

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 9, Issue 49

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

Seven pages

www.martincountyjournal.com ~ courtney@martincountyjournal.com ~ 812-259-4309 ~ Fax: 888-380-2761 ~ P.O. Box 148, Loogootee, IN 47553



-Photos by Courtney Hughett

Martin County Councilwoman Lynn Gee sat through her last meeting Monday night. She did not seek re-election for another term, after 12 years on the council. Gee was presented with a gift and card from the auditor and other council members. In the photo above, in the front row from left to right, are Council Members Barb McFeaters and Lynn Gee and Auditor Bobbie Abel. In the back row, from left to right, are Council Members Warren Albright, Keith Gibson, Randy Winger, Rich Summers and Buck Stiles.



Council approves courthouse security; outgoing member says goodbye after 12 years

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council met Monday night, December 3. The council honored outgoing member Lynn Gee who decided not to seek re-election for her seat. Gee has served on the council for 12 years, originally being appointed to fill her late husband, Joe Gee's seat, once he became ill. The council thanked Gee for her years of service and Gee, through tears, expressed that she will miss the council and is proud of all they have accomplished over the last decade-plus. The auditor and other council members presented Gee with a lantern decoration and card.

The council discussed whether they wanted to fund another deputy for the sheriff's department, with the primary focus being on courthouse security. The sheriff's department will be providing an officer to patrol the courthouse each week day. Council Member Warren Albright asked if the council wanted to specify that the new deputy would be used for courthouse security. Council Member Barb McFeaters and others said they didn't think that was a good idea because the sheriff plans to rotate deputies to fill the position and may need the deputy to perform other tasks associated with the sheriff's department.

After more discussion, the council agreed to allow the sheriff's department to hire another deputy at the stan-

dard starting pay of \$30,506.

The council spent some time discussing a \$5,000 additional appropriation request from Prosecutor Mike Steiner. Steiner had attended last month's meeting and received \$10,000 for transition expenses and possibly replacing his office's server prior to the new prosecutor taking over. Prosecutor-elect Aureola Wright had, in the meeting, asked Steiner to hold off on changing the server until she had time to look into it. The council was unsure what the \$5,000 request was for this month as itemized list was given with the request. Auditor Abel said that she knows with claims coming in from the prosecutor's office, he will need additional funds to finish out the year. The council discussed the need, in the future, for all department heads to include an itemized list of purchases to accompany their additional money request. Council Member Rich Summers said they could call Steiner to find out what the money was to be used for as he was at a conference. No one replied. In the end, the council approved the money but wanted the prosecutor to provide information for what the money was for.

The council also approved additional money requests, from the general fund, for the sheriff's department, including \$25,000 for jail medical expenses, \$10,000 for jail meals, \$12,900 for jailers' pay for the rest of the year. (See 'COUNCIL' continued on page 2)

Work session held to talk about roofs, roads

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council and Martin County Commissioners held a joint work session Monday night, December 3 to discuss replacing the courthouse and jail roofs and also to discuss the Community Crossings grant. Commissioner Kevin Boyd was not present for the meeting.

Commissioners Paul George and Dan Gregory provided the council with bids received to replace the jail and courthouse roofs. Commissioner George requested that no one speak of the prices associated with the bids. Four bids were received. George said that the bids were substantially different due to each company offering different materials, different roof layouts, etc. He said they considered hiring

Midwestern Engineers to put together specs and then rebid so that each company bid the same way. Commissioner Gregory estimated this would cost the county \$10,000-\$15,000.

When asked what shape the roofs are in, George replied that the jail roof is the worst of the two, but both needed replaced. He said the courthouse roof has not been replaced as long as the county has owned the building and he could not remember when or if the jail roof had ever been replaced. Both roofs have been patched numerous times.

Council Member Warren Albright said that since the council and commissioners are not in the roofing business, he would better trust the roofing companies to know what was needed. And the commissioners to choose the right company.

(See 'SESSION' continued on page 2)

Commissioners accept roofing bid, discuss culverts, bridges

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Bridges and culverts were the main topic of discussion at the Martin County Commissioners' meeting Tuesday, December 4.

At Monday night's work session between the commissioners and county council, it was discussed that a bridge replacement on Deep Cut Lake Road, by the Shoals Gypsum Plant may be removed from the Community Crossings grant to make way for more roads to be added. At Tuesday's commissioners' meeting, Highway Superintendent Leo Padgett provided pictures of the two 14-foot culverts that are caving in. Padgett said that according to the inspection, the bridge is number one on the shut down list due to its condition. Padgett provided the commissioners with a quote on replacing the

culverts. The quote amount was kept private. Commissioner Paul George said that the bridge will remain on the Community Crossings list because the cost of replacing the culverts was not an inexpensive approach to the problem, as they originally thought. He did ask Padgett to call another company in northern Indiana to get culvert prices to see if they could find a better deal.

Padgett also talked to the commissioners about an issue on Mill Road where water is running down a driveway and tearing up the road. Commissioner Kevin Boyd asked what the status was on the ordinance requiring property owners to install culverts, at their expense, if required, to protect the county roads. Since County Attorney Dave Lett was not present at the meeting, no update was available. Commissioner George told Padgett that a (See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)

Martin State Forest Open House set for December 12

The annual Martin State Forest Open House will be Wednesday, December 12, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the forest headquarters.

Hosted by the DNR Division of Forestry, this open house will provide information about recreational activities, major projects, forest resource management, and State Forest planning. Attendees will also be able to speak directly with DNR personnel or submit written comments.

Megan Ritterskamp, invasive species specialist for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts for Dubois, Daviess and Martin counties, will be on hand to provide information about identifying and controlling invasive species. Indiana Conservation Officer Tony Mann will be present to answer questions regarding law enforcement issues.

At 4 p.m., a half-mile hike will be led by a property forester through an area that received a timber harvest in 2016. Best management practices and general forest management will be discussed during the hike.

"These open houses provide Hoosiers with a chance to receive first-hand information about how the State Forests are working to provide diverse wildlife habitats, forest products and recreational opportunities," State Forester John Seifert said. "They also allow us to receive valuable feedback from our neighbors and users about State Forest management. I encourage everyone who has an interest to participate."

The Martin State Forest entrance is located four miles east of Shoals on U.S. 50.

