

Martin County JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Eight pages

City sticks with Strawn Insurance

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Rex Strawn, with Strawn Insurance, the city's current agent of record and Dave Welsh, with German American, returned to the Loogootee City Council meeting Monday night, December 14, to see who the council would choose as the city's agent of record. Strawn is the current agent however Welsh has attended the past few council meetings to try and get the city's business back. Welsh was the city's agent of record prior to giving it back to Strawn.

Council Member Teresa Nolley asked Mayor Noel Harty what his recommendation was. Mayor Harty replied that it was a difficult situation because German American has a bank in Loogootee but not a stand-alone insurance office, however Strawn's business is in Loogootee. The mayor also noted that while there were issues with service from Strawn's in the past, things have improved this year. He asked Clerk-Treasurer Carol Harder if she agreed and she did. Mayor Harty said that if things hadn't gotten better with Strawn, he would have

recommended moving back to German American. He, however, recommended staying with Strawn's Insurance.

Council Member Rick Norris said he has worked with Dave Welsh a lot in the past and Welsh was the city's agent of record before it was taken away from him.

Council Member Carroll Rayhill also recommended sticking with Strawn.

The council ultimately voted to stay with Strawn's Insurance, with Council Member Norris voting against.

Welsh told the council that he is "all for local" and he supports the decision. He said he hopes to earn the city's business someday.

Utilities Superintendent Bo Wilson brought forward two quotes for the cleaning of two of the city's water wells. The first quote was from Layne Christensen Co., of Orleans, for \$32,000 and the second was from National Water Services, of Paoli, for \$30,500. Wilson said that since Layne has worked on the city's wells for many, many years, he would prefer to stay with them even though their quote was higher. He also noted that the quotes do not include any repairs that may be needed which usually costs

around \$5,000. The council approved the recommendation to stay with Layne.

Wilson also reported that Midwestern Engineers has been working on doing manhole inspections and should have it completed this week or the first of next week. Then, he said, they will start smoke testing the sewer system starting January 4 through January 29, weather permitting. He said that a notice will go out to media and Midwestern will also be putting door hangars at each residence prior to the smoke testing to let residents know what to expect and what to watch for.

The council approved funds transfers recommended by the consultant who has been hired by the city to balance the city's books. The transfers, according to Clerk-Treasurer Harder, will allow funds to be in the positive instead of the negative at the end of the year.

Angie Risacher introduced herself to the council as the new director of the Martin County Alliance, replacing Tim Kinder who resigned a few months ago. She told the council that her office is in the learning center and she is available
(See 'CITY' on page 2)

Commissioners approve purchases, get updates

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners met Tuesday, December 15. Tiffany Whaley, with Martin County EMS, said that the COVID-19 vaccine is available for healthcare workers at Good Samaritan Hospital and several of her employees are going to go get it.

The commissioners approved purchasing a road widener from Bonnell Indus-

tries, Inc. for \$6,190 to help widen the roads that were recently paved. They discussed renting the equipment instead but at \$3,100 a week, they didn't feel it was cost effective.

Highway Secretary Terri Alcorn reported that Mt. Pleasant Road is now closed for bridge replacement. She said it is expected to stay closed for a minimum of two months.

Tim Hunt, with HWC Engineering, said E&B Paving will come back to

finish Mt. Pleasant and Brooks House Roads for no additional cost.

Hunt also said he is meeting with Loogootee High School to talk about the historical significance of bridge 58 on Brickyard Road. They have no updates on the status of the federal aid to replace that bridge yet.

Commissioner Kevin Boyd said there is an issue at the highway department regarding the mechanic being allowed to
(See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 3)

Shoals School Board hears administrator reports

The Shoals School Board met December 10. Board members in attendance were Drexel Turpin, Eva George, and Jenell Hoffman. Staff in attendance were Dr. Candace Roush, Amanda Heckard, Kindra Hovis, Austin Malone, and Shannon Wagoner. Patron in attendance was Angie Risacher.

Angie Risacher, Executive Director for the Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth, introduced herself to the board. She helps with tourism and promoting the county and schools.

The board approved the following personnel recommendations:

-Amanda Turpin as volunteer girls' basketball coach

Eleven residents dead due to COVID

The Indiana Department of Health received notification of three additional deaths from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) for Martin County. The individuals were two adult females and an adult male. This brings the total number of deaths reported for Martin County to 11. No further information will be released due to privacy laws.

Since the beginning of December, there have been 112 new cases of Covid-19. The total number of positive cases for Martin County is now at 492. To date over 2,700 residents have been tested for Covid-19.

-Angie Smith's resignation effective December 18th, 2020

-Olivia Winger and Maelee Hawkins as substitute teachers

-Amber Daniels for student teaching beginning next semester

-Darla Holt as admin/guidance assistant

Becky Riggins requested FMLA beginning December 7 and ending December 18. The board approved.

The superintendent is recommending a policy change to allow department heads the ability to approve 12-month non-certified employees the ability to take off the day before or the day after a holiday and still receive their holiday pay.

The following resolutions were presented to the board for approval:

-Resolution to transfer appropriation balances to close 2020 books

-Resolution to pre-write claims to close 2020 books

-Resolution for transfer of funds

-Resolution to encumber (roll over) operation appropriations

The superintendent recommended the board approve the purchase of a new playground. The board approved.

The state-mandated memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Samaritan Center was presented to the board for approval. The board approved.

The board approved the superintendent's recommendation to update to the Old National Bank users' account.

The board approved the appointment of Vernita Williams for a partial term and Liz Chattin for a full four-year term to the Shoals Public Library Board at the Shoals Library Boards' recommendation.

Shannon Wagoner, elementary principal, began with a thank you and shout out to Dr. Roush, saying "she is our rock and works so hard to take care of our school, staff, and students. Her hard work does not go unnoticed." Ms. Wagoner said the Beta kids knocked it out of the park this year and did such a great job even though it was virtual. They have been working to keep the kids safe and keeping everything cleaned from the virus. She gave a big shoutout to the substitutes who have been working hard to help keep the doors open for students. Wagoner said they have such an amazing team all around and are truly blessed to keep the doors open.

Kindra Hovis, high school principal, began with a positive note that she had found a grant to help students with obtaining an associate's degree while in high school. Hovis said FACS Teacher Kim Perry is such a rock star and goes above and beyond for her students. The class just completed a gingerbread house competition, in which they had only 90 minutes to complete. The kids were so proud of their final product. Ms. Perry wanted to start a new tradition to gift seniors with a culinary appliance so that
(See 'SHOALS' on page 2)



ALYSSA HOWELL, SHS SENIOR Alyssa Howell chosen as 2021 Lilly Scholar

Alyssa Howell, daughter of Chris Howell and Mike and Misty Newland, has been named the Martin County Community Foundation's 2021 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar. Alyssa will receive a full tuition scholarship to a four-year accredited public or private nonprofit college or university in Indiana, with an annual \$900 stipend for required books.

Alyssa, a Shoals High School senior, plans to pursue post-secondary studies next fall in the field of nursing at the University of Evansville.

Alyssa speaks of her selection as the 2021 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar: "I am beyond grateful for the opportunity the Lilly Endowment has awarded me. This scholarship has opened the door for me to attend the University of Evansville to become a nurse anesthetist. By receiving this gift, I will be able to pay it forward to my community in the years to come."

