

Brooks Bridge closed due to cracked beam

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Highway Superintendent Leo Padgett told the Martin County Commissioners at their meeting last night, Tuesday, December 22 that the barricades blocking Brooks Bridge keep getting moved. He keeps putting up stronger barricades to prevent anyone from crossing the bridge. The bridge was closed on December 9 per the county's bridge inspector due to a cracked beam. According to Commissioner Paul George, after the meeting, the bridge is not safe enough for even a car to cross. He said they are waiting on the design from the engineer and once that is received, repair work will begin. George said he estimates that it will take three to four weeks to have the bridge reopened.

Padgett told the board that Tim Jones is retiring after 12 years with the department. Padgett thanked him for his years of work.

Padgett also reported that a gate has been put up on H. Jones Road in Lost River Township. He asked the commissioners if they ap-

proved closure of that road. The commissioners replied that they did not. Padgett said the county just installed two culverts in that road, just past the gate. The commissioners said they need to look into why the road was blocked off and who was responsible for it.

Dave Redman with the Purdue Extension Office told the commissioners that three candidates were recently interviewed for the extension educator position and that it was decided to go with Stacy Brown. Brown is originally from Shelby County and currently lives in Bloomington. She will start in the position on January 11.

Community Corrections Director Kathy Collins reported that Shoals School has received a \$30,000 grant through the System of Care, a part of Good Samaritan Hospital. The money will be used to add programming to the school in conjunction with the CASS program, that takes care of student behavioral issues. Shoals was the only school in four counties to apply for the grant. Collins said she worked very closely with Shoals Sup-
(See 'BRIDGE' continued on page 2)

Martin County's unemployment rate at 4.1 percent for November

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Martin County's unemployment rate rose to 4.1 percent in November, up from 3.6 the month before. The county was ranked 33rd of the 92 Indiana counties for lowest jobless rate in November, tied with five other counties.

In November, the county had 5,056 residents in the workforce and 205 of them were without jobs. In October, there were 4,994 residents able to work and 182 of them unemployed. In November of last year, Martin County's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent with 4,986 residents in the workforce and 269 of them without jobs. Daviess County's unemployment rate

moved from 3.4 percent in October to 3.8 percent in November, putting the county in 10th place in the state for lowest jobless rate, tied with eight other counties.

In November, the county had 15,750 residents in the workforce with 591 of them without jobs. In October, there were 15,531 residents able to work and 532 of them unemployed. In November of 2014, Daviess County's unemployment rate was 4.7 percent with 15,146 residents in the workforce and 719 of them without jobs.

Dubois County's unemployment rate also rose slightly from October to November, from 2.9 percent to 3.3 percent. The county was tied for lowest jobless rate in the state, with Hamilton County.

(See 'RATE' continued on page 2)

Traffic stop leads to several arrests in Shoals

The Martin County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic stop that resulted in several arrests on Friday.

On Friday, December 18 at approximately 1:45 p.m., Sheriff Travis Roush and Chief Deputy Josh Greene were patrolling on Sherfick School Road when a white Ford Ranger disregarded a stop sign. A traffic stop was conducted on the Ranger.

Major Burkhardt and K9 Asher were called in to assist on the traffic stop. K9 Asher gave a positive indication of narcotics located within the vehicle. Indiana State Troopers Lents and Brumett arrived to assist in the traffic stop. Narcotics were located, but the driver and passenger were released so that officers could obtain further information.

At 4:40 p.m., Sheriff Roush and Chief Deputy Greene went to 7803 US Highway 150 to locate the occupants of the Ranger, Devaughn R. Mesarosh and Larry G. Holt, Jr. They located Mesarosh and Holt and placed them in custody for possession of methamphetamine and maintaining a common nuisance and transported them to the

Martin County Security Center.