SESSION

(Continued from page two)

The group discussed the low bid, from a Martin County company. Commissioner George said that the company owner told him that material prices will be increasing at the first of the year and the county would need to put down one-third of the bid now in order to buy materials, prior to the increase. Auditor Bobbie Abel said this could be possible however an additional appropriation would have to be done and advertised prior to December 14. Then, a special meeting with the council would have to be held to approve the request. She said the timeline would be tight but could be done. Commissioner Paul George said he could call the local bidder and see if they could wait until next year. The council requested he do so.

While George went out to make the call, Tim Hunt, with HWC Engineering, talked to the council about the Community Crossings grant. Since the county was denied funding this year, HWC will be resubmitting the application next month for one of two grant cycles for 2019. The council asked Hunt if he planned to submit the application as is, without changes, and Hunt replied that he and the highway department are still discussing that. Leo Padgett, who was in the audience, said they put three bridges on the application, along with roads to be paved. One of the bridges is at Hindostan, one is off Hwy. 231 at Mt. Pleasant Road and one near the Gypsum Plant on Deep Cut Lake Road. He said the one near the Gypsum Plant is currently two culverts that are caving in and they were going to install a bridge in its place. They have discussed removing the bridge from the grant application and, instead, putting in new culverts. This would allow for more roads to be added.

Hunt explained to the council that his firm did a road assessment which included a count on how many cars travel each road in Martin County each day. He said they did not pick roads to include in the grant application that had

a certain number of homes, they based it on how often the road is travelled. In the road assessment, Martin County's roads were rated on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being in excellent shape. Almost all of the roads in Martin County were assessed at being in poor shape and it would cost \$290 million to bring them all to excellent condition. The county applies for \$1 million per year for grant money. He said the only way to do it is to work a little at a time.

Hunt also told the council that he is aware they would like to have more roads included in the Community Crossings grant however if the bridges are not repaired, having good roads will not matter. Hunt said they are working on a federal aid package to replace the bridge on Brickyard Road, off Hwy. 50. If they would have included that in the grant application, it would have taken up the entire \$1 million.

Commissioner Paul George re-entered the meeting and said he has spoken to the roofing contractor and he is willing to wait until January to receive funds for the two roofing projects. The council cannot vote on anything in a work session but verbally agreed to move forward.

Commissioner Dan Gregory also spoke to the council about a loan program through Radius Indiana that provides up to \$150,000 at a 4 percent interest rate. He didn't have specifics of the program, but the council expresses interest in applying. Gregory said he would find out more information and report back to the council.

COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page two)

culvert needed to be installed in the property owner's driveway right away or the water will build up on the road causing a traffic hazard when it freezes. He said they cannot wait to get an ordinance in place and requested that Padgett call the property owner and see if he would be willing to pay something toward the culvert installation.

Padgett presented another issue with a property on Doe Run Lane. The water is diverting to a neighboring property and causing flooding issues. The commissioners requested that Padgett talk to the property owner.

The commissioners spent some time discussing whether they should purchase millings or rock, by the truckload, to use on gravel roads. Padgett felt that millings would bind together better however at \$6 per ton, Commissioner Boyd said that gravel could be purchased at a comparable cost. Padgett said he would try mixing the millings and rock and see how that worked.

Commissioner Boyd told Padgett that he is not happy with the way the roads look after paving. He cited Windom Road as an example stating that even though it was just paved, it looks 20 years old. He asked if using a hot mix asphalt would improve the condition of the roads as compared to the cold mix. Padgett said he wasn't sure, however, they would have a hard time getting the hot mix to certain locations in the county using their current equipment, before it started to cool. The current paver does six-foot wide sections and not as thick as he would like. Boyd

suggested that Padgett look into purchasing an eight-foot paver.

The commissioners approved the bid from Bunkum Valley, of Martin County, to replace both roofs on the jail and courthouse for \$97,949 pending the county attorney looking over the contract. The county will pay \$32,500 up front next month to purchase materials with a completion date set for spring.

The commissioners also approved the replacement of the lights in the courtroom, at the judge's request, with LED at a cost of \$3,556.43. The work will not be done until the start of the new year.

The commissioners approved the highway department to purchase a plasma cutter for \$2,767. Highway Superintendent Padgett said his employees have wanted one for a long time.

COUNCIL

(Continued from page two)

\$18,507 for deputies' pay for the rest of the year, \$1,885 for the animal control officers' pay for the rest of the year, and \$3,661 to pay for a deputy for courthouse security for the remainder of the year. Auditor Abel explained that the sheriff uses LOIT (Local Option Income Tax) funds, for the listed expenses, until they run out. Once the LOIT is used up, the remaining expenses must come from the general fund.

The council approved an additional appropriation for the sheriff's department of \$22,500 to pay for computer upgrades. The additional money will come from the 911 fund. They also approved \$9,815 for the surveyor to pay for equipment he recently purchased. That money will come from the corner's perpetuation fund.

The council also approved several money transfers for the auditor, corner, sheriff, surveyor, circuit court and prosecutor.

The courthouse will be closed Friday, December 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the employees' Christmas dinner. The courthouse will also be closed December 24 and 25 and January 1 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

TOY'S AUTO PARTS, INC.

Loogootee (812) 295-2312	Shoals (812) 247-3321	Jasper (812) 634-2222	Washington (812) 254-2540
Sullivan (812) 268-5252	Martinsville (765) 342-6623	Linton (812) 847-4494	
Jasonville (812) 665-3969	Bicknell (812) 735-3545	Bloomfield (812) 384-4453	

At Your Service Local Professionals Here To Serve You!

AUTO REPAIR



• Complete Collision Repair
• Glass Replacement
• Window Tinting

106 Wood St., Loogootee
Adam Greene **812-295-9840**

FUNERAL SERVICES



300 Church Street, Loogootee IN 47553 • 812-295-2100

HAIR SALON



Michelle Bruner
Owner/operator

1103 W Broadway Street
Loogootee IN 47553
812-295-3320
Walk-ins welcome

HEATING & AIR



HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING
• Geo-Thermal •

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
MARK & MARY FIELDS

107 West Main St. Office (812) 295-4699
Loogootee, IN 47553 Fax (812) 295-2487

INSURANCE



T. Edward Kerns - Owner/Agent
edkerns@kernsinsurance.com / (812) 709-9737
Office: (812) 295-9737 / Fax: (812) 295-5111
122 Church Street Loogootee, IN 47553
www.kernsinsurance.com

INTERNET/SATELLITE

Tired of those High Cable Rates??

Fall Specials!

Need High Speed Internet?
Call Us Today!