Twenty-one students applied for the scholarship. One nominee and two alternates were submitted to the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) for final selection of the recipient. ICI is a non-profit corporation that represents 30 regionally accredited degree granting, non-profit, private colleges and universities in the state.

The primary purposes of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program are

1) to help raise the level of education attainment in Indiana;

2) to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and

3) to encourage and support the efforts of the current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state.

Lilly Endowment Inc. has provided over \$424 million in grant support for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, since its inception
(See 'LILLY' on page 2)

Christmas Toy Store helps 352 kids get gifts

The Martin County Christmas Toy Store was held this year on December 12. Even with the changes that were made to accommodate COVID-19 requirements and recommendations, around 124 families able to shop for 352 children. 42 bicycles and tricycles and over 1,400 toys and stocking stuffers were given away.

The Christmas Toy Store was possible because of the generosity of area churches and the help of around 40 people that volunteered their Friday to setup and Saturday to make the Toy Store happen. Toy Store organizers send a big "thank you" to all the volunteers from the churches and to the Loogootee United Methodist Church for once again hosting the event. Local organizations, churches, and

many people in Martin County gave toys and monetary donations. The Toy Store also wants to recognize the contributions and support from the Naval Support Center Crane "Toys for Tots" program, Martin County Community Foundation, Daviess-Martin County REMC, German American Bank, Crane Credit Union Loogootee Branch, Old National Bank, Family Dollar, Dollar General, Loogootee IGA, Masons at White River Lodge #332, Salvation Army, LHS Beta Club, and others. The shopper signups could not have been completed without the help and support from the Shoals Public Library, the Loogootee Public Library, Hoosier Uplands and the Loogootee United Methodist Church.

CITY

(Continued from page one)

for whatever they need.

The council voted to move \$88,200 for reimbursement from the CARES Act due to COVID to the general fund. The mayor said the money will most likely be used for the police department.

The council approved a resolution for the Beautification Board, who works with the Loogootee Parks Department, to establish a beautification fund to work on city properties. The money would be separate from the park and recreation fund. The fund has \$5,000 currently from a grant from the Martin County Community Foundation.

The council approved spending up to \$139,000 in additional money to continue with the stormwater project on Brickyard Road/Queen Street. The mayor explained that the extra charges come from the cost to move dirt taken from a property on Brickyard Road to a certified landfill. A soil sample was done to check for contaminants and was negative, however the railroad company, CSX, does not want to take responsibility for any potential future issues since the work is being done in their right-of-way. The mayor said the money can come from

the recent bond issuance. The rest of the stormwater project is paid out of Community Crossings grant funds.

Superintendent Wilson said that project is expected to start around January 10 in that area of Brickyard Road and Queen Street.

At the end of the meeting, Council Member Nolley thanked Carol Harder for her service as clerk-treasurer. Harder is resigning from her position, effective at the end of the year. Roger Downey will take over as clerk-treasurer for the remainder of the term.

During the board of public works and safety meeting, prior to the city council meeting, the board voted to approve Kelly Rayhill to serve as assistant police chief at the start of the new year. Rayhill is stepping down as chief and will be replaced by Jim Floyd.

Since the last meeting, the following building permits were approved: Aaron and Brenda Smith on Church Street for a fence, Lawrence Wildman on Lincoln Avenue for a porch and sidewalk, Allen and Margie Bradley in Sunset Trailer Court for a mobile home, Thomas and Maria Potts on Crane Street for a porch roof, Ruth Ellen Bateman on Jackson

SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

they can take them with them once they graduate. Hovis said the Beta kids did a great job and they are proud of the hard work they put in. In semester two, there is still no answer at this point for what's to come, however, they will be doing what is best for the students and will have a plan in place regardless. They will be beginning a Freshman Thursday at school. A letter will go out to all freshman parents with more information. Upcoming Events will be the Winter Band Concert (in-person) on Monday, December 14 at 7 p.m. Final exams will be the week of December 14, with makeup/e-learning day on December 18. Then winter break will officially be on December 21.

Austin Malone, junior high principal, began with the attendance and discipline report which have both been doing fantastic. He said the students are doing

a great job this semester. Finals will be coming up this week. Also, several students will be rejoicing in-person learning next semester with the cutoff for signing children back into in-class learning will be December 11. Congratulations to Mrs. Harder, the little Rox population is growing with the announcement of Little Miss Savannah Jo! COSMOS middle schools are being included to help lay the groundwork for the daunting task high schools face by adding pathway and graduate profiles. They are sad to see Angela Smith go. Mr. Malone said he is incredibly grateful for her 10 years at Shoals. He also offered a thank you to Lorna Troutman and SPA and also to Dr. Roush, Ms. Hovis, and Mrs. Wagoner. He said there are no words to express to thank them enough for everything. "You are truly a work family and are so grateful for everything," he said.

Superintendent Roush congratulated the Robotics and Beta teams on their accomplishments and wished the Robotics team good luck at the state competition.

She reminded the board that they will reorganize in January as well as look at the 2021-2022 school calendar. Shoals, Michell, and Orleans will have a COSMOS joint ROI school board meeting on January 26 at Orleans to receive a grant update. The high school is currently working with the Department of Workforce Development to create SEALS for graduation pathways which will connect the pathways with local job openings. Dr. Roush congratulated Ms. Hovis on her \$120,000 pathways grant, thanked Angie Smith for her years and dedication to the Shoals Community School Corporation, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

A thank you card was read by Board Secretary Jenell Hoffman from the Sam Wagoner Family. The family wanted to thank everyone for their continued support through this time and for the beautiful lantern.

The board wanted to thank all staff members for their hard work that keeps the school going. Every team member is appreciated for what they do for the students. They also wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Street for a porch, Tracy Bledsoe on Fairview Street for a fence, Jennifer Swartzentruber on High Street for a fence and shed, Adam Hudson on Park Street for a modular home, JAP Enterprises on Williams Street for a sign, Bonnie Hupp on Byron Street for a garage, Michael Wade on John Strange Avenue for a storage building, Sherri Hellums on Queen Street to demo a house, Stoll Bros. Lumber on Grant Street for an overhead door, and Olen Wittmer on West Broadway Street for a storage building.

LILLY

(Continued from page one)

in 1998.

The scholarship is administered statewide by Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. with local support from Indiana community foundations; 4,912 Indiana high school students have been awarded the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.

Martin County Community Foundation is pleased to have been given the opportunity to work with Lilly Endowment and Independent Colleges of Indiana in selecting forty Martin County Lilly Endowment Community Scholars.

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OBITUARIES

ROGER TRUELOVE

Roger D. Truelove, formerly of Shoals, passed away on December 12, 2020 at the Loogootee Health and Rehab. A resident of Loogootee, he was 76.

He was born October 29, 1944 in Rutherford Township in Martin County; son of Woodrow and Catherine (Burriss) Truelove.

Roger was a graduate of Loogootee High School; a member of the Loogootee American Legion Post #120; and was a member of the Shoals Fraternal Order of Eagles #2442. He was self-employed in the trucking industry and owned and operated The Truelove Feed and Grain and Gun Shop.