Deputies from the Martin County Sheriff's Office, Indiana State Troopers, and Indiana Conservation Officer Eric Doane executed a search warrant on December 18 at 4:40 p.m. at 8271 Coal Hollow Road. Officers located Janet S. French, Tony L. Truelove, Nathan G. Truelove, and Caleb H. Truelove in the residence.

The residence was secured and Deputy Baker and K9 Virka worked each room in the residence. Several narcotics were located in the residence. The individuals located at this address were placed into custody and transported to the Martin County Security Center.

Arrested and charges:

Larry G. Holt, Jr., 41
8271 Coal Hollow Road, Shoals, IN
-Possession of Methamphetamine- Level 6 Felony
-Maintaining a Common Nuisance- Level 6 Felony

Devaughn R. Mesarosh, 36
8271 Coal Hollow Road, Shoals, IN

(See 'ARRESTS' continued on page 2)

\$42 million in funding awarded for Southwest Central Indiana regional development initiatives

Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded three grants totaling \$42 million to organizations in the Southwest Central Indiana region. The grants will support regional development initiatives in an 11-county area that encompasses Brown, Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Owen and Washington counties.

The funds will advance a range of activities that focus on research and development, workforce and education initiatives, and projects that enhance the region's quality of life. Specific projects and the grants to support them are:

Implementation of an education and workforce plan and a regional opportunity fund for quality-of-place investments funded by a \$25,870,000 grant to Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc. (ROI). ROI is a newly-formed nonprofit with a mission to support regional development opportunities in the 11 counties of Southwest Central In-

diana. Led by a regional board of directors, ROI is affiliated with the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County

Establishment and development of an Applied Research Institute (ARI) to be located near the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane). Initially, it will be led by an advisory board comprising representatives of Crane, research universities in Indiana, and other corporate and institutional partners. Start-up expenses will be funded through a \$16,225,000 grant to CICIP Foundation.

Planning activities funded by \$122,600 grant to Indiana University Foundation to explore the potential development of a Rural Center at Indiana University to study and address societal challenges found in rural communities.

With the support of planning grants from Lilly Endowment in 2012 and 2013, a steering committee and several regional stake-
(See 'FUNDING' continued on page 2)

Merry Christmas
from The Hughett Family
(Josh, Courtney, Wyatt & Alex)
and the
Martin County
JOURNAL

Indiana Department of Transportation districts to track Santa's travels on its social media pages

The Indiana Department of Transportation will promote safe travels this holiday season by tracking the movements of Santa Claus through Indiana on social media. Saint Nick is predicted to enter the state near Santa Claus, Indiana, at 4 p.m. Eastern on December 24 and visit one of INDOT's six regional districts per hour as shown on the map at right.

Kris Kringle will pass Indiana landmarks, visit with INDOT staff and share travel tips he picks up on his long trip around the state. Children who wish to participate should first ask their parents for permission or assistance, and look

on the pages listed below for posts tagged #SantaStopsIN.

Southwest:
www.facebook.com/INDOTVincennesDistrict
www.twitter.com/INDOTSouthwest

Southeast:
www.facebook.com/INDOTSoutheast
www.twitter.com/INDOTSoutheast

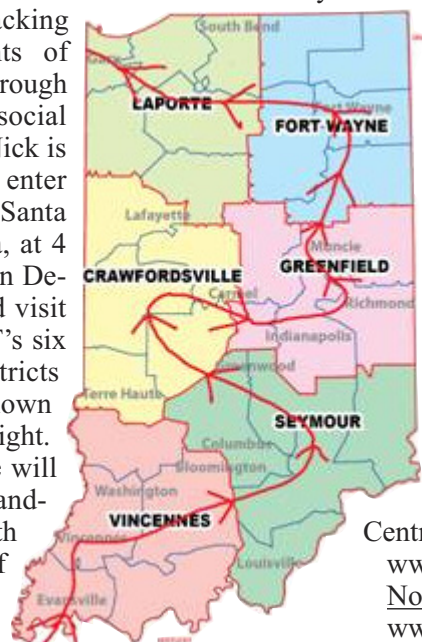
West Central:
www.facebook.com/INDOTWestCentral
www.twitter.com/INDOT_WCentral