Locally Owned & Operated

dish HughesNet exede DIRECTV

Midwest Satellite
812-295-5588

AVAILABLE SPACE

ADVERTISE HERE!
ONLY \$25 PER MONTH!

Email: courtney@martincountyjournal.com

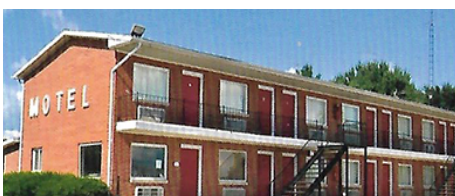
LAWYER



Isha E. Wright-Ryan
Attorney at Law

A Professional Corporation Telephone: 812-295-1096
200 John F. Kennedy Avenue Fax: 260-408-1760
P.O. Box 398 ishawrightryan@gmail.com
Loogootee, IN 47553 www.ishalaw.com

LODGING




The Eldorado Motel
812-295-3637
Loogootee, IN

AVAILABLE SPACE

ADVERTISE HERE!
ONLY \$25 PER MONTH!

Email: courtney@martincountyjournal.com

PHYSICIAN



Cheryl Buss, ANP-BC, CME
Daniell Summers, FNP

Lab & X-ray
Monday - Friday
8am - 5pm

Daviss Community Hospital

Call us today for an appointment!
812-295-5095

TRASH PICK-UP



KRB Disposal
Pickup household trash weekly
NOW serving Martin & Daviess counties

812-247-3115 or
812-247-3604

Obituaries

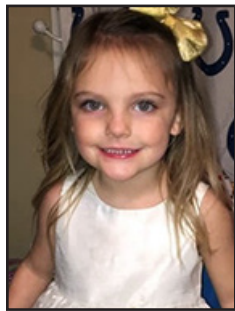
MARTIN COUNTY JOURNAL

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Page 3

OAKLEE CARLISLE

Oaklee Raiane Nicole Carlisle passed away Saturday, December 1, 2018. A resident of Loogootee, she was 4.



She was born August 4, 2014 in Linton; daughter of David Carlisle and Alicia (Edwards) Bault.

Oaklee loved wearing princess dresses, coloring, and unicorns. You could always find her singing, dancing and soaking up all the attention she could get! Oaklee loved to wear boots, no matter what season. Oaklee earned her namesake from her cousin who passed away and from her aunts.

She was preceded in death by her cousin, Bryonnah Nicole Head.

Oaklee is survived by her loving parents, David Carlisle and Alicia Bault; siblings, Antonio, Preston, Aubree, Natalee and Kaden Bault and Creed Carlisle; grandparents, Diane Edwards, Gerald Head, Chad (Amber) Carlisle, Julie Scott and Greg Scott; aunts, Melissa Nicole Head, Nicole Carlisle and Maddilee Scott; uncle, Landon Carlisle and many cousins.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. today, Wednesday, December 5, at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Arrangements were provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

HILDRED HARSHAW

Hildred Harshaw passed away at 6:25 p.m. Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Loogootee Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center. A resident of Loogootee, she was 81.

She was born February 19, 1937 in Loogootee; son of the late Clyde and Madge (Morris) Swayze.

Hildred was a member of the American Legion Post 120 Ladies Auxiliary. She loved spoiling her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was always taking care of others until her health would no longer allow her to do so.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clyde and Madge (Morris) Swayze; brothers, Loren, Hubert and Richard Swayze; and sisters, Elizabeth Trambaugh, Merledean Henry and Dorothy Souerdike.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Waldo Harshaw of Loogootee; children, Kim (Ray) Hopkins of Loogootee and Matt (Kelli) of Washington; grandchildren, Sabrina (Brock) McMillen, Cassie Hopkins, Heather Harshaw and Hannah Harshaw;

great-grandchildren, Madelyn, Jackson and Greyson McMillen; sister, Barbara (Paul) Eichmiller; sister-in-law, Phyllis Fox; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday, December 7 at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

Visitation will be held Thursday, December 6 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Blake Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Arrangements were provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

CHARLES TERRY

Charles A. Terry age 79, of Shoals, passed away Thursday, November 29, 2018 at the Memorial Hospital and Healthcare Center in Jasper. A resident of Shoals, he was 79.

He was born December 4, 1938 in Mammoth Springs, Arkansas; son of Oscar and Lacy (Harrison) Terry.

He was a carpenter and general contractor, was a veteran of the United States Army and attended the French Lick Wesleyan Church.

Survivors include his companion, Sarah Terry of Shoals; step son, Roger Terry of Shoals; two brothers, Monroe Terry of Shoals and Dexter Terry of Danville; and three grandchildren, Roger D. Terry, Tanna Terry and Randy Terry.

He is preceded in death by his parents, two sons, Arthur Terry and Juan Terry; a brother, Noble Terry and one sister, Maxine Hogrefe.

Funeral services were held Monday, December 3 at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals with Rev John Moffatt officiating. Burial followed in the Spring Hill Cemetery.

The Queen-Lee Chapel of the Thorne-George Family Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

ALTA EARL

Alta Ernestine Earl passed away November 29, 2018 at the Westview Nursing and Rehab in Bedford. A longtime resident of Shoals, she was 90.



She was born October 29, 1928 in Martin County; daughter of Fielding and Minnie (Rowe) Sterling. She married James Earl in 1947 in Shoals.

She was a graduate of Shoals High School, a member of the Church of Christ in Mitchell and the Martin County Homemaker Club.

Surviving are one son, Tony (Rhona) Earl of Williams; one daughter, Wanda (John-Deceased) Denny of Bloomfield; three grandchildren, Amber (Mike) Middleton, April Garner, John Michael Denny (Graham Hallberg), four great-grandchildren; one sister, Barbara Frey of Ohio and one brother, Francis Sterling (Jenny) of Velpen.

She is preceded in death by her husband, parents, a sister, Mary Jane Doane and brother, Donald Sterling.

Funeral services were held Sunday, December 2 at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals with burial in the Spring Hill Cemetery. Bro. Kris Beasley officiated.

The Queen-Lee Chapel of the Thorne-George Family Funeral Homes was in charge of the arrangements.

ABRAHAM KNEPP

Abraham Knepp passed away Wednesday November 28, 2018 at 11:04 p.m. at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis surrounded by his family. A resident of Montgomery, he was 95.

He was born on January 24, 1923 in Montgomery; son of John and Rachel (Stoll) Knepp.

