

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 13, Issue 51

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022

Seven pages

Current county council debates FSG contract with new council members

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council held a special meeting Friday, December 16 to make corrections to the salary and wage ordinance and to approve the FSG contract for 2023. FSG is the firm the county hired last year to serve as financial advisors. Auditor Michelle Norris said she didn't realize the council had to approve FSG's contract since they approved it in the budget earlier this year. She said she thought the commissioners were responsible for approving the actual contract, but they said they are not.

Council Member Adam Greene said he would like to wait until next month to discuss the contract, when the four new council members take their seats.

Council Member Barb McFeaters said her concern is that Auditor Norris is doing a great job but is still very new as auditor. McFeaters, who didn't seek reelection for her seat, said having four new council members who don't have the knowledge needed concerns her as a constituent.

Greene replied he is not saying he wants to vote against having the financial advisor, he is just saying they should wait until the new council is seated to discuss it. He said they may want to look at different companies and the new council should be able to make the decision.

Council Member McFeaters said they already made the decision because they budgeted for the financial advisor.

Council Member Greene said they did approve the money but didn't approve who they would hire.

McFeaters said they discussed using FSG at the time they approved the funds.

Incoming Council Member Jordan Dant, from the audience, said Council

Member Warren Albright had asked for the incoming council members' opinion at a previous meeting. He asked if he were going to do the same thing now.

Albright said yes, and then asked what the opinion was of the three incoming council members in the audience, Dant, Andrew Beaver and Monty Gregory.

Dant said he thinks it needs to be taken under advisement with the new council, along with Auditor Norris. He said it's not necessarily a yes or no issue with him right now, it's an understanding thing. He said he wants to learn more about it.

Albright replied that the current council already agreed, verbally, to use FSG. He said he is not the type of person to tell someone one thing and then do another. He said they have another year on their verbal commitment to FSG and then if they decide not to use them anymore, then it would be a decision at that time, for 2024.

Dant asked what the value is of approving the contract now, on December 16, as opposed to waiting until the new council's first meeting on January 9, other than the current council is scared the new council is going to vote it down.

Council Member McFeaters said she is not scared they are going to vote it down.

Dant said they have four new council members and a fairly new auditor, who he is sure relies on FSG quite a bit. He said however, he still thinks it should wait.

Council Member McFeaters said going with a new financial advisor would cost much more money than the \$25,000 a year they are paying now. She said a new firm would also have to start from scratch learning about the county funds. She said she, along with Council Members Sherri Bowling and Adam Greene, vetted the different firms and chose FSG

because they were far less expensive and were the better choice. She added that FSG also put in many more hours helping the county than what they were paid and didn't change the agreement.

Dant said he just doesn't see the problem with waiting three weeks for the first council meeting of the year.

Council Member Albright said the taxpayers told the council back when they had to raise taxes that they would be okay with it as long as the county got help from a financial advisor for the future. He said that's what they did and walking away from FSG now would sever the relationship the county has with them.

Council Member Greene said the council didn't approve FSG's contract until January of last year. Other council members questioned that. They asked Auditor Norris to go get the minutes.

Council Member Buck Stiles told Dant they are doing the new council a favor by leaving the county in a good position.

Dant said it's not about liking or disliking FSG, it's about understanding and having time to talk to the auditor. He said he is concerned about the fact that four council members are new and so is the auditor so he would probably lean toward keeping FSG, but he is just one of four new members, and they need time to find out more about it.

Incoming Council Member Andrew Beaver, who was in the audience, said his concern was how long they were going to stay with FSG. He said he understands that the auditor was thrust into the position and is doing a fantastic job but still
(See 'FSG' on page 2)

Shoals Council discusses CCMG road grant, ongoing town projects

The Shoals Town Council met Monday, December 12. Those in attendance were Council Members Cary D. Albright, Clint D. Hoffman, and Cecil L. Ragsdale; Attorney Dave Lett, Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge, General Laborer Caitlin Sanders and Cheryl Ogg.

Councilman Albright gave the floor to audience member Cheryl Ogg. Ogg stated she has purchased a lot in West Shoals near the Stephens and Elm streets intersection. Ogg stated she and her husband are considering building a small home/cabin on the lot and she wanted the approval of the board. The board told Ogg they supported the project, and she did not need approval to build. The board stated the only ordinance in place currently for approval needed pertaining to homes is mobile home placement. The board thanked Ogg for attending and for considering building in Shoals.

Council Member Albright stated he wanted to make it public record that Attorney Lett is serving as the local legal counsel for the wastewater systems improvements project. Next Albright stated he had received information from Quality H2O which is the contractor for the meter systems infrastructure updates project. Albright said the crew had installed all new e-read meters except for the ones that need attention or dug out or don't have a shut off valve. There are approximately



City of Loogootee Primary Election

The filing period for the City of Loogootee Primary Election is January 4, 2023, to noon February 3, 2023. Only voters registered in Perry 1, Perry 2, Perry 3, Perry 4 will be eligible to vote. Loogootee Ordinance 2022-6 states anyone elected in the 2023 municipal elections will serve a three-year term. All subsequent Loogootee Municipal Election will run concurrent with the federal elections. Therefore, the next election will be in 2026.

The following positions will be on the upcoming ballot for 2023:

- Loogootee Mayor
- Loogootee Clerk/Treasurer
- Loogootee City Council At-Large
- Loogootee City Council District 1
- Loogootee City Council District 2
- Loogootee City Council District 3
- Loogootee City Council District 4

To run for these positions, you need to have resided within the city for one year prior to filing. You must be a registered voter in the city at the time of filing. You may pick up paperwork to file at the Martin County Clerk's Office at 129 Main Street in Shoals. If you have questions, please call the Martin County Clerk's Office at 812-247-3651.



