

Martin County JOURNAL

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Nine pages

Martin County had highest response to wage survey

Southern Indiana employers say a workforce pay increase is expected in the next 12 months in addition to the ones given in 2022, according to Radius Indiana's third biennial survey of wages and benefits throughout the region.

The 2022 Radius Indiana Wages and Benefits Survey gives local companies up-to-date, real-world information about the labor market in the eight-county region and how it compares to the state of Indiana and the United States. Ninety-two firms participated in the survey, contributing compensation data for 13,257 employees.

The survey included 63 job classifications, and with the region's diverse economy, the jobs covered everything from service and support positions like receptionist and customer service to production and logistics positions such as machinists, front-line manufacturing supervisors, general laborers, and forklift operators. Results also showed growth in tech and IT positions such as electronic technicians, system analysts, and network administrators.

"The Radius Indiana wages and bene-

fits survey is a great tool we use to ensure that we are offering competitive pay and benefits compared to other employers in the Radius region," said Alex Barnes, president of W.F. Meyers, a Bedford-based manufacturer of cutting tools and equipment for the stone-cutting industry.

Whorton Marketing and Research, a consulting firm that performs industry and membership research, conducted the survey in August and September 2022, and Dubois Strong sponsored its completion. To protect privacy, Radius did not receive employee names or other personal information in the production of the report. Martin County had the highest level of participation with 23 companies providing data for the survey, a substantial increase from the four companies that participated in 2020.

"As the new executive director at the Martin County Alliance, I'm thrilled to see our local businesses take advantage of the survey as we seek to learn more about their current workforce and how we can continue to help them succeed,"

(See 'SURVEY' on page 6)



Family Friendly Workplaces

-Photos provided

JayC Food Store, in Shoals, and the Corner Café, in Loogootee, are Martin County WIC Family Friendly Workplace Award recipients. To receive this award an employee must nominate their workplace and give reasons why they feel their workplace has gone above and beyond the Family Medical Leave and Breastfeeding in the Workplace laws. Shown above, from left to right, are Elizabeth White, Martin County WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator; Brenda Neal, JayC Food Store Shift Manager; and Amber McBride, Martin County WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor. Shown below, from left to right, are Elizabeth White Martin County WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator, Debra Neideffer, Patti Sander, and Kathy Wallace. WIC is an equal opportunity provider.



-Photo by Michelle Norris

Plaques were presented to the four outgoing Martin County Council Members (Sherri Bowling, Barb McFeaters, Randy Winger and Buck Stiles) at their final meeting Monday night. From left to right above are Council Members Adam Greene, Keith Gibson, Bowling, McFeaters, Warren Albright (holding Winger's plaque as he was not present) and Stiles.

County council holds last meeting of the year

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council met Monday night, December 5. Council Member Randy Winger was not present for the meeting due to a death in the family.

The council discussed the 2023 salary and wage ordinance which includes a four percent raise for employees. Auditor Michelle Norris said the highway department employees were given a raise in July and that was left off the ordinance so it would need to be added.

Jessica Potts, Alliance Director, talked to the council about the Flipping Finance Challenge, organized by the Indiana Bond Bank. She said members of the Indiana Bond Bank came to the county recently to discuss the challenge and various ways to promote the county. When the representatives met with community leaders, they brainstormed challenges and strengths in the county. They took the notes from the meeting and condensed them down to a few potential categories, that if chosen to participate, Martin County could "pitch" those challenges to the innovators to come up with creative solutions. Just to name a couple of the potential topics Martin County could present were unique ways to build off our natural resources like Hindostan Falls, the Jug Rock, the Martin State Forest, etc.; and provide youth with activities to engage them. If Martin County chooses to apply for the challenge and are chosen to participate in the 2023 Flipping Finance challenge, Potts said it would be a great networking opportunity to connect the county with resources all over the state.

Judge Lynne Ellis told the council she is replacing the chief probation officer and to get someone with the experience required, she needs to increase the salary to \$55,000. She has \$50,000 that was budgeted and needs \$5,000 more. She said they may be able to use money from the

Recount dismissed

The recount filed by Mike Steiner (Independent) was dismissed on Monday evening after four precincts were counted and showed no change in the result of the Martin County Prosecutor race. Incumbent Aureola Vincz (Republican) is still the elected prosecutor. She defeated Steiner in the 2022 General Election 1,816 votes to 1,633.

supplemental adult probation fund but are waiting to hear back from the state to see if that is allowed.

She said she has money available to pay the new chief probation officer if she starts before the end of the year. She isn't ready to disclose who they plan to hire until they speak to her, and she can give notice at her current position. She said she received several applications but two people lied saying they had bachelor's degrees when they do not, and one applicant currently works in Indianapolis and would have to take a 50 percent pay cut if she relocated to Martin County. She said the applicant chosen is well versed in the field and is already working with various agencies in the county so she will be a good fit.

The council went back and forth about whether to give her the go ahead on changing the salary since the council will have several new members next year. Council Member Warren Albright asked two of the new council members in the audience if they were okay with giving verbal approval and they were.

Ellis said she can't move forward with hiring the new person until she knows if the county will cover that \$5,000 if needed.

The council gave permission to go ahead and hire the position and if she can't do the transfer, they will give her the money. They council cannot officially vote on the request until it is advertised.

Soil and Water District Director Teresa Harder talked to the council about additional money requests for paying for covering the training of the incoming director, Amanda Pennington, for the rest of the year and also to pay out her compensation time and vacation time now that she is retiring. The total for all would be \$3,419.26 and will come from the general fund. The council approved.

The council approved an additional appropriation request of \$2,000, from the circuit court for a murder defendant to have two psychiatric evaluations done, which is required by state statute.

Sheriff Josh Greene was not present for the meeting due to being at a conference but reported there are currently 80 inmates in the jail with 41 of them from Vigo County.

The council approved additional appropriation requests from the sheriff's de-

(See 'COUNCIL' on page 2)

COUNCIL

(Continued from page one)

partment for \$2,222.22 for the longevity bonus and \$4,000 for the new hire bonus. The money came from the jail's commissary fund and was paid back to the general

fund. They also approved \$186.37 to cover the social security tax for a grant received for school bus stop arm violation enforcement. The money went to the officers doing the extra patrolling.

The council approved an additional appropriation request of \$5,000 for courthouse utilities. Auditor Norris said utilities have gone up and there was not enough in the budget to cover for the rest of the year.

278 runs since the ambulance service started in August. They are hoping to see some returns from billing soon. He also noted that Orange and Lawrence counties have asked Martin County to be on standby for them quite a bit lately.



Making A Difference

By Curt Johnson
MCCF Director



The council approved the following transfers:

-\$2,600 from jail treatment incentives to jail treatment coordinator. The current jail treatment coordinator is working more hours than was budgeted for due to having more clients, and the transfer is to cover through the end of the year. The money comes from grant funds.

- \$15,000 from culverts, \$10,000 from concrete, and \$5,000 from steel in the highway department budget to contract services for a total of \$30,000.

