



LHS Homecoming

-Photo provided

Loogootee will hold their Boys' Basketball Homecoming this Saturday night, December 13 against Shoals. The junior varsity match up begins at 6:30 p.m. Shown above are candidates for homecoming royalty. In the front row, from left to right, are Chassidy Bridges, Waylee Wagoner, Addyson Aiman, Ashleigh Powell, and Ashley Lindauer. In the back row, from left to right, are Kris Lyon, Eli Fleace, Travis Craney, Hayden Bell, Chase Wilcoxon, and Gabe Nolley. Crowning will be held between the junior varsity and varsity games. Not pictured is Lauren Bowling.

Cops & Kids in 24th year

On December 18, one of the familiar sights and sounds of the holiday season will return to Washington for the 24th consecutive year. Sirens will blare, red and blue lights will flash, and more than 80 area law enforcement officers, including those from Martin County, along with Daviess County Probation Department and Community Corrections, spouses, friends, and other guest shoppers will be in the Christmas spirit. Why? Because they will be escorting the children from area Head Start schools and Four Rivers preschools to this year's annual Cops & Kids.

Cops & Kids has grown every year since its beginning in 1991. Last year, more than \$20,000 was donated to the Fraternal Order of Police and spent on the 168 children of the Head Start preschools in Daviess and Martin counties and Four Rivers preschool. The donations came from area fraternal organizations, businesses, clubs, individuals, Walmart promotions, and some area school children.

The money donated is spent on a wide variety of clothing, from underwear to winter coats, whatever any certain child may need. The wants and needs of the children,

along with their sizes, are compiled on a master list days in advance. Individual cards are then given to the police officer or firefighter who is shopping with that child. After the cop and kids pick out what the child needs, then to the toy department they go, to spend the rest of the money reserved for that child. Last year, approximately \$125 was spent on each child, not including the fruit, candy and lunch.

After the shopping is complete, the caravan will move from Walmart to the Moose Family Center, where the children and their escorts will be treated to Happy Meals and other sandwiches and drinks donated by McDonald's and Subway of Washington. As an added treat again this year, Scoops will be providing ice cream for all to enjoy for dessert.

Santa will be along on the trip again this year and will distribute treats while he visits with the children, after they have had time to eat. Also assisting Santa last year were McGruff the Crime Dog and Sparky.

The packages will be sorted by the officers and school staff to ensure that the children have the right goodies and gifts. The (See 'COPS & KIDS' continued on page 2)

Food businesses inspected

The following restaurant inspections were done by Julia Albright, of the Martin County Health Department. The information listed is verbatim from the inspection report and all were routine inspections unless otherwise noted.

Violations found again from the previous inspection will be noted with (repeat violation).

NOVEMBER 20

Hometown IGA #463, 500 W. Broadway Street, Loogootee

Two critical violations:

-Six cans of Gerber Good Start Nourish powder on shelf that expired 11-18-14; one can Enfamil Infant ready-to-use formula on shelf expired 11-1-14; six can Enfamil AR ready-to-use formula on shelf expired 11-1-14; two boxes of Gerber Soy ready-to-use formula multi-packs on shelf expired 9-27-14.

-Temperatures of rotisserie chicken on stand near deli area were 118-123 degrees. Temperature of BBQ ribs 116 degrees

One non-critical violation:

-Water at sinks in men and women's toilet room was less than 100 degrees

Duane Mann, IGA store manager, provided an operator response to inspection stating the out-of-date formula was pulled from the shelf on 11/20/14. The temperature of rotisserie chicken was raised to 120 degrees and the hot water heater was replaced on 11/24/14.

Bradley's Bar and Grill, 605 W. Broadway Street, Loogootee

One non-critical violation:

-Box fan in kitchen area had accumulation of dust.

Ruler Foods #215, 600 W. Broadway Street, Loogootee

No violations noted.

State of Indiana awards \$30 million in teacher performance grants to more than 1,300 schools

In its first distribution of teacher performance grants, the State of Indiana awarded more than 1,300 schools with \$30 million to reward thousands of high-performing teachers. Loogootee and Shoals were included in these numbers.

"Indiana teachers and schools work each and every day to make a difference in the lives of our children," said Governor Pence. "This commitment to excellence brightens both the futures of our young people and that of our state, and I fully support, as I did on day one in office, rewarding their tireless work. I applaud the efforts of the schools and teachers who will benefit from these grants and urge all Hoosiers do the same."

Schools with students earning ISTEP+ or

end of course assessment passing scores of 72.5 percent or above or with a 5 percent or more growth in graduation rates from the previous year qualified for grant funds for teachers. The bonuses will be awarded to teachers who are rated effective or highly effective under Indiana's teacher evaluation system for the 2013-14 academic year. Schools will receive the following dollar amounts based on performance for the sole purpose of distributing among effective or highly effective teachers:

ISTEP+/ECA passing rates:
72.5 - 90% equals \$23.50 per pupil
90-100% equals \$47.00 per pupil
Above 5% growth equals \$47.00 per (See 'GRANTS' continued on page 2)



2014 Loogootee Christmas Parade

-Photos by Courtney & Josh Hughett

The first annual Festival of Lights Christmas Parade was held in downtown Loogootee last Sunday night. Santa made several appearances, as shown in the photo at the top. The lights from the parade (middle photo), lit up the city square and Grand Marshal Vic Crew, below in the passenger seat with his son Paul driving, got a limo ride through downtown.





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Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Dept.

WEST BOGGS PARK

GLENDALE SFWA CAMPGROUND

GRANTS

(Continued from page one)

pupil
 Graduation rates:
 90-100% equals \$176 per pupil
 75-90% equals \$88 per pupil
 Above 5% growth equals \$176 per pupil
 The Governor's 2013 recommended budget originally proposed the concept of school performance awards. The awards were signed into law as part of the biennial

budget, HEA 1001, which allocated \$30 million in grants to schools based on school proficiency or improvement for only state fiscal year 2015. Per Indiana Code 20-43-10-3, the performance grants must be distributed before December 5 of this year.
 The list of schools that will receive performance grants for teachers can be found here: www.in.gov/activecalendar/display-media.aspx?whatToDo=attach&id=6312.

Classified ADS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Package deal for an overnight stay in a Big Splash room, at French Lick, IN, this Sunday, December 14, 2014. Includes two-day Big Splash Adventure water park access for four people; four tickets to Shotz (choice of Lazer Tag or Miniature Golf); full, hot breakfast for four; and a picture with Santa! Call 812-247-3898 (evenings only) or 812-709-0806 (any-time).

BROWN MICROFIBER couch and recliner - \$150 /pair Call 295-3436

To place a classified ad, email courtney@martincountyjournal.com
 11-40 words: \$4; 41-80 words: \$8
 81-120 words: \$12
 Boxed ads vary

HELP WANTED



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More Neat Stuff

By Ann Ackerman

A woman was shopping at her local supermarket where she selected:
 A half-gallon of 2% milk,
 A carton of eggs,
 A quart of orange juice,
 A head of romaine lettuce,
 A 2 lb. can of coffee,
 And a 1 lb. package of bacon.

As she was unloading her items on the conveyor belt to check out, a drunk standing behind her watched as she placed the items in front of the cashier.

While the cashier was ringing up her purchases, the drunk calmly stated, "You must be single."

The woman was a bit startled by this proclamation, but she was intrigued by the derelict's intuition, since she was indeed single. She looked at her six items on the belt and saw nothing particularly unusual about her selections that could have tipped off the drunk to her marital status.

Curiosity getting the better of her, she said "Well, you know what, you're absolutely correct. But how on earth did you know that?"

The drunk replied, "Cause you're ugly."

THE WAY KIDS THINK!
 "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked the children in my Sunday School class.

"NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

"Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked them again.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

"Well, I continued, then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!"

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a

human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah."

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture.

"Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, he's a doctor.'"

A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, she's dead..."

- PONDERISMS:**
1. A good life is when you assume nothing, do more, need less, smile often, dream big, laugh a lot, and realize how blessed you are.
 2. Have you ever noticed that a woman's "be ready in 5 minutes" and a man's "be home in 5 minutes" are exactly the same?
 3. Lord give me patience . . . because if you give me strength, I'll need bail money too.
 4. Today I will live in the moment unless it's unpleasant, in which case I will eat a cookie. -Cookie Monster
 5. If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you. -Zig Ziglar
 6. Reading can seriously damage your ignorance.

Make someone smile today!

COPS & KIDS

(Continued from page one)
 officers will then wish their new little friends happy holidays before they depart. Donations may be made to Cops & Kids in the Washington area to Steve Riney or at the Washington Police Department and the Daviess County Sheriff's Department; in the North Daviess area to Marshal Steve Barker or Scott Noble at the Odon Police Department; and in Martin County to Kelly Rayhill at the Loogootee Police Department or Sheriff Rob Street at the Martin County Sheriff's Department.

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Pet Photos with Santa

to benefit the Martin County Humane Society Animal Shelter

Saturday, December 13

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at the Animal Shelter

\$10 each 8x10
 No appt. needed!

MARTIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
 507 N Oak Street, Loogootee
 812-295-5900 ~ mchs@frontier.com
 Click this ad to see the event on facebook!

OBITUARIES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014 ~ Martin County Journal

3

LEROY ALLBRIGHT

Leroy Allbright passed away unexpectedly Thursday, December 4, 2014 at his home. A resident of Shoals, he was 62.



LEROY ALLBRIGHT

He was born July 1, 1952 in Washington; the son of Roy and Dorothy (Tolbert) Allbright. Leroy married Beth Sorrells on January 4, 1975 at the Shoals Christian Church and she survives.

He graduated from Springs Valley High School Class of 1971, and was a veteran of the United States Army serving in the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Loogootee United Methodist Church, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aeries #2442, Shoals Veterans of Foreign Wars #8589, and Shoals American Legion Post #61. He was an avid golfer and card player. He retired from Jefferson Trucking, was a member of Teamster Local #135, and was former marshal for the Town of Shoals.

He is survived by his wife, Beth Allbright of Shoals; mother, Dorothy Creclius of Bloomington; one daughter, Terri LeeAnn Allbright of Plainville; one grandson, Logan Wagler; one granddaughter, MacKenzie Allbright; one brother, Donald Jones, and wife, Dianna, of Shoals; four sisters, Carolyn Trinkle of Kansas; JoAnn Chambers of Bloomington; Sue Main of Bloomington; and Cindy Roush, and her husband, Phillip, of Florida; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father.

A funeral service was held Monday, December 8 at Queen Lee Funeral Home. American Legion Post #61 will accord military rights following the service at the funeral home.