Abraham was a member of Zion Amish Mennonite Church.

He is preceded in death by his par-

ents, John and Rachel Knepp, his wife of 62 years, Sylvia (Graber) Knepp, his brothers, Ezra, Homer, and Ervin; his sister, Viola Graber; his daughter, Carolyn Kay Wagler; his grandson, Bradley Wagler; and his great-grandson, Brandon Wagler.

He is survived by his children, Owen (Harriet) Knepp of Montgomery, Virgil (Barbara) Knepp of Montgomery, Clarence "Shorty" (Patsy) Knepp of Montgomery, and Dorothy (Kevin) Delaney and Jack (Candy) Knepp, both of Sarasota, Florida; his brother, Lester Knepp and his sisters, Verda Knepp, Rachel Yoder, all of Montgomery, son-in-law, Elmer Wagler of Loogootee, 15 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 2 at Zion Amish Mennonite Church in Montgomery. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Zion Youth Mission Fund.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Arrangements were provided by Blake & Wagler Funeral Home in Montgomery.



VA Benefits May Apply (812) 636-3000
Apartments Available Immediately

- Short Term or Long Term
- Apartments are Handicap Accessible
- Snow Removal - Lawn Mowing
- Emergency Call System
- Activities, Beauty Shop, Wellness Center & 24-Hour Staffing
- Meals, Housekeeping & Laundry Service
- Personal Services Available at Your Residence

Safe,
Secure,
Comfortable,
Assisted Living



Parkview Village
Christian Care, Inc.

Independent/Assisted Living Not-for-Profit/Board Owned Senior Community
800 S. WEST STREET - ODON, IN 47562
WWW.PARKVIEW-VILLAGE.ORG

NEW LISTING!



MLS#201844481

Enjoy beautiful views of West Boggs Lake from your own private park-like setting at 7 Apple Dr! This ranch home with front covered deck and rear composite porch, makes one-level living easy with 3 bedroom, 3 full baths & 3 car heated and cooled garage on double lot with boat dock!

MIDWEST
REALTY



CALL MARY 812-486-6363

1704 E Natl Hwy
Washington, IN 47501
812.254.3918

midwestrealty47501@gmail.com



Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

2:18 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

5:08 a.m. - Received a report of property damage south of Loogootee. Deputy Reed responded.

6:16 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down west of Shoals. Deputy Reed removed the tree.

9:34 a.m. - Captain Dant assisted a motorist east of Shoals with a vehicle unlock.

9:36 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:40 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down on SR 550. Shoals Fire removed the tree.

10:11 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:30 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled semi on US 50, west of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene, Captain Dant, and Sergeant Keller responded.

2:30 p.m. - Captain Dant took three inmates to court.

2:55 p.m. - Jailer Gordon took one inmate to the doctor.

5:45 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident north of Shoals. Deputy Shinn responded.

10:37 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident on US 231, south of Loogootee. Deputy Shinn responded.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

7:25 a.m. - Captain Dant performed a vehicle identification check near

Shoals.

8:08 a.m. - Jailer Lents transported one inmate to a rehabilitation facility in Lafayette.

9:53 a.m. - Captain Dant took four inmates to court.

10:57 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance, Shoals Fire, Captain Dant, Sergeant Keller, Martin County Coroner Franklin, and Deputy Coroner Hamby responded.

12:31 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:53 p.m. - Captain Dant took two inmates to court.

2:42 p.m. - Captain Dant took one inmate to court.

2:49 p.m. - Received a medical alarm call in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

4:45 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded.

7:09 a.m. - Captain Dant assisted a motorist in Shoals with a vehicle unlock.

9:05 a.m. - Captain Dant took one inmate to court.

10:20 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene took one inmate to court.

2:55 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett responded.

4:16 p.m. - Received a report of an accident north of Shoals. Williams Fire and Deputy Seymour responded.

7:00 p.m. - Deputy Shinn performed

a vehicle identification check north of Loogootee.

7:23 p.m. - Jail Commander Abel on station with one inmate for court.

9:36 p.m. - Received a report of an incident in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Floyd, Deputy Shinn, and ISP Trooper Johnson responded.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

6:41 a.m. - Deputy Wright and Loogootee Chief Rayhill assisted a motorist east of Loogootee.

9:04 a.m. - Jail Commander Abel transported one inmate to the doctor.

9:05 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene assisted with a property exchange in Shoals.

10:08 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231 in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded and all was okay.

11:28 a.m. - Captain Dant took three inmates to court.

12:35 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock east of Shoals.

12:57 p.m. - Captain Dant took three inmates to court.

1:13 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Crane. Crane Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded.

1:32 p.m. - Received a report of a truck fire near Loogootee. Loogootee Fire responded.

3:30 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

3:38 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Captain Dant responded.

6:31 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

7:31 a.m. - Received an alarm call in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth responded and all was okay.

9:00 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene performed a vehicle identification check in Shoals.

10:04 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee Fire, and Loogootee Officer McBeth responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

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

2:15 p.m. - Received a report of illegal burning in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth responded.

8:45 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:54 p.m. - Received a report of a break-in north of Shoals. Deputy Seymour responded.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

10:03 a.m. - Received a report of a tree across the road near Shoals. Martin County Highway responded.

10:30 a.m. - Received an alarm call near Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth responded and all was okay.

11:30 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person east of Shoals on SR 150. ISP Trooper Lents responded.

11:40 a.m. - Received a report of a tree across the road on SR 150. Shoals Fire responded.

12:18 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle break-in in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth responded.

12:20 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:23 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down north of Shoals. Williams Fire responded.

12:38 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth responded.

4:53 p.m. - Received a report of a break-in in Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded.

9:45 p.m. - Received a report of an altercation in Loogootee. Deputy Wright responded.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:39 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett responded.

8:09 a.m. - Deputy Wright assisted a motorist north of Loogootee.

9:27 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:01 p.m. - Received an alarm call north of Shoals. Deputy Wright and Loogootee Officer McBeth responded. All was okay.

12:48 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down east of Shoals. Shoals Fire responded and removed the tree.

1:21 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Shoals. Shoals Fire and Deputy Wright responded.

3:35 p.m. - Deputy Wright assisted a motorist near Shoals with a vehicle unlock.

ARRESTS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

12:14 a.m. - Jordan Burch, 30, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer McBeth on a Martin County warrant and is being held without bond.