Survivors include three sons, Scott Truelove, Tracy Truelove and Tony Truelove, all of Shoals; grandchildren, Austin Truelove, Toni Truelove, Shelby Truelove, Taylor Truelove, Nathan Truelove, Steven Truelove, Caleb Truelove, Abel Truelove and Kianna Sorrells; great-grandchildren, Maxine Truelove, Preston Truelove, Kaylynn Truelove, Aurora Truelove and Tucker Truelove; and two sisters, Cheryl Alvers of Evansville and Susie Holman of Shoals.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Lester, Harold, Larry, Terry and Gerald Truelove; and one sister, Janet Chepers.

No services are planned. Burial will be at a later date in the Truelove Cemetery in Loogootee.

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

WILMER LUNDY

Wilmer Dean Lundy passed December 9, 2020 at the Loogootee Health and Rehab. A resident of Shoals, he was 83.

He was born April 14, 1937 in Martin County; son of Odest and Ethel (Gardener) Lundy. He married Alice Harding on August 1, 1959 and she survives.

Wilmer retired from NWSA Crane, operated a TV and Radio Repair Shop and was employed at Home Outfitters. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Surviving are his wife, Alice; children, Jeff (Lori) Lundy and JoAnn Lundy;

grandchildren, Garrett Bateman and Gage (Mackensie) Lundy; one great grandchild, Asher Lundy; and one brother, Dale Lundy. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Margie Madden; and one brother, Donald in infancy.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 12 at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals with Pastor Matt Sullivan officiating. Burial followed in the Spring Hill Cemetery.

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

JULIE ARVIN

Julie Cheryl Arvin passed away at 11 p.m. Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at her home. A resident of Loogootee, she was 54.

She was born August 24, 1966 in Salisbury, North Carolina; daughter of the late Kenneth Peterson and Carol (Kimrey) Bland.

Julie loved animals. She also enjoyed contributing to local organizations when her health allowed.

She was preceded in death by her son, Corey Willis; parents, Kenneth Peterson and Carol (Kimrey) Bland.

Julie is survived by her husband, Adrian Wayne Arvin of Loogootee; sister, Sheri Rogers-Volmer of Salisbury, North Carolina; stepdaughter, India Arvin of Loogootee; stepson, Nicholas Lett of Loogootee; stepdad, Don Bland of Salisbury, North Carolina; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Gary and Beth Arvin of Loogootee.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, December 17 at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gary and Beth Arvin, 101 E. Williams Street, Loogootee, Indiana 47553.

Social distancing and masks are required by all in attendance.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Julie C. Arvin.

JAMES CORNETT

James "Jim" H. Cornett passed away at 11:20 a.m. Friday, December 11, 2020 at the Loogootee Healthcare and Rehab.



JAMES CORNETT

A resident of Loogootee, he was 103.

He was born March 29, 1917 in Brodhead, Kentucky; son of the late James and Elizabeth Cornett. Jim married S. Marie Lane on November 20, 1936 and she preceded him in death in November 1998.

He loved Fords, country music, playing his guitar, and spending time with family and friends. He was also known to aggravate his grandkids and enjoyed carpentry work. Jim was a long-time standing member of the Shoals Christian Church. He retired from National Gypsum on November 30, 1981.

Survivors include his children, Marilyn Tow of Indianapolis; Richard (Margie) Cornett of Loogootee; Becky Truelove of Owensboro, Kentucky; Sally Burch of Shoals and Shari (James) Flippins of Santa Claus; daughter in law, Pamela Cornett of Plainfield; 25 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great grandchildren with one arriving soon. His sisters, Martha Jane (Eck) Gabberd of Eaton, Ohio and Donna Roby of Vero Beach, Florida and a brother, Frank Wilmot of Eaton, Ohio and many nieces and nephews also survive.

Also preceding him in death was his stepfather, Cleve Wilmot and his daughters, Betty Lou Cornett in infancy and Shirley M. Harding; sons, James L. Cornett, Roger E. Cornett and infant, Randy Scott Cornett; sons-in-law, Wilson Tow and Larry Harding along with three sisters and five brothers.

Honorary pallbearers include his grandsons, Kory Crowder, Todd Harding, Casey Cornett, Chan Cornett, Brandon Bauernfiend, and Steve and Derek Tow.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, December 15 at the Shoals Christian Church with Pastor Matt Sullivan officiating.

A memorial service will be held in Gratis, Ohio on Thursday prior to burial.

Final resting place will in the Fairview Cemetery in Gratis, Ohio along beside his wife of 62 years and his two infant children.

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

HELEN ALBRIGHT

Helen S. Albright passed away December 9, 2020 at the Loogootee Health and Rehab. A resident of Shoals, she was 102.

She was born May 15, 1918 in Shoals; daughter of John L. and Minnie (Stiles) Sherfick. She married Elzia Albright on April 11, 1946 in Lawrence County and he preceded her in death on March 9, 1993. She retired from Johnson and Chenoweth Ford Agency as a bookkeeper and parts clerk with 18 years of service. She was also a homemaker.

Helen was a 1936 graduate of Shoals High School; was a lifelong member of the Shoals Christian Church where she served as Bible School Nursery teacher for a number of years; was a 50-year member of the V.C. Meredith Homemakers Club and a member of the Shoals Senior Citizens.

Survivors include three children, Roberta J. Tedrow of Shoals, John L. (Gayla) Albright of Austin, Indiana and Sharon E. Albright Bruner of Evansville; two grandsons, Adam Tedrow of Shoals and Ian Bruner of Temple, Texas; two granddaughters, Jill (Chris) Wadsworth of Shoals and Rhea (Matt) Sperling of



HELEN ALBRIGHT

Arlington, Indiana; great grandchild, Rudolph Harrison Sperling; two step-grandchildren, Joshua Doboze of Austin, Indiana and Genesis (Joshua) Kaufman of Crothersville; step great-granddaughter, Alysse Wadsworth; step great grandson, Henry Kaufman; nephew, Joseph (Karen) Sherfick of Ellettsville; great niece, Abby Sherfick and great nephew A.J. Sherfick.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; one brother, Robert L. Sherfick; grandson, Grayson Scott Bruner; and a son-in-law, Ronald Bruner.

Funeral services were held Monday, December 14 at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals with Pastor Matt Sullivan officiating. Burial followed in the Spring Hill Cemetery.

Contributions in Helen's memory may be made to the Shoals Christian Church, P.O. Box 425, Shoals, Indiana 47581.

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

COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one) drive a county highway truck home. He made a motion to take away that privilege effective January 1, 2021. Commissioner Paul George made the second. The motion passed 2-1 with Commissioner Aaron Summers voting against.

The commissioners approved a quote from M&M Electric to replace the courthouse air conditioning units for \$31,279. It was noted that the quote is expired, and the cost may go up now by 10 to 20 percent. They decided to go ahead and approve it with a slight increase.

The commissioners approved a quote presented by the auditor to scan old transfer books so they will be searchable on the computers in her office. Abel said the older books are really deteriorating. The books can be moved to storage and free up space in the auditor's office, once scanned.

She said there is a hosting service that can make them accessible online for \$350 per month. The commissioners decided to hold off on that for now.

Commissioner Boyd asked at the last meeting if the current transfers could be accessed. Abel told the commissioners Tuesday night that the company Data Pitstop currently houses that information.

The commissioners voted to keep their meetings at every other Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. for next year.