Condolences may be made online to the family at www.queenlee.com.

MARGIE HOLT

Dr. John Gallagher joining Memorial Internal Medicine

Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center is proud to announce John Gallagher, M.D. will be joining Marc Campbell, M.D., Frank Hopkins, M.D. and Shawn Valuch, Physician Assistant, at Memorial Internal Medicine on March 2, 2015. Dr. Gallagher will provide adult medicine services.

Dr. Gallagher received his medical degree at Indiana University School of Medicine and completed a residency in family practice at Community Hospital in Indianapolis. He previously served as Chief Medical Officer at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville, Indiana while also providing

Margie M. Holt passed away at 2:45 p.m. Thursday, December 4, 2014 at the Loogootee Nursing Center. A resident of Shoals, she was 82.

She was born June 22, 1932 in Martin County; the daughter of Lawrence Robbins and Helen (Carnahan) Robbins. Her husband, James A Holt Sr., preceded her in death in May of 2007.

She retired from NSC Crane, and was previously employed at Tredway's Market in Shoals and was a matron at the Martin County Security Center. She enjoyed baking, but the main focus of her life was her family. She attended Shoals Schools and was of the Christian faith.

She is survived by two sons, James A Holt Jr., and wife, Deb, of New Albany and Terry G. Holt, and wife, Rhonda, of Loogootee; 12 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; three brothers, William Harrison Robbins; Robert Lee Robbins, both of Virginia, and David Ray Robbins of Kentucky.

She is preceded in death by her parents, one son, Michael Ray Holt; and two brothers, John and Eugene Robbins.

There will not be a funeral service and in keeping with Mrs. Holts' wishes, she will be cremated. Queen-Lee Funeral Home in Shoals was in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be made online to the family at www.queenlee.com.

MARY LOTTES

Mary M. Lottes passed away Sunday, December 7, 2014 at Loogootee Nursing Center. A resident of Alfordsville, she was 91.

She was born February 7, 1923 in Daviess County; daughter of the late Dale and Mae (Raney) Allen.

She married Elmer Lottes on June 4, 1942 and they were married for 63 years.

She was a homemaker and also worked at Loogootee Textile and Washington UniRoyal. She was a wonderful cook, enjoyed gardening and ceramics. She also loved spending time with her grandchildren. She was a member of Alfordsville Christian Church.

geriatric medicine services and is currently serving as Chief Medical Officer at Daviess Community Hospital in Washington and practicing adult medicine services. Dr. Gallagher is board certified in family medicine and geriatrics.



DR. GALLAGHER

He is a native of Southern Indiana and a past winner of the Geriatric Recognition Award by the American Geriatric Society. He and his wife, Becky, reside in Loogootee and have two sons.

Appointments can be made at Memorial Internal Medicine, located at 751 West Ninth Street in Jasper, by calling 812-482-7474.

She is survived by daughters, Sharon Willis of Washington, Phyllis Fitch and husband, Bill, and Barbara Harker and husband, Ike, both of Alfordsville; son, David Lottes and wife, Becky, of Alfordsville; ten grandchildren; five step grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; seven step great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; one brother and six sisters.

She is preceded in death by her parents;

Reports of a potentially severe flu season during National Influenza Vaccination Week

December 7 through 13 is National Influenza Vaccination Week and state health officials want Hoosiers to be prepared for what could be a severe flu season. Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that H3N2 flu viruses have been the most common so far this flu season. Historically, during seasons where H3N2 viruses are dominant, more hospitalizations and deaths have been reported.

Adding to health officials' concerns is the finding that roughly half of the H3N2 viruses analyzed last month by CDC, were found to be "drift variants," which means they have genetic changes that make them different from the one used for this season's flu vaccine.

"Influenza is always unpredictable, but indications are that this season could be severe, so Hoosiers should be prepared," said State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams, M.D., M.P.H. "Although the vaccine's ability to protect against the H3N2 strain of flu this season may not be as high as we would like, the vaccine will protect against other strains of circulating flu virus, and those who get vaccinated may have a milder case if flu of they do get it."

Dr. Adams advises taking all steps necessary to protect you and your family from getting the flu, including:

-Get vaccinated: the influenza vaccine is the single best way to protect against flu.

-See a health care provider: influenza antiviral drugs can reduce the severity and length of flu if taken within 48 hours of showing symptoms. High risk individuals should seek treatment as soon as possible after symptoms develop. High risk individuals include children under the age of two, pregnant women, adults over the age of 65, and any individuals with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, or chronic respiratory disease.

-Prevent spread: wash your hands frequently, cover your cough and stay home from work and school when you are sick.

-State health officials announced Monday

husband, Elmer Lottes; son, Ralph Lottes; four brothers; three sisters; and infant brother and sister.

Funeral services were conducted today, Wednesday, December 10 at Brocksmith-Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee. Burial followed in Alfordsville Community Cemetery.

Condolences may be made online at www.brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com.

the first influenza-related death of the season. The individual was over 65 years old and was not vaccinated.

"Tragically, we reported our first flu-related death today and we fully expect there will be more," said Dr. Adams, "That's why taking steps to protect you and your family are so important."

All individuals over 6 months of age are recommended to get vaccinated. State health officials also encourage influenza vaccination of health care workers, and household contacts and caregivers of children less than 6 months of age, as well as household contacts of people at high risk for flu complications.

Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness and at times can lead to death. Flu viruses are spread from person to person mainly through coughing or sneezing. People with the flu are contagious one day before they get sick and for five days after becoming sick.

Symptoms of the flu include:

-Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Cough
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat

Individuals who experience these symptoms should see a healthcare provider.

Since flu season coincides with football season, once again the Indiana State Department of Health and the Indianapolis Colts have teamed up to promote influenza vaccination and prevention through the campaign, Join Blue, Prevent the Flu! Watch the video at www.colts.com/videos/videos/Join-Blue-Prevent-the-Flu/0dce740c-1c62-48d1-9c99-2bc761dca75d.

Visit the Indiana State Department of Health at www.StateHealth.in.gov. Follow the Indiana State Department of Health on Twitter at @StateHealthIN and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/isdh1 for important health updates.

Cartridge Depot of Loogootee to end operations

Since the fire that damaged our shop along with most of downtown Loogootee, the Cartridge Depot has been reviewing options concerning our business

Several factors went into the decision but with mixed emotions, The Cartridge Depot of Loogootee will end all business operations as of December 31, 2014.

We would like to thank all of the customers who have supported us since we opened our business in April 2009. We would also like to thank everyone who gave us support in many ways during and following the fire that destroyed our business

Our franchise headquarters has agreed to service all of our customers so there will be no disruption in service to you after our store closes. There will not be a walk in retail business available. It will be an on line option only.

We will accept orders until December 19, 2014 to insure delivery before the end of the year. After this date many of our vendors will be operating on a limited schedule due to the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Once again, we appreciate and thank you for your support over the past five plus years.

Sincerely, Mike Jones, Pat Jones, Jason Jones, and Carol Jones



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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

12:43 a.m. - Received a report of harassment. Deputy Harmon was advised.

1:13 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance west of Loogootee. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

11:00 a.m. - Received a report of a stolen vehicle possibly located in Shoals. Sheriff Street responded and recovered the stolen vehicle.

11:40 a.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver northbound on US 231 from Haysville. All on-duty officers were advised.

3:40 p.m. - Received a report of a theft in Trinity Springs. Sergeant Keller responded.

4:43 p.m. - Received a report of a dog complaint in Crane Village. Corporal Green was advised.

11:22 p.m. - Deputy Baker transported an inmate to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

2:22 a.m. - Deputy Baker returned from Memorial Hospital with an inmate.

7:07 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle fire in Loogootee. The Loogootee Fire Department, Sergeant Keller, and Duke Energy responded.

8:00 a.m. - Chief Deputy Dant transported two inmates to court.

9:00 a.m. - Chief Deputy Dant transported three inmates to court.

9:30 a.m. - Sergeant Keller transported two inmates to court.

11:44 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance at US Gypsum in Shoals. Martin County EMS transported to St. Vincent Dunn Hospital, Bedford.

1:00 p.m. - Received a report of an ille-

gally parked vehicle on Main Street in Shoals. Sergeant Keller responded.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

4:04 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person walking along US 231 near Water Tank Road. Deputy Harmon responded and transported the subject to Loogootee.

9:28 a.m. - Received a report of a subject threatening a caregiver with a handgun south of Shoals. Sergeant Keller responded.

12:23 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash on US 50 east of 1300 E. Loogootee Officer Nolan and Martin County EMS responded. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

3:12 p.m. - Received a request for a VIN check east of Shoals. Major Burkhardt completed the detail.

3:20 p.m. - Received a report of a gas leak in Loogootee. The Loogootee Fire Department, Martin County EMS, and Vectren responded.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

12:20 a.m. - Received a report of a fuel smell at Main Street Apartments in Shoals. The Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Greene responded.

6:13 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash involving a deer on US 231 near West Boggs Park. Sergeant Keller responded.

11:18 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

12:13 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County EMS transported to Daviess Community Hospital, Washington.

12:40 p.m. - Received a request for an

ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS, the Shoals Fire Department, Sergeant Keller, and the Martin County Coroner's Office responded.

12:58 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash with no injury on Mount Calvary Road north of Reinhart Road. Sergeant Keller and ATM Towing responded.

4:29 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle with a broken windshield due to a vehicle with a leaky load in front of it. Major Burkhardt was advised.

5:17 p.m. - Received a report of a dog attacking someone's livestock east of Shoals. Major Burkhardt responded.

6:23 p.m. - Received a report of a possible protective order violation. Corporal Greene spoke with both parties involved.

6:30 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded for lift assistance.

8:34 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Crane Village. Martin County EMS and the Crane Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported to IU Health, Bloomington.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:04 a.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash with no injury on Boyd Hollow Road south of US 150. Major Burkhardt responded.

9:25 a.m. - Major Burkhardt responded with the department of child services to a residence north of Shoals.

2:40 p.m. - Received a report of a juvenile issue at Shoals Elementary. Deputy Baker responded.

5:41 p.m. - Received a report of livestock in the roadway on Deep Cut Lake Road. Deputy Baker was advised.

6:22 p.m. - Received a report of a semi on its side with unknown injury on US 231 just north of Half Moon Road. Martin County EMS, the Loogootee Fire Department, Craney's Towing, and Deputy Baker responded.

