head and mutters, "No...not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times."

### THOUGHTS

\*Advice to old people: Do not sit on the floor without a plan on how to get back up.

\*Adulthood is saying, "But after this week, things will slow down a bit" over and over until you die.

\*A truck loaded with Vicks Vapor Rub overturned on the highway. Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours.

\*People who ask me what I'm doing tomorrow probably assume that I even know what day of the week it is.

\*I love when people get mad and speed past me, only to end up at the same red light.

\*Managing my weight around the holidays just required a little planning. I took the batteries out of my scales at Thanksgiving.

A man was sitting quietly reading his paper when his wife walked up behind him and whacked him on the head with a magazine.

"What was that for?" he asked.

"That was for the piece of paper in your trouser pocket with the name Laura Lou written on it," she replied.

He explained, "Two weeks ago when I went to the races, Laura Lou was the name of one of the horses I bet on. I bought you those flowers with the winnings."

"Oh Darling, I'm sorry," she said. "I should have known there was a good explanation."

Three days later he was watching TV when she walked up and hit him in the head again, this time with a frying pan which knocked him out cold.

When he came to, he asked, "What was that for?"

"Your horse phoned."

Make someone smile today!



### Cops and Kids donation

-Photo provided

The Park and Spark Club recently donated \$500 to Cops and Kids program. Shown above, from left to right, are Club Treasurer Raygan Roach, Club President Jeremy Huebner, Loogootee Police Chief Aaron Means, Loogootee Mayor Noel Hartly, Club Vice President Matthew Birt, and Club Secretary Ryan Andrews.

### Night of Praise

First Choice Solutions, formerly known as the Pregnancy Care center, is hosting a Night of Praise on December 3 at Word of Life Church located at 7144 Russell Drive in Bicknell. Get the latest update on services provided by First Choice Solutions and to listen to the praise and worship band, Forged in the Fire. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the event starting at 7 p.m. Free-will offerings will be accepted. If you have any questions, call the clinic at 812-257-1041.

### Church performance

The Alfordsville Assembly of God Church will host music group Renee on Saturday, December 4 at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

### A Child's Christmas

On Saturday, December 4 the Dubois County Museum will sponsor "A Child's Christmas". The program will be from 12-4 p.m. Santa arrives at the museum from 12-2 p.m. for visits and pictures. A wide variety of crafts and games will be available for all to participate. Each child will receive a goody bag. From 3-4 p.m., all are welcome to enjoy the sweet sounds of violins with the students of Strings as they present a holiday concert. Make a reservation with museum volunteers by November 30 by calling 812-634-7733. List name, phone number and number of adults and children coming. Cost of the program is admission into the museum.

### Public meeting for superintendent contract

Indiana Code 20-26-5-4.3 requires that the board of school trustees publish a notice of the superintendent's proposed contract. The Board of School Trustees of the Shoals Community School Corporation will meet Thursday, December 9, 2021, at 5:45 p.m. in the central administration office located at 11741 Ironton Road, Shoals, to discuss and hear public comment for a proposed employment contract between the Board of School Trustees of the Shoals Community School Corporation and school superintendent. A copy of the draft contract is available on the school district's website. At such public meeting, all persons interested shall have a right to comment on the proposed contract.

### St. Vincent Food Pantry

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

### LUMC Food Pantry

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

### Mental Health Task Force

The Martin County Mental Health Task

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

### Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

### Local recovery meetings

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

### Free lunch for kids

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

### SOAR Tutoring

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

### Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the recycling center located at 500 Industrial Park Drive in Loogootee. The meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

### Soil and Water meetings

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

## ANIMAL SHELTER

### Pet of the Week



**DOUGY** is a male tiger stripe adult cat, around a year old. Very sweet, feisty though. Adoption fee is \$45. The shelter is open by appointment only for adoptions. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit [www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org](http://www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org).

## Online Real Estate Auction

Bidding Closes Thurs. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm

0.48 Acre Vacant Lot at 810 W. Broadway, Loogootee, IN

Located off Hwy 50, with a driveway.

Great building site with lots of potential!

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## In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser,  
Purdue University Master Gardener

I have recently had several people who have called, saying that their Christmas cactus is already blooming. It is possible that it is not a Christmas cactus at all, but rather is a Thanksgiving cactus. I have done a lot of research on university websites and websites of plant breeders and the biggest thing I have learned is that the issue is confusing at best. There is a lot of contradictory information out there.