WILMER LUNDY




National Chaplain

-Photo provided

Catholic War Veterans Post 1976, on Sunday, December 13, hosted an event with National Chaplain Father John R. Sheehan addressing members as guest speaker at the St. John The Evangelist Parish Center in Loogootee. Shown above, from left to right, are Father J. Kenneth Walker, Post Chaplain; George Bud Erler, Post Commander and Treasurer / NW Region Commander; Father John R. Sheehan, SJ, CWV National Chaplain.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

2:34 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Crane. Deputy Gibson, Sergeant Reed, Loogootee Officer Means, Crane Fire, Crane Ambulance, and Greene County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded.

4:48 a.m. - A Loogootee officer transported one female to the Daviess Community Hospital.

11:53 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:54 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle near Loogootee on US 231. Major Keller responded.

11:55 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Indian Creek Fire and Lawrence County Ambulance responded.

12:14 p.m. - Received a report of an altercation in Shoals. Major Keller responded.

3:37 p.m. - Received a report of a disturbance north of Loogootee. Major Keller, Loogootee Chief Rayhill, Loogootee Captain Hennessee, Loogootee Sergeant Floyd, and ISP Lt Allen responded.

4:44 p.m. - Received a report of harassment near Shoals. Sergeant Reed responded.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

4:16 a.m. - Received a report of threats in Shoals. Deputy Gibson responded.

4:27 a.m. - Received a report of people breaking into a car in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth and Deputy Gibson responded.

12:00 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded.

1:53 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver near Loogootee. Loogootee Police were notified.

1:59 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:24 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

2:32 p.m. - Received a report of harassment in Loogootee. Loogootee Police were notified.

3:00 p.m. - Deputy Barnett assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock in Loogootee.

4:30 p.m. - Received a report of threats in Shoals. Deputy Barnett responded.

9:33 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

1:50 a.m. - Received a report of a theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth responded.

3:01 p.m. - Received a report of an accident near Shoals. Corporal Barnett responded.

3:20 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Crane. ISP responded.

4:35 p.m. - Received an alarm call in Shoals. Captain Reed and Corporal Barnett responded.

4:55 p.m. - Received a report of an accident north of Loogootee. ISP responded.

5:10 p.m. - Received a report of harassment in Shoals. Captain Reed responded.

10:41 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson, Loogootee Officer Means, Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee Fire, and the Martin County Coroner responded.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

1:58 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:23 a.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist with a vehicle inspection west of Shoals.

7:50 a.m. - Received a cat complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

9:43 a.m. - Received a cow complaint near Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

1:25 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took two inmates to court.

1:28 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance west of Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

6:00 p.m. - Received a report of a missing adult north of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded. The subject was later located.

6:13 p.m. - Deputy Flanagan assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock north of Loogootee.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

6:08 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

7:11 a.m. - Received a report of a car versus deer near Shoals. Deputy Seymour responded.

10:09 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

12:28 p.m. - Received a request to speak to a deputy. Deputy Flanagan responded.

12:45 p.m. - Received a call advising of a fire near Shoals. Sheriff Roush, Deputy Seymour, and the Shoals Fire Department responded.

2:00 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett responded.

3:03 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded. No one was transported.

5:40 p.m. - Received an animal complaint south of Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was advised.

6:18 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded and transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:04 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County EMS responded and transported one patient to St. Vincent Dunn in Bedford.

10:13 p.m. - Received an animal complaint near Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett advised.

10:15 p.m. - Received a request for an officer near Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded.

10:32 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS, and Deputy Flanagan responded.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:19 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down near Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

7:31 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm south of Shoals. Deputy Lents responded.

8:41 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Deputy Lents responded.

9:05 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Shoals. Deputy Lents responded.

1:17 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded and transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

1:28 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded and transported one to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:05 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett responded.

6:15 p.m. - Received a report of a deer in the highway near Shoals. Deputy Lents responded.

7:05 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance. Martin County EMS and Hayesville Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported one to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:21 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County EMS and Indian Creek Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:43 p.m. - Received a request for an officer in Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Deputy Flanagan, and Loogootee Officer McBeth responded. No one transported.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

1:05 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded and transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:23 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire department responded.

New SICHC obstetrics providing critical services in Shoals, other areas of southern Indiana

Southern Indiana Community Health Care (SICHC) new obstetrics services for expectant mothers and families is "being well-received and making good progress in reaching mothers, babies and women," according to Yolanda Yoder, MD, SICHC medical director. The new services include general obstetrics, pregnancy, well-baby, and well-woman services here and in other areas of southern Indiana, including expanded services in Crawford County.

"Rural areas traditionally present a number of unique challenges that expectant mothers or women who seek OB-related services may face, including limited service" said Dr. Yoder. "We have expanded our strong OB service offerings with our physicians and Melissa Ray, a family nurse practitioner, to meet these important needs in Washington, Martin, and Crawford counties, as well as the patients we serve in Orange and elsewhere in southern Indiana."

"Pregnancy is a very special time for expectant mothers and families, and I count it a privilege to help support them with OB, well-baby, pediatric, and well-woman services," Ray said. "Every pregnancy is different, and our entire medical staff recognizes the uniqueness of each patient and goes beyond to ensure great care is delivered."

Ray provides OB services at the Choices Life Resource Center in Salem and at the Martin County Health Department/WIC facility in Shoals, as well as SICHC's other locations in Orange and Crawford counties when appropriate.

In addition to being a family nurse practitioner, Ray holds a master's degree in nursing.

Ray directly cares for expectant mothers through in-person visits (observing COVID-19 precautions) and by telehealth connectivity. At 36 weeks into a pregnancy, Ray's patients are transferred and then served directly by SICHC physicians, including Dr. Sean Salés, Dr. Karen Farris, and Dr. Yoder. Babies are normally delivered at the IU Hospital in Paoli by SICHC physicians with visiting privileges.

SICHC secured a grant from the Indiana State Department of Health earlier in 2020 to specifically help provide obstetrics services to counties that had been designated as medically underserved for OB.

ment responded, and no one was transported.

12:02 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County EMS transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:23 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded and transported one to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:10 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Daviess County EMS responded and transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

2:33 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded, and no one was transported.

3:14 p.m. - Received an animal complaint. Animal Control Deputy Hughett responded.

11:00 p.m. - Received a call reporting a disabled vehicle. Deputy Flanagan responded.



MELISSA RAY, FNP

Ray presently travels between SICHC medical offices in Shoals, Salem and elsewhere to see patients and provide general OB services. "Missy Ray offers our expectant mothers and their babies superb depth and first-hand experience," said Dr. Yoder. "In addition to being a qualified and experienced nurse practitioner caring for OB patients and families these past four years, she served in the hospital delivery room for 16 years and as a general RN."

"It's very exciting to provide these services and help mothers, babies, families and women in general lead healthy lives," said Ray. "I especially appreciate working with the OB and extended medical team at SICHC, because everyone here puts patients first, treating and supporting them as people, not a set of chronic conditions - there's a very high commitment to service."

Ray also appreciates being able to offer general women's health services, including preventive measures like mammograms and pap smears. "We want to elevate the level of woman and family health, which can be a challenge for woman and families living in rural areas," she said.