6:40 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle crash with unknown injury on US 50 east of Rama Dye Road. Martin County EMS, the Shoals Fire Department, G&M Wrecker, and Indiana State Trooper Beaver responded.

8:39 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and the Loogootee Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

12:08 a.m. - Received a report of three vehicles in the roadway and one in the ditch on US 150 at Mill Road. Deputy Harmon and Shoals Town Marshall Todd Eckert responded.

12:50 a.m. - Received a report of a possible trespasser camping on private property on Hillham Road. Deputy Harmon responded.

12:45 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Martin County EMS and the Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported to Memorial Hospital, Jasper.

5:26 a.m. - Received a report of a harassment case in Shoals. Deputy Harmon responded.

11:26 a.m. - Received a report of a verbal dispute in Shoals. Deputy Baker and Indiana State Trooper Lents responded.

1:02 p.m. - Received a report of livestock in the roadway on US 50 near National Gypsum. Deputy Baker was advised.

3:30 p.m. - Received a report of a residential burglar alarm in Shoals. Deputy Baker responded.

4:16 p.m. - Received a report of an attempted break-in located in Shoals. Deputy Baker responded.

10:06 p.m. - Received a report of a possible domestic disturbance inside of a vehicle in Loogootee. Reserve Deputy McBeth responded.

11:56 p.m. - Received a request for an

ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS and the Shoals Fire Department responded.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

12:01 a.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver eastbound on US 50 from Montgomery. All on-duty officers were advised.

6:14 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS transported to Daviess Community Hospital, Washington.

6:25 a.m. - Received a report of a possible impaired driver eastbound on US 50 from Cannelburg. All on-duty officers were advised.

7:30 a.m. - Received a report of an injured deer in the roadway on US 231 north of Loogootee. Deputy Baker responded.

9:49 a.m. - Received a report of a civil dispute north of Loogootee. Deputy Baker responded.

2:49 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Shoals. Martin County EMS and the Shoals Fire Department responded.

3:00 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check south of Loogootee. Deputy Baker responded.

9:05 p.m. - Received a report of a civil dispute north of Loogootee. Deputy Harmon responded.

11:39 p.m. - Received a report of a possible gas leak just east of Loogootee. The Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County EMS responded.

Jail bookings

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

12:10 a.m. - Justin Crosby, 31, of Loogootee, was arrested on a Martin County failure to appear warrant. Crosby is being held without bond and was arrested by Sergeant Keller.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:00 a.m. - Brian Passen, 48, of Shoals, was arrested on a Martin County commitment. Passen is being held without bond and was arrested by Sheriff Street.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

10:45 a.m. - Sonya Lagle, 35, of Bedford, being held for court. Lagle is being held without bond and was arrested by Sheriff Street.

10:55 a.m. - James Epperson, 37, of Paoli, was arrested on a Martin County warrant for theft and driving while suspended. Epperson is being held without bond and was arrested by Major Burkhardt.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

11:41 a.m. - Michael Cundiff, 33, of Shoals, was arrested for a sex offender violation. Cundiff is being held without bond and was arrested by Deputy Baker.

12:25 p.m. - Thomas R. Lake, 38, of Shoals, was arrested on a Martin County warrant and possession of a controlled substance. Lake is being held on \$25,000 or 10% bond and was arrested by Indiana State Trooper Lents.

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Martin County Court News

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

CRIMINAL COURT New Charges Filed November 3

Gregory E. Guy, Jr., theft, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 5

Jacqueline M. Foster, operating while intoxicated, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Mark A. Parker, stalking, a Class 5 Felony; driving while suspended, a Class A Infraction; driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor; habitual offender, sentence enhance.

November 12

Rick D. Crowder, criminal trespass, a Class A Misdemeanor; driving while suspended, a Class A Infraction; driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 18

Marty Peek, criminal confinement, a Class 5 Felony; strangulation, a Class 6 Felony; domestic battery, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 24

Jeremiah E. Jackson, driving while suspended, a Class A Infraction; driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & SENTENCING

November 13

John F. Kidwell, convicted of possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 182 days in the Martin County Security Center with 166 days suspended with credit for 8 days previously served and 8 good time credit days. Defendant received 166 days of probation. Also convicted in another case of possession of marijuana in the amount of less than 30 grams, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 183 days in the Martin County Security Center with 65 days suspended and credit for 59 actual days previously served plus 59 good time credit days. Defendant received 65 days of probation.

November 21

Ryan M. Terry, resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

November 13

John F. Kidwell, three counts of possession of a controlled substance, Class D Felonies, dismissed; two counts of possession of methamphetamine, Class D Felonies, dismissed; maintaining a common nuisance, a Class D Felony, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

November 20

LVNV Funding, LL vs. Angela Highnite, civil collection.

November 21

Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Greg Isaacs, civil collection.

November 24

RLW Accounts, LLC vs. Tammy L. Hayworth, civil collection.

Deanna M. Carpenter vs. Scott H. Carpenter, petition for dissolution of marriage.

November 25

LH & JM Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Builders Best vs. Ali Salhani, civil collection.

LH & JM Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Builders Best vs. Justin Russell, civil collection.

LH & JM Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Builders

Best vs. Adnan Dahir, civil collection.
LH & JM Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Builders

Best vs. John Hoffman, civil collection.
LH & JM Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Builders

Best vs. Mark G. Arvin, civil collection.

November 26

Janet Davis vs. Justin Davis, petition for dissolution of marriage.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

December 4

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Federal Credit Union and against the defendant Roy C. Slaughter, III, in the amount of \$7,267.49.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suits Filed

November 24

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Brian Nelson, complaint.

November 25

Tracy Burch vs. Donna Harder, complaint.

December 1

Fred Sorrells vs. Kevin G. Ervin, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

November 18

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Jamie R. Fegan Abel in the amount of \$5,384.36.

December 3

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Federal Credit Union and against the defendant Andrea R. Alltop in the amount of \$4,613.92.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Federal Credit Union and against the defendant Lisa M. Bridges in the amount of \$555.81.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Federal Credit Union and against the defendant Richard L. Coffey in the amount of \$5,688.91.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Federal Credit Union and against the defendant Donald L. Hayes in the amount of \$821.90.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Federal Credit Union and against the defendant Ryan T. Parsons in the amount of \$1,489.16.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Federal Credit Union and against the defendant Sarah B. Pottorff in the amount of \$2,013.50.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Federal Credit Union and against the defendant Brad E. Potts in the amount of \$5,684.91.

December 5

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Federal Credit Union and against the defendant Clay M. Hollingsworth in the amount of \$5,960.43.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Federal Credit Union and against the defendant Matthew D. Wilson in the amount of \$636.90.

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Loogootee Police Department log

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:00 a.m. - A city employee reported that the city park restroom had been vandalized.

11:15 a.m. - Male caller reported a parking violation on JFK Avenue.

4:49 p.m. - Caller reported loud music on Park Street.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:23 a.m. - Female caller reported a missing male. The male was later located.

7:07 a.m. - Loogootee Fire was dispatched to a truck on fire on Industrial Avenue.

11:45 a.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted with a funeral procession.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

2:28 p.m. - Female caller reported a theft.

3:30 p.m. - Loogootee Fire was dispatched to East Main Street for a busted gas line.

8:13 p.m. - Caller reported loud music on Park Street.

10:45 p.m. - Caller reported possible drug activity.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

1:10 p.m. - Caller reported two kids not in seat belts.

1:28 p.m. - Caller reported vandalism.

4:50 p.m. - Caller reported a possible theft at Family Dollar.

9:38 p.m. - Officer Harmon responded to a residential alarm.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

12:36 a.m. - Caller reported suspicious ac-

tivity on East Broadway Street.

10:20 a.m. - Male requested a vehicle identification check.

11:00 a.m. - Female reported a theft of her cell phone.

11:15 a.m. - Male reported harassment.

6:25 p.m. - First responders were requested on US 231 for a semi in the ditch.

8:38 p.m. - Caller reported possible drug activity. Captain Akles responded.

8:41 p.m. - First responders were requested on Nobles Court for a medical call.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

1:25 a.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on East Broadway Street.

2:35 p.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

10:05 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic complaint on East Broadway Street.

10:06 p.m. - Caller reported loud noises on Poplar Street.

10:45 p.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

6:25 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on Hwy 50.

3:10 p.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted with a vehicle accident on Hwy 50 and 1200 East.

8:55 p.m. - Male caller requested an officer in removing a female from his residence.

10:39 p.m. - Loogootee Fire was paged out to a gas leak in Scenic Hill.

Martin County real estate transfer

Steven C. Rottet and Christopher Rottet, of Dubois County, Indiana to **Lost Haven, LLC**, of Dubois County, Indiana, 25 acres in Section 35, Township 2 North, Range 4 West.

W. Jane Bowden, Joyce A. Roach, Ray W. Roach, II; and Ronald L. Roach, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jordan M. Hert and Jessica R. Hert**, of Martin County, Indiana, a 35-foot strip of even width off of the east end of Lots Number 6 and 7 in the Town of West Shoals, now Shoals, Indiana.

Dane R. Davis and Tonia L. Davis, of Martin County, Indiana to **Charles Kevin Taylor and Tara Taylor**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 3 North, Range 5 West of the Second Principal Meridian lying in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana containing 2 acres, more or less.

Dane R. Davis and Tonia L. Davis, of Martin County, Indiana to **Dane R. Davis**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 3 North, Range 5 West of the second principal meridian lying in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana containing 4.167 acres, more or less except a portion containing 2 acres, more or less.

Tonia L. Davis, of Martin County, Indiana to **Dane R. Davis**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the northwest quarter

Accident reports

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

6:01 p.m. - Rebecca J. Ramsey, of Loogootee, was operating a 2005 Ford on Broadway Street when Ramsey went to merge into the other lane and struck a 2002 Pontiac operated by Kayla R. Nicholson, of Loogootee. Captain Hennessee investigated.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

12:23 p.m. - Kelly S. Waggoner, of Washington, was operating a 1990 Cadillac on Broadway Street and waiting to turn into a local business. David H. Schriefer, of Montgomery, was operating a 2002 Chevy and was stopped behind the Waggoner vehicle. At this time, Charles Cave, of Indianapolis, who was operating a 2006 GM, failed to see the stopped traffic and struck the rear of the Schriefer vehicle, which caused the Schriefer to strike the rear of the Waggoner vehicle. Schriefer was transported to a local hospital complaining of pain. Officer Nolan investigated.

5:55 p.m. - Donna Flynn, of Loogootee, was backing a 2006 vehicle on Crane Street when her vehicle struck a 2008 Buick operated by David Livers, of Loogootee. Officer Harmon investigated.

of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 3 North, Range 5 West of the second principal meridian lying in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana containing 13.250 acres, more or less.