One thing is certain. Both Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti are true members of the cactus family in the genus Schlumbergera. Most of the sites agree that the Thanksgiving cactus is Schlumbergera truncata (sometimes spelled truncate). Some sites identify the Christmas cactus as Schlumbergera russelliana, while others use the binomial Schlumbergera buckleyi. Some say that Schlumbergera buckleyi is actually a cross between Schlumbergera truncata and Schlumbergera russelliana. It can be quite confusing.

However, just referring to them as Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti clears it up a bit. There are some differences on which everyone seems to agree. Both are native to the coastal mountains of South America, where they grow as epiphytes in trees. Both have flat stems composed of segments known as phyllocades. A major difference is that the edges of the Thanksgiving cactus segments have two to four serrations or teeth, while the Christmas cactus is smooth. In nature, the Thanksgiving cactus blooms a few weeks earlier than the Christmas cactus, but since either can remain in bloom for up to 8 weeks, their bloom times may overlap. Another difference is that the Thanksgiving cactus has yellow anthers (where the pollen is found) while the Christmas cactus anthers are purplish-brown.

The blooms may also be affected by light and temperature. In the fall, both cacti should be placed in a place with temperatures around 65 degrees F. They need 12 to 14 hours of total darkness for about

8 weeks to set buds. Many people resort to covering the plants with paper bags in the evenings to prevent artificial light pollution. Once the buds are set, the plants may be moved into rooms with more light, but one should still avoid bright direct sunlight and cold drafts.

When you buy or receive a holiday cactus as a gift, it will likely be wrapped in foil. The foil is for decorative purposes but is deadly for the plant. Unlike desert cacti, the Schlumbergeras need more water, but they do not like to be left soaked. They need good drainage, so either remove that foil or cut holes in the bottom to let the water out. If you set it in a saucer, water the plant until water drains out the bottom, but empty the saucer afterward. However, some humidity is good, so one could put rocks in a saucer and leave the water, as long as the water does not touch the bottom of the pot. Usually, the new plant will be in a plastic pot, but terra cotta is actually better for drainage. If you decide to treat your plant to a new home, select a pot that is not much bigger than the one in which it came. These cacti actually like to be a little pot-bound and do not need to be re-potted for three to five years. They are not terribly picky about the potting soil, but it does need to drain well. I prefer a cactus mix, adding some peat moss to give the plant more acid.

If you take care, you can have your holiday cactus for many years. I personally know someone who has a specimen that is over 30 and she says it has never been repotted. She does cut it back a couple of months after it finishes blooming, causing it to branch and resulting in more blooming stems the following year. The cuttings may be left to dry until the end scabs and then planted about an inch deep in moist potting medium. A plastic tent will help keep the humidity up for better rooting. New growth is the best indicator that the plant has rooted and is ready to add to your collection or be given to a friend.

## 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 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 one of seven Indiana State Park Inns 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 2022 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 2022 to all state park properties beginning January 1.

### Patoka Lake hosts eagle watch and related events

Patoka Lake is hosting several programs during its 34<sup>th</sup> annual Eagle Watch Event, which will be on January 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Patoka Lake Nature Center.

Interpretive naturalist Wade LeHue will present a live bald eagle, and Dana Recklehoff will share the stories of Patoka Lake's raptors. Brian Finch, Patoka Lake wildlife specialist, and his team will lead groups on driving tours to hot spots for eagle viewing around the lake. There will also be a presentation on the success of the Eagle Reintroduction Program that took place in the 1980s.

Lunch will be provided. Children's activities and crafts will be available from 12:40 to 2:30 p.m.

Cost is \$20 per person. Advance registration is required by calling the Pato-

The inns gift card can be used at any of seven state park lodging facilities, 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, 2021, or when sold out. Gift packs can be purchased only at shopIN-stateparks.com.



ka Lake Nature Center at 812-685-2447 and is limited to the first 50 participants. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and cameras if you have them. Be sure to have vehicles fueled for the driving tour.

Patoka Lake (on.IN.gov/patokalake) is at 3084 N. Dillard Road, Birdseye, IN 47513.

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