East Central:
www.facebook.com/INDOTEastCentral

Central:
www.twitter.com/INDOT_ECentral

Northeast:
www.facebook.com/INDOTNortheast
www.twitter.com/INDOTNortheast

Northwest:
www.facebook.com/INDOTNorthwest
www.twitter.com/INDOTNorthwest



Merry Christmas

ANNUAL PASS 2016
WBZ 0001

Now Available

Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Dept.

WEST BOGGS PARK

GLENDALE SEWA CAMPGROUND

RATE

(Continued from page one)

In November, Dubois had 23,021 residents in the workforce and 751 of them were jobless. In October, there were 22,817 residents able to work and 671 of them unemployed. In November of last year, the county had a jobless rate of 4.3 percent with 21,850 residents in the workforce and 929 of them unemployed.

Orange County's jobless rate also rose a bit in November to 5.6 percent, up from 5.1 percent the month before. The county had the 10th highest jobless rate in the state for November, tied with Crawford, Starke and Vigo counties.

In November, Orange County had 8,641 residents in the workforce and 482 of them were jobless. In October, there were 8,661 residents able to work and 445 of them unemployed. In November of 2014, the county's jobless rate was 7.3 percent with 8,603 residents in the workforce and 628 of them without jobs.

Lawrence County's unemployment rate went up just slightly in November to 5.7 percent, up from 5.6 percent in October. The county had the 8th highest jobless rate in the state in November, tied with LaPorte County.

In November, Lawrence County had 20,657 residents in the workforce and 1,181 of them were jobless. In October, there were 20,840 residents able to work and 1,173 of them were unemployed. In November of last year the county had a jobless rate of 7.3 percent with 20,672 residents in the workforce and 1,511 of them unemployed.

The top ten spots in the state for lowest jobless rate in November were Hamilton and Dubois counties at 3.3 percent, Bartholomew County at 3.4 percent, Adams County at 3.5 percent, LaGrange, Hendricks, Decatur and Boone counties at 3.6 percent; Gibson County at 3.7 percent, and Daviess, Elkhart, Jackson, Johnson, Posey, Steuben, Tipton, Warrick and Wells counties at 3.8 percent.

The top ten spots in the state for highest jobless rate for November were Vermillion County at 6.6 percent, Lake County at 6.2 percent, Fayette, Greene and Sullivan counties at 6.1 percent; Blackford and Fountain counties at 5.8 percent, LaPorte and Lawrence counties at 5.7 percent, and

Crawford, Orange, Starke, and Vigo counties at 5.6 percent.

Indiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.4 percent in November, continuing the trend of the lowest unemployment levels experienced in the Hoosier State since August of 2001. Indiana's labor force also maintained the recent trend, gaining more than 7,000 in November. Indiana has now added nearly 100,000 individuals to the labor force since January 2013, which leads the Midwest. The gap in the labor force participation rate between Indiana and the national average further improved in November (63.7 percent vs. 62.5 percent). Indiana's rate has now exceeded the national rate for nineteen consecutive months.

Private sector employment in The Hoosier State increased by 3,400 in November, as significant gains occurred in the Construction (+2,800) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,500) sectors. Increases were partially offset by losses in the Manufacturing sector (-3,300). Indiana has added 54,000 private sector jobs over the past 12 months.

"Unemployment in The Hoosier State continues to be at its lowest levels in more than a decade," said Steven J. Braun, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "Meanwhile, Indiana continues to lead the Midwest in labor force growth by a significant amount."

Braun also noted that total claims for unemployment insurance in Indiana for 2015 are at their lowest levels since 1997.