Kenneth H. Chestnut and Lisa L. Chestnut, of Martin County, Indiana to **Marjorie H. Chestnut**, of Daviess County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 31, Township 5 North, Range 4 West, Martin County, Indiana containing 4.55 acres, more or less except a portion containing 0.6497 of an acre, more or less.

James Edward Whitehead and Tommy Lee Whitehead, of Martin County, Indiana to **Bianca S. Tolbert and Michael L. Tolbert**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lots Numbered 100 and 101 in the original Town of Crane, Indiana and Lot Number 102 in the original Town of Crane, Indiana.

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Celebrate the New Year with a First Day Hike on January 1

Usher in the New Year with other outdoor lovers at one of the many First Day Hikes, and one First Day Horse Ride, offered January 1 at Indiana's state parks.

First Day Hikes are a healthy way to start 2015 and a chance to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature and connect with friends.

DNR's Division of State Parks is hosting 32 First Day events throughout the state, including a trail run/walk at Monroe Lake, and a First Day Horse Ride at Tippecanoe River State Park.

Information on First Day events in Indiana is at dnr.IN.gov/dnr/parklake/2420.htm.

First Day events at Indiana State Parks are (all times are local):

Brookville Lake, 11 a.m.: Meet at the picnic shelter on the Mounds SRA campground road, across from the Wildlife Wander Trail. The hike is an easy 0.7 miles.

Brown County, 10 a.m.: Meet at nature center deck for a hike through the woods. Then head to the Abe Martin Lodge for warm drinks and snacks. For more information, call (812) 988-5240.

Chain O'Lakes, 6 p.m.: Meet at the campground general store for the "Chain O'Lights" luminary walk. The path is an easy ¾-mile loop. Hot cocoa will be available while supplies last.

Charlestown, 1 p.m.: Meet at the Trail 1 parking lot for a rugged, 2.4-mile hike on Trail 1. The hike will last two hours.

Clifty Falls, 10 a.m.: Meet in the lobby of Clifty Inn for a 1 ½-hour, moderately rugged hike. Return to the inn for a bonfire on the hill, s'mores and hot chocolate or coffee.

Falls of the Ohio, 1 p.m.: Meet at interpretive center deck. The hike path is to be determined based on weather and river levels.

Fort Harrison, 1 p.m.: Meet at the visitors center for a 4-mile, non-competitive (untimed) walk/run on streets and sidewalks through the park and historic Lawton Loop district. The event is not recommended for strollers or pets.

Hardy Lake, 11 a.m.: Meet at the main trailhead across from the beach access road for a hike to "The Island." The hike is 3 miles and moderately rugged.

Harmonie, 10 a.m.: Meet at the pool parking lot to walk 2 miles on a paved trail with slight hills. Afterward, enjoy cookies and hot cocoa. Strollers and wheelchairs are welcome.

Indiana Dunes, 10 a.m.: Meet at the nature center for a three-dunes-challenge hike. The hour-long hike ends with a fire and snacks.

Lieber SRA, 10 a.m.: Meet at the Hilltop Shelter for the "March to the Marsh Hike" with the park staff. Smokey Bear will give bear hugs and paw print face painting afterward.

Lincoln, noon: Meet at the nature center for a hike around Lake Lincoln. The hike is moderate and 1 mile long.

McCormick's Creek, 2 p.m.: Meet at the Canyon Inn lobby for a photo safari. Bring your camera to capture the canyon in its winter beauty. The trail is easy-to-moderate and about ¾-mile long. Refreshments will be served at the end.

Mississinewa Lake, 4:30 p.m.: Meet at Bostwick pond in Miami Recreation Area for a 1-mile hike that will last about 30 minutes. Reserve your spot by calling (260) 468-2127.

Monroe Lake, 3:30 p.m.: Meet at Fairfax SRA for the First Day Trail Run/Walk, a non-competitive (untimed) trail run/walk through forest and field. Participants can choose from a 3.6- or a 1.6-mile course. Register at <http://mag7raceseries.com>. Contact: JVance@dnr.IN.gov

Mounds, 7, 7:15 & 7:30 p.m.: The park will offer three 45-minute Luminary First Day Hikes (all the same content) on an easy, illuminated trail from the nature center to

the Great Mound.

O'Bannon Woods, 1 p.m.: Meet at the nature center for a 1-mile walk on a road with oxen and donkeys. Enjoy refreshments at the nature center afterward. The hike is contingent on weather.

Ouabache, 11 a.m.: Meet at the Bison Pen Shelter for an easy, 40-minute stroll around the bison pen on a mile-long trail. Reserve your spot by calling (260) 468-2127.

Patoka Lake, 1 p.m.: Meet at the nature center for "Hike 'N Hot Chocolate." Join park staff for a ¾-mile hike along the scenic Garden Rock Loop trail while sipping a cup of hot chocolate.

Pokagon, 1 p.m.: Meet at Potawatomi Inn's Lonidaw Lounge. The hike, which is less than a mile, ends at the toboggan run fire ring. Roast marshmallows and enjoy a fire from 2 to 3 p.m.

Potato Creek, 2 p.m.: Meet at the nature center auditorium for a 1-mile hike down Peppermint Loop. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served afterward.

Prophetstown, 2 p.m.: Meet at The Farm for a 2-mile stroll through the prairie down with bird-watching opportunities. The hike will end at The Farm with warm drinks and snacks.

Raccoon Lake, noon: Meet at the Chapel Shelter for an hour-long, moderate hike along Berry Drive and the Chippekowday Vista.

Salamonie Lake (Salamonie River State Forest), 2 p.m.: Meet at Salamonie River State Forest, Hominy Ridge parking lot for a 1-mile hike. Call (260) 468-2127 to reserve a spot.

Shades, 1:30 p.m.: Meet at the Hickory Shelter parking lot for a one-hour, easy hike. Bring binoculars. Snacks and water provided.

Shakamak, 1 p.m.: Meet at the log cabin for a 1.5-mile hike on paved roads. There will be a fire, popcorn and cocoa at the log cabin.

Spring Mill, 1 p.m.: Meet at the Twin Caves parking lot for a 1-mile hike through the old-growth section of Donaldson Woods with an interpreter portraying George Donaldson.

Summit Lake, 9 a.m.: Meet at the trailhead next to the beach parking lot to hike Trail 3 with the property manager.

Tippecanoe River, lunch at noon, horse ride at 1 p.m.: Meet at site #1 in the horse campground for a horse ride. Lunch will be available at noon and the ride will begin at 1 p.m. The ride will last between 30 to 90 minutes depending on weather conditions. Lunch will be hot dogs over the fire. Bring a side to share if you wish to participate in lunch.

Turkey Run, 7 p.m.: Gather at the Turkey Run State Park Inn lobby for a luminary night hike. Bottled water, hot cocoa, coffee and trail mix will be available at the inn.

Versailles, 1:45 p.m.: Meet at the pool parking lot for a 4-mile, two-hour hike on Shadow Run trail. Leashed dogs are welcome. Sturdy hiking boots, water and hiking sticks are a plus.

Whitewater Memorial, 2 p.m.: Meet at the Poplar Grove Shelter to hike the Memorial Loop trail for 2.5 miles. Refreshments will be served.

Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton

NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

The overindulging meals of Thanksgiving are now in our rearview mirror; unfortunately they seem to still be appearing in the house mirrors! Ruminants will graze until they reach their fill, then lie around and ruminate, and they rest before grazing again. It is a heck of a life. I believe I did the same over Thanksgiving, just not the ruminating part!

I would be much better off not getting my total fill during a meal. Ruminants are just the opposite, they need to be able to consume enough to get their fill, especially if they are growing, or lactating animals. Knowing if a ruminant has reached their fill is fairly easy to recognize. If you look at the left side of their rumen, just in front of their hip, it should be rounded out there not sunken in. The area is more prominent on the left side than the right. Being able to get a full bite when grazing, increasing the size of the forage matter, helps them reach this fullness (or stage) quicker.

A full rumen optimizes growth potential. A beef cow with a good sized rumen can consume more forage when forage quality is slightly less than adequate to try and make up some of the differences in the lower forage quality. They have to consume more of the poorer quality forage than the more adequate quality forage to meet their needs. Western cattle quite often have larger rumens than Eastern cattle because of forage quality. Each can be moved in the other direction depending on what they are being fed or grazing though. Adequate quality with sufficient intake is always the goal. I accomplished both Thanksgiving day.

Last month, we discussed making sure you had enough forage and or feed on hand for the winter. What do you do if you don't have enough? Trying to buy and bring in extra feed can be expensive and will certainly affect the bottom line. Winter feed costs are usually the number one input in a livestock operation. You almost always make money by saving money. Reducing inputs therefore saves you money. With the livestock markets the way they are and the cost of any purchased feed or hay, you should take a very close look at the animals you have right now and decide if you can justify feeding those mouths to which you may be short of forage and feed.

Almost every meat animal is valuable today and that actually creates a double-edged sword when you consider culling. Livestock prices, especially cattle prices the last few years have been good, really good. This has created opportunities for some retirement age producers to step out of the business and step out on top and opened up new ventures since those same producers had grain producers knocking on their doors wanting to farm any land they could hang a tractor on. This of course included ground that was often marginal to start with and why it was in pasture.

Marginal cropland can be productive cropland if managed correctly, but can also be very damaging on some sensitive soils and slopes if not cared for. Several producers have already regretted moving that direction as cattle prices have remained good and commodity prices wavered. It is costly to put ground back into pasture once taken out, but at least you can plant it back to improved forages after cropping it.

I'm getting sidetracked...sorry. Cattle numbers especially, have dropped to 1950's levels and this low number of cattle is part of the reason for sustained good cattle prices. It is supply and demand. The bad side of all of this is we have a harder time saving back heifers because they are needed to meet feedlot quotas and it slows down the rebuilding of herds and also new herds. The

second downfall is what consumers are willing to spend or pay for a good piece of meat. The last quarter of 2013 gave us a sample of a possible new trend—more poultry consumption, less beef. Meat products need to be affordable even during times of recession. We also must stay competitive with exports.

These statements are important because we really need to think about which animals we keep and which we sell or cull today, whether it is time to move them or we need to reduce numbers to lower winter feed inputs. Without focusing on a particular type of ruminant animal, I will try and list some reasons to cull that would be appropriate for cattle, dairy, sheep and goats in general.