Contest winners

-Photos provided

The Shoals Business Association hosted a 2022 Holiday Decorating Contest. Faytastic Pizza received the "Most Creative" award. Shown on the left are Faye Jackson and Sarah Smith, with Fay's. Hair Tropics was chosen "Most Traditional". Shown above are Matt Johnson, Amanda Johnson (owner), Breonda Yarberry, Autumn Butler, Asher Johnson and Tritt Rutledge giving the award. Awards were presented prior to the start of the Shoals Christmas Parade.



SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

town's group health insurance plan for a cost of \$1,200 per year per council member. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve the addition to the insurance plan with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

Clerk-Treasurer Rutledge presented the 2023 meeting schedule for approval. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed. The meeting as of now will remain the second Monday of each month at 5:59 p.m.

Rutledge presented the 2023 salary & wage ordinance for approval. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

Rutledge presented the 2023 fire protection contract for Center and Halbert Townships as approved by Fire Chief Jim Hamby. Each township will remain at \$12,000 each for 2023. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve the contract with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

Rutledge then presented the annual renewal for the Keystone software programs of payroll, utility billing and fund. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve the renewal with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

Rutledge stated she wanted to provide an update on the Christmas lighting/decorating. She said, to date, \$4,340 had been received in donations and she needed approval to pay the invoice for the 2022 lease in the amount of \$4,260. Council Member Hoffman made a motion to approve the invoice with Council Member Hoffman making the second. Rutledge stated Jarrett Parks, with B&D Electric, is still working on the outlets as requested by the council to get all the lights working at all times. She said South Main is completely working except for the last two poles before the railroad tracks and the actual lights are bad. She has contacted the decorating company to see if they will come replace them. She said Parks is hopeful to address the outlets on North

Main within the next week and he told her there would be no charge for addressing the outlets.

Rutledge stated the wayfinding signs had been received from the sign company and she did not have an expected install date yet from the installer.

Rutledge presented a meter deposit and applied for Roush Construction, T. Allen, S. Gibson, N. Erwin and M. Baker. Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to approve with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the motion passed.

Rutledge wanted to remind the council about the year-end meeting on December 30 at 9 a.m., and that the Town Hall would be closed Friday, December 23, Monday December 26, and Monday, January 2 in observance of the holidays.

Councilman Ragsdale asked General Laborer Sanders if there was any cold patch in inventory. Sanders stated she had a very small amount. It was asked to address the large pothole on Main Street. Sanders asked that North Walnut Street be looked at for possible inclusion of the next CCMG application in July if the town applies.

Council Member Albright stated he had a few more items to discuss. He said he was obtaining information from companies for fleet trucks pricing in order to keep the town trucks up to date within a leasing program. He said he had only received figures from one vendor to date but is expecting more. He said currently the vendor is offering a much higher trade in value for the trucks than what the town paid for them, and an upgrade could be done for a very cheap price. Albright said the council was also looking at figures and options of trading in the backhoe. Council Member Hoffman had reached out to a handful of vendors and currently the only vendor close, offering backhoes, is Diamond Equipment out of Evansville. Albright stated the council was taking the information under advisement on the trucks and backhoe and would be addressed at the next meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Council Member Ragsdale made a motion to adjourn with Council Member Hoffman making the second and the meeting closed at 6:53 p.m.

FSG

(Continued from page one)

has a lot to learn. He said he is leaning to the side of saying yes to another contract, but he just wants to know when they will get to the point where they no longer need FSG. He said they could be putting that \$25,000 used for FSG back into the general fund for, as an example, potential raises for the auditor's office employees.

Incoming Council Member Monty Gregory, who was also in the audience, said he feels like the council is offended by their caution. He said he hasn't seen the FSG contract and would at least like to take a minute to look at it. "We feel like you are signing something on our behalf," he said.

Council Member Albright again said they verbally agreed to the contract with FSG when it was established last year. He said this is how government works, newly elected members work off of what was done before them. He said that's just the way it is. He said if they walk away from the three-year plan established by FSG last year, they are not getting their money's worth. "We're not getting to the finish line," he said. He said FSG found funds that were dormant that they didn't know they had and no one else was able to find. He noted that the county is required to have a federal audit each year for the COVID money received and FSG has helped with that. He said FSG didn't get paid \$25,000 for nothing.

Albright said they didn't know the FSG contract for next year hadn't been approved. They just found out that the commissioners said its the responsibility of the council.

Dant said they would like to get the auditor as much training as possible so they don't need FSG anymore.

Council Member Stiles said they never planned to have FSG for a long period of time. He said if 90 counties in Indiana have financial advisors, it's probably a needed thing unless someone in the county government is a licensed CPA. He said he wishes the new council the best on whatever they choose to do.

Auditor Norris found the minutes regarding the approval of the FSG contract last year and said it wasn't approved until the February meeting because it was tabled in January.

Dant questioned the wording in the FSG contract and wanted to know what happens if they don't need FSG halfway through next year and they county has only paid \$12,500. He said there is nothing in the contract that says they don't have to pay the full \$25,000.

Council Member Albright said he personally feels like they are doing the new council a favor by approving it now. He said this takes the heat off the new council if there is backlash about approving it for another year. He said again that they verbally agreed on the contract with FSG.

Council Member Stiles then made a motion to approve the FSG contract for 2023 with Council Member Bowling making the second. Council Members McFeaters and Albright approved with Council Member Greene voting against. Greene said he was not against FSG, he just wants more time to explore the issue further.

Council Members Randy Wininger and Keith Gibson were not present for the meeting.