3:31 p.m. - Jacob Courter, 25, of Loogootee, was arrested by ISP Trooper Lents on a Vanderburgh County warrant and is being held without bond.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

7:15 p.m. - Matthew Taylor, 40, of Bloomington, was arrested by Deputy Lents on a Martin County warrant and is being held without bond.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

3:10 p.m. - Dane Bolin, 31, of Lyons, was arrested by Sheriff Roush on a Martin County warrant and is being held without bond.

AG Hill announces \$6 million settlement with companies over debt buying and collection practices

Attorney General Curtis Hill announced Tuesday that he has joined 41 other states and the District of Columbia in reaching a \$6 million settlement with Encore Capital Group Inc. and its subsidiaries Midland Credit Management Inc. and Midland Funding LLC, which is one of the nation's largest debt buyers.

The settlement also provides full debt forgiveness for 126 Indiana consumers, totaling \$160,552, and partial debt forgiveness to 116 Indiana consumers, totaling \$214,600.

Debt buying involves buying and selling overdue debts from creditors and other account owners. Often purchased for pennies on the dollar, debt buyers seek to recover the full balance from consumers through collection attempts by phone and mail. Debt buyers, including Midland, also take consumers to court to collect the debts they purchase. However, people are often unable to afford attorneys to defend the allegations. Cases often result in default judgments, hurting credit and putting people in jeopardy of having their wages garnished.

This settlement resolves the states' investigation into Midland's collection and litigation practices. Much like the conduct witnessed during the mortgage crisis, Midland is alleged to have signed and filed affidavits in state courts in large volumes without verifying the information printed in them, a practice commonly called robo-signing.

"My office takes very seriously our role in protecting consumers," Attorney General Hill said. "Far too often, Hoosiers fall victim to the inappropriate actions of businesses seeking to take advantage of them. This settlement is a positive step toward holding businesses responsible for their conduct."

Settlement debt forgiveness applies to cases in which Midland used an affidavit against consumers in court between 2003 and 2009. Midland will notify affected consumers by mail of the balance reduction, and no further action is necessary from those consumers.

The settlement requires Midland to reform its affidavit signing and litigation practices. Midland must carefully verify the information in affidavits and present accurate documents in court proceedings. When Midland files a lawsuit, it must have account documents about the debt before they file the case, including the amount of the debt, proof of an agreement, and an explanation about why any additional fees are justified.

The settlement requires that Midland maintain proper oversight and training over its employees and the law firms that it uses. The agreement prohibits Midland from reselling debt for two years.

To see the settlement agreement, visit https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INAG/2018/12/04/file_attachments/1117708/Midland%20settlement%20-%20Indiana.pdf

Martin County JOURNAL

A weekly online newspaper published every Wednesday

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: FREE BUT \$10 DONATION APPRECIATED

More than 3,000 weekly subscribers! To advertise, contact Courtney at the phone or email below.

LOW-COST ADS TO FIT EVERY BUDGET!

Publishers/Owners:

Josh & Courtney Hughett and sons
courtney@martincountyjournal.com
josh@martincountyjournal.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 148, Loogootee, IN 47553

Phone: 812-259-4309

Fax: 1-888-380-2761

info@martincountyjournal.com

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

10:11 a.m. - First responders were requested on Mt. Calvary Road for a medical call.

3:30 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident in the Marathon parking lot.

4:25 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on Hwy 50.

10:19 p.m. - Captain Hennette responded to a business alarm.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

8:25 a.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a residential alarm.

2:49 p.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted the ambulance service.

4:22 p.m. - Male reported a stolen license plate.

4:42 p.m. - Caller reported to observe for a juvenile that may be in the area. Juvenile has a pick-up order from Washington Police Department.

5:38 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident on US 231.

6:44 p.m. - Captain Hennette and K-9 Roxy was requested for a K-9 drug search.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

4:45 a.m. - First responders were requested in Country Court for a medical call.

8:34 a.m. - Male came on station for a vehicle identification check.

10:35 a.m. - Female reported a speeding vehicle on US 231.

3:09 p.m. - Caller reported a civil dispute.

9:40 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on SW 3rd Street.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

6:41 a.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted the county with a broken-down vehicle on Hwy 50.

10:08 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on US 231. Chief Rayhill located the vehicle and spoke with the driver.

Traffic stop leads to methamphetamine arrest

On Tuesday, November 27 at approximately 6:44 p.m., Martin County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Keith Keller conducted a traffic stop in Loogootee.

During the stop, Loogootee Police Department Captain Jason Hennette's K9 Roxy assisted by conducting a free air sniff of the exterior of the truck. K9 Roxy gave a positive indication of an illegal substance in the truck.

Captain Hennette, Sergeant Keller, and Deputy Cody Shinn searched the truck. During the search, officers found a crystal substance that tested positive for methamphetamine. The driver, Wesley A. Moore, 48, of Washington, was taken into custody without incident, transported and lodged in the Martin County Security Center. Moore

Legal resources now available at indianalegalhelp.org

A new website, indianalegalhelp.org, is available to provide legal resources to Hoosiers of limited financial means. The website was developed by the Coalition for Court Access. The goal is to help with civil matters (non-criminal issues) including family, housing, consumer, healthcare, benefits, employment, and educational services.

The website provides contact information for legal service providers in each county, questions to ask when hiring a lawyer, and a variety of self-help forms covering family law and general civil matters.

The fillable and printable forms include child support, continuance, divorce, fee waiver, name change, and contempt. There are many instances in which hiring an attorney is crucial,

1:32 p.m. - Loogootee Fire was paged out to a vehicle fire in Belgrade.

6:30 p.m. - First responders were requested on Cedar Street for a medical call.

8:15 p.m. - Male reported a child custody issue.

11:09 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on Hwy 50.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

7:31 a.m. - Officer McBeth responded to a business alarm.

10:04 a.m. - First responders were requested on US 231 for a medical call.

2:15 p.m. - Caller reported illegal burning on West Washington Street.

8:50 p.m. - First responders were requested on US 231 for a medical call.

9:10 p.m. - Caller reported a child custody issue.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:25 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on Hwy 50.

12:18 p.m. - Female reported someone had been in her vehicle the night before.

12:38 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident on Broadway Street.

6:45 p.m. - Caller reported a civil issue.

9:48 p.m. - Female reported a battery complaint.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

8:09 a.m. - Caller reported a broken-down vehicle on US 231.