Body condition. If an animal is not able to gain efficiently on the pasture or fed feeds present, especially as compared to the rest of the group and maintain itself likewise, then this animal is certainly a candidate for culling. These animals certainly couldn't be called "easy keepers;" in fact, quite the opposite. This can be due to higher energy requirements, heavier parasite loads, or a possibly damaged rumen limiting nutrient intake for a few possibilities.

Attitude or temperament. Maybe it is just me, but I think life is too short to have to deal with animals with poor temperament, especially when they outweigh you six or more times. Do we really want to keep them to raise more unruly challenges?

Health. There is certainly a list of ailments that would justify an instant culling. Presence of Johne's disease for beef and scrapies for sheep would top my list. There are also numerous genetic traits that probably should not be proliferated. Animals predisposed to pink-eye, blindness, damaged utters or testicles, difficult calvers/kidders/lambers, and prolapsing animals, just to name a few. Animals that are not reproducing or cycling regularly or lame should be considered to be culled.

Improving the herd. Culling a certain percentage of the group should probably be a yearly event. If you cull or sell off a certain percentage of the group each year, such as ten percent of them, then the remaining animals are that much better and you are augmenting the best animals. Selecting for animals with good conformation is important. They should have good feet and legs, udders, good scrotal conformation, and good girth and appropriate frame. They should also hold appropriate characteristics for the breed, and male and female features.

In conclusion, if the animal does not fit your program, management, or goals then consider culling it. Ideally, don't sell it to your neighbor either. Using these concepts, we have an opportunity to build herds back with good, sound, efficient animals that can provide us and the next generation with even better stock.

Keep on grazing!

Reminders & Opportunities

Grazing Conferences – Mark the dates

Northern Indiana Conference is February 6-7, 2015, for more information go to www.lagrangewcd.org/_mgxroot/page_10789.html or call the LaGrange County Soil and Water District at 260-463-3166.

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference is March 4, 2015 and will be held at an excellent new location, the WestGate Academy near Crane, Indiana. For more information go to www.daviescoswcd.org/index.php/sigc or call 812-254-4780 Ext 3.

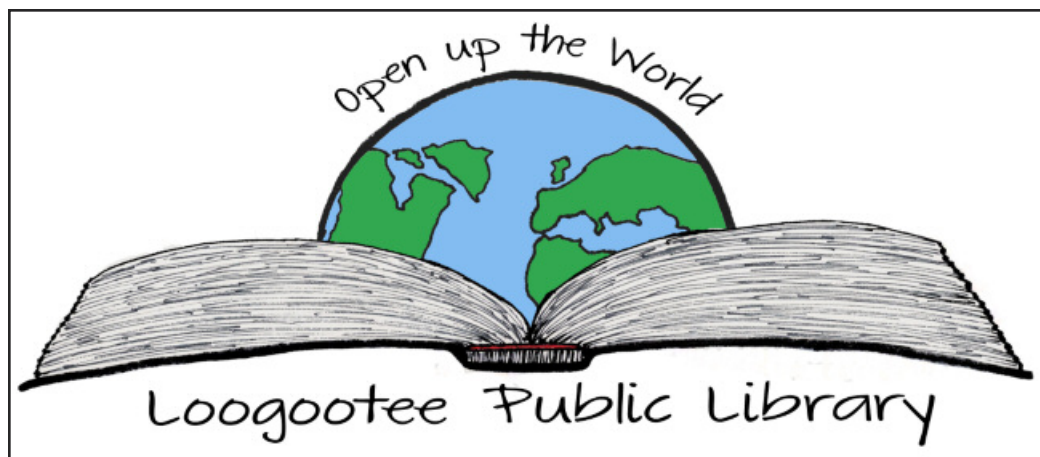
More pasture information and past issues of Grazing Bites are available at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/technical/landuse/pasture/



COMMUNITY & EVENTS

Wednesday, December 10, 2014 ~ Martin County Journal

7



BY DARLA WAGLER
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

The library will be closed on Friday, December 12, 2014 from 10-noon to allow employees to attend Evergreen Indiana training. The library will open at noon until 5 p.m. We apologize for any inconvenience. Evergreen Indiana is a growing consortium of 107 public, school and institutional libraries located throughout Indiana that use the Evergreen ILS. Patrons of member libraries can use their Evergreen Indiana library card to view the catalogs and borrow materials from the other member libraries. Basically you pull up the Evergreen Indiana website (<http://evergreen.lib.in.us/eg/opac/home>) and look for books or audiobooks in the search field, then place a hold on material using your library card number. The owning library pulls that book or audiobook and sends via courier to the home library for the patron to pick up. The system generates an email and a voice-mail message instructing you to pick up your materials.

The library has free movies for patrons with an active library card. The movies are checked out for 7 days - 2 limit per family,

please. We offer many family-friendly movies as well as classics and westerns. With your Evergreen Indiana card, you can stop in any consortium member library and check out DVDs and return your home library. The home library sends them via courier back to the lending library.

The library subscribes to USA Today, Loogootee Tribune, and The Washington Times Herald and they are available to read in-house during library hours.

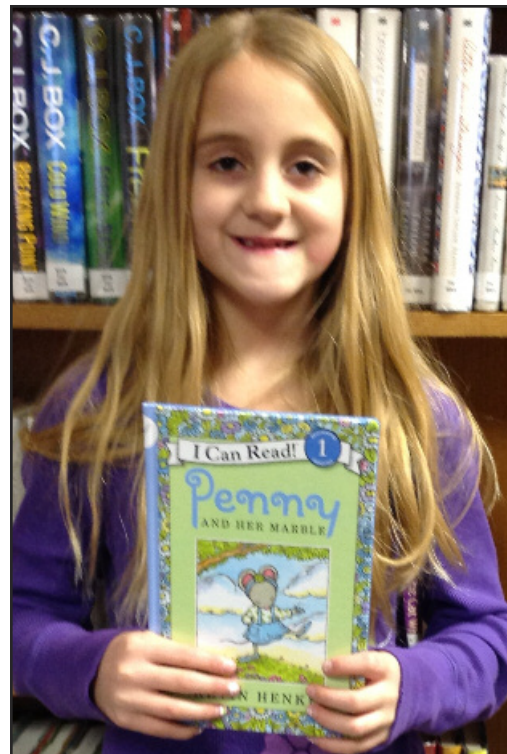
The library hours are Monday and Tuesday 10-7, Wednesday closed, Thursday and Friday 10-5 and Saturday 9-1. The phone number is 812-295-3713. Check out the website www.loogootee.lib.in.us or like us on Facebook.

New Books:

Juvenile Fiction: "Minecraft" series by Matthew Needler, Santa Is Coming To Indiana by Steve Smallman, "The Twelve Days Of Christmas In Indiana" by Donna Griffin.

Young Adult: "Confessions" series by James Patterson and "Darkest Minds" by Alexandra Bracken.

New DVDs: "Duck Dynasty: Seasons 4-6" and "The Giver"



Library winners

-Photos provided

At the Loogootee Public Library's 75th Anniversary Celebration held recently, Britta Browder (above left) won a new book and Sue David (above right) won a \$50 Marathon gas card. Lucas Harder (not pictured) won a \$5 Dairy Queen gift card.

Calendar of Events

Shoals School Board meeting

The Shoals School Board will meet this Thursday night, December 11 at 5 p.m. in the central administration office. Some items on the agenda include approval to purchase school bus, request to transfer school bus contract, Future Farmers of America (FFA) start-up request, etc. The meeting is open to the public.

Loogootee School Board meeting

The Loogootee School Board will meet Tuesday, December 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the meeting room off the superintendent's office. Some items on the agenda include a technology report, discussion and survey results on the 2015-16 school calendar, etc. The meeting is open to the public. The board will also hold a closed door meeting on Monday, December 15 at 4:30 p.m. to receive information about and interview prospective employees. That meeting is not open to the public.

Boy Scouts

Boys interested in Boy Scouts, call 295-6652 or 854-7837 for information on joining.

Cub Scout meetings

Cub scout meetings are held at Loogootee United Methodist Church on the first, third, and fourth Monday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Bryan Adams at 812-854-7837.

SOAR Tutoring

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

Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the recycling center located at 500 Industrial Park Drive in Loogootee. The meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

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 7 p.m. Members of the humane society are invited to attend. To find out how to become a member, call the shelter at 812-295-5900 or email mchs@frontier.com.

Tourism meetings

The MCCC Tourism Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Martin County Community Learning Center on the fairgrounds.

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.



Toy collection

-Photos provided

The Family Dollar and The Dollar General Stores will be collecting toys for the Martin County Toy Store. The Toy Store will be held on December 13 for those families needing assistance for Christmas.

O Holy Night Cantata

Join us in a Christmas Celebration!

Sunday, December 14

at 6 p.m.

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www.mychurchofthecross.com

"A Christmas Story" opens Friday at OTP

Ralphie Parker is counting the days to the most exciting day in any kid's life: Christmas! The one and only gift he's desperate for is an official Red Ryder Carbine-Action 200-shot Range Model Air Rifle, despite the warnings of his parents and teachers, "You'll shoot your eye out!" This stage adaptation of "A Christmas Story" features all of the classic movie's best-loved moments, including Ralphie's extravagant daydreams, the bunny suit, the tongue on the flagpole, and more. It captures every child's holiday wonder with a nostalgic eye and a heart of gold.

Performances will be held December 12-13-14 and 19-20-21 at the Old Town Players Theatre and Arts Center, 432 Broadway Street.

Written for the stage by Philip Grecian, "A Christmas Story" is based on the motion picture distributed by Warner Bros. that was written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark. The show is presented with support from corporate sponsor Edward Jones / David Skinner and is recommended for all ages.

"A Christmas Story" is under the direction

of veteran OTP actor/director Steven Gray. The talented cast includes Max Colston (Bicknell) as The Old Man, Leo Geheb as Flick, Isaak Hunckler as Schwartz, Lukas Lang as Randy, Carter Like as Scut Farkus, Jayda Millsbaugh as Esther Jane, Layla Murawski as Helen, Michael Murawski as Guy, Rick Riggins as Ralph Parker, Leslie Root as Mother, Mason Trent as Ralphie Parker, and Stephanie Turnage as Miss Shields. Playing the role of various children will be Emily Hinkle, Sofia Solis-Blandino, and Abigail West.

The production staff includes Steven Gray as the artistic director, Kathy Mooney as the assistant director, Christopher Witt as the technical director, Vickie Puffer as the stage manager, and Sue Clark (Bicknell) as the costumer.