For the salary and wage ordinance, Auditor Norris told the council that the child support deputy's salary was left off and the highway superintendent was put in as hourly, but he is paid salary. Also, the judge had requested at the last meeting to raise the chief probation officer's salary by \$5,000 to \$55,000 so she could get someone with experience. She had asked the council to cover the extra \$5,000 from the general fund if she was not allowed to take it from the supplemental adult probation fund. At Friday's meeting, Auditor Norris said the state did give the okay to use the supplemental adult probation fund, so the additional money was added to the salary and wage ordinance. The final correction was the salary for the assistant health nurse, which his paid from two different funds.

The council approved transferring \$400 from utilities to equipment for civil defense so they could purchase fireproof jumpsuits and other items for the first responders. They also approved transferring \$50 from garage supplies to office supplies for the highway department.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9 at 6 p.m. at the courthouse in Shoals.

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OBITUARIES

TRACY MOORE

Tracy William Moore passed away Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at his home. A resident of Loogootee, he was 59.

He was born March 18, 1963, in Princeton, Indiana; son of Clarence William and Alice Viola (Hillman) Moore.

He married Brenda Lee Keys on February 16, 1991, and she survives.

Tracy was a graduate of Oakland City High School with the class of 1981, re-

ceived an associate degree from Vincennes University in Computer Programming and from ITT in Computer Science. He worked in IT with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield for just over 25 years. Tracy attended Shoals Holiness Church.

He was the life of the family, enjoyed spending time with his wife, children, and grandson. He was so easy to talk to regardless of if he agreed with you or not.

Surviving are his wife, Brenda; chil-



TRACY MOORE

dren, Alicia Moore, James Moore, and Damaris (Chad) Yarrison; grandson, Daniel Alan Yarrison; five siblings, Terri (David) Cooper, Barry Moore, John (Connie) Moore, Cherrilyn (Roger) Punneo,

and Connie (David) Winkel; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three uncles, David Moore, James Hillman, and Kenny Moore.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 17 at the Shoals Holiness Church, with Pastor James Kahler officiating. Burial followed in Spring Hill Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.queenlee.com.

Several commitments of READI \$24.6 million to benefit Martin County

The Indiana Uplands READI Steering Committee and Regional Opportunity Initiatives (ROI) have announced more than \$24.6 million in committed investments from the \$30 million in Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) funds awarded to the Indiana Uplands by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to enhance the vitality of this 11-county region.

The City of Loogootee was awarded \$225,000 for the development of the area on the corner of Church Street and JFK Avenue, known as the "railroad lot". With only one city park in its community, Loogootee will add another outdoor recreational space to enhance the downtown area and allow for more community activities and events. READI funds will be used by the City of Loogootee to transform a vacant surface lot into green space with an open roofed pavilion, sidewalks, benches, trash receptacles, lighting, fencing, trees, and landscaping to host a variety of events, festivals, and community programs.

The Uplands Science and Technology Foundation received \$10,000,000 for a WestGate @ Technology Park infrastructure project that will benefit Daviess, Greene and Martin counties. READI matching funds (up to \$10 million) are committed to support infrastructure needs for WestGate, accelerating a new \$84 million microelectronics campus that will transform Indiana's semiconductor industry, attract talent to the region and create high-paying, quality jobs for Hoosiers. This project will leverage more than \$300 million in private investment.

The City of Bloomington was awarded \$1,916,230 for the Catalent infrastructure project that will benefit Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Greene, Brown, Lawrence and Owen counties. The City of Bloomington will replace 1,570 feet of clay sewer pipe, improving flow from the Catalent facility located at 1300 South Patterson and continuing one mile downstream along an arterial corridor. Replacement of the sewer transmission and distribution lines will allow Catalent to expand its biologics drug substance and drug product manufacturing capabilities.

Youth First received \$200,000 for building resiliency in Indiana Uplands youth that will benefit Martin, Daviess, Dubois, Orange and Lawrence counties

ROI (Regional Opportunity Initiatives) received \$729,373 for Upskill Work and Learn program to benefit Martin, Brown, Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Law-

rence, Monroe, Orange, Owen and Washington counties

The Mill received \$1,370,325 for a Code/IT Academy to benefit Martin, Brown, Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Monroe, Orange, Owen and Washington counties

"We are grateful to the state legislature, Governor Eric Holcomb, Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation for this incredible opportunity to invest in the Indiana Uplands, a region on the rise," said ROI President and CEO Tina Peterson.

"READI is allowing this region to build upon opportunities, to advance industry innovations, develop the talent needed for a technology-driven workforce, and create the assets and amenities that make this a great place for people to live, work and play," added Peterson.

Since the December 2021 funding announcement, ROI and its partners have worked with regional stakeholders to refine programs and projects in the "Region on the Rise READI Development Plan" to align with the eligibility requirements defined by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded READI program. The Uplands READI Steering Committee has also worked to launch and advance funding strategies in the areas of innovation, housing, community development, and talent.

Ready Innovation projects are identified as those that have the potential to capitalize on the growing vibrancy and vitality of the region's key sectors to catalyze significant economic growth in all 11 counties of the Uplands region. As of December 9, two Ready Innovation projects have received READI commitments from the Uplands region.

One of these projects was the site of an official groundbreaking on November 21. Governor Eric J. Holcomb and Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers joined local officials and business executives at WestGate@Crane Technology Park to break ground on a new \$84 million microelectronics campus that will power the growth of Indiana's semiconductor industry. READI matching funds (up to \$10 million) are committed to support infrastructure needs for WestGate, accelerating this shovel-ready project that will transform Indiana's semiconductor industry, attract talent to the region and create high-paying, quality jobs for Hoosiers. This project will leverage more than \$300 million in private investment.