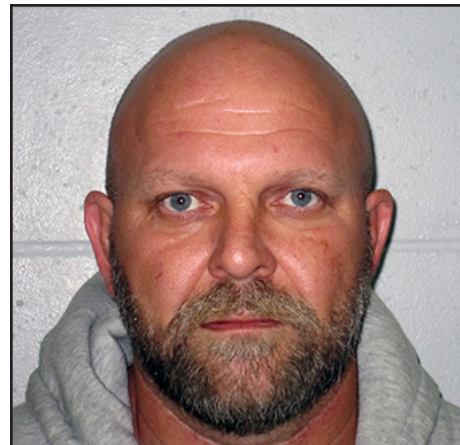
11:31 a.m. - Caller reported a traffic complaint on JFK Avenue.

12:01 p.m. - Officer McBeth assisted the county with a residential alarm.

3:43 p.m. - Officer McBeth responded to a business alarm.

9:10 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on Broadway Street.

10:45 p.m. - Caller requested transient assistance.



WESLEY MOORE

is being held on a \$25,000/10% bond.

Moore was charged with possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony and maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 Felony.

therefore legal experts suggest talking to an attorney prior to submitting online forms to a court.

The Coalition for Court Access was created by the Indiana Supreme Court in May 2016.

The Coalition is made up of nearly 20 legal stakeholders including the Indiana Bar Foundation. It works to develop and implement a statewide plan to improve the availability and quality of civil legal services for people of limited means.

The launch of the website, which is managed by the Indiana Bar Foundation, is a significant step in achieving that goal.

For Coalition meeting details and membership information, visit www.in.gov/judiciary/iocs/3149.htm.



Making A Difference

By Curt Johnson
MCCF Executive Director



'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING!

It seems like the Christmas season is a time when people become more aware of the needs of others. If you want to help but aren't sure where or how to donate, the Martin County Community Foundation is a good place to start. By donating to the MCCF, you are creating a positive impact that makes Martin County better, and your gift will keep giving forever. Now is a great time for giving for another reason too - when you make a donation by December 31, to the MCCF, you are also creating a tax break for yourself. Here are five ways to make the most of your year-end giving.

GIVE EARLY

A gift by check is complete when mailed (postmarked) by December 31. If you plan to hand-deliver a check or cash to the MCCF, do it plenty early to be sure we're available to accept the donation by the end of the year. The MCCF also has the option of donating online at www.cfpartner.org. Unless a specific fund is requested in a note (Paypal has this option), online credit card gifts go toward our general unrestricted fund. Online gifts can be donated up until 11:59 p.m. on December 31.

REVIEW YOUR STOCKS

Consider a year-end gift of appreciated stock. If you donate stock, you will receive a charitable deduction for the current market value of the stock, which can provide significant savings in capital gains tax. Contact the MCCF for more information about how you can maximize your tax savings with gifts of stock.

YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

If you're receiving taxable income

from an IRA, the Charitable IRA Rollover Act allows donors age 70 ½ or older to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA without counting the distribution as income. Learn more about using your Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) to support the causes you care about most. The MCCF can provide some information about IRA charitable rollovers. If you are interested in an IRA rollover gift for the current tax year, you should contact your financial advisor soon to take advantage of this benefit by December 31.

GIVE NOW, DECIDE LATER

If you need a charitable tax deduction this year but are undecided about which nonprofits to support, consider opening a donor-advised fund at the MCCF. You can claim a deduction for contributions to your fund now even though distributions from the fund would be made in future years. Contact the MCCF for details.

LET US DO THE LEGWORK

Working with us gives you access to our knowledge of the local nonprofit community and the needs of our county. We're here to help you achieve your charitable goals. Contact the MCCF Executive Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or mccf@cfpartner.org to get started.

Make your giving count before 2018 ends!

-- MORE INFORMATION --

You are also welcome to visit our website at www.cfpartner.org/mccf.htm, follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MartinCountyCF](https://twitter.com/MartinCountyCF), and "like" the MCCF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mcccommunityfoundation.



Martin County Humane Society

PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 8th

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

at the Animal Shelter

507 N. Oak Street, Loogootee

Get your pet's photo with Santa for just \$10!
Photos are digital only and will be emailed to you.
No appointment necessary.
The shelter accepts cash, check and credit cards.



Martin County Humane Society
ANIMAL SHELTER
507 N. Oak Street, Loogootee IN 47553
812-295-5900 ~ mchs@frontier.com
www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org

More Neat Stuff

By Ann Ackerman



Earl and Bubba are quietly sitting in a boat fishing, chewing tobacco, and drinking beer, and suddenly Bubba says, "Think I'm gonna divorce the wife - she ain't spoke to me in over two months."

Earl spits overboard, takes a long, slow sip of beer and says, "Better think it over, Bubba. Women like that are hard to find."

THOUGHTS

*The next time your wife gets angry, drape a towel over her shoulders (like a cape) and exclaim, "Now you're Super Angry!"

*If you are lucky, a dog will come into your life, steal your heart, and change everything.

*Wi-fi went down for five minutes, so I had to talk to my family. They seem like nice people.

*When you stop believing in Santa, you get underwear and socks for Christmas.

*Every time I decide to start a diet, the lettuce is contaminated.

*If Dorothy can click her heels together and get to Kansas, why can't I click my flip-flops and get to the beach?

*Old age is coming at a really bad time.

Jack, a handsome man, walked into a sports bar around 9:58 p.m. He sat down next to this blonde at the bar and stared up at the TV.

The 10:00 news was on. The news crew was covering a story of a man on

a ledge of a large building preparing to jump.

The blonde looked at Jack and said, "Do you think he'll jump?"

Jack says, "You know what, I bet he will."

The blonde replied, "Well, I bet he won't."

Jack placed \$30 on the bar and said, "You're on!"

Just as the blonde placed her money on the bar, the guy did a swan dive off of the building, falling to his death.

The blonde was very upset and handed her \$30 to Jack, saying, "Fair's fair...Here's your money."

Jack replied, "I can't take your money. I saw this earlier on the 5 o'clock news and knew he would jump."

The blonde replies, "I did too, but I didn't think he'd do it again."

Jack took the money.

Andrea Bauer has been doing a great job with grooming and training my little rescue dog, Chica. When she posted the following on Facebook, I knew we were in good hands. Thanks, Andrea, for all the care you have shown.

4 SIGNS YOU'RE DOING WELL IN LIFE

1. You have a dog.
2. You have two dogs.
3. You have many dogs.
4. You love dogs.

SERIOUS THOUGHT - *You don't raise successful human beings by doing everything for them. You raise them by teaching them how to do it for themselves.