Show time is 8 p.m. (EST) on Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets sold at the door cost \$12 for adults, \$10 for students (age 13+), \$10 for seniors (age 60+), and \$4 for children (under age 13).

For more information call 812-882-1639 or visit www.oldtownplayers.org.



Crafts for kids

-Photo provided

The Loogootee Jr. High shop class have been learning basic woodworking skills. They have made several wooden cars and trucks that will be donated to the Martin County Toy Store. In the front row, from left to right, are Marshall Ervin, Braiden Gibson, Gaige Perkins, Bethany Welker, and Jayden Sheets. In the middle row, from left to right, are John Riley, Crystal Tolbert, Kayden Furchman, Jarret Arvin, Landon Harder, Wyatt Street, Chris Jones, and Maura Gregory. In the third row, from left to right, are Mr. Mayfield, Logan Jacobs, and Lawson McCloskey.



Cookies and crafts

-Photos provided

Loogootee Elementary held "Cookies and Craft Night" for the Loogootee Elementary students. Fourth grade teachers prepared a fun after school event decorating cookies and making Christmas crafts for the students. Each grade level was assigned an evening to take part in this event. Most of the staff got involved by helping out cleaning up, preparing, or supervising. Over 150 elementary students were able to take part in this fun event! Staff give a huge thank you to IGA in Loogootee for graciously donating the sugar cookies for this event.



SCOREBOARD

Loogootee Varsity Boys' Basketball

December 5 - at Wood Memorial 57, Loogootee 47

December 6 - home, Vincennes Rivet 63, Loogootee 55

Next up: December 12 vs. Forest Park at home 6 p.m.; December 13 vs. Shoals at home (Homecoming) 6 p.m.; December 16 vs. South Knox away 6 p.m.

Shoals Varsity Boys' Basketball

December 5 - home, North Daviess 52, Shoals 35

Next up: December 13 vs. Loogootee, away, 6 p.m.

Loogootee Varsity Girls' Basketball

December 2 - at Orleans 38, Loogootee 26

December 4 - home, Barr-Reeve 70, Loogootee 25

December 9 - home, Springs Valley 50, Loogootee 24

Next up: December 11 vs. Washington Catholic, away, at 7 p.m.

Shoals Varsity Girls' Basketball

December 2- at North Daviess 66, Shoals 23

December 6 - at Borden 59, Shoals 11

December 9 - at Clarksville 57, Shoals 37

Next up: December 12 vs. Bloomington Lighthouse at home 6:30 p.m.

Submit scores to courtney@martincountyjournal.com.



Hour of Code

-Photo provided

Shown above is Makenzie VanHoy, student in Mrs. Nicole Wade's 6th grade class at Loogootee Intermediate, as she is working on computer programming during a worldwide event called Hour of Code. Code.org is a 501c3 public non-profit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. Its vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer programming. After launching in 2013, Code.org organized the Hour of Code campaign - which has introduced millions of students to computer science - partnered with more than 30 public school districts nationwide, and launched Code Studio, an open-source, online learning platform for all ages. Students spent one hour learning how to program a computer to create computer games and write their own apps for smart phones. "This is a skill of the future. Today's students need to know how to program to prepare themselves for a career in technology. This event helped to introduce the concept of computer programming to Loogootee students. Once their excitement is ignited, they have the tools and background they need to pursue their own, independent learning," said Mrs. Nicole Wade. Students in Mrs. Wade's class enjoyed the tutorials. They were able to create programs using popular characters such as Elsa and Anna from the movie Frozen. In addition, students were able to create their own game using Flappy Birds characters. A survey of students show that they feel this is an important skill to learn and they feel it will be useful in their future careers.

NRC accepting public comment on rules proposals

The Natural Resources Commission is accepting public comment on proposed changes to a number of administrative rules related to the management of fish and wildlife in Indiana.

The Commission is an autonomous board that addresses issues pertaining to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The Commission includes the DNR director, heads of three other state agencies (Environmental Management, Tourism, and Transportation), six citizens appointed by the governor on a bipartisan basis, the chair of the Commission's advisory council, and the president of the Indiana Academy of Science.

Currently open for comment are amendments to several rules governing deer hunting, including the use of high-powered rifles during deer hunting season, as well as bag limits on panfish, and a suspension of the ruffed grouse hunting season. The proposals are collectively referred to as the Biennial Rule Amendment Package.

Also open for comment is a proposed rule to establish a river otter trapping season. The river otter proposal comment deadline is December 11. A public hearing is set for 5:30 p.m. that day at the Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road in Plainfield.

The NRC Division of Hearings accepts public comments three ways:

- By regular mail, sent to NRC Division of Hearings, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Ave., Room N501, Indianapolis, IN, 46204.

- Through an online comment form at www.IN.gov/nrc/2377.htm. Find the chart at the bottom of the page to look for the proposed rule you want to comment on. The comment form link is in the right column.

- At a public hearing. Public hearing notices are posted in the fifth column of the chart at www.IN.gov/nrc/2377.htm.

In the Garden By Ralph Purkhiser Purdue University Master Gardener

Christmas trees have been coming in to the stores since before Thanksgiving. The sale of "live" trees is a huge business. Actually, once separated from the roots, the trees are not live at all. The trick is to keep the tree fresh as long as possible in the home.

The first step is to purchase a fresh tree. I recommend going to a tree farm and selecting a tree to cut. The trees in the stores may be cheaper, but they have been trucked in from far away. They may have been cut for several weeks. If you do decide to purchase a tree at a store, pull at the needles when making your selection. The fresher the tree, the fewer the needles that will be easily pulled from the branches.

Some stores offer to trim an inch off the bottom of the tree for you. That will expose fresh wood that will take up moisture more readily. However, it is best if you do this yourself just before you put the tree in the stand. The fresher the cut, the better it will take up water.

A good water supply is essential. Choose a stand that has a large water reservoir and check it often. The stores will try to sell you some additive that they claim will help keep

the tree fresh, but researchers at Purdue University say that fresh water is best. Many of the additives contain sugar and may actually cause the development of fungus. Popular homemade additives such as aspirin or lemon-lime soda are equally a waste of time and money. The Purdue team does say you may put just a drop of chlorine bleach in the water to help prevent pathogens.

It is also important where you put the tree. While it may look great next to the fireplace, it is not a good idea if you actually plan to have a fire. It also should be kept away from furnace registers or baseboard heaters. In fact, the less heat in the room, the better. In my childhood, our four-room house was just too small to allow a tree inside, so the tree was always placed on the porch. That actually is a good place for a "live" tree, especially if the porch is enclosed.

The decorations play an important part in Christmas trees. Lights are traditionally placed on the branches. Use cool-burning lights to help the tree stay fresh. While you may see pictures of Victorian trees with candles on the branches, it is not a good idea to

ever put a lit candle on a tree. A Christmas tree fire is not a good way to celebrate.

The shorter the time the tree stays in the house, the safer it will be. If a tree stays indoors for more than a couple of weeks, it will likely begin dropping needles, adding to the mess and fire hazard.

Of course, a truly life tree may be an option. Balled and burlapped or potted trees are often available at nurseries. It is a good idea to go ahead and dig the hole where the tree will be ultimately planted, just in case the ground should freeze before that time. Even with a live specimen, the time indoors should be limited. If inside for too long, the plant may break out of the dormant stage. That could result in damage once the tree is returned to the outside. Plant the tree as soon as possible, and apply a good layer of mulch around the tree, being careful not to let the mulch touch the bark.

Whatever type of tree you choose, take precautions to keep safe. Do not leave the lights on when you are away from home. Inspect the lights for frayed wires or broken bulbs. We want our readers to be safe through the holidays.

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Hoosier workplace injuries and illnesses fall to historic low

The Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) released its annual nonfatal workplace injury and illness report for 2013. For the second consecutive year, Indiana's overall nonfatal workplace injury and illness rate has reached a historic low. Indiana's nonfatal occupational injury and illness rate is 3.8 injuries or illnesses per 100 full-time workers.

"Two consecutive years of historically low workplace injuries and illnesses proves that we are taking the necessary steps to make sure Hoosiers across the state are safe at work," said Governor Mike Pence. "I applaud the Indiana Department of Labor for their commitment and focus on employer and employee safety so we can continue to raise the bar on workplace wellbeing."

This is the lowest recorded rate since the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses began in 1992. The 2013 rate represents a five percent decline from the 2012 rate of 4.0—the lowest rate previously on record. The most significant improvement among the major Hoosier industries was in the state's agriculture industry (3.6 per 100 full-time workers in 2013 compared to 7.2 per 100 in 2012). The agriculture industry experienced a 50 percent decline in non-fatal worker injuries and illnesses from 2012.

"Here in Indiana, we are seeing a culture shift with managers and employees actively taking ownership of their workplace safety and health programs," said Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner Rick J. Ruble. "The Indiana Department of Labor remains committed to continuing the progress we see

today in the years to come."

Some findings in the 2013 report include:

- The overall state non-fatal injury and illness rate for 2013 is 3.8 injuries or illnesses per 100 full-time workers, the lowest rate since the SOII report was introduced in its current form in 1992. The 2013 rate represents a one-year decline of five percent from the 2012 rate.

- The agriculture industry experienced the greatest one-year decline in non-fatal worker injuries and illnesses, 50 percent.

- Eleven of eighteen major Indiana industry categories experienced a reduction in non-fatal worker injuries and illnesses in 2013.

For more information about the SOII, please visit: www.in.gov/dol/2341.htm.

About the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) Data:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses data for Indiana includes non-fatal work-related injuries and illnesses. On an annual basis, the Indiana Department of Labor's QMS Division staff work with many Hoosier employers to obtain information on non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses. SOII began tracking the data in 1991.

About the Indiana Department of Labor:

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and compliance assistance by employers. www.in.gov/dol

Indiana part of \$3.8 million multistate settlement with Sirius XM for alleged misleading business practices

Attorney General Greg Zoeller last Friday announced Indiana's participation in a multi-state settlement with Sirius XM Radio Inc., in which the satellite radio company has agreed to pay \$3.8 million to the states and refund customers for alleged misleading advertising and billing practices.

Zoeller is joined in the settlement by attorneys general from 44 states and the District of Columbia who allege that Sirius XM engaged in misleading, unfair, and deceptive acts or practices in violation of state consumer protection laws. In Indiana, 67 consumers filed complaints with the Attorney General's Office against Sirius XM.

"State attorneys general have a long and successful history of working together to protect consumers from unfair or deceptive business practices, and today's settlement is one more example of that collective strength," Zoeller said. "Indiana residents who believe they were negatively impacted by Sirius XM's tactics should file a complaint immediately with my office."