The Ready Housing program is funding projects to increase the supply of owner-occupied and rental housing to support needed workforce and meet the goals outlined in the READI Region on the Rise plan. Up to \$9 million of READI funding has been earmarked to support this funding program. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis, as funding allows. As of December 9, five projects totaling \$7.07 million for 320 housing units have received READI funding commitments for developments in Bloomington, Jasper, Spencer, French Lick, and near WestGate@Crane. These projects will leverage an estimated investment of \$92.4 million from both public and private sources.

The Ready Communities 2.0 program is funding projects or programs strategically designed to improve regional capacity to attract and retain workforce by creating

community amenities or enhancing the attributes that make the region an attractive place to live, work and play. Three million dollars in READI funding was earmarked to support this funding program. Communities and organizations applied for this competitive funding opportunity in September 2022. As of December 9, 14 projects totaling \$3.5 million have received READI funding commitments. These projects will leverage an estimated additional investment of \$34.9 million from public and private sources.

Ready Talent programs and projects are identified as supporting or producing a workforce talent pipeline that meets the evolving needs of highly concentrated industry clusters and employment anchors in the Uplands. As of December 9, two programs have received \$2,099,698 in READI funding commitments and will impact all 11 counties of the Uplands region.

Martin County Commissioners' 2023 Meeting Schedule

Each meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in the commissioners' meeting room of the Martin County Courthouse, 129 Main Street, Shoals.

Tuesday, January 10	Tuesday, May 16	Tuesday, September 5
Tuesday, January 24	Tuesday, May 30	Tuesday, September 19
Tuesday, February 7	Tuesday, June 13	Tuesday, October 3
Tuesday, February 21	Tuesday, June 27	Tuesday, October 17
Tuesday, March 7	Wednesday, July 12	Tuesday, October 31
Tuesday, March 21	Tuesday, July 25	Tuesday, November 14
Tuesday, April 4	Tuesday, August 8	Tuesday, November 28
Tuesday, April 18	Tuesday, August 22	Tuesday, December 12
Wednesday, May 3		Tuesday, December 26

Martin County Council 2023 Meeting Schedule

Each meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the commissioners' meeting room of the Martin County Courthouse, 129 Main Street, Shoals.

Monday, January 9	August budget workshops to be determined
Monday, February 6	
Monday, March 6	Monday, September 11 (Budget public hearing)
Monday, April 3	Monday, October 2 (Budget adoption)
Monday, May 1	Monday, November 6
Monday, June 5	Monday, December 4
Monday, July 10	
Monday, August 7	

Loogootee City Council 2023 Meeting Schedule

Each meeting, starting with the Board of Public Works & Safety, begins at 5:30 p.m. in the council meeting room of the Loogootee Municipal Building

Monday, January 9	Monday, July 10
Monday, February 13	Monday, August 14
Monday, March 13	Monday, September 11
Monday, April 10	Monday, October 16
Monday, May 8	Monday, November 13
Monday, June 12	Monday, December 11

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

12:12 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

5:24 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a stolen vehicle north of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims and Captain Reed responded.

5:28 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting the stolen vehicle had been backed into a tree. Advised caller that officers were enroute.

7:18 a.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard east of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

8:20 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded, and Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:45 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded, and Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:46 a.m. - Received a call reporting a controlled burn south of Loogootee.

10:25 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:43 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded. No one was transported.

10:52 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check east of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

2:06 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

2:08 p.m. - Received a 911 call. Advised someone pulled alarm at Shoals School.

3:42 p.m. - Received a report of a tree hanging low over roadway south of Shoals on US 150. INDOT was notified.

3:55 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock northeast of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

4:18 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS and Corporal Wells responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:00 p.m. - Received a report of a fire southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department and Martin County EMS responded. No one was transported.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

1:29 a.m. - Received a call from Lawrence County requesting an ambulance in Bedford. Martin County Medic 1 responded.

2:52 a.m. - Received a call from Care Center requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

8:25 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance northeast of Shoals. Martin County EMS and Indian Creek Fire Department responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:40 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a first responder in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

10:18 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check southeast of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded.

10:45 a.m. - Received a call from an alarm company advising of a residential burglar alarm in Shoals. Homeowner called to advise to disregard.

12:56 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported three inmates to remote court.

1:30 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

1:47 p.m. - Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Transferred call

to Daviess County 911.

1:52 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident in Daviess County. Advised Daviess County is enroute.

2:45 p.m. - Deputy Pressley transported two inmates to court.

3:14 p.m. - Received a call reporting a trespasser southeast of Loogootee. Corporal Wells and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

4:24 p.m. - Received an animal complaint south of Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett responded.

5:10 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County EMS responded. No one was transported.

6:51 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a stolen vehicle north of Shoals. Corporal Wells responded. Lawrence County was notified.

7:28 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down north of Loogootee. Martin County Civil Defense responded.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

12:26 a.m. - Received a report of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

5:48 a.m. - Received multiple 911 and landline calls reporting a car fire north of Loogootee. Captain Reed, Martin County EMS, Loogootee Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded. No one was transported.

7:10 a.m. - Received an animal complaint southeast of Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller responded. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

7:56 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn south of Shoals.

9:40 a.m. - Received a report of a road closure south of Shoals due to a grain truck spillage.

11:48 a.m. - Received a call reporting the road south of Shoals is reopened.

12:10 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:02 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

3:34 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Corporal Wells, Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Coroner responded.

3:39 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:03 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Officer Sims responded. Martin County Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:31 p.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department, Corporal Wells and Big John's Towing responded.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

4:44 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a tree down north of Loogootee. Martin County Civil Defense responded.

5:59 a.m. - Received a call from Orange County advising of an abandoned vehicle in a ditch southeast of Shoals. Captain Reed responded.