Employment by Sector
Sectors showing gains in November include: Construction (+2,800), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,500), Leisure and Hospitality (+1,400), Professional & Business Services (+400), and Financial Activities (+100). The Manufacturing (-3,300), and Private Educational & Health Services (-600) sectors declined in November. Total nonfarm employment increased in November (+4,000).

BRIDGE

(Continued from page one)

perintendent Candace Roush to get the application together.

Commissioner Dan Gregory asked Collins what Loogootee Superintendent Joan Keller thought of the grant money received. Collins replied that Keller received the emails about applying for the grant as well but Loogootee Schools did not apply. Collins said she has a close relationship with Shoals Schools because they are much more a part of the CASS program.

Collins noted that since Shoals School was the only one to apply, there may be more money available as well.

The commissioners voted to appoint Dan Gregory to a three-year term on the West-Gate Authority Board, replacing Don Bowling whose term ends this year. Bowling will be taking the remaining one-year term of Lonnie Hawkins who is stepping down due to schedule conflicts.

The commissioners also approved Jim Lauck and Monty Wolf for two-year terms on the board of health.

The commissioners approved the employee handbook.

FUNDING

(Continued from page one)

holders have been working collaboratively on strategies for advancing the region. In November 2014, the steering committee completed and released its Strategic Plan for Economic and Community Prosperity in Southwest Central Indiana, in cooperation with the Battelle Technology Partnership Practice.

"This implementation funding from Lilly Endowment will enable the region to begin executing key elements of the regional plan," Dan Peterson, vice president of industry and government affairs at Cook Group and chairman of the steering committee, said.

"As the strategic plan for economic and community prosperity highlights, this region is fortunate to have a unique set of assets: strong life sciences, defense and advanced manufacturing sectors; a world-class education and research institution in Indiana University; the third largest Navy base in the world; and wonderful natural and entertainment amenities such as Brown County and French Lick," Peterson said. "These grants are a game changer for our region as we take strategies for success from concept to reality. The impact will be transformational for all those who live, work and invest in Southwest Central Indiana."

"The Southwest Central Indiana region is home to an impressive number of scientists, engineers and technicians with more than 2,000 working at Indiana's only federal lab at Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane, hundreds at Cook Group, and more than 1,000 science and engineering faculty at Indiana University," N. Clay Robbins, chairman, president and CEO of Lilly Endowment, said. "With the recent extension of I-69, these assets and the people who power them are becoming even more connected, and we are hopeful that this funding will help enhance and secure the future prosperity of the region."

The grant recipients plan to share more details with stakeholders and community leaders at an event to be organized in early 2016.

The previously released regional strategic

plan, Strategic Plan for Economic and Community Prosperity in Southwest Central Indiana, can be accessed at www.cfbmc.org and www.radiusindiana.com/strategic-plan.

About the Steering Committee:

The steering committee for this strategic planning effort consists of regional leaders and stakeholders invested in the Southwest Central Indiana region:

Brian Blackwell, director, office of engagement, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane;

CMDR Timothy Craddock, commanding officer at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Crane

Duane Embree, national director of Military and Defense Initiatives, Ivy Tech Community College;

Paul Mitchell, president and CEO, Energy Systems Network (ESN);

Dan Peterson, vice president of industry and government affairs, Cook Group; steering committee chairman;

Tina Peterson, president and CEO, Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County

Becky Skillman, president and CEO, Radius Indiana;

William Stephan, vice president for engagement, Indiana University

ARRESTS

(Continued from page one)

-Possession of Methamphetamine- Level 6 Felony

-Maintaining a Common Nuisance- Level 6 Felony

Tony L. Truelove, 48
14522 East River Road, Shoals, IN
-Visiting a Common Nuisance- B Misdemeanor

Nathan G. Truelove, 20
8271 Coal Hollow Road, Shoals, IN
-Maintaining a Common Nuisance- Level 6 Felony