The states' investigation focused on consumer complaints involving: difficulty canceling contracts; cancellation requests that were not honored; misrepresentations that the consumer's Sirius XM service would be canceled and not renewed; contracts that were automatically renewed without consumers' notice or consent; unauthorized fees; higher, unanticipated rates after a low introductory rate; and Sirius XM failing to provide timely refunds.

Under the terms of the settlement, an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance, Sirius XM will make significant changes to its business practices. Specifically, Sirius XM agrees to:

- Clearly and conspicuously disclose all terms and conditions at the point of sale, such as billing frequency, term length, automatic renewal date, and cancellation policy.

- Make no misrepresentations about the available plans in advertisements.

- Provide advance notice via mail or email

- about upcoming automatic renewals for plans lasting longer than six months.

- Revise the cancellation procedures to make it easier for consumers to cancel.

- Prohibit incentive compensation for customer service representatives based solely on "saves," or retaining current customers who attempt to cancel.

In addition to the \$3.8 million that Sirius XM will pay the states, Sirius XM also will provide restitution to eligible consumers who have complaints about the problems addressed in the settlement.

Any Indiana consumer with a complaint against Sirius XM and its business practices should file a complaint with the Indiana Attorney General's Office at www.Indiana-Consumer.com or by calling 800-382-5516 by May 1, 2015 to be considered for restitution. Consumers can also file a complaint directly with Sirius XM at www.siriusxm.com/settlementprogram or by mail at PO Box 33059, Detroit, MI 48232-5059.

A portion of the approximately 400,000 Hoosiers who may have subscribed to Sirius XM could be eligible for refunds. The refund amounts will vary on a case-by-case basis.

As its portion of the settlement, Indiana will receive \$77,240.85 to be deposited in the Consumer Protection Fund for use in future consumer protection enforcement, education, litigation or restitution.

The following states participated in the settlement: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio (lead), Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C., West Virginia and Wisconsin.

SBOE adopts turnaround school recommendations, legislative agenda at monthly meeting

Turnaround school recommendations, legislative agenda discussions and A-F school accountability policy considerations were the lead topics of deliberation at last Wednesday's State Board of Education (SBOE) regular business meeting.

The SBOE's Committee on School Turnarounds presented their final recommendations, based on the findings of Public Impact, a national consultant on school turnaround efforts. Public Impact interviewed the Department of Education (IDOE), state and district leaders, and external partners to identify successes and challenges at turnaround academies. They also identified promising practices from other states related to state intervention in chronically failing schools and analyzed performance and enrollment data at the state's eight turnaround academies. The overall objective is to lead districts in finding sustainable solutions to assist chronically failing schools.

"One of the flaws of intervening in high schools is that students just didn't begin falling behind at grade 9," said Dan Elsener, District 7 SBOE member and Chair of the School Turnaround Committee. "We need a systemic approach to fix a struggling school district. This does not happen in isolation, it involves an entire school system, disciplined leadership and complete community involvement."

Based on Public Impact's report and findings of the School Turnaround Committee, the SBOE adopted the following policy changes and legislative recommendations by a 9-2 vote. The recommendations will be communicated to the governor and legislature for consideration and include:

- Cultivating partnerships with higher education and talent development organizations

- Expanding the talent pool for educators and administrators to serve in turnaround schools

- Establishing an SBOE Turnaround Unit to manage state intervention activities

- Working with turnaround schools to conduct district-wide assessment of facilities utilization

- Establishing the Transformation Zone as an approved turnaround strategy

- Increasing flexibility to implement a systemic approach for both turnaround school operators and school corporations

- Recommending creation of a school turnaround fund

- Articulating a clear set of transition options and criteria for current and future turnaround academies.

Furthermore, the Turnaround Committee recommended a two-tiered intervention system that would enable schools to identify and address problems earlier to avoid further state intervention. Under current statute, the State may intervene after six-consecutive years of failing school accountability grades. A two-tiered approach could provide an option for eligible schools to seek outside assistance to improve the school prior to reaching required state intervention.

The board extended the Charter Schools USA (CSUSA) contract at Indianapolis' Emma Donnan, Manual and Howe schools by two years (through June 2018) and recommended the establishment of clear benchmarks to assess progress.

In the case of Arlington, the Committee recommended the creation of an Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) transformation zone under SBOE oversight with IPS reassuming direct management of the

school. This new transformation zone would also include Broad Ripple, Washington and John Marshall schools currently under SBOE intervention. Under the plan, IPS will operate these schools under an MOU with the SBOE. The Board directed IPS to come back to the Board in February with a bold plan and clearly defined expectations to guide the turnaround efforts.

"This is a significant day for IPS," said Gordon Hendry, SOBE at-large member. "This proposal is a significant vote of confidence both at the superintendent and board levels, with the district embracing new reforms to fix the district—in which I have a vested interest as the parent of an IPS first grader."

Public Impact cited the transformation zone model at the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC) as a model for intervention by providing its partner with the right type of authority and autonomy needed for district improvement. The Board and the DOE jointly agreed to recommend that EVSC extend its contract with Mass Insight, the district's partner, to continue current turnaround efforts.

"I think this is one of the best options we've found as far as local control and local transformation to improve schools," said Dr. David Freitas, District 2 SBOE member. "Hopefully, this is the start of a new way of looking at the intervention process."

Dr. David Smith, EVSC superintendent, told the board his district partnered with Mass Insight to create a solid framework via strategic planning, which has resulted in double digit growth in most categories of ISTEP scores and a 30% increase in the number of A and B schools in two years. Smith credited the system's talented people, adding EVSC has never been more focused or intentional about what matters most—their students.

In the case of Gary Community Schools Corporation (GCSC), the Board approved a motion that GCSC present a district-wide improvement plan at the SBOE's January 7th meeting. GCSC Superintendent Dr. Cheryl L. Pruitt indicated the district was considering a partnership with Edison Learning, currently operating Roosevelt Career Academy. The new partnership will address the unique challenges in the district and identify opportunities for community involvement and financial efficiencies.

"What a difference in the relationship now between Gary and Edison compared to where it was two years ago," said Tony Walker, District 1 SBOE member. "It shows the type of leadership we have in Gary with Edison Learning and Superintendent Pruitt. I've seen the progress at Roosevelt under Edison and I'm very excited about the prospects of both parties partnering to improve the entire school district."

The board also adopted a resolution to seek guidance from the legislature regarding virtual learning for inclement weather days. Supporting the success of several district eLearning programs, members focused their questions on equating virtual learning opportunities with a full instructional day, given the potential challenges for some districts regarding internet access, serving students with special needs, and potential funding inequities.

"We're not against eLearning, but expanding the scope of eLearning to replace snow days is a huge policy shift that deserves legislative clarification," said Brad Oliver, District 6 SBOE member.

Equipment dealer expands in Vanderburgh County

Sigma Packaging, LLC, a dealer of pre-owned packaging and processing machinery, announced plans Monday to expand its operations in Evansville, creating up to 43 new jobs by 2018.

The homegrown Hoosier-company will invest \$5.51 million to purchase and equip a new 231,000-square-foot facility in Evansville. The facility, which will be fully operational by January, will enable the company to expand its office space and storage facilities, increase inventory and grow its online sales division.

"Companies like Sigma Packaging find the full package in Indiana, complete with low taxes and regulations, a sturdy infrastructure and access to an elite workforce," said Eric Doden, president of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. "The success story of Indiana's economy is only possible when great companies and great business climates come together, creating more jobs for Hoosiers."

Sigma Packaging, which currently employs 27 full-time Indiana associates, has already begun hiring for IT development, human resources, marketing, warehouse, ecommerce, purchasing, sales, and administrative positions. Interested applicants may apply by visiting www.sigmapackaging.com/jobs or emailing jobs@sigmapackaging.com.

"Evansville has proven to be a great business location over the past decade, and we're excited to continue expanding operations here," said Rob Palmer, president of

Sigma Packaging. "Indiana's central U.S. location, access to a talented and well-educated workforce, and strong support of small business has played a key role in accelerating our growth. We're proud to call Indiana home and look forward to continuing our investment in the local community."

Founded in 2003, Sigma Packaging is a dealer of new and pre-owned processing and packaging equipment, serving clients in more than 35 countries around the world. The company also offers machine rentals, rebuilds, refurbishments, retrofits, upgrades, audits, preventative maintenance and conversions. Sigma Packaging is the exclusive consignment vendor for Pepperidge Farm's surplus processing and packaging equipment.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered Sigma Packaging, LLC, up to \$350,000 in conditional tax credits based on the company's investment and job creation plans. These tax credits are performance-based, meaning until Hoosiers are hired, the company is not eligible to claim incentives. The city of Evansville will consider additional incentives at the request of the Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville.

"Sigma Packaging is experiencing tremendous growth in the packaging equipment industry, yet the company has chosen to remain and continue to thrive in Evansville," said Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke. "That decision is a positive reflection on our local workforce and community, on the economic development lead-

ers who pulled this deal together, and is further proof that Evansville is moving forward."

Companies like Sigma Packaging continue to find Indiana an ideal location for

growth. Just last month, Pillar Innovations, LLC, announced plans to expand its operations in Vanderburgh County, creating up to 15 new jobs for Hoosiers in the coming years.

Cash for College kicks off statewide

This December, Indiana kicks off four months of showing students how to find dollars for college.

The state's "Cash for College" initiative includes information for students of all ages, including adult learners and college students.

Students and their families can explore topics such as basic financial literacy in younger grades, the connection between good grades and college financial aid, finding scholarships, and filing the FAFSA.

The campaign's "FAFSA Fridays" in February will walk students through the process

of filing the most important financial aid form, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The "Cash for College" campaign also gives thirteen students the chance to win real cash for college.

One student in each grade will receive \$529 in an Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Savings Plan, a tax-free way to save and pay for education. Schools can also compete for a \$1,000 grant to support college and career readiness activities.

Visit CashForCollegeIndiana.org to learn more.

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Governor Pence unveils 2015 education agenda

At the Bingham Greenebaum Doll 2014 Legislative Conference last Thursday Governor Mike Pence unveiled his education agenda for the upcoming legislative session which begins on January 6, 2015.

Governor Pence 2015 Education Agenda Remarks

2014 Bingham Greenebaum Doll 2014 Legislative Conference

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, Toby. I'm pleased to be here today to talk about our great state, the progress we've made and what we must do to ensure the continued prosperity of Indiana and her people. Indiana is on a roll.

Our budgets are balanced with no gimmicks and no new debt. We have held the line on spending and maintained strong reserves.