Ambulance Director Jeramey Osborn provided the council with a report of November activity. Osborn said they had a total of 97 runs in November with 53 of those transports to the hospital. 11 runs were cancelled, 23 patients refused transport and three were dead on arrival.

Osborn said they have done a total of

He said they are still waiting to hear from Daviess Community Hospital about becoming the county's sponsor hospital but expects to hear from them any day.

Teresa Winger, with the auditor's office, reported that Amy Rinker has been hired to serve as the county's human resources director, replacing Kristie Skees who recently resigned.

At the end of the meeting, plaques were presented for the outgoing council members Buck Stiles, Sherri Bowling and Barb McFeaters, since it was their last meeting. Council Member Randy Winger was not present to receive his plaque.

The courthouse will be closed for Christmas on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 and also for New Years on Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2.

Radius Indiana to host region's first Home Brew Competition

Radius Indiana invites local homebrewers to put their skills to the test in its first-ever regional Home Brewing Competition Saturday, March 18 in Jasper.

As the regional economic development organization for the region, Radius works to create opportunities for entrepreneurs to further develop their products and ideas. The new homebrew competition is the latest initiative for residents to showcase their talents. The competition is open to any home brewer who has perfected the art of brew-making, or perhaps a beer lover that wants to try for the first time. Competitors must be a resident of one of the eight Radius Indiana counties: Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, or Washington.

Competitors will be judged by a panel based on their specific brew category and cash prizes are guaranteed to raise a few cheers from the lucky winners. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category.

Categories include:

Light - Pilsners, light ales and lagers

Amber - Oktoberfests, nut browns and Irish reds

Hoppy - Beer that showcases a strong hop profile

Wheat - Beer that contains wheat or rye

Dark - Stouts and porters

There is a \$5 entry fee per brew that must be paid at the time of submission. Submissions can be made beginning March 1 at any of the dedicated dropoff locations below:

Daviess County Economic Development, 201 E Main St Suite 202, Washington, IN 47501

Dubois Strong Economic Development, 961 College Ave, Jasper, IN 47546

Orange County Economic Development, 505 S Maple St, French Lick, IN 47432

Radius Indiana, 1504 I St, Bedford, IN 47421

To register, please visit www.radiusindiana.com.

For questions or more specific information on drop off hours and times, please email info@radiusindiana.com.

'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 (MCCF) 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 31st to the MCCF, you are also creating a tax break for yourself. Here are some ways to make the most of your year-end giving.

GIVE EARLY

A gift by check is complete when mailed (postmarked) by December 31st. 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 unrestricted fund for general grant making. Online gifts can be donated up until 11:59 p.m. on December 31st.

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, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution if you are

70½ or older. At age 72, your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) will kick in. You can donate up to \$100,000 from your 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 31st.

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. We'll need some time to process the paperwork before the end of the year, so act quick if this option sounds right for you. 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. To get started, contact the MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at mccf@cfpartner.org, 812-295-1022, or at 2668 US Hwy 50 (on the Martin County fairgrounds), PO Box 28, Loogootee IN 47553.

Make your giving count before 2022 ends!

-- MORE INFORMATION --

You are also welcome to visit our webpage at www.cfpartner.org and follow the MCCF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mcccommunityfoundation.

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LAWYER

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OBITUARIES

NORMA HARDING

Norma Jean Harding passed away Monday December 5, 2022, at 4:50 a.m. with her family by her side at Sycamore



NORMA HARDING

Care Strategies in Loogootee. A resident of Shoals, she was 97.

She was born August 14, 1925, in Bloomfield; daughter of the late Chester "Keith" and Eva Cordelia (Pettit) Warren.

Norma was a graduate of Bloomfield High School. She went on to work as a secretary at Crane Naval Base where she met Donal W. Harding whom she married on June 6, 1952. Norma and Donal went on to own and operate "The Mill", located in Shoals near the family farm. Norma worked various secretarial jobs for her church and at Crane. She was a member of the Shoals Church of the Cross. Norma was a wonderful woman and devout in her faith. She prayed for everyone she knew, read her bible, and watched her beloved Christian Ministry shows on T.V. Norma had a deep love for reading which she instilled in her daughters and they into their daughters. She will be deeply missed by her family and all that knew her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donal W. Harding, who passed away on November 9, 1995; her parents, Keith and Eva Warren; her sisters, Barbara Jeanette (Lonnie) Wright and Betty Jo (Gerald) Fry; her nephews, Warren Wright, Jeff Fry, and Michael Reedy; her brothers-in-law, Hubert Harding, Gene Harding, Joe Harding, Ralph Harding, Lee Harding, and Leo Harding.

Norma is survived by her daughters, Vicki (Randy) Winger of Shoals and Terri (Alan) Hovis of Shoals; her grandchildren, Valerie (Josh) Hovis of Shoals, Sam Hovis of Shoals, and Calli Winger (Christopher Jones) of Loogootee; great grandchildren, June Harner, Romy King, and Jasper Lake; her nieces, Dianna Reedy of Wapakoneta, Ohio and Cindy Wright of Bloomington; sisters-in-law, Alice Lundy and Shanna Harding, and several other nieces, nephews, cousins, and members of the Harding family.

Funeral services were held this morning, Wednesday December 7 with Pastor Dennis Cecil officiating. Burial followed in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Online condolences can be made at www.blakefuneralhomes.com.

Arrangements provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

JAMES DAY

James E. Day passed away Tuesday November 29, 2022, surrounded by his family at Poplar Care Strategies in Loogootee. A resident of Loogootee, he was 85.



JAMES DAY

He was born November 11, 1937, in Loogootee; son of the late Earl and Martha (Harris) Day.

James married Barbara (Dillon) Day and she preceded him in death on May 5, 2013. He was a member of the Army National Guard. James worked various construction, excavation, and demolition jobs throughout his life. He was a jack of all trades and did everything from drive a dump truck, road graders for the Martin County Highway Department, and operate heavy machinery. James loved to race stock cars at the Martin County Speedway in Loogootee. He also worked at the Brickyard in Loogootee.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Day; his parents, Earl and Martha Day; his grandson, Timothy Taylor; and his brother, Bill Day.

James is survived by his children, James "Cowboy" Day, Brenda Hardwick, Bobby (Cindy) Day, and Danny Day, all of Loogootee; 10 grandchildren, Mary Ellen, Jamie, Nicki, Dylan, Mike, Mark, Jonathan, Daniel, and Molly; 19 great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, his sister, Carolyn Colglazier of Loogootee; his brother, Chuck Day of Loogootee; and several nieces and nephews.

Cremation was chosen according to James wishes. A celebration of life was held Sunday December 4 at the American Legion Country Club in Loogootee.

Memorial donations can be made to Blake Funeral Home in memory of James.

Arrangements provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

DELBERT ROACH

Delbert Eugene Roach passed away at 11:07 a.m. Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at Memorial Hospital and Healthcare Center in Jasper. A resident of Loogootee, he was 86.



DELBERT ROACH

He was born December 20, 1935, on the family farm in Martin County; son of the late Harold and Elizabeth (Albright) Roach.

Eugene married Verneeda Cooper on September 16, 1956, and she survives.