Serving as a nurse practitioner has special moments, including once when Ray helped with a delivery that was being securely streamed by video to a military serviceman serving in Afghanistan. "That was an amazing moment, giving a father serving across the world the chance to see his baby being born in southern Indiana - those are priceless experiences."

COURT NEWS

CIVIL COURT New Suits Filed November 25

Capital One Bank vs. Brandon J. Foster, civil collection.

James Stoughton and Donna R. Stoughton vs. Chad M. Dunham and Megan Dunham, mortgage foreclosure.

December 3

Fifth Third Bank vs. Ethan M. Lechner, Anna C. Joest, Discover Bank, et al, mortgage foreclosure.

December 4

The Huntington National Bank vs. Emma Burch, civil collection.

December 8

Melissa A. Blankenbaker vs. Randall Blankenbaker, petition for dissolution of marriage.

December 10

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Marty Peek, civil collection.

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Cheryl Lake, civil collection.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT New Suits Filed

December 7

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Devin D. Dorsett, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Wendy L. Chapman, complaint.

MARRIAGE LICENSES December 10

Robert M. Dingle, Jr. of Loogootee and Kristin J. Font of Loogootee.

December 15

Brandon L. Combs of Loogootee and Jama L. Williams of Loogootee.

Sparklight extends COVID-19 relief efforts through December 2021

Sparklight, formerly NewWave Communications, announced it will extend relief measures to help those in need stay connected to the internet while working and learning from home, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the communities it serves. The company will extend the availability of its 15 Mbps residential internet plan for \$10 per month for the first three months of service to help low-income families and those most impacted from coronavirus challenges, such as seniors and college students through December 31, 2021.

Other actions being taken by the company include:

- Extending access to free public WiFi hotspots across its footprint through the end of 2021 in order to keep individuals and communities connected during the crisis.

- Partnering with communities, hospitals, medical centers and other essential institutions in addressing their unique broadband connection needs and challenges.

- Continuing to evaluate and assess additional relief measures based on the evolving nature of the virus.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

2:34 a.m. - Officer Means assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department on an unknown type of request for an ambulance.

11:55 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call at a local business.

12:34 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a report from a caller that a male had entered her house unannounced.

3:37 p.m. - Officers responded to a domestic dispute on US 231 North.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

4:27 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a civil disturbance on Pine Street.

8:10 a.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted with a property dispute.

1:00 p.m. - Chief Rayhill completed a welfare check.

1:54 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a report of an erratic driver nearing Loogootee on US 50 West.

2:20 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a report of an unwanted person at a residence.

3:07 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a property damage accident on Poplar Street.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

1:50 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth took a report of a possible stolen phone.

12:26 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a traffic complaint on Southwest Second Street.

2:00 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a traffic complaint at a local business on US 50 West.

2:50 p.m. - Caller reported an abandoned vehicle at a business on West Broadway Street.

10:42 p.m. - First responders were dis-

patched to Queen Street on a medical call.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

1:29 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on SR 550.

3:24 p.m. - A complainant called in reference to a burning complaint.

6:01 p.m. - Officer Means completed a welfare check at a local business on West Broadway Street.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

5:27 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a burn complaint on Cedar Street.

10:32 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth assisted Martin County EMS with a medical call.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

10:52 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a traffic stop.

11:55 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a traffic stop.

2:02 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd and the Loogootee Fire Department assisted with a funeral escort.

3:51 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a report that a wrong way driver knocked down a Do Not Enter sign.

6:37 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a vehicle search.

7:13 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth completed a welfare check at a local business.

8:13 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a traffic stop.

9:40 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a dispute between neighbors on John Street.

10:45 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a domestic dispute on East Broadway Street.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

12:48 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a harassment complaint at a local business.

1:19 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a noise complaint at a local business.

10:31 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on US 231 North.

Real estate transfers

Thomas R. Moffitt, of Martin County, Indiana to Joel Ray Graber and Janet Graber, of Daviess County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 31, Township 3 North, Range 3 West.

Carl C. Simmons and Lisa L. Simmons, of Martin County, Indiana to Timothy James Bailey, of Martin County, Indiana, Lots Numbered 15 and 16 in Block "H" in Loogootee Land Company's Addition to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Cliff S. Goodman and Kari L. Goodman, of Martin County, Indiana to D&L Construction, LLC, of Daviess County, Indiana, a portion of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 35, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, containing 2 acres, more or less. Also, a part of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 2, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 28.42 acres, more or less.

Jennifer D. Zehr, of Martin County, Indiana to Dirk Michael Fahey, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.571 acres, more or less, except a section containing 0.275 acres, more or less.

Joel Ray Graber, Janet Ruth Graber, and Joseph Leon Graber, of Daviess County, Indiana to Lester Kemp and Bonita R. Kemp, of Daviess County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of Section 24, Township 4 North, Range 5 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 7.470 acres, more or less.

ARRESTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

4:11 p.m. - Kyndra Schimke, 46, of Washington, was being held on a petition to revoke with no bond.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

4:10 p.m. - Jonathan Deckard, 30, of Seymour, was arrested by Deputy Lents on a Monroe County warrant and being held without bond.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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HELP WANTED

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HIRING

The Martin County Highway Department is accepting applications for a

FULL-TIME OPERATOR and SUPERINTENDENT

Applicants must have valid licenses.

A pre-employment drug screen will be required.

Applications can be picked up and submitted to the Martin County Highway Department, 10753 Sherfick School Rd, Shoals.

Deadline for submitting applications is December 22, 2020 by 3:30 p.m.

Martin County is a drug-free, equal opportunity employer.

Martin County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications to fill open

PART-TIME JAIL OFFICER AND DISPATCHER POSITIONS

Applications:

To be considered for an open position, interested candidates are encouraged to pick-up an application at the Martin County Sheriff's Office: 318 Capital Avenue, Shoals, IN 47581.

Requirements:

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

Compensation:

Part-time Jail Officers: up to \$12.50 per hour

Part-time Dispatchers: up to \$12.00 per hour

Advancement opportunities are available

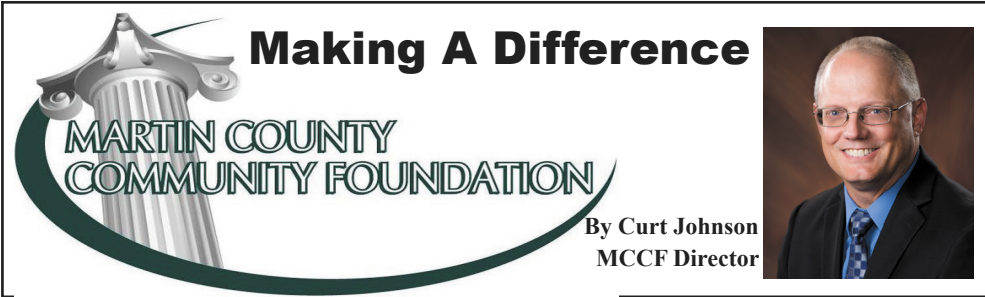
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Making A Difference

MARTIN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

By Curt Johnson
MCCF Director



-- ACTS OF KINDNESS --

Isn't it nice when someone makes that extra effort to say "hi" or to give you a helping hand? Most times it's someone you know personally. Sometimes it's not. Sometimes you don't even know who it was. Sometimes it's a simple act, sometimes it's not. Seen or unseen, these acts of kindness can lift up your mood, spirit and outlook.