Make someone smile today!

Retired Teachers Association meets

The Daviess/Martin Counties Retired Teachers Association met November 9, at the Stoll's Lakeview Restaurant, in Loogootee. Those present were Ken Macy, Nancy Adams, Alice Jones, David Lennen - Area Director, Rita Divine, Janice Riley, Marilyn Read, Barb Hager, Aggie Cooper, Don Spillman, Bev Spillman, Linda Strosnider, and The Loogootee High School Vocal Jazz.

Nonperishable items were collected to donate to the Martin County Schools Back Pack project. A monetary donation was also included. Members were encouraged to turn in their volunteer service hours to Lawanna Hand at the January meeting.

Dave Lennen gave a summary of the district meeting held in October. Local members attending were Dave Lennen, Ramona Lennen, Vicky Bauerfeind, Rosie Winger, Lawana Hand, Linda Strosnider, Ken Macy, Marilyn Read, Barb Hager, Patricia Keefe, and Janice Riley.

A committee will be formed to get nominations for election of officers at a spring meeting.

The Loogootee High School Vocal Jazz, under the direction of Misty Mosby, performed for the members.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Harder Benefit

A benefit for the family of BJ Harder will be held Friday, December 7 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Shoals High School. BBQ pulled pork, hot dogs, baked beans, cole slaw, desserts and drinks will be on the menu for donation only. A silent auction with many items will also be available that night.

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.

Free lunch for kids

New Beginnings Community Church will be offering a free lunch to all school-age children every Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. at the fellowship hall of the church, located at 200 West Main Street next to the post office. For more info, call 812-709-2525.

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!

Tourism meetings

The MCCC Tourism Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Loughmiller Machine, 12851 E 150 N, Loogootee. The public is invited to attend.

Humane society meetings

The Martin County Humane Society meets on the third Friday of the month at the animal shelter at 507 N Oak Street in Loogootee, at 5:30 p.m.

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.

Attention Senior Citizens

The Loogootee Senior Citizen Center, located in the annex building attached to JFK Gym on JFK Avenue in Loogootee provides activities for seniors every Monday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon. For \$5 a year, seniors can participate in Euchre tournaments, games, puzzles, etc., with other local seniors. Anyone interested is welcome to stop by, there are no age or residency requirements to participate. Seniors are also offered lunch at the Loogootee Senior Center every Monday and Thursday. A freewill donation is requested. Call 812-295-3130 to make a reservation.



Students, staff of the month

Students and Staff Member of the Month at Loogootee Elementary have been chosen for November. In the front row, from left to right, are Parker Morton, Braxton Johnson, Chase Sergent, Jake Lottes, Izabell Sutton, Chase Fraley, Tyson Mattingly, Carter Downey, Aden Summers, and Ryken Farhar. In the back row, from left to right, are Anderson Williams, Ms. Britney Bateman, Levi Arvin, and Haley Mason.

WAYNE Ferguson agency

www.fergusonagency.com

If you have Real Estate to sell in the general areas of French Lick or West Baden in the Counties of Martin, Dubois, Orange, or Crawford

PLEASE CONSIDER LISTING WITH US!

Homes...Farms....Deer Hunting Land

Rich Everman, Real Estate Broker
812-630-9606
OFFICE: 812-936-2900
<http://realestate.richeverman.com>

And, for the VERY BEST in Insurance Services, check with us...

AUTO...HOMEOWNERS... FARMOWNERS...COMMERCIAL ...& MORE!

CALL 812-936-2900

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00-5:00

Ask for KATHY BLEDSOE

9711 W State Road 56 French Lick, IN 47432



- Insurance
- Financial Services
- Real Estate



Independent Insurance Agent

Shop Local!

dish exede



HughesNet

We Have High Speed Internet

Your Only Local Authorized Dealer

Midwest Satellite • 812-295-5588



The tradition of the Christmas tree is laden with symbolism and history. The custom of bringing evergreen trees or branches into homes is older than Christianity. In many pagan cultures, keeping evergreen boughs through the winter months symbolically carried the hope of spring and assured them that the earth would come to life again. For this reason, some Christians have turned from the tradition. However, I see the evergreen tree as an appropriate symbol of the everlasting nature of God's love

Since the sixteenth century, the Christmas tree has been an important part of Christmas celebrations. The modern traditions stem from German customs. Many stories are told of Martin Luther's being the first to light a tree with candles after returning from a journey when he observed the stars shining through the branches of an evergreen tree. While beautiful, the custom of candles on trees was responsible for many Christmas tragedies. The combination of dry needles and flame resulted in many house fires over the years. The advent of electric lights helped lessen that danger, but even the electric lights caused heat enough to cause dry needles to kindle into flames. Today's lights do not produce as much heat as the older lights, but that does not mean there is no danger. One should do everything possible to prevent a Christmas catastrophe.

Even though we often refer to cut trees as "live" Christmas trees, the truth is that they are no longer living. Separating the tree from its roots causes immediate death. Because of the nature of most evergreens, the green color will remain for some time, but the tree actually begins drying out as soon as it is cut. Therefore, it is best to buy the freshest tree possible. It is always better to buy trees from local tree farms than buying a tree at a store or tree lot. In some cases, the trees in some chain stores have actually been cut for a month. They may have been sprayed with an anti-desiccant to slow the drying process, but they are, after all, dead.

Whether freshly cut or from a store, you should do everything you can to keep the tree hydrated. When you get the tree home, cut another inch or so off the bottom, exposing fresh wood. Trees

Craft for kids at Paynetown

Preschoolers and homeschoolers are invited to make a winter snow craft at Monroe Lake, December 12.

The craft session will run from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Activity Center inside Paynetown State Recreation Area. The Activity Center is next to the swimming beach. There is a \$1 fee per craft (cash or check), and you can pick and choose which ones you want to make. Kids may arrive at any time during the session, but no new crafts can be started after 3 p.m. Jill Vance, Monroe Lake's interpretive naturalist, recommends arriving no later than 2:15 p.m. if you want to make all five crafts.

Although there is no registration needed for this event, Vance recommends following the Facebook event listing at <http://bit.ly/wintersnow2018> for updates. Property admission to Paynetown SRA is free during the winter season.

have a way of scabbing over wounds to keep out pathogens, and the same process begins on the stub of a cut tree. Exposing fresh wood allows the tree to take up more moisture. Get the tree in water immediately after making the cut.