Eugene retired from National Gypsum where he had worked since early in his twenties. He was a skilled woodworker and created beautiful wood items and furniture. Eugene built the upper half of the home over the existing basement, that he and Verneeda lived in the majority of their lives, raising their three children there. He loved the family farm and hosting family get togethers and hunting seasons with family/friends at the old farmhouse. He enjoyed car shows, his Mustang cars and cruising in them, golfing, and was an avid Indiana University fan. Most of all he took pride in his yard work, loving mowing in particular. And, his grandchildren and great grandchildren, who he loved spending time with so much.

Eugene was a lifelong member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Loogootee.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Elizabeth Roach.

He is survived by his wife, Verneeda Roach of Loogootee; children, Rhonda (Buddy) Crouse of Bloomington, Jackie (Ron) Jones of Loogootee, and Kevin (Lauren) Roach of Vincennes; grandchildren, Zach (Alesha) Crouse, Dylan Crouse, Lindsey Jones, Ashley (Wyatt) Smith, Bryce Roach and Breanna Roach; and great-grandchildren, Peyton, Deborah, Chloe, Owen, Winston.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 3, at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee. Burial followed in Goodwill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Dementia Society of America.

Condolences can be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com.

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Delbert Eugene Roach.

KAREN BURRIS

Karen Marie "Sophie" Burris passed away at 7:59 a.m. Monday, December 5, 2022, at her home. A resident of Bedford, she was 59.

She was born March 4, 1963, in Daviess County; daughter of Ernest Bradley and Anna Louise "Dude" (Summers)



KAREN BURRIS

Bradley. She married Seth Burris on June 28, 2008, and he survives.

She received her bachelor's degree from Indiana University and her master's degree from Indiana Wesleyan. She was a 5th grade teacher at Edgewood Intermediate School in Ellettsville. She was an avid softball player, winning many championships throughout her life. She loved dogs and was passionate about rescuing them. She enjoyed traveling, fishing, motorcycling, scuba diving and all things IU. She was an inspiration to many, anyone who met her, loved her.

Survivors include her husband, Seth, of Bedford; three brothers, Randy (Marsha) Bradley of Pennsylvania and Allan (Margie) Bradley and Doug (Becky) Bradley, all of Loogootee; two sisters, Susan

(Steve) Dequeant of Arlington, Texas and Cynthia (James) Wilmes, of Jasper; a sister-in-law, Emily (Tony) Wheeler of Mitchell; nieces and nephews, Geoff Bradley, Caroline Wilson, Catherine Wilmes, Alyssa Dequeant, Elizabeth Bradley, Aidan Wheeler, and Sam Westfall; special thank you to Sherry "Buzz" Winger, Kristie Bennett, Lynn Uhls, Karen's honorary daughter, Carly Bennett and the many close friends who were a tremendous help through her illness.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services will be conducted at 7 p.m. this evening, Wednesday, December 7 in the Elmwood Chapel of the Day & Carter Mortuary in Bedford. Visitation will be from 3 p.m. until the hour of service on Wednesday at the mortuary.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the White River Humane Society.

Family and friends may express condolences at www.daycarter.com.

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Letters to Santa!

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

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

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WE WILL NEVER FORGET!!!!

SHOALS VFW POST #8589

Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

4:45 a.m. - Received a report of a traffic light in Loogootee not working properly. INDOT was notified.

11:50 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:00 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

1:44 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

4:00 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a lift assist in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded. Lift assist only.

5:16 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver heading north on US 231 South. Loogootee Officer Seymour responded. Daviess County was advised.

8:41 p.m. - Received a report of a traffic light in Loogootee not working properly. INDOT was notified.

9:26 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check north of Loogootee. Captain Reed and Sergeant Gibson responded.

10:37 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

12:30 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle west of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

8:30 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to remote court.

8:44 a.m. - Received a report from Martin County Medic 1 that they are doing a transport to Jasper Memorial Hospital for Daviess County.

9:11 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to court.

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

10:28 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

11:08 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Martin County EMS, Shoals Fire Department and ISP Trooper Beaver responded. Martin County Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:30 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver heading west on US 50. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

12:56 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded. No one was transported.

2:20 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

2:52 p.m. - Received a report of a residential burglar alarm west of Shoals. Ser-

geant Gibson responded.

8:20 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

8:33 p.m. - Received a report of a trespasser southeast of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

4:40 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Crane. Captain Reed responded.

6:53 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down north of Loogootee. Martin County Civil Defense responded.

8:44 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident with no injuries south of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department responded.

8:56 a.m. - Deputy Pressley transported one inmate to remote court.

2:30 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

4:55 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Means responded.

5:00 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check east of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

6:18 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident in Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

7:27 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident north of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

10:23 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS, Daviess County EMS, Sheriff Greene and Chief Deputy Keller responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

12:55 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

2:20 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

2:37 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

3:07 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

5:46 p.m. - Received a report of a possible gas leak east of Shoals. The Shoals Fire Department responded.

6:38 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Officer Sims responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:00 p.m. - Received a 911 call report-

ing a large bonfire in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

10:21 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an aggressive driver in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims and Corporal Wells responded.

11:14 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible trespasser south of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:05 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a deer in the roadway south of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

1:52 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:57 p.m. - Received a 911 call from Shoals Community Schools. Fire Drill only.

3:00 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a tree and power lines down north of Shoals. Corporal Wells, REMC and Indian Creek Fire Department responded.

3:15 p.m. - Received a report of a possible traffic hazard east of Loogootee. Loogootee Dispatch was notified.

5:15 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:38 p.m. - Received a report of a stalled semi west of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

7:11 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded, and Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

6:33 a.m. - Received a call from Convergent advising of a panel alarm in Crane Village. Deputy Branham responded.

6:39 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Loogootee Fire Department and Deputy Branham responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:19 a.m. - Received a call from Convergent advising of an alarm in Crane Village. Advised caller that Deputy Branham had already responded.

9:24 a.m. - Received a call from Convergent advising of panel alarm in Crane Village. Advised caller that Deputy Branham had responded, and all was secure.

10:14 a.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins, Loogootee Officer Seymour and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

10:59 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check on an ATV in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

11:24 a.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn south of Loogootee.

1:00 p.m. - Received an animal complaint northeast of Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

1:36 p.m. - Received a call from Convergent advising of an alarm in Crane Village. The caller advised they would be calling company with this issue.

3:03 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check north of Shoals for a trailer. Deputy Hawkins responded.

4:49 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:22 p.m. - Received a report of an abandoned, wrecked vehicle southeast of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins, Loogootee Officer Seymour, Lost River Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded.

5:46 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person south of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

6:27 p.m. - Received a call from Life-

line reporting a medical alarm south of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County EMS responded. No one was transported.

7:27 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Jasper. Martin County EMS responded, and Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:43 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:14 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Mitchell. Martin County EMS responded, and Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Health in Bloomington.