-- FEELING OF GIVING --

And how do you feel when you do something good for another person? Does it lift you up a little bit as well? A smile in return makes you smile, too? Sure, it can. But let me ask you this – do you feel as satisfied when you do that something and the other person doesn't know it was you? Reach deep inside to answer that one. The true sense of giving also comes from deep inside. That's a special gift. Doing good for others is a good thing. But be sure it's for them and not for you.

-- REACHING OUT --

We have people all around the county that are here to help others, and to help sincerely, from deep down. They are individuals, groups and organizations who are looking to reach out and help in some way. Your county non-profit groups and organizations are a large part of those looking to do just that. They are here to serve with a goal of providing some help

in some way. And those include your schools, churches, and county and city governments.

-- MARTIN COUNTY 4-H --

The Martin County 4-H is one of those organizations in our county that serve and want to help their community. They are here throughout the year providing educational opportunities for our youth. The 4-H helps them acquire and improve skills involving positive values, honesty, integrity, respect, decision making, leadership, responsibility, conflict resolution, social competencies, and much more.

The 4-H has several projects that help instill these kinds of skills. One of these is a project to recycle bottle caps into benches. Alan Lagree (MCCF Board President) was happy to present a \$500 grant to Dena Held (Purdue Extension Director and Educator) to help with their efforts.

-- MORE INFORMATION --

For more information about the MCCF and how we can help you accomplish your charitable goals, please contact the MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or mccf@cfpartner.org.

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

~LETTERS TO THE EDITOR~

'Covid has been very hard on our elderly.'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

As some of you know, I am a nurse. I've seen the toll COVID-19 has had on everyone. While driving home from work one evening, I decided I wanted to put a smile on the faces of those in the nursing homes. Covid has been very hard on our elderly. They have been isolated and unable to touch their loved ones. It breaks my heart. So, I sent out a post on Facebook asking who would like to "adopt a resident". The response from the community has been amazing. With the help of so many loving individuals within the community we were able to get enough gifts for 55 residents. Packages were sent here from Florida as well.

I won't name each individual by name because some like to give without receiving recognition. I would like to thank the Hindostan United Methodist Church, Family Fellowship of Shoals, Loogootee United Methodist Church sewing group, The Jug Rox Cafe and last but not least, all of you in the community that stepped up to the plate to make this possible. May you all have a Merry Christmas and God Bless you all.

Sincerely,
Rachelle Jones
Shoals, Indiana

'I will continue to do my job the best I can'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

I am writing in regard to your article in last week's edition reporting the minutes of the council meeting held 12-7-2020.

I work in the clerk's office at the courthouse. I have been employed since January 2008, first as clerk now as deputy. In all the years I have worked here, not one councilman or commissioner has

come to see what we do. They have no idea how much work we do in a day. Mr. Summers stated he went to courthouse on Friday 12-4-2020 and the only one working were the ladies in the auditor's office. Did he know that the assessor and recorder were on quarantine, working from home? Did he know that although the treasurer was not at her desk, she was conducting business (not socializing) in another office? Did he know that I was at my desk processing voter registrations? He must have forgot that we just had the biggest election in Martin County history. Did he notice that even in the middle of a pandemic, our election was a success? The election was 11-2 but my work doesn't stop there. I know he knew that I was the only one in the clerk's office because we were starting a new software program on Monday, so we were unable to do any court business. I know he knew because I told him. Did he know that the clerk had to go to the bank on clerk business, the other full-time employee took a vacation day (that she has earned after 16 years) and our only part-timer took the day off to save taxpayer money, since we could not work? If Mr. Summers took an interest, he would know that I and the other deputies have always gone above and beyond what is required of our job. Why? Because we care about the people in this county. If Mr. Summers and the rest of the councilmen and the commissioners took the time to find out what we do, maybe they would have a different opinion.

As an employee of Martin County, I have accepted that we can't be compensated like we should, however, this attack on me lets me know that I am not appreciated by the powers that be and that hurts. I will continue to do my job the best I can because the people of this county deserve it.

Julie Fithian
Shoals, Indiana

Federal unemployment insurance programs set to expire on December 26

All unemployment insurance compensation programs created by the federal CARES Act are currently scheduled to expire on December 26 without further Congressional action.

In Indiana, the two programs that will be affected are Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC).

PUA provides benefits to those who would not normally qualify for regular unemployment compensation, such as the self-employed, gig workers, and part-time workers. PUA also provides benefits to those who exhausted all other unemployment programs but remain unemployed due to a pandemic-related reason. PEUC provides for an additional 13-week extension to regular unemployment compensation recipients.

Claims can end prior to the December 26 expiration if they receive the maximum number of weeks; or exhaust benefits by running out of money on the claim. In either circumstance, the Remaining Benefit Amount will show \$0.

When the PUA and PEUC programs expire, all payments for weeks after December 26 on those claim types will stop, regardless if the claim has a Remaining Benefit Amount over \$0.

Free job services are available at local WorkOne centers, including résumé assistance, educational and vocation training assistance, and more. For a listing of WorkOne centers, visit www.in.gov/dwd/WorkOne/locations, and to view available jobs online visit www.indianacareerconnect.com.

Also, a partnership between the State of Indiana and 180 Skills allows Hoosiers to gain key workforce skills free of charge through an online library of courses. Individuals who enroll have the opportunity to complete courses designed to improve general employability skills applicable across job sectors such as aerospace, automotive and commercial manufacturing, CNC machining, and tool and die making.

Enrollment for individuals interested in the programs is available by visiting www.yournextstep.in.gov.



Pictured is Dena Held (Purdue Extension Director and Educator) receiving a \$500 grant from Alan Lagree (MCCF Board President) for the 4-H bottle cap project.

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Jasonville (812) 665-3969	Bicknell (812) 735-3545	Bloomfield (812) 384-4453	

More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



QUOTABLE QUOTES

*As I sat, strapped in my seat waiting during the countdown, one thought kept crossing my mind...every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder. -John Glenn

*When the white missionaries came to Africa, they had the Bible and we had the land. They said "Let us pray." We closed our eyes. When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land. -Desmond Tutu

*America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real, but the moon landing was fake. -David Letterman

*I'm not a paranoid, deranged millionaire. I'm a billionaire. -Howard Hughes

*After the game, the King and the Pawn go into the same box. -Italian proverb

*I've been married to a communist and a fascist, and neither would take out the garbage. -Zsa Zsa Gabor

*When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife. -Prince Philip

*Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself. -Harrison Ford

*Lawyers believe a man is innocent until proven broke. -Robin Hall

*Having more money doesn't make you happy. I have 50 million dollars but

I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million. -Arnold Schwarzenegger

*If life were fair, Elvis would still be alive today and all the impersonators would be dead. -Johnny Carson

*The first piece of luggage on the airport carousel never belongs to anyone. -George Roberts

*If God had intended us to fly, he would have made it easier to get to the airport. -Johnathan Winter

*The weather person is the only person that I know that can be wrong 99.9% of the time and still have a job the next day. -Johnny Carson

RIDDLES

1. Why did the cowboy get a dachshund?

2. What do you call a hippie's wife?

THOUGHTS

*The more you weigh, the harder you are to kidnap. Stay safe. Eat cake.