Never use a tree stand that does not have a water reservoir. Purdue University research shows that the various additives that claim to lengthen tree life are not really effective. They do recommend a couple of drops of bleach be added to the water to kill pathogens, but water at room temperature is the best thing to keep a tree safe and green. During the time indoors, the water level should be checked daily. A funnel with a long extension will make it easier to add water.

It is also important to keep the tree away from stoves, fireplaces or heaters. The heat will hasten drying. The shorter the time a tree is kept indoors, the safer it will be. The needles will also drop less, making less of a mess.

Many different evergreens are used as Christmas trees. That choice is largely just personal preference and cost. In our area, pines are the most common trees available at tree farms, though some may offer spruces and firs. In my childhood, we did not have room for a tree in the house, so our Christmas tree was always a red cedar cut from the farm and decorated on the front porch. I remember when a college friend who was visiting relatives in the area came by for a visit. He laughed at seeing the decorated cedar tree. Using our native evergreen tree for a Christmas tree was a foreign idea to him. However, he was also amazed that our house had no inside plumbing. He learned that some of us were from very different worlds.

Today, because of allergies, I decorate an artificial tree indoors, but I sometimes light some of the trees in the gardens. Whatever tree you use in your celebration, keep safe.

Indiana Hunter Education Class at Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds

An Indiana Hunter Education Course is slated for Saturday's January 12 and 19 at the Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds. Classes will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 12 and from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 19. Participants must attend both days to complete the course. All Indiana residents are invited to complete this FREE course. All instruction will be by Indiana conservation officers and certified Indiana volunteer hunter education instructors. Certification is required for anyone born after December 31, 1986, who wishes to purchase an Indiana hunting license. The course will cover ethics, safety, laws, survival and safe handling practices for archery, black powder and firearms. Lunch will be provided for participants and attending family members on both days for \$5/person/day. To sign up, visit www.passitonindiana.com. There is a 150-student limit for the class and pre-registration is required. This course is being sponsored by the Dubois County Shooting Sports Instructor Council and Dubois County Sportsmen. For questions, call 812-685-2447.

Producer sentiment holds steady, but lack of new farm bill concerns farmers

BY KAMI GOODWIN
Purdue University News Service

Agricultural producer sentiment held steady in November with producers remaining optimistic about the state of the agricultural economy, according to results from the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer. The November barometer reading of 134 was only 1 percent lower than October, which is similar to levels seen last spring before trade disruptions began. The barometer utilizes a survey of 400 agricultural producers from across the country.

The barometer's two sub-indices remain mostly unchanged from October; the Index of Current Conditions held at 115, and the Index of Future Expectations dropped 3 points to a reading of 143.

"Although there was a modest decline in the barometer this month, there was some evidence that producers are becoming more confident regarding the U.S. agricultural economy's future," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

That confidence can be seen in producers' attitudes toward their willingness to make large farm investments. Each month producers are asked whether now is a "good time" or "bad time" to make a large investment in buildings and machinery. Their responses are used to produce a large investment index. In November, that investment index stood at 56, up from 52 in October, and 10 points higher than in September of 2018 when the index set a new low of 42.

Producers were also more optimistic regarding their long-term perspective on farmland values, with 50 percent expecting higher farmland values over

the next five years, a sharp departure from a month earlier when just 21 percent said they expected higher farmland values.

However, this increase in confidence was not driven by expected improvements in profitability. In November, only 13 percent of respondents said they expect farm profitability to improve in the next 12 months. When asked about farmers' equity position, 44 percent expect to see equity diminish in the upcoming year. Rising interest rates could also be a factor in these perceptions as that can impact profitability and the value of large farm assets. When asked, 85 percent of producers said they expect interest rates to rise in the next year, and 76 percent expect to see a rise in the next five years compared to 2018.

With November marking an end to the mid-term election cycle, producers were asked whether they were concerned that Congress had not passed new farm bill legislation. Seventy-five percent of respondents said they were either "somewhat or very concerned," 33 percent said they were "very concerned," and 24 percent said they were "not at all concerned" about the lack of new Farm Bill legislation.

Read the full November Ag Economy Barometer report at <http://purdue.edu/agbarometer>. This month's report includes additional information on producers' future expectations for agricultural exports and an update on producers' intentions to reduce their soybean acreage in the 2019 season. Additional November barometer analysis can also be found in a video from Mintert at <https://youtu.be/Q-9NqD14EdE>.

The Ag Economy Barometer, Index of Current Conditions and Index of Future Expectations are available on the Bloomberg Terminal under the following ticker symbols: AGECCBARO, AGECCURC and AGECCFTEX.

Coyotes are active during winter season

Because winter can be a busy time for coyotes, DNR biologists say people can expect to see more of them in the coming months, but not to be alarmed.

"Most young coyotes leave their parents to start looking for new homes during winter. In addition, coyote breeding season starts in January, and coyotes may be more mobile during that time as well," said Megan Dillion, DNR south region urban biologist.

Coyotes are common to Indiana, including areas where people gather. It is normal for them to show up not only in rural environments, but also in urban areas.

"Coyotes thrive near people because they like to eat the rodents and rabbits that thrive near people, so seeing them in urban areas happens pretty regularly and is not unusual," said Geriann Albers, DNR furbearer biologist.

As a result, coyotes are an important part of Indiana's environment, helping to control rodent populations and cleaning up dead animals.

Coyotes' main diet consists of rodents and rabbits, but they will eat almost anything, including fruit, insects, pet food and garbage. That's why it's important to keep garbage secure, make sure pet food is not left outside and make sure fruit from trees is

picked up.

"Coyotes may be attracted to bird feeders because mice and squirrels will hang around bird feeders. If you start seeing a coyote and you have bird feeders up, taking them down for a few weeks may encourage a coyote to move on," said Jessica Merklung, DNR north region urban biologist.

If you see a coyote and want it to go away, try to make it uncomfortable. Yell, wave your arms, spray it with a hose, or throw tennis balls or small stones—but don't throw anything that it may construe as food. Noisemakers such as a jar of coins or a small air horn can also scare away coyotes and are therefore good to carry when venturing out.

Never corner or chase a coyote. Make sure they always have a clear path to get away from you.

Learn more about coyotes at wildlife.IN.gov/5688.htm

Advertise in the
Martin County Journal
Email courtney@martincountyjournal.com
for more information.