10:23 p.m. - Received a report of possible harassment in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

11:30 p.m. - Received a report of a possible wanted person in Shoals. Deputy Branham and Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

4:46 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded, and Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:37 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

12:42 p.m. - Received a 911 call from Sirius XM advising of an activation button push in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Seymour and Sergeant Gibson responded.

12:56 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance northeast of Shoals. Martin County EMS and Indian Creek Fire responded. No one was transported.

1:05 p.m. - Received a report from ISP Trooper Beaver of a stalled camper south of Loogootee.

2:39 p.m. - Received a call from Convergent advising of an alarm in Crane Village. Contacted keyholder.

3:21 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting assistance east of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

4:20 p.m. - Received a report of a cow out north of Loogootee. The owner was contacted.

4:30 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver south of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

8:00 p.m. - Received a report from Sergeant Gibson of a truck-deer accident southwest of Shoals.

ARRESTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

1:43 p.m. - Timothy Dove, 42, of Odon, was arrested by Daviess County on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

1:55 p.m. - Timothy Ervin, 45, of Shoals, was arrested by Corporal Wells on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

3:43 p.m. - Jeremie Tharp, 43, of Shoals, was arrested by Corporal Wells on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

2:23 p.m. - Jason Strong, 47, of Washington, was arrested by Chief Deputy Keller and charged with possession of marijuana. He is being held without bond.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

5:42 a.m. - Mahkai Pelzer, 19, of Georgia, was arrested by Deputy Branham and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

9:03 p.m. - Kevin Lindsey, 60, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Hawkins and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

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COURT NEWS

Persons listed on criminal charges are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

CRIMINAL COURT

New Charges Filed

November 3

Carlos Omar Ramos Roque, knowingly or intentionally operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 7

Elijah S. Sullivan, minor consuming alcohol, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Jessica R. Draper, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; refusal to submit to breath or chemical test, a Class C Infraction.

November 10

Brady J. Tucker, confinement, a Level 6 Felony; battery resulting in bodily injury, a Class A Misdemeanor; conversion, a Class A Misdemeanor; interference with the reporting of a crime, a Class A Misdemeanor; battery by bodily waste, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Jeremiah E. Jackson, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 15

Alejandro Morales, knowingly or intentionally operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Alias Rian Keasling, domestic battery resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 Felony; confinement, a Level 6 Felony; domestic battery resulting in moderate bodily injury, a Level 6 Felony.

November 16

Ryan L. Graber, minor in possession of alcohol, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Zackary W. Winger, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 22

Judith L. Harker, domestic battery, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 23

Edward F. Pournier, invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 28

Kassy-Anne Marie McCarty, driving

while suspended with prior conviction within 10 years, a Class A Misdemeanor; leaving the scene of an accident, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Kari A. Begle, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Edward R. Sheets, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Jose D. Herrera Del Valle, knowingly or intentionally operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Travis R. Gruber, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 29

Brian E. Clifton, public intoxication, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Jacob H. Heshelman, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Terry Layne Campbell, violation of rule adopted by director, a Class B Misdemeanor.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

November 21

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Citizens Bank and against the defendant Collin J. Padgett for mortgage foreclosure in the amount of \$97,067.64.

November 23

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff LVNV Funding, LLC and against the defendant Ricky Heckard in the amount of \$6,823.86.

CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

November 28

Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Alexander Ditola, civil collection, dismissed.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

November 23

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Property Sure and against the defendant Jessica Crane for eviction in the amount of \$1,724.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Property Sure and against the defendant Brooke Elliott for eviction in the amount of \$3,030

MARRIAGE LICENSES

November 23

Jonathan Flammer of Shoals and Shawna Vencel of Shoals.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

10:03 a.m. - Captain Rayhill performed a welfare check.

5:14 p.m. - Officer Seymour attempted to locate a reckless driver.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

7:19 p.m. - Officer Erwin and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

1:07 p.m. - Chief Means responded to an animal in distress on Third Street.

5:00 p.m. - Chief Means and Martin County Animal Control responded to a report of aggressive dogs on Park Street.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:00 a.m. - Chief Means responded to a report of an unwanted solicitor at a local business.

11:07 a.m. - Chief Means provided escort for a funeral detail.

3:37 p.m. - Chief Means responded to a vehicle parked in the roadway.

9:01 p.m. - Officer Sims responded to a report of a fire on North Line Street. Everything checked clear.

10:17 p.m. - Officer Sims responded to a local business to check on individuals who were being followed by an unknown vehicle.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

4:39 a.m. - Officer Sims responded to a report of individuals around the Loogootee High School. Everything checked clear.

3:12 p.m. - Officer Seymour attempted to locate an oversized vehicle causing a possible hazard. Unable to locate.

10:38 p.m. - Officer Erwin responded to a residence on Broadway Street for a report of threatening messages.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:05 a.m. - Officer Seymour assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a report of a person in distress.

4:43 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on William Daily Drive.

5:29 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to a vehicle accident.

6:27 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department responded to an unknown med-

ical alarm on Highway 231.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

12:45 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to an alarm on Church Street.

4:38 p.m. - Officer Seymour responded to Loogootee High School for reports of individuals engaging in inappropriate activities in the parking lot.

5:00 p.m. - The Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Police responded to the high school for the parade.

Real estate transfers

Indiana Matich, LLC d/b/a LandHat to Monty Gregory, that portion of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 7, Township 3 North, Range 4 West of the Second Principal Meridian lying in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 14.075 acres, more or less.

Donna Contreras to Tabitha R. Norman and Logan Riley Scott Norman, a part of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 3 North, Range 4 West.

Melissa D. Fields, Cynthia K. Phillips, and Randall E. Johnson, of Martin County, Indiana to **Nicole Erwin and Dylan Erwin**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lots Number 87 and 88 in the Town of Dover Hill, Martin County, Indiana. Also, Lots Numbered 85 and 86 in the Town of Dover Hill, Martin County, Indiana.

Pamala Padgett, of Martin County, Indiana to **Thomas R. Flynn**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter and a part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter, all in Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, containing 1.45 acres, more or less.

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SPRJ55189

QuickBooks

WORKSHOP

March
2nd & 3rd
2023

Taught by
Kari Johnson
Penny Tracker, LLC
kari@mypennytracker.com

The Martin County Alliance will host a
QUICKBOOKS WORKSHOP
Thursday and Friday, March 2 & 3
at the Martin County Learning Center on the fairgrounds

Thursday, March 2 – QuickBooks Training/Introduction to Accounting Principles (9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m), Course Fee (lunch included) - \$30

Friday, March 3 – One on One Consulting with QuickBooks Specialist Kari Johnson (By Appointment ONLY – 1 hour & 15 minutes) Appointment Fee - \$30
Attend BOTH, March 2 and March 3 - QuickBooks Training/Introduction to Accounting Principles & One on One Consult with QuickBooks Specialist– TOTAL FEE \$45

If you would like to learn more about these opportunities or to sign up, please contact Erin Stoll, Business Office Manager
martinalliance@martinalliance.org • 812-295-4800

More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



Well folks, I guess it's time. I had my 80th birthday this week and, after much thought and contemplation, I have decided that this will be my last More Neat Stuff.