*When I was a kid, I wanted to be older. This is not what I expected.

*It helps if you imagine autocorrect as a tiny little elf in your phone who's trying so hard to be helpful but is, in fact, quite drunk.

*A man asked me for a dollar. I told him I only carry big bills. He said give me one of those. I gave him my electric bill.

*I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

*Santa wanted me to drop in on you and see if you were being good. I want to know now how much it's worth to you to keep my mount shut?

ANSWERS

1. Someone told him to get a long little doggie.

2. Mississippi

Make someone smile today!

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



WILLOW is a female cat, gray and white, around 8 months old. She is a tiny cat, about the size of a 4 months old kitten. She was very sick when we got her and took several months to get well which stunted her growth. She is shy until she gets to know you but very sweet once she does. She loves other cats. Her adoption fee is \$45. The shelter is open by appointment only and an adoption application is required to schedule an appointment. For more info, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Loogootee School Board meeting

The Loogootee School Board will meet Thursday, December 17 at 5 p.m. in the LHS Media Center. The meeting is open to the public.

Food pantry hours

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

Mental Health Task Force

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

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

Local recovery meetings

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

Chamber votes in new officers for 2021

The Martin County Chamber of Commerce met December 9 at West Boggs Activity Center. Present for the meeting were representatives from the following businesses: Hollies Eats & Treats-Theresa Abney, The Candy Mill-Carolyn Parsons-Downey, West Boggs Park-Jameson Hibbs, City of Loogootee-Noel Harty, DC Broadcasting-Mikki Bradley and Memorial Hospital-Meredith Voegerl. Five people were present via Zoom.

The treasurer's report was not available for the meeting and will be approved in January 2021.

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

There was no program for the December meeting.

The chamber officers for 2021 were approved as follows with the contingency that Mikki Harper-Bradley is still interested after meeting with the board: President: Noel Harty, Vice-President: Theresa Abney, Treasurer: Sherry Wade, Secretary: Mikki Harper-Bradley, and Board Member: Adam Graber.

The new location for the chamber office, starting January 1, 2021, will be in the Century 21 office on JFK Avenue in Loogootee. The chamber will pay \$450 monthly rent which will include an office, utilities, and internet. Jameson

Free lunch for kids

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

SOAR Tutoring

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

Solid waste board

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

Soil and Water meetings

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

Hibbs made a motion that the chamber move their office to the new location at the amount listed, seconded by Theresa Abney, and all were in favor.

Farms to Family will be December 22, at the Loogootee United Methodist Church parking lot starting at 4 p.m.

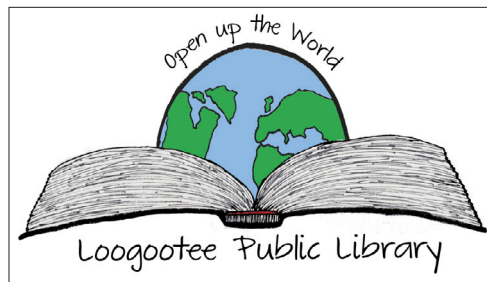
Jameson Hibbs, with West Boggs Park, reported "A First Night Hike: Roaming in the Gloaming" will be Friday January 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.; the Polar Plunge 2021 will be Saturday, January 2 at 10:30 a.m. with all money raised going toward the summer camp. This past summer they had at least 30 kids daily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

Mikki Bradley, with WRZR, reported they will be running a Christmas special, for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You can sponsor an hour of Christmas music for the season

Meredith Voegerl, with Memorial Hospital, announced that Dr. Charles A Tollett, Jr. and Dr. Megan Stevenson have joined offices.

Theresa Abney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jameson Hibbs, and all were in favor.

The next chamber meeting will be January 20, at noon. The location we will announce at a later date.



BY DARLA WAGLER

Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

Because of the recent increase in COVID positive cases, the library has reduced operating hours but offer the same great services. Mondays from 10:00-6:00 and Fridays from 10:00-4:00. Grab-N-Go (place holds on materials and staff will check them out to a patron, on arrival ring doorbell on south door and staff will hand them out), faxes and copy service available, and essential computer use by appointment. Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00-4:00 limited number of people, essential computer users only, materials can be checked out or call ahead and make arrangements to pick up. Saturdays the library hours will be 11:00-1:00. WorkOne is requiring service by appointment only. Call the library is you need something.

There a few BINGO cards/prizes left so call and pick yours up today for kids ages 2-6. Christmas BINGO will be virtual on Friday, December 18 at 12:30.

If you stop by the library and see a new face, Hannah Lengacher is the new Librarian Page. Hannah is a student at Loogootee High School.

New Books:

Children's Books: "The Wish Tree" by Kyo Maclear, "The Tiny Star" by Arthur Ginolfi, and "Red & Lulu" by Matt Tavares.

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



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“Deck the halls with boughs of holly.” It is more than a song—it is a tradition. From the time Christianity came to Western Europe, holly has been a part of the celebration of Christmas. The European or English holly lends itself readily to Christian symbolism and naturally became an important part of the decorations.

European holly, like most of the members of the *ilex* family, is evergreen. The glossy green leaves were treasured in winter, when other trees were bare. Early priests would relate the evergreen nature to the eternal nature of God. The leaves of European holly are especially spiny, becoming a symbol of the crown of thorns placed on the head of Jesus prior to his crucifixion. The red berries recall his blood, spilled for the salvation of mankind. Add to that the fact that cuttings from a holly tree stay attractive for several weeks and one can see why it became so closely associated with the winter holiday.

Worldwide, there are about 600 species of holly. Most can be divided into four main types. European Holly, as noted above, has glossy, spiny leaves and is evergreen. American Holly is very similar to its European cousin, but the leaves are generally less glossy and less spiny. Oriental hollies are glossy, but generally lack the spines. The leaves also tend to be much smaller. The fourth group is hybrid hollies, with mixed parentage from the other three groups.

One important Indiana native holly does not fit into any of the main groups. Winterberry is a deciduous holly that lives up to the common name. With good pollination, winterberry will be covered with bright berries for much of the winter. Unlike other hollies, winterberry will tolerate wet soils, and is often found in damp areas along streams. It grows to about ten feet tall as a multi-stemmed tree or shrub. Breeders have introduced weeping and more compact forms to the

market. Most of the wild winterberries have bright red berries, but yellow and orange berries are also possible. The berries have a waxy coating and that is the reason they are reliably around for the holidays. The birds wait until the waxy coating has gone away and the berries have fermented to eat the berries in late winter.

All hollies are dioecious, meaning that they occur as male and female plants. Only the female has berries, but a male must be in the neighborhood for a female to produce berries. When purchasing a holly for the landscape, make sure you have at least one male plant for five or more females. Hollies are not species-specific, so male plants will pollinate females of different types, as long as they bloom at the same time.

American and European hollies may grow to be 70-foot trees, but they may also be pruned into mounding shrubs and hedges. Traditionally, one trims hollies at this time of year, when the plants are dormant and the prunings may be used for decorating for Christmas. I try to trim different plants in alternating years. Pruning takes away the old wood that is necessary for blooms next summer, and without the blooms, there will be no berries. The alternating pruning ensures that at least some of my hollies will have berries each year. I also incorporate stems of the berries from winterberry hollies into the wreaths I make with the cuttings, so even if the regular hollies do not have many berries, the wreaths have plenty of color.