9:01 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle inspection check in Shoals. Chief Keller responded.

10:45 a.m. - Received a call from Loogootee Captain Rayhill advising of a fire drill at the Loogootee School Corporation.

12:34 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:00 p.m. - Received a call regarding dumped dogs south of Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was notified.

4:12 p.m. - Received a call regarding animals not being cared for near Shoals. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was advised.

4:48 p.m. - Received a call advising of a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. Corporal Wells and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

5:13 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call near Loogootee.

10:27 p.m. - Received an E-911 call of a vehicle sitting in the roadway running with no one around, south of Loogootee. Deputy Branham and Big Johns Towing responded.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

3:13 a.m. - Deputy Branham responded to the Shoals Community School to investigate movement on a camera located outside.

4:05 a.m. - Received a call from Area 1 Protection advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Deputy Branham and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

5:08 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible intoxicated driver. Daviess County Sheriff's Office was advised.

7:56 a.m. - Received a call of a hit-and-run in Shoals. Chief Keller responded.

10:30 a.m. - Received report of an animal issue in Loogootee. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was advised.

10:34 a.m. - Received a report of an animal issue near Shoals. Chief Keller responded.

11:45 a.m. - Received a report of cows out south of Loogootee. The owner was contacted.

03:05 p.m. - Received a report of a possible sick gray fox in a yard near Shoals. South Region dispatch was advised.

3:22 p.m. - Received an E-911 reporting a tree down southeast of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

3:42 p.m. - Received an E-911 reporting an accident south of Loogootee. ICO Fuhrman, ISP Trooper Beaver, Loogootee Fire Department, and Big Johns Towing responded.

4:07 p.m. - Received an E-911 request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to I.U. Health Bloomington.

4:15 p.m. - Received an E-911 for a non-emergent issue. Deputy Hawkins advised caller that it is misuse of 911.

4:30 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle repossession in Loogootee.

4:55 p.m. - Received report of an impaired driver south of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

5:28 p.m. - Received a report of a homeless individual in Shoals. Dispatch advised options for assistance.

6:03 p.m. - Received an E-911 call reporting an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

6:18 p.m. - Received a report of a stop sign knocked down south of Loogootee. INDOT was advised.

7:50 p.m. - Received an E-911 from a juvenile in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

10:00 p.m. - Received an E-911 reporting an attempted residential entry in Loogootee. Deputy Branham and Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

2:34 a.m. - Received an E-911 call which was transferred to Daviess County.

3:54 a.m. - Received a call from Daviess County Dispatch requesting deputy assistance north of Loogootee for a possible impaired vehicle. Deputy Branham, Daviess County Deputies, and Daviess County EMS responded.

6:12 a.m. - Received an E-911 call re-

questing an ambulance in Crane. Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to DCH.

8:38 a.m. - Received an E-911 call requesting law enforcement and an ambulance north of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins, ISP Trooper Beaver, Loogootee Fire Department, Big Johns Towing, Assistant Chief Deputy Coroner Hamby, and Medic 1 responded.

9:02 a.m. - Received an accidental E-911.

10:40 a.m. - Received a request for assistance with a funeral detail in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins and Shoals Fire Department responded.

12:01 p.m. - Received an accidental E-911.

12:20 p.m. - Received a report of an accident east of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

1:26 p.m. - Received a request to speak with a deputy near Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

1:54 p.m. - Received a request to speak with Animal Control. Animal Control Deputy Hughett was advised.

3:38 p.m. - Received a request for a deputy near Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

3:54 p.m. - Received an animal report north of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins and Animal Control Deputy Hughett were advised.

4:35 p.m. - Received an animal report in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

5:45 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

11:34 p.m. - Received a report of an accident northwest of Shoals. Deputy Branham and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

12:14 a.m. - Received a report of possible residential entry in Loogootee. Deputy Branham and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

12:35 a.m. - Received a report of a possible suicidal male in Shoals. Deputy Branham and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

1:46 a.m. - Received an E-911 requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Medic 1 responded.

2:17 a.m. - Received a report of an accident. Loogootee Fire Department, Deputy Branham, Loogootee Officer Sims, and Big Johns Towing responded.

08:57 a.m. - Received report of a vehicle parked in a no parking area. Sergeant Gibson responded.

10:18 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Medic 1 responded, no one was transported.

2:27 p.m. - Received an E-911 requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Dispatch was advised.

5:33 p.m. - Received an E-911 reporting a disabled vehicle south of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson, Loogootee Officer Seymour, Loogootee Fire Department, and Big Johns Towing responded.

6:10 p.m. - Received multiple E-911 calls reporting an accident south of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson, Loogootee Officer Seymour, Loogootee Officer Erwin, Loogootee Fire Department, Big Johns Towing, and Medic 1 responded transporting 1 to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:51 p.m. - Received an E-911 reporting traffic backed up south of Loogootee.

8:07 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible domestic dispute in Shoals. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

9:46 p.m. - Received an E-911 call requesting an ambulance. Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING

December 7

Sean C. Lents, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 60 days with 50 days suspended and credit for 5 actual days previously served plus 5 Class A credit days. Defendant received 6 months of probation.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

December 7

Sean C. Lents, leaving the scene of an accident, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

December 8

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Discover Bank and against the defendant Sandra Andis in the amount of \$10,045.91.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff LVNV Funding, LLC and against the defendant Ricky Heckard in the amount of \$6,867.22.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Mariner Finance, LLC and against the defendant Shastina Cooper in the amount of \$6,314.87.

December 12

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Mariner Finance and against the defendant Rachel Bruner in the amount of \$4,109.27.

Real estate transfers

Dylan Street, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jack E. Divine and Lisa D. Divine**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.995 acre, more or less. Being Lot 6 in Bellridge Subdivision.