-Possession of Marijuana- B Misdemeanor

Caleb H. Truelove, 18
8271 Coal Hollow Road, Shoals, IN

-Maintaining a Common Nuisance- Level 6 Felony

-Possession of Marijuana- B Misdemeanor

Janet S. French, 71

8498 Windom Road, Shoals, IN

-Visiting a Common Nuisance- B Misdemeanor

Martin County Council 2016 Meeting Schedule

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

- Monday, January 4
- Monday, February 1
- Monday, March 7
- Monday, April 4
- Monday, May 2
- Monday, June 6
- Monday, July 11
- Monday, August 1
- September - Budget hearing
- Monday, October 3 (Budget adoption)
- Monday, November 14
- Monday, December 5

Martin County Redevelopment Commission

2016 Meeting Schedule

Each meeting will begin at 5:15 p.m. prior to the commissioners' meetings at the Martin County Courthouse, 129 Main Street, Shoals.

- Tuesday, January 19
- Tuesday, April 26
- Tuesday, July 19
- Tuesday, October 25

Martin County Commissioners 2016 Meeting Schedule

Each meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at the Martin County Courthouse, 129 Main Street, Shoals.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Tuesday, January 5 (organizational meeting) | Tuesday, April 26 | Tuesday, August 30 |
| Tuesday, January 19 | Tuesday, May 10 | Tuesday, September 13 |
| Tuesday, February 2 | Tuesday, May 24 | Tuesday, September 27 |
| Tuesday, February 16 | Tuesday, June 7 | Tuesday, October 11 |
| Tuesday, March 1 | Tuesday, June 21 | Tuesday, October 25 |
| Tuesday, March 15 | Tuesday, July 5 | Wednesday, November 9 |
| Tuesday, March 29 | Tuesday, July 19 | Tuesday, November 22 |
| Tuesday, April 12 | Tuesday, August 2 | Tuesday, December 6 |
| | Tuesday, August 16 | Tuesday, December 20 |



www.fergusonagency.com

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

PLEASE CONSIDER LISTING WITH US!

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

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

And, for the VERY BEST in Insurance Services, check with us...
AUTO...HOMEOWNERS... FARMOWNERS...COMMERCIAL ...& MORE!
CALL 812-936-2900
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
9:00-5:00
Ask for KATHY BLEDSOE

9711 W State Road 56
French Lick, IN 47432



- Insurance
- Financial Services
- Real Estate



Independent Insurance Agent

Jewels inside every product! Valued from \$10 to \$7,500!



Shop Now at www.jewelscent.com/tyrabrooke or click this ad.

Also find "JewelScent by Tyra" on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/jewelscentbytyra

JEWELSCENT
A JEWEL IN EVERY SCENT

OBITUARIES

Wednesday, December 23, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

3

GEORGE "FROG" BROWN

George D. "Frog" Brown, formerly of Loogootee, passed away December 17, 2015 at Deaconess Gateway Hospital. A resident of Washington, he was 75.

He was born February 19, 1940 in Shoals; son of Catherine (Tinkle) and George S. Brown.

He had worked at Chevyland and Walmart in maintenance.

He is survived by his wife, Vickie (Bell) Brown whom he married July 4, 1970; two sons, Curtis (Diana) Brown of Hartford, Connecticut and Tony (Crystal) Brown of Jasper; a daughter, Angela (Rod) Divine of

Washington, ten grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters, Helen Seacot of Shoals and Esther Jones of Loogootee.

Preceding him in death were both parents, brothers, Dick Brown and Bill Brown; and sisters, Joan Combs and Linda Clifton.

Funeral services were celebrated Monday, December 21 at Ed Lee Mortuary with Rev. John Simmons officiating. Burial followed in Mt. Zion Wesleyan Cemetery in Loogootee.

HILDEGARD MOFFETT

Hildegard Elisabeth Moffett passed away

at 11:39 p.m. December 21, 2015 at Eastgate Manor in Washington. A resident of Loogootee, she was 86.