I have enjoyed my many years of sharing what I hope has been humor and wisdom with you and especially the comments you have made to me about what this article means to you.

This whole idea started when I was working for Harold Green at the *Loogootee Tribune*. I shared some stories with him that I had read on the internet, and he seemed to like them. I said there were a lot of people who didn't have access to online humor and then said, "There's more neat stuff that these people would like." At that time, some only had access to "paper" and didn't get to see what was in cyber space.

Harold then told me to give the article a try and he'd see if anyone liked it. Apparently, they did, because he allowed me to continue collecting stories and quips to share with the readers. My friend, Mary Lou, said I needed a closing for the article and suggested, "Make someone smile today." That is what I have tried to do.

With the demise of paper-printed newspapers, the article was also shared with the *Martin County Journal* and Courtney Hughett very patiently printed More Neat Stuff to the present. I say patiently because as I got older, my memory and deadline-making needed a little guidance. Courtney has been great to this old lady and I will always be grateful for her help.

THOUGHTS

*Don't forget to turn your bathroom scales back 15 pounds after Thanksgiving.

*Me yelling at a squirrel to get out of

the road so it's not squished by a car is probably the same feeling my guardian angel has watching me live my life.

*If you throw your hands in the air like you just don't care, make sure you put your coffee cup down first.

*You know you're old when someone compliments you on your alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

HOW TO FOLD A FITTED SHEET

1. Stop giving a crap about folding fitted sheets. No one cares.

2. Roll it into a ball and chuck it in a closet.

SERIOUSISMS

*Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love, they depart to teach us about loss. A new dog never replaces an old dog, it merely expands the heart.

*The quickest way to succeed is to start now and figure it out as you go. You can't learn to drive in a parked car.

*Bad news is: You cannot make people like, love, understand, validate, accept or be nice to you. You can't control them either.

Good news is: It doesn't matter.

*I just realized I've lived through: 4/4/44, 5/5/55, 6/6/66, 7/7/77, 8/8/88, 9/9/99, 10/10/10, 11/11/11, 12/12/12, ...damn, I'm old.

Make someone smile today!

DCH Neat Feet Clinic dates set for 2023

Daviess Community Hospital announced the schedule for the 2023 DCH Neat Feet Clinic. This service is provided once per month at Senior & Family Services in Washington from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

A Registered Nurse from Daviess Community Hospital will trim toenails, file toenails, assess feet for any abnormalities, and apply lotion to groomed

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Loogootee Zoning meeting

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

Mental Health Task Force

The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets via Zoom. If interested in being a part of the tax force, email echristmas@youthfirst.org or toddamy@iu.edu.

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

St. Vincent Food Pantry

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, on Park Street in Loogootee, is open the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December when they are open the third Thursday. The hours are 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m.

Free lunch for kids

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

SOAR Tutoring

Need Skills? SOAR tutors can help! Free and confidential. Call or text Karen

at 812-709-1618 to learn more. Located in the Martin County Community Learning Center Improve Your Skills, Improve Your Life!

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Solid waste board

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

Soil and Water meetings

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

Local recovery meetings

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

SURVEY

(Continued from page one)

said Jessica Potts. "These results will be a vital tool as we launch a new business retention and expansion program in Martin County aimed at supporting our local businesses. This is one tool to help build individual connections that strengthen relationships and provide assistance our local companies may need."

Among the survey's findings: A sample of seventeen positions, spread across three important sectors in the region, experienced a four-year growth in wages of 7.43 percent from 2018 to 2022. The Technology/Growth sector led with an average increase of 19.4 percent, followed by the Production/Logistics sector with a 4.9 percent increase, and the Services/Support sector dropped by 0.9 percent.

The survey also reported:

Employers adding workers over the next 12 months: 74 percent;

Employers offering multiple insurance plans: 53 percent;

Employers contributing to a 401(k) plan: 89 percent.

"This data provided by employers in the region reveals that wage growth is diverging among different sectors of the economy, offering clues to employers and employees about future opportunities to maximize their resources," said Jeff Quyle, president and CEO of Radius Indiana. "We are grateful for the participation we received for this survey; together we created a great tool to help our local businesses grow and learn."

Other findings from the survey include:

Respondents reported an employee turnover rate of 24 percent;

74 percent of firms expect to add workers in the next 12 months;

30 percent now have some employees who split their schedule between the workplace and remote locations; 37 percent allowed remote work during the pandemic but have since returned to working in the office. 19 percent have some employees who work remotely full time.

Dr. Stephen Toothaker Medical Oncologist

Medical Oncologist Stephen Toothaker, M.D. was recently appointed to the Medical Staff at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center. A medical oncologist is a doctor with special training in diagnosing and treating cancer in adults using chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, biological therapy, and targeted therapy.

Dr. Toothaker received his medical degree at Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire. He completed an internal medicine residency at Maine Medical Center in Portland, and a hematology/oncology fellowship at University of Rochester/Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. Dr. Toothaker is board certified in hematology and medical oncology and has 14 years of medical oncology experience. Dr. Toothaker will see patients at Memorial Hospital's Lange-Fuhs Cancer Center, located at 800 W. 9th Street in Jasper, Indiana. For more information, please call 812-996-0626.

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In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser,
Purdue University Master Gardener

It is time to do some trimming, and not just trimming Christmas trees. For many shrubs, the dormant season is the best time to trim and shape them. However, this does not include all shrubs.

Shrubs which bloom in the early spring should not be trimmed at this time. Most of those shrubs have already set their buds for next spring and trimming now would be cutting off next year's blooms. Such shrubs should be trimmed within a few weeks after they have finished blooming in the spring.

For shrubs that bloom later, and for many foliage shrubs, this is an excellent time to trim and shape. We have had enough cold weather that the plants have entered dormancy, so trimming should not result in lush growth that would be killed by winter weather. Topiaries shaped now will hold their form well into next year's growing season. They may need a touch-up after new growth in the spring, but that is a minor consideration.

When trimming, use sharp by-pass pruners and clean and disinfect them often. While power shears may make quick work of the job, they tend to tear and damage woody stems. Pruners also give you much better control. Make cuts at angles that will tend to hide the cut from view. This is not always possible but limiting the number of white cut marks will make your plant look nicer in the landscape. Cuts should be made right below a leaf node. Major trimming of branches should be done at a branch intersection. This allows the cut to cure and heal more quickly and prevents snags that stand out and catch debris.

You may use many of the trimmings for your holiday decorating. Holly and conifer branches have been a part of holidays for centuries. I also like to use other broadleaf evergreens in arrangements. It is important to remember that the trimmings are dead and will quickly desiccate and become a fire hazard. That is not usually a great concern for wreaths and swags used outside but spraying them

with an anti-desiccant will make them last longer. If you are using trimmings inside, they will need water. You may purchase individual vials for branches, but these must be checked often and filled with water when needed. I prefer to use vases or other containers. I find that moist peat moss or sand will help support the branches and supply moisture. You still need to check them and add water when they are dry.