Terry G. Quinn and Michelle C. Quinn, of Martin County, Indiana to **Joseph S. Ogg and Sheryl L. Ogg**, of Martin County, Indiana, the south half of Lot Number 17 in the Town of West Shoals, now Shoals, Indiana.

Ricky Stevason and Kimberly Stevason, of Martin County, Indiana to **Carolyn Guelich and Jeffrey Guelich**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, a part of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter, and a part of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, all in Section 12, Township 1 North, Range 5 West, containing 35.25 acres, more or less.

Ronald G. Smith, of Martin County, Indiana to **Shannon M. Walton**. Tract I: Lot Number 16 in the original Town of Crane, Indiana. Tract II: Lots Numbered 128 and 129 in Tract A, a subdivision of the original Town of Crane, Indiana.

December 13

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Premier Ag Co-Op and against the defendants DRK Farms, LLC and Delbert Graber in the amount of \$267,921.13.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

December 8

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Cory L. Lentz in the amount of \$1,586.82.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Barbara J. Moffatt in the amount of \$1,346.90.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Misty D. Kelsey in the amount of \$4,390.57.

December 9

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Kevin Boyd and against the defendant Erica Davis for eviction in the amount of \$1,560.00.

ARRESTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:10 a.m. - Peggy Stoll, 51, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Sims and charged with auto theft. She is being held without bond.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:40 p.m. - David Marshall, 63, of Shoals, was arrested by Corporal Wells and charged with operating while intoxicated-endangerment. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:15 a.m. - Jacob Fox was on station to turn himself in on a Martin County warrant for violation of community corrections.

8:46 p.m. - Charles Kline, 49, of Loogootee, was arrested by Corporal Wells and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated refusal. He is being held on 15,000/10% bond.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

12:00 p.m. - Christopher Bearden, 43, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Seymour on a violation of probation. He is being held without bond.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

2:00 a.m. - James Colson II, 37, of Huntingburg, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Erwin and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, and possession of paraphernalia. He is being held on a 15,000/10% bond.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

3:08 a.m. - Anibal Lopez, 31, was arrested by Deputy Branham and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated refusal. He is held on 15,000/10% bond.

Winter driving tips from ISP Jasper Post

With colder temperatures in the forecast, it won't be long until winter driving conditions become the norm for many across the state, even here in the Jasper District.

Below are a few tips, along with information gathered from our friends at the National Highway Traffic Administration (NHTSA) and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). In 2020, an estimated 25,000 injury crashes occurred in wintry conditions (NHTSA).

What can you do now?

Tires - As outside temperatures drop, so does the tire's inflation pressure. Ensure your tires are correctly inflated to the recommended pressures. To find the recommended pressure for your vehicle, check the label on the driver's side door jam or in the owner's manual. Don't use the tire pressure listed on the tire's side, as this is generally the maximum pressure, not the recommended pressure. The tread should be at least 2/32 of an inch or greater on all tires. Remember your spare!

Snow tires? - All-weather tires are great for everyday use, but tests have shown that snow tires can significantly increase your traction on snow and ice compared to all-season tires. All-Wheel drive, traction control, and other computerized systems on your car are great for helping to maintain or regain traction, but they won't increase your traction.

Battery - Your car's battery is also negatively affected by cold temperatures. Now is an excellent time to check your battery and charging system.

Wipers - Worn or damaged wipers are no match for snow and ice. Check and replace them if needed.

Wiper Fluid - During heavy snow or on a slushy roadway, it is easy to empty your washer reservoir. Make sure to top it off now with a winter-grade fluid.

Emergency Kit - Even for the safest drivers, crashes, breakdowns, and getting stuck on an unplowed road can happen. Don't be caught off-guard; have an emergency kit with a blanket, flashlight, jumper cables, road flares, or emergency lights available. You may also want to pack a small shovel and some kitty litter or sand to help get "unstuck."

When you hit the road:

-Make sure you dress appropriately when headed out - coat/gloves/hat? That quick trip to the store could turn into an hour's wait for a wrecker or dig yourself out.

-Clear your windows and lights of snow and ice, and make sure you can see and BE SEEN.

-Leave early.

-Slow down.

-Increase your following distance. In-

stead of your normal 3-second distance, increase it to eight or ten seconds on slick roadways.

-Accelerate and brake slowly and smoothly.

-Turn off your cruise control.

-Buckle UP / Phone Down

Be patient and courteous with others:

-Don't crowd snowplows or drive beside the truck on two-lane roads. Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) employees will be working very hard to keep the roads moving; give them the space they need.

-Check on family and neighbors who may not be capable of driving in winter conditions.

Stay safe, always assume you are on 'thin ice'

With the inevitable upcoming drop in temperatures across the state, Indiana Conservation Officers advise Hoosiers and visitors of the potential hazards of being on frozen lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams.

It's also important to keep a watchful eye for other people who may venture out on neighborhood retention ponds, lakes and, other waterways and find themselves in trouble.

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers safely enjoy fishing, skating, hiking, or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice. Don't let this happen to you or yours.

Similar to needing to drive differently on snowy versus clear roads, being able to safely have fun on ice may require adjusting what you have done in the past. When thinking about getting on the ice, put safety first. Believe all ice is thin ice unless proven otherwise.

Here are a few tips to remember when considering standing on or walking on a frozen body of water:

-No ice is safe ice.

-Before going on the ice, leave a note of your whereabouts with a friend or family member

-If you don't know the thickness of the ice, don't go on it.

-Don't test the thickness of the ice while alone.

-Test the thickness of the ice with an ice auger. At least 4 inches of ice is recommended for ice fishing; 5 inches is recommended for snowmobiling.