Even as we have funded our priorities and made significant investments in infrastructure and education, the current budget also maintained adequate reserves equal to more than 12.5 percent of our operating budget. Reserves really are the taxpayers' last line of defense in a recession.

To keep Indiana competitive, we have cut taxes—including the largest state tax cut in Indiana history when we lowered the income tax, and \$185 million in tax relief for job creators. And we've completely eliminated the inheritance tax and reformed taxes on business equipment. And, with an eye on the future, we've prioritized education.

In the current budget, we increased tuition support for schools by \$193 million. Universities got an additional \$41 million in operating and line item funds and have received approval for \$199 million in cash-funded capital projects. Unlike other states, Indiana is fully funding its teacher pensions. And, I am pleased to report that today, for the first time ever, we are distributing \$30 million in teacher bonuses to thousands of good, hard-working teachers all across our state. And as someone who has always lived on a budget, I understand what a December bonus means to Hoosier families.

And here in the State that Works, what we have been doing for jobs and schools is working. Unemployment in Indiana has declined from over 8 percent when I was elected Governor to 5.7 percent today. Since 2009, the drop in our unemployment rate is the fourth largest in the nation. We have added more than 83,000 private sector jobs in the past two years, and our real GDP growth led the Midwest last year.

Our labor force has grown by more than 65,000 over the past year, the fifth highest absolute number in the nation even though we are the 16th largest state.

We are on track to have more Hoosiers working than ever before in our state's history, which is a goal I set for our administration when I took office. And we've made progress in our schools as well.

EDUCATION PROGRESS REPORT

High school graduation rates are up, ISTEP scores have increased, and Indiana ranked second in the nation in total growth on NAEP—the nation's report card.

And, four years after its launch, Indiana has the largest school voucher program in America, serving nearly 30,000 students. Four out of five of these voucher students are enrolled in A or B schools.

The percentage of A and B public charter schools is up as well, and charter school authorizers are closing down poorly performing schools. And while there have been challenges in the charter schools sector, we have also made progress in strengthening accountability.

In the coming days we will outline all of our priorities for this coming budget session, including tax and budget reforms designed to ensure that our fiscal integrity and growth remain strong. But the key to keeping Indiana on a roll is to recognize that if we don't succeed in the classroom, we won't succeed in the marketplace.

In short, I believe the coming legislative session should be an education session. And Hoosiers, we have work to do.

Despite all the gains we've made, as I stand before you today, Indiana still has more than 100,000 kids in D and F schools, and that's

100,000 kids too many.

While our graduation rate is improving, only 82 percent of our students graduate from high school without a waiver.

And most heartbreaking to me, in 2013 alone, 4,127 students dropped out of high schools in our state.

My philosophy of executive leadership is pretty simple: It's to set big goals and offer solutions on how to achieve them, but also to stay open to other ideas that emerge in the legislative process or in conversations with Hoosiers.

But everything starts with a goal that is big enough—and specific enough—to focus our efforts on what really matters. Performance measured is performance improved.

Therefore, with more than 100,000 kids in underperforming and failing schools, our goal must be to have 100,000 more students enrolled in high-quality schools by the year 2020. To do right by our kids and secure our future, we must have 100,000 more students in B or better schools by the end of this decade, whether those are public, private or public charter schools.

To achieve this goal, we must continue to fund excellence, expand choices, and fix what's broken in education in our state.

FUND EXCELLENCE

There are those who think that improving education is just about increasing funding. For decades people have purported to be on the side of children by simply proposing more money for education. But money alone isn't the answer. We do need to increase funding, but we need to do it the right way, the smart way. We need to fund excellence.

It would not be prudent for me to talk about budget numbers in advance of the revenue forecast on December 18, but I can say that our administration will be seeking additional funds to invest in education. How much remains to be determined, but this is certain: Investing in our teachers and students will pay dividends for generations.

To that end, we will propose to increase tuition support within available resources and will support efforts by legislative leaders to increase the base funding per pupil, which will benefit our traditional public, public charter and choice schools.

We will build on the successful performance funding in our last budget that made today's \$30 million in bonuses for great teachers possible. Because everyone knows that good teachers make a difference, we have to get even more good teachers in front of more classrooms.

How do you get more good teachers in more classrooms? You get more good teachers by paying good teachers more. That's the principle behind today's bonuses.

And we will build on that with a new performance grant based on a number of important measures.

We also will support efforts by the Commission for Higher Education to expand our performance-based model of funding for our universities.

We must find ways to reward teachers who are helping our kids achieve their full potential. Many believe this must be done through increased spending, but the answer oftentimes is spending money more wisely.

Part of that involves getting out of the way of good teachers and allowing teachers and principals to innovate and refocus resources on the classroom and on paying good teachers more. That's why in this next session we are proposing to allow schools to choose this kind of freedom and flexibility. We are calling them Freedom to Teach Schools.

These schools will improve educational performance by providing more flexibility to superintendents, principals and teachers by easing laws, policies, and regulations through waivers granted by the State Board of Education. This will give educators and administrators an opportunity to innovate, and will enable school corporations to allocate more funding toward teacher salaries, to help attract and retain the best talent. Paying teachers more is an important part of the solution.

We all know that changing K-12 education is difficult. Achieving results begins with allowing more autonomy and less bureaucracy

for schools and teachers. The future of today's students—and the American economy—depends on it.

EXPAND CHOICE

In addition to funding excellence, we have to give parents and students more choices within our public schools and through public charter and private school choice.

For starters, we'll seek \$10 million a year in this next budget to fund pre-K scholarships for our new pre-K pilot, which already gives low-income parents new options for their children. Four of the five pilot counties will launch their programs in January, with the first-ever state funding for pre-k scholarships.

Next, we will adjust funding for public charter schools that will allow more communities in Indiana to offer more choices for families and their kids, and attract more investment for education innovation in Indiana – investment that is currently going to other states.

And, we will improve the largest school choice program in America by lifting the cap on the dollar amount for vouchers and supporting efforts to raise the cap on the choice scholarship tax credit program.

Finally, we will work with legislators to act on the State Board of Education's recommendations to develop a new, strategic approach to turning around failing schools.

Together, these actions will make charters more available and more affordable, and make new choices available for many parents and their students.

I also believe we need to expand choices within our public schools. That's why when I ran for office, I promised to make career and vocational education a priority in every Indiana high school.

The General Assembly embraced that vision, helping to create both the Indiana Career Council and the Indiana Regional Works Councils, which have laid out a strategic plan and built important community partnerships.

With more than 40 meetings and 500+ hours invested in just under a year, the Career Council delivered its Strategic Plan for Indiana to the General Assembly this past June. 5

We also created 11 Regional Works Councils which have forged new partnerships between businesses and schools and have awarded \$3 million in Innovative Curriculum Grants to 18 projects across the state. The private sector matched those dollars and more—with \$4 million to establish new career and technical training opportunities that match regional business needs. More than 1700 students will participate in the first year of programs.

We have improved the career and technical education opportunities available to our students and aligned them with what employers need, but we've only just begun to scratch the surface.

In the next budget we will propose to increase the amount of money, public and private, to give our students more career and technical education opportunities.

By 2020 we will have a five-fold increase in students who graduate with an industry-recognized credential. We will do this by changing how we fund career and technical education courses, basing funding on performance and relevance instead of enrollment alone.

No matter where a student wants to start in life, we should ensure career and technical education funding helps high schools shepherd students successfully toward completion of courses, work-based experience, and industry recognized credentials.

Make no mistake about it, this will improve our graduation rates, because students who specialize in career and technical education courses have higher graduation rates than students who do not.

This is an ambitious education agenda. It's a significant investment in the people of our state, and particularly in our students. We've already laid the groundwork. But to maintain our momentum and implement new policies, we also need to fix what's broken in education.

FIX WHAT'S BROKEN

We've all seen the confusion – and even friction – at the highest levels of state govern-

ment, and we've all been frustrated.

From the outset of my administration, we have worked hard to make things better for students and schools by encouraging collaboration and innovation.

That's why I created the Center for Education and Career Innovation, which took on a series of important policy objectives.

The Center's team, under the able leadership of Claire Fiddian-Green and Jackie Dowd, has done a tremendous job navigating difficult waters and has served the people of Indiana admirably. They have partnered with the Indiana Department of Education to develop new, more rigorous academic standards in English/language arts and math, and to design a new A-F model reflecting educator input. The Center has worked with Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration to design the new pre-K pilot, and has helped the Works Councils and Career Council discharge their duties faithfully and to a high standard.

I am proud of the work that the Center for Education and Career Innovation and the talented men and women working there have done. But I am aware of the controversy that has surrounded the center since its creation. I'm also aware that we have too many entities with overlapping responsibilities in public education in Indiana.

For education to work in our state, it has to work at the highest levels, and someone needs to take the first step to restore harmony and trust in education. In that spirit, later today, I will sign an executive order to dissolve the Center for Education and Career Innovation.

Our commitment to aligning statewide efforts in education and workforce development will remain undiminished. CECI has laid the groundwork necessary to accomplish these goals through other existing agencies and programs.

In connection with this step, I am calling on the General Assembly to improve how the State Board of Education works.

By law, the State Board of Education is designed to represent all people of Indiana. Its members come from all corners of the state. They include educators from private and public schools.

They are both Democrats and Republicans. And by law no political party can have representatives occupying more than six of its 11 seats.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction plays a vital role on the board and brings an important perspective as the head of the Department of Education, and should always be on the State Board of Education.

But, in the interest of restoring trust, improving harmony and getting the job done for our kids, I believe the time has come for the members of the State Board of Education to elect their own chair, and I am calling on the General Assembly to enact that reform.

It is time to take the politics out of education in Indiana, or at least out of the State Board of Education, and get back to the business of investing in our schools in ways that prepare our kids for the future that awaits them.

Most of the state boards and commissions that I appoint have an elected chair. For instance, I appoint all of the members of the Commission for Higher Education, and they elect their own chair. The State Board of Education should operate the same way. Whether the chair is a Democrat or Republican, or the Superintendent of Public Instruction or a high school principal, doesn't matter. What really matters is that the chair can focus on building consensus and getting the job done on behalf of Hoosiers everywhere.

CONCLUSION

To achieve the goals I laid out today—100,000 more kids in quality schools and dramatically increasing the number of graduates who are ready for careers—we must be bold and act with a sense of urgency.

We must fund excellence. We must expand choices for families. And we must fix what's broken.

If we do that, we will make the grade. We will open the doors of opportunity for our children, in this generation and the next.