You do not have to use vases to display greenery. I often cover soup cans with wrapping paper to make arrangements. I use a mix of various types of evergreens, including some ferns and hellebore leaves that are still green in the gardens. I also like to use trimmings from non-green evergreens. Some conifers turn bronze or have tips of yellow or white. These will give great contrast to your arrangements. While I like dried arrangements, I prefer more color for holiday decorations. Spray paint is my friend. I often spray dried hydrangea clusters, ornamental grasses and other garden materials with the colors I want in the arrangements. I am particularly fond of spraying a bit of metallic paint to accent the flowers. I also like to use branches from birches, red and yellow twig dogwoods, coral-bark maple and other trees and shrubs with interesting colors. I sometimes like to use branches with interesting shapes, including my contorted filbert. Sometimes these branches get a little spray paint also. Of course, the berries of the winterberry hollies are the crowning touch in many arrangements. They provide a vibrant red that shouts "Christmas".

Many vines will provide material for making wreaths. You may either roll and made the shape with wire or weave the vines to form the rings. Either way, they may be entirely covered in greenery, or you may leave part of the vine exposed. It is a matter of personal preference, so suit yourself. Decorating is just the excuse you need to get out into the garden this month.

Cover Crop Premium Discount Program available in White River Region counties

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy and the United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency have joined forces to implement the Cover Crop Premium Discount Program for the third year in a row.

This program, which mirrors efforts in Iowa and Illinois, will reward farmers who plant cover crops by providing a reduced premium on their crop insurance. The discount program was designed to promote planting additional acres of cover crops that are not covered by other state or federal incentives. This program is eligible for counties in central and southern Indiana's White River region.

"Providing nutrients and needed ground cover to soil, cover crops are unmatched in the benefits they provide to soil structure," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Implementing cover crops, however, can be expensive. So, I am excited this program will once again give farmers an opportunity to increase their cover cropped acreage, which will improve water quality and enhance soil structure in our state."

Over the last year, this program has had great success with 55 farmers participating, translating to more than 15,000 acres of cover crops on Indiana farmland in the watershed.

This program will provide farmers with a unique opportunity to receive financial incentives for implementing cover crops on their operation. Farmers who plant cover crops on owned or rented acres will receive a \$5 per acre crop insurance premium discount. Farmers who planted cover crops in the fall of 2022 are eligible to apply.

Qualifying counties in the White River area include Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Delaware, Floyd, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Harrison, Hendricks, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Orange, Randolph, Ripley, Scott, Shelby, Switzerland, Tipton and Washington.

Cover cropping has many benefits including increased organic matter, im-

proved soil biology as well as better water infiltration and water-holding capacity. This practice also prevents nutrients and sediment from running off the farm, keeping them out of nearby waterbodies and streams. Hoosier farmers planted 1.5 million acres of living covers in 2021 and, apart from corn and soybeans, are planted on more acres than any other commodity crop in Indiana.

"The Nature Conservancy is thrilled to continue this partnership that delivers a unique reward to farmers for adopting cover crops," said Larry Clemens, Indiana State Director of The Nature Conservancy. "Last year, Indiana farmers helped the state lead the nation in soil health practices by planting over 1.5 million acres of cover crops. This program was instrumental in that achievement, and we will take that success to new portions of the state this year."

Bruce Kettler, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, encourages farmers to learn more about this program if they farm in central and southern Indiana's White River region.

"Hoosier farmers are tremendous stewards of the land and take pride in protecting their natural resources," said Kettler. "This program, made possible by our many partnerships, is an incredible value to the farmers in central and southern Indiana, and I am hopeful many will jump on this opportunity."

Seeding of cover crops must follow best agronomic practices in terms of appropriate seeding rates, seed mixes and seeding dates to ensure objectives of the cover crop are being met. To ensure the practice provides the best results termination must be completed in the spring.

Funding for this program is provided by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Cummins Foundation, and CenterPoint Energy Foundation. These three foundations are supporting The Nature Conservancy to improve water quality across Indiana and the Mississippi River Basin.

Applications are due March 15, 2023. Learn more and apply at www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/cover-crop-premium-discount-program/ or visit isda.in.gov.

Monroe Lake to host winter solstice walk

Monroe Lake will host a Winter Solstice Luminary Walk at Fairfax State Recreation Area on Wednesday, December 21 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Walkers will stroll a path lit by luminaries around a field to celebrate and reflect on the winter solstice. Stops along the half-mile path will invite people to decorate a tree with wildlife-friendly ornaments, learn about winter solstice traditions, make a candle lantern, stargaze if the weather permits, and complete a winter scavenger hunt, among other activities.

Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. The walk is not recommended for those with mobility concerns, as the path is mostly on grass and has uneven areas.

The entrance to the luminary path will close at 7:30 p.m. to ensure that all attendees are able to complete the walk by 8 p.m. The walk may be canceled if there are unsafe walking or travel conditions. Check the event page at bit.ly/wintersolsticewalk2022 for any updates.

Hot tea and cocoa will be available. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own travel mug.

The luminary walk and entrance to Fairfax SRA is free. There will be a donation box by the hot drinks station to support future activities at Monroe Lake.

For more information contact the Payne-

town Activity Center at 812-837-9967 or email Monroe Lake interpretive naturalist Jill Vance at jvance@dnr.IN.gov.

Hunter education course to be offered

A free Indiana Hunter Education Course is scheduled for Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21 at the Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds, which is located at 4157 S. State Road 162, Huntingburg.

Classes will run from 6 to 9 p.m. January 20, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. January 21. Participants must attend both days to complete the course. Completion is required for anyone born after December 31, 1986, to purchase an Indiana hunting license.

All instruction will be by DNR conservation officers and certified Indiana volunteer hunters. The course will cover ethics, safety, laws, survival, and safe handling practices for archery, black powder, and firearms.

Advance registration is required for the course and can be completed at passitonindiana.com. There is a 150-student limit. This course is being sponsored by the Dubois County Shooting Sports Instructor Council. For more information, call Patoka Lake at 812-685-2447.

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Position:

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Essential job duties:

- Collaborate with leadership team to develop and market programs, special events, promotional offers, and community outreach programs.
- Hiring, scheduling, and managing staff to facilitate programs and ensure customer service representation
- Coordinating associated needs for the implementation of programs and customer service with maintenance and housekeeping personnel
- Prepare evaluations to assist with further development of programs, events, activities, promotional incentives, and visitor activity
- Develop and facilitate volunteer programs
- Procuring necessary inventory for implementation of quality management and service levels for both activities and campstore
- Coordinate financial and personnel record keeping

Job requirements:

Education: Bachelor's degree in Parks & Recreation Management, Business or Public Administration, Marketing or any related field is preferred but not necessary. Programming and personnel management is also a plus. A minimum of 3 years cumulative professional work experience that is relevant to the position may be substituted for a degree.

Certification/training: Be qualified by training or experience in the field of parks and recreation. Must be willing to become CPR certified. Must have a valid Indiana driver's license. Must be willing to continue training through various approved sources.

Knowledge: In project development, funding management and evaluation, traditional and modern marketing concepts to promote programs and events.