-Carry ice hooks and rope gear.

-Wear a life jacket or flotation coat.

Wearing a life jacket is especially important when on ice. If you fall through, a life jacket will keep your head above the water until help arrives.

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Anonymous donation

-Photo provided

Shown above is Phillip Smith receiving an anonymous \$1,000 donation for Indiana X-Treme Travelball, Inc. Presenting the gift is MCCF Director Curt Johnson. The Indiana X-Treme facility is located in Brian Ader's building north of Loogootee. In addition to Indiana X-Treme being able to practice and improve baseball skills year-round, other clubs and people can also use the facility for practice and training.

Christmas Toy Store helps 422 children with presents

The Martin County Christmas Toy Store was held this year on December 10. 145 families were able to shop for 422 children. 30 bicycles and tricycles and around 2,200 toys and stocking stuffers were given away.

The Christmas Toy Store was possible because of the help of over 60 people that volunteered their Friday to set-up 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 Ac-

tivity 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, White River Lodge #332, St. Peter's Catholic Church Men's Club, Helping Hands Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, and others. And, of course, the shopper sign-ups 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. The help of everyone in Martin County made this a very successful Christmas Toy Store. Many families and children will have a merrier Christmas thanks to all of you.

TOY'S AUTO PARTS, INC.

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

Loogootee Mayor Noel Harty and his four-legged companion, Charlotte, will be hosting Santa and Mrs. Claus again this year on

Friday, December 23rd
from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

409 East Washington Street, Loogootee

The event will feature complimentary photographs with Mr. and Mrs. Claus by Terry D King!

Cindy Clarks Famous Grinch Punch!

Judy Sinnotts Famous Cookies!

All Ages Are Welcome!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mental Health Task Force

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

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

St. Vincent Food Pantry

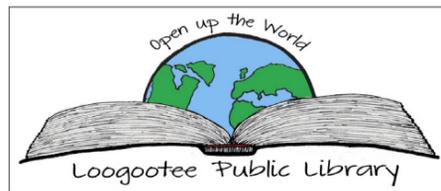
The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, on Park Street in Loogootee, is open the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December when they are open the third Thursday. The hours are 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m.

Free lunch for kids

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

Tiny houses in Loogootee approved

At the last Loogootee Zoning Board meeting, Monday, December 12, the board approved Monty Gregory's request to build tiny houses on Park Street in Loogootee. The approval was for one house now and another one in the future. Building will begin sometime after the first of the year.



BY DARLA WAGLER
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

New Books:

Mystery Fiction: "Caramel Pecan Roll Murder" by Joanne Fluke and "Diablo Mesa" by Preston & Child.

Inspirational Fiction: "Trust me" by Kelly Irvin and "Ever Constant" by Tracie Peterson.

Several new easy reader children's books available to check out.

The library inclement weather policy states that if Loogootee School is closed then we are as well. Staff will notify WWBL and WAMW radio stations plus post on Facebook.

Library hours: Monday 10-7, Tuesday 10-5, Closed on Wednesday, Thursday 10-7, Friday 10-5, and Saturday 9-1. The library phone number is 812-295-3713 and check out the website www.loogootee.lib.in.us or like us on Facebook. The library has free Wi-Fi service available for patrons.

SOAR Tutoring

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

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Solid waste board

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

Soil and Water meetings

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

Local recovery meetings

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

PUBLIC MEETING

West Boggs Lake Watershed Diagnostic Study
Sponsored by Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks and Recreation Department
West Boggs Park

JANUARY 10, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Dinkys Auction Center
9084 E 550 N
Montgomery, Indiana 47558

Featured Speaker:

Dr. Jerry Sweeten

Ecosystems Connections Institute

All residents of the West Boggs Lake Watershed are encouraged to attend

For additional Information Contact the West Boggs Park Office

812-295-3421, Menu Option 4



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In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser
Purdue University Master Gardener

This is a busy time for most people. I did manage to get two wreaths made from some of my garden cuttings this week. One is displayed on the side of my house and the other was for a friend. Wreaths are great decorations that may remain on display long after the holidays.

There are numerous ways to make a wreath using cuttings from the garden. My favorite is to use a base woven from grapevines. That means the cost for materials is absolutely nothing! However, it does mean that the wreath takes a little more time. Basically, I like to stuff the wreath full with cuttings. One may use a single type of cutting, such as juniper branches, but I like to mix things up. On the wreaths I made this week, I used green and golden juniper, blue cypress, burgundy mahonia, leather-leaf viburnum and two types of holly. Since I like to make the wreaths wildlife friendly, I do not use wire to hold the cuttings in place. Instead, I stuff the materials into the spaces between the woven grapevines. Sometimes, I have to use multiple stems or use large stems to fill some of the gaps. I just make sure there is enough foliage to hide the entire grapevine base. I finished off the wreaths with copious winterberry stems. With the bright red, waxy berries, there is no need to a bow. Another way to add a contrast is to use dried ornamental grasses or dried flower heads. I find that hydrangeas are the best flowers. I sometimes do use spray paint on the flowers to add some color—my favorites being silver and metallic blue.

If you do not have access to grape-

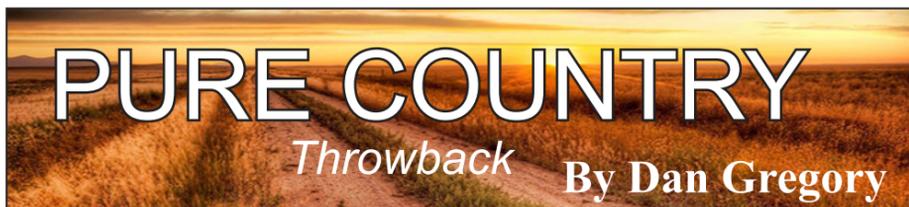
vines or other heavy vines to weave into wreaths, you may purchase wreath forms from craft supply stores. You will find various types. Most are made from either metal or plastic. Some of the forms require a special machine that is used to clamp bunches of branches in place, while others are more open, but usually need wire, string or some other material to tie the branches to the form. If using such forms, you will eventually need to retrieve the wreath and dispose of the form or save it to make another wreath. Left in the garden, the forms could contribute to problems for wildlife.