It is important to remember that the cuttings will dry out, so I encourage using the boughs of holly on porches and wreaths on the outside of doors, where they will not dry out as quickly as they would in a house. If you want to use holly indoors, treat it as a cut flower and put it in a vase. Of course, planting some hollies in the landscape is a great way to decorate your yard.

Indiana Grown launches online marketplace

On Monday, Indiana Grown launched the Shop Indiana Grown online marketplace. The free service will be offered to all qualifying Indiana Grown members providing them with an additional sales outlet during a time when online retail is critical to the success of many farms and businesses in our state and nationwide.

Indiana Grown is housed within the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and offers free resources to farms and businesses who grow, raise, produce or process an agriculture product in the state of Indiana. Members range from traditional row crop farmers to wineries to artisans to value-added food producers.

“One of my favorite activities during the Indiana State Fair is shopping at the Indiana Grown Marketplace,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. “I am continually amazed at the variety and quality of products that Hoosier farmers and producers provide, and consumers should have access to those items every day.”

Consumers will initially find nearly 40 vendors with more than 100 products to purchase on the platform with an increased selection available as new vendors and items are added daily in categories such as cheese, honey, coffee and skin care. With the popularity of the Indiana Grown Marketplace at the Indiana State Fair, the online store will allow the public to purchase local products year-round from anywhere.

“This project has taken months of hard work to ensure it will truly benefit our membership,” said Indiana Grown Program Director Heather Tallman. “We often get asked how to purchase from our members, and we are thrilled to see the consumer response to this exciting solution.”

The new marketplace will help the Indiana Grown program accomplish its goals of helping Indiana farmers and producers have a greater market for their products and educating consumers on the importance of buying locally grown, raised, processed and packaged items.

“Having celebrated its fifth anniversary this summer, Indiana Grown is stepping up its ability to serve its members and consumers,” said ISDA Director Bruce Kettler. “This new benefit of Indiana Grown membership is addressing the ever-changing needs of Indiana’s agriculture community.”

Indiana Grown is also partnering with the Indiana Small Business Development Center (Indiana SBDC), which provided support to fuel the e-commerce platform leveraging relief funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Indiana SBDC, which provides no cost, expert guidance and resources that farms and small businesses need to grow, has launched a number of programs and initiatives to help entrepreneurs and business owners access relief funding and adapt to

Successful recovery of bald eagle marks big win for conservation

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) recently removed the bald eagle from Indiana’s list of state endangered and special concern species due to evidence of successful recovery.

The recovery of the bald eagle is one of the greatest conservation success stories in Indiana. Habitat loss, the hat-making trade, and persecution once caused dramatic declines in eagle numbers, leading to the last eagle nest being found in Indiana in 1897. Nationwide, bald eagle populations continued to decline throughout the 1950s and 60s because pesticides, like DDT, interfered with their ability to reproduce.

A combination of legislative changes and conservation efforts put bald eagles on the road to recovery. The U.S. Congress passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act in 1940 to prevent the killing of bald eagles. DDT was banned nationwide in 1972. In 1973, bald eagles were one of the first species listed as federally endangered under the Endangered Species Act. State agencies began restoration efforts to meet conservation goals for eagles as a result of this listing.

Indiana DNR reintroduced bald eagles to the state from 1985–1989. During this time, 73 eaglets from Wisconsin and Alaska were raised and released at Monroe Lake to restore a breeding population in Indiana. The first successful nesting occurred in 1991.

By 2007, the U.S. national symbol was declared recovered and removed from the federal endangered species list. Indiana followed suit in 2008, upgrading the bald eagle from a state-endangered species to a species of special concern after reaching a goal of 50 nesting pairs. This was a significant achievement—no eagles were known to have nested in the state from around 1900–1988.

In just 35 years, the bald eagle went from extirpated in Indiana to a thriving population statewide. This year, biologists estimated Indiana supported about 300 nesting pairs across 84 counties. In the last five years, at least one bald eagle nest has been documented in 88 of Indiana’s 92 counties.

the new economic climate. Through this collaboration, Indiana SBDC and ISDA are helping farms and small businesses tap into larger consumer markets, and the Indiana SBDC will serve as a trusted resource for Indiana Grown members that may need customized assistance related to COVID-19 recovery, e-commerce, market research or export assistance.

“With more than 520,000 companies employing 1.2 million Hoosiers, small businesses play a critical role in fueling Indiana’s economic engine,” said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Jim Schellinger. “As more small businesses shift their operations online, the Shop Indiana Grown marketplace will provide an important tool for Indiana companies to reach new customers and elevate Hoosier-made goods in new markets. We’re excited to partner with Indiana Grown to continue providing the support small businesses need to compete and lead in today’s 21st century economy.”

The Shop Indiana Grown online marketplace is another way Indiana Grown can promote all forms of agriculture in the state and allow its members to share the stories behind their farms and businesses.

Visit www.shopindianagrown.org to begin supporting local farmers and producers in your community. Find more information about Indiana Grown at www.IndianaGrown.org.



Chick production was also up by 11 percent from 2019 to 2020.

The bald eagle reintroduction program was the first endangered species restoration project in Indiana. This project and ongoing research would not be possible without donations to the Indiana Nongame Wildlife Fund, the main funding source of all nongame and endangered species research and management. You can donate to this fund online at on.IN.gov/nongamewildlifefund.

Although bald eagles are no longer listed as an endangered species, they remain protected by other state and federal laws, including the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. If you see bald eagles in Indiana, observe the birds, their nests, and roosts from a distance of 330 feet, which is roughly the length of a football field. Photography enthusiasts should take photos of eagles with a telephoto lens instead of getting close to them. All should foster a climate of respect for wildlife by sharing these guidelines with friends.

Learn more about bald eagles at wildlife.IN.gov/3383.htm.

Fairfax SRA offers self-guided poetry walk

Monroe Lake is offering a respite for those looking for a break from holiday stress with a self-guided winter poetry walk at Fairfax State Recreation Area from December 25-30.

The walk can be completed anytime during daylight hours. Poetry selections will be posted periodically along the mapped path, each accompanied by a suggested activity or question to prompt further thought.

A map of the poetry walk will be posted on the Facebook event page on December 24, which can be found at bit.ly/monroepoetry2020, and will be available for download through December 30.

Those without a Facebook account can contact Monroe Lake interpretive naturalist Jill Vance at jvance@dnr.IN.gov by December 23 to request a copy via email. Monroe Lake cannot guarantee fulfillment of any email map requests received after December 23.

Entrance to Fairfax SRA is free during the winter season. For more information about the winter poetry walk, contact Vance at jvance@dnr.IN.gov or 812-837-9967.

Extension launches virtual program for beef producers

Purdue Extension beef experts are hosting a new program for producers with less than five years of experience or individuals considering starting a beef cattle operation. The virtual program, Purdue Beef Basics, is scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (ET) starting on January 19 and ending on March 9, 2021.

Participants will gain knowledge and skills related to beef cattle management and establish good recordkeeping habits. Purdue University professors and Extension specialists and educators will lead each of the eight sessions.

The registration fee is \$40 per individual. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/PUBeefBasics> by January 17. For more information, contact Sadie Davis at 812-659-2122 or davis186@purdue.edu.