For more information and/or to apply, please contact the West Boggs Park office or email brooke@westboggs.com



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

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

Minimum Requirements:

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

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

Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton

NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

I hear quite often from people who have read a recent Grazing Bites. Two people recently have referred to the article as grazing “bits” not “bites,” but I really don't care what you call it as long as you're reading it and hopefully getting something out of it. For future reference, though, most “bits” are nouns - the sharp point of a tool, a horse bridle, a small amount of something, a minute computer unit, an old monetary value or perhaps a past tense bite! “Bite” is a verb to cut, grip, or tear with or as if with the teeth - hence grazing forages with teeth. Perhaps though, grazing bites are also bits of grazing information.

It didn't take too many windy and rainy days to shed the trees of any remaining leaves, provide us a surprise early snow and declare that winter was truly moving forward. My wife likes the changes of the seasons, but if it was up to me, I'd consider moving lock, stock, and barrel to a warmer spot for a short while every year. I've known a few people who did move some of their cattle southward during the winter so they could continue to graze - usually on winter annuals. There are some years that can also be accomplished here in the Midwest.

If you can get cereal rye planted early enough to get sufficient growth to graze, then grazing can begin in the fall once plants reach 6-12 inches tall and can be grazed to a height of 3-4 inches. That can't be done if it isn't planted until early November - the earlier the better. Mid to late August is really ideal to provide the most growth for grazing in the fall. Later seedings will only get started and will delay more growth until spring providing good cover for the field, but little or nothing to graze until spring.

For most people, if your livestock are still grazing at this point, you are probably either grazing stockpiled forage, perhaps some corn residue, left over fall annuals or grazing pastures that should have been exited a long time ago. I hope it is stockpiled forage.

Stockpiled forage is technically defined as standing forage allowed to accumulate for grazing at a later period, usually for fall and winter grazing after dormancy. Tall fescue makes some of the best stockpiled forage because it holds quality better and doesn't fall apart with freezing weather mainly due to a waxy layer on the leaves. I love orchardgrass, but it doesn't hold up very long at all after several hard freezes. If you have stockpiled orchardgrass, use it first. Quality stockpiled tall fescue quite often has better feed values than a lot of hay that is fed at the same time.

You may cuss tall fescue, especially old Kentucky 31 endophyte infected tall fescue during the growing season, but the KY 31, low endophyte varieties and endophyte friendly varieties all stockpile very well. The first thought from some might be - what about fescue toxicity from the KY 31 tall fescue? Research from the University of Missouri indicates that ergovaline and total ergot alkaloid levels decline significantly within 30 days when tall fescue is cut, dried, and baled for hay.

What about stockpiled KY 31 tall fescue then? When grazing fescue in the late fall or winter the threat of fescue toxicity is reduced. The reduction is probably a combination of time, similar to the hay, and freezing conditions. Most people think that ergovaline doesn't pose a problem in stockpiled fescue because ergovaline appears to concentrate in seed heads and stockpiled fescue is generally vegetative. Livestock eat stockpiled fescue better after a couple of hard frosts or freezing conditions. Most studies have found that ergovaline content drops fairly fast after mid-December. Sadly, as long as endo-

phyte infected tall fescue is growing, it probably is still producing some ergovaline - another good reason to not start grazing stockpile until completely dormant.

I've tested a lot of stockpiled forage the last couple decades or so and tall fescue has rarely disappointed me. The stockpiled forage quite often is better quality than if the same forage had been harvested for hay - higher amounts of crude protein and total digestible nutrients.

Even in late February, stockpiled fescue is still holding value and not unusual at all to have a crude protein value still of 11 percent and digestibility of 58 percent. I certainly don't expect most people to test forages, especially during the winter. Knowing the value of the stockpile provides the information needed to know if supplemental feed is needed or not.

A very quick and easy way to get a little bit of information on the value of the stockpile without testing it is to look at the manure from the grazing livestock. Yes, look at the cow piles. I've received a few odd looks during a pasture walk when I intentionally took my boot across a manure pile to critique it.

Unless quite a bit of nitrogen has been added to the stockpiled forage, the crude protein value isn't going to be nearly as high as lush spring forage and creating a thinner more “splattable” manure patty. At best it is going to be more the consistency of pudding or pumpkin pie filling. My wife often complains when I make such a comparison to food - but people understand food type descriptions. The pudding-pumpkin pie filling is that nice smooth textured manure - yes, I've looked at way too much manure. This manure will have a crude protein range from 12-15 percent with digestibility in the 60's this time of year on stockpiled forage. At this stage, quality of the forages consumed is fairly well balanced and stays in the rumen long enough to allow good absorption of nutrients and thus decent performance.

True “piles” indicate then that forage quality is lower and probably more like in the range of 6-8 percent crude protein with moderate total digestible nutrients. This type of manure usually indicates a declining forage quality and is more maintenance quality at this point. Poor quality hay will do the same thing. The consistency of the manure is a rough indicator of crude protein and digestibility of the consumed forage. Low-quality forages take longer for ruminant animals to digest. They remain in the digestive tract for longer periods, and more moisture is removed prior to elimination of waste.

Low-quality forages generally contain more non-digestible fiber, but they're also usually low in protein. Providing supplemental protein to ruminants actually feeds the rumen microbes. Those rumen microbes are necessary for the cow to utilize forages efficiently. Addressing dietary protein needs can improve rumen fermentation, increase the rate of passage and boost forage consumption.

Actual forage analysis is the best way to know what level of various nutrients forage resources can provide but observing manure can provide a quick idea. Consult an animal nutritionist when needed to balance out nutritional shortfalls, especially for growing and lactating animals.

Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!

Reminders & Opportunities

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference - March 29, 2023 - Shiloh Community Center, Odon, IN - More information coming soon!

Please send comments or questions to grazingbites@gmail.com.

National unemployment unchanged at 3.7 percent for November

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 263,000 in November, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week.

Notable job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, health care, and government. Employment declined in retail trade and in transportation and warehousing.

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

Household Survey Data

The unemployment rate was un-

changed at 3.7 percent in November and has been in a narrow range of 3.5 percent to 3.7 percent since March. The number of unemployed persons was essentially unchanged at 6.0 million in November.

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (3.4 percent), adult women (3.3 percent), teenagers (11.3 percent), Whites (3.2 percent), Blacks (5.7 percent), Asians (2.7 percent), and Hispanics (3.9 percent) showed little or no change over the month.

Among the unemployed, the number of permanent job losers rose by 127,000 to 1.4 million in November. The number of persons on temporary layoff changed little at 803,000.

The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was little changed at 1.2 million in Novem-

ber. The long-term unemployed accounted for 20.6 percent of all unemployed persons.

Both the labor force participation rate, at 62.1 percent, and the employment-population ratio, at 59.9 percent, were little changed in November and have shown little net change since early this year. These measures are each 1.3 percentage points below their values in February 2020, prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons was about unchanged at 3.7 million in November. These individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part time because their hours had been reduced or they were unable to find full-time jobs.