The wreaths made only using natural materials may be placed anywhere in the garden. They will eventually deteriorate and compost, but you and your garden's wildlife may enjoy them for a long time. Using the winterberry or other natural berries will provide not only visual interest, but also will feed the birds and other wildlife during the winter. You may also place pinecones coated with peanut butter in the wreaths as a treat for the birds.

Your natural wreath may be used indoors, but only for a short time. Without a way to remain hydrated, the plant materials will dry out quickly and become a fire hazard. However, even after it has dried, it may be used outside.

Natural wreaths make great gifts, especially for people who like to watch the birds. Use your imagination and add all sorts of materials to your wreaths.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Seed catalogues are coming in. Springs cannot be far away.



PURE COUNTRY

Throwback By Dan Gregory

Originally published December 14, 2009

It took me awhile, but I found it. Needing inspiration to write this week left me looking for a Christmas music CD that Barb's sister Clara sent us a few years ago. You know how that goes, you know it is in the house somewhere, but small things like a CD can easily get misplaced in a year.

Not giving up, I finally found it after a half-hour search, right where I put it so it wouldn't be lost for this year. But the good news is I found it, just in time to write a column about Christmas and music.

This particular CD is an instrumental orchestra, no vocals, it is extra heavy on the drums and horns and has a very low pitch throughout. With my hearing being lost in all the higher frequencies, I really like this CD. "Joy to the World", "We Three Kings", "Silent Night", "O Holy Night", "The First Noel", and many more. With the thunder from the drums, and absence of lyrics, this CD really changes the perception I had of the songs.

The Christmas season is intended to be one of happiness and joy. Giving gifts and gathering family and establishing or continuing traditions is what makes the holiday special. We have a few traditions, but also mix in quite a bit of variety from year-to-year-too. With our expanding grandchildren base, we once again have little ones in the group after

a few years of having none. Nothing makes Christmas more enjoyable than a five-year-old, three-year-old and two one-year-olds. Especially when our main role as grandparents is simply to spoil them with gifts, fill them with sugar and send them home.

The decorations inside our home consist of multiple small Christmas trees scattered throughout the house. After thirty-eight years of marriage, we have accumulated enough Christmas stuff to keep Barb busy for days dragging it all out of the attic and setting it up, and just as many days putting it all away after the holidays. If it was strictly up to me, we might have a tree, but it is doubtful. Outside we have downsized to leaving our front window open with the tree lights on inside the front window. There is a lone Christmas bear sitting on the front porch with its mechanical head moving back-and-forth. Not sure what the connection of a bear is to Christmas, but with his candy cane scarf at least it looks seasonal.

I like Christmas. If for no other reason than it is a time to take stock of one's station in life. Reflect on the important things. Dream a little about the birth of Jesus story. What better Savior could we have than a little innocent baby. I have always thought that the story of Jesus birth, is so outrageous that no one could dream it up, so it has to be true. What a fantastic story, and what could be better to celebrate than Christmas?

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

Seeking 3-4 (2-man) Pergola Installation Crews needed for Midwest Territory

We are seeking F/T installers for a 300-mile radius from Orleans, IN. Very generous compensation—average pay is over \$1,500 per day taking a two-person crew 6-8 hours and payment is typically disbursed immediately upon completion. Must have a dependable pickup, minimum 16' dual axle utility trailer, and own tools. Vehicle & business liability insurance required.

Serious inquiries only please.

Note: If you are Amish we will provide transportation and trailers.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR QUALITY MINDED AND MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS. MUST BE WILLING TO TRAVEL OVERNIGHT.

Apply on our website:

www.qualitybuiltpergolas.com

(317) 840-7469

or in-person at:

JOE STUTZMAN

AMISH SAW MILL

7412 N. CR 200 W

Orleans, Indiana 47452

OR

ANANIAS MILLER SAW MILL

4732 N County Road 300 W

Paoli, Indiana 47454-9814

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

The Martin County Sheriff's Office is seeking qualified candidates for SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES

Salary starts at \$39,738
Hiring Bonus of \$1,000

10 Vacation Days after first January
18 Paid Holidays

Minimum Requirements:

1. Be a citizen of the United States
2. Be at least 21 years of age
3. Have a high school diploma or G.E.D.
4. Have eyesight correctable to 20/20
5. Cannot have any Felony, Battery misdemeanor or Domestic Violence convictions
6. Pass a written entry-level examination
7. Pass physical examination / agility testing
8. Submit to drug screening, psychological testing and a Polygraph/Voice Stress Analysis
9. Possess a valid driver's license from the State of Indiana
10. Submit to being fingerprinted
11. Submit to a character and background investigation, which includes but is not limited to:
 - your previous and current employment
 - your driving records
 - any criminal records
 - interviews conducted with family members and/or friends
12. May be required to appear for a panel interview

Interested candidates can acquire an application and the
Martin County Sheriff's Office:
318 Capital Avenue, Shoals, IN 47581
(812) 247-3726.
Resume may be submitted to:
mbeaver@martincounty.in.gov

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

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

Minimum Requirements:

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

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

Advertise your business
in the Martin County Journal
Reach more than 3,000 subscribers every week!
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