The number of persons not in the labor force who currently want a job was little changed at 5.6 million in November and remains above its February 2020 level of 5.0 million. These individuals were not counted as unemployed because they were not actively looking for work during the 4 weeks preceding the survey or were unavailable to take a job.

Among those not in the labor force who wanted a job, the number of persons marginally attached to the labor force held at 1.5 million in November. These individuals wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but had not looked for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. The number of discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, was 405,000 in November, little changed from the previous month.

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 263,000 in November, roughly in line with average growth over the prior 3 months (+282,000). Monthly job growth has averaged 392,000 thus far in 2022, compared with 562,000 per month in 2021. In November, notable job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, health care, and government. Employment declined in retail trade and in transportation and warehousing.

Leisure and hospitality added 88,000 jobs in November, including a gain of 62,000 in food services and drinking places. Leisure and hospitality has added an average of 82,000 jobs per month thus far this year, less than half the average gain of 196,000 jobs per month in 2021. Employment in leisure and hospitality is below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level by 980,000, or 5.8 percent.

In November, employment in health care rose by 45,000, with gains in ambulatory health care services (+23,000), hospitals (+11,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+10,000). So far in 2022, health care employment has increased by an average of 47,000 per month, well above the 2021 average monthly gain of 9,000.

Government added 42,000 jobs in November, mostly in local government (+32,000). Government employment has increased by an average of 25,000 per month thus far this year, compared with 38,000 per month in 2021. Since February 2020, government employment is down by 461,000, or 2.0 percent.

In November, employment in the other services industry rose by 24,000, as personal and laundry services added 11,000 jobs over the month. Other services employment has increased by an average of 15,000 per month thus far this year, compared with 24,000 per month in 2021. Employment in other services is below its February 2020 level by 186,000, or 3.1 percent.

Employment in social assistance increased by 23,000 in November and has returned to its February 2020 level. Within social assistance, employment in

individual and family services increased by 17,000 in November. Job growth in social assistance has averaged 18,000 per month thus far in 2022, compared with an average of 13,000 per month in 2021.

Construction employment continued to trend up in November (+20,000), with nonresidential building adding 8,000 jobs. Construction has added an average of 19,000 jobs per month thus far this year, little different from the 2021 average of 16,000 per month.

Employment in information rose by 19,000 in November. Employment in the industry has increased by an average of 14,000 per month thus far this year, in line with the average of 16,000 per month in 2021.

Manufacturing employment continued to trend up in November (+14,000). Job growth has averaged 34,000 per month thus far this year, little different from the 2021 average of 30,000 per month.

In November, employment in financial activities continued its upward trend (+14,000). Job gains in real estate and rental and leasing (+13,000) and in securities, commodity contracts, and investments (+6,000) were partially offset by a decline in credit intermediation and related activities (-9,000). Employment in financial activities has increased by an average of 12,000 per month thus far this year, the same as in 2021.

Employment in retail trade declined by 30,000 in November. Job losses in general merchandise stores (-32,000), electronics and appliance stores (-4,000), and furniture and home furnishings stores (-3,000) were partially offset by a job gain in motor vehicle and parts dealers (+10,000). Retail trade employment has fallen by 62,000 since August.

Employment in transportation and warehousing declined by 15,000 in November and has decreased by 38,000 since July. In November, job losses in warehousing and storage (-13,000) and in couriers and messengers (-12,000) were partially offset by a job gain in air transportation (+4,000).

Employment in professional and business services changed little in November (+6,000). Within the industry, professional and technical services added 28,000 jobs, while business support services lost 11,000 jobs. Monthly job growth in professional and business services has averaged 58,000 thus far in 2022, down from 94,000 per month in 2021.

Employment showed little change over the month in mining and wholesale trade.

In November, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 18 cents, or 0.6 percent, to \$32.82. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 5.1 percent. In November, average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees rose by 19 cents, or 0.7 percent, to \$28.10.

In November, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls declined by 0.1 hour to 34.4 hours. In manufacturing, the average workweek for all employees decreased by 0.2 hour to 40.2 hours, and overtime declined by 0.1 hour to 3.1 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased by 0.1 hour to 33.9 hours.

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for September was revised down by 46,000, from +315,000 to +269,000, and the change for October was revised up by 23,000, from +261,000 to +284,000. With these revisions, employment gains in September and October combined were 23,000 lower than previously reported. (Monthly revisions result from additional reports received from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates and from the recalculation of seasonal factors.)



Originally published November 24, 2008

I can't remember any time when I have written about the same subject in consecutive columns, but I am going to write about Thanksgiving again this week. For one thing, I may have messed up last week, for another, I don't want to miss the opportunity to expand on the meaning of Thanksgiving to me.

Barbara's sister Clara pointed out to me last week that my musings about the abundance of food was most certainly not shared by a majority of people on Earth. Without getting into numbers and percentages, I'm glad she called me out on this, as she is right. There are large areas of the world that suffers from chronic starvation and malnutrition. Some of this is caused by cyclical climate conditions, other reasons, and perhaps more troubling, is caused by governments that systematically deny their people the tools and means necessary to feed themselves. Not to mention the high-jacking or misdirection of humanitarian aid destined to relieve hunger in these regions. The US has many organizations at work to try and relieve the suffering in these areas. I recall hearing this same discussion as far back as grade school. If there was an easy answer, or just any answer, it would have been taken care of a long time ago.

My second thoughts about Thanksgiving have nothing to do with food, although that seems to be the main focus of the holiday. These thoughts have more to do with our relationships with those around us, as well as the freedoms we enjoy, and how blessed we are to have both. I want to list a few of those relationships and freedoms that bring me an inner sense of what I feel about Thanksgiving.

Country: We just experienced one of the most beautiful things about America. The freedom to elect our own leaders. Without a shot being fired, we changed the leadership of the most powerful coun-

try on earth. This has been happening for well over two-hundred years now. We take it for granted because we don't know anything different. But there are billions of people in hundreds of countries that do not share this freedom. This week we are likely to witness the return of the local Indiana National Guard to their homes in and around Martin County, having spent a year of their lives in Iraq. Their mission was to try and advance freedom in a part of the worlds which knows little of it. What a joyous Thanksgiving this will be for these returning heroes and their families.

Community: The local community is loaded with organizations designed to provide all types of opportunities and assistance to others. If you ask people what they do, many times their volunteer work will be mentioned before their career or job. This gives you some sense of what their priorities are.

Family: I know this should probably be the first thing I listed. I am probably more guilty than most when it comes to spending significant time with my family. But being from a strong family allows us to know the love is there, even if the time isn't always in the quantity I would like.

Faith: Having witnessed the re-dedication of our church this past Sunday, it is apparent that several generations have received their spiritual nourishment from a loving God and faith community. Members of the congregation were asked to stand as the various faith-based events (baptism, marriage, funerals, etc.) that happened in the church were stated. In the end, every single person in the church was standing, and many or most could have stood for several of the life events.

In conclusion, Thanksgiving is about more than a turkey dinner and the annual chance to visit with relatives. It becomes an all-out celebration of life, liberty and the pursuit (not a guarantee, but the pursuit) of happiness.

Happy Thanksgiving.

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