She was born March 22, 1929 in Berlin, Germany; daughter of the late Max and Magdalena Benecke.

She was a loving mother, grandma and great-grandma. She enjoyed crafting and preparing authentic German meals. She was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

She is survived by her children, Ann Moffett of Pennsylvania, Robert Moffett, Jr. of Loogootee, Betty (Grant) Bradley of Montgomery, Ed (Sandy) Moffett of Oklahoma,

Tom Moffett of Kansas, Denise Emmons of Loogootee, Frank Moffett of Loogootee and David (Carla) Moffett of Florida; 17 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert F. Moffett, who passed away in 1994; parents, Max and Magdalena Benecke; brothers, Karl Max Benecke and Infant Brother Benecke; one grandchild.

Graveside services were celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker at 1 p.m. today, Wednesday, December 23 at St. John Catholic Cemetery.

Condolences may be made online at blakefuneralhomes.com.

Drug overdose deaths hit record numbers in 2014

From 2000 to 2014 nearly half a million Americans died from drug overdoses. Opioid overdose deaths, including both opioid pain relievers and heroin, hit record levels in 2014, with an alarming 14 percent increase in just one year, according to new data published today in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

The most commonly prescribed opioid pain relievers, those classified as natural or semi-synthetic opioids such as oxycodone and hydrocodone, continue to be involved in more overdose deaths than any other opioid type. These deaths increased by 9 percent (813 more deaths in 2014 than 2013).

Increases in prescription opioid pain reliever and heroin deaths are the biggest driver of the drug overdose epidemic. Deaths from heroin increased in 2014, continuing a sharp rise that has seen heroin overdoses triple since 2010. Deaths involving illicitly made fentanyl, a potent opioid often added to or sold as heroin, also are on the upswing.

"The increasing number of deaths from opioid overdose is alarming," said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. "The opioid epidemic is devastating American families and communities. To curb these trends and save lives, we must help prevent addiction and provide support and treatment to those who suffer from opioid use disorders. This report also shows how important it is that law enforcement intensify efforts to reduce the availability of heroin, illegal fentanyl, and other illegal opioids."

Drug overdose deaths are up in both men and women, in non-Hispanic whites and blacks, and in adults of nearly all ages. Rates of drug overdose deaths were highest among five states: West Virginia, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Kentucky, and Ohio. A map of drug overdose deaths by state (2013 and 2014) is available at www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html.

Intertwined trends drive overdose deaths

The findings show that two distinct but intertwined trends are driving America's overdose epidemic: a 15-year increase in deaths from prescription opioid pain reliever overdoses as a result of misuse and abuse, and a recent surge in illicit drug overdoses driven mainly by heroin. Both of these trends worsened in 2014.

More than six out of 10 drug overdose deaths in 2014 involved opioids, including opioid pain relievers and heroin. The largest increase in opioid overdose deaths involved synthetic opioids (not including methadone), which were involved in 5,500 deaths in 2014, nearly twice as many as the year before. Many of these overdoses are believed to involve illicitly-made fentanyl, a short-acting opioid.

In addition, heroin-related death rates increased 26 percent from 2013-2014, totaling 10,574 deaths in 2014. Past misuse of prescription opioids is the strongest risk factor for heroin initiation and use—especially among people who became dependent upon or abused prescription opioids in the past year. The increased availability of heroin, its relatively low price (compared to prescription opioids), and high purity appear to be major drivers of the upward trend in heroin

use, overdoses, and deaths.

How to stop the epidemic

The new findings point to four ways to prevent overdose deaths:

Limit initiation into opioid misuse and addiction. Opioid pain reliever prescribing has quadrupled since 1999. Providing health care professionals with additional tools and information—including safer guidelines for prescribing these drugs—can help them make more informed prescribing decisions.

Expand access to evidence-based substance use disorder treatment—including Medication-Assisted Treatment—for people who suffer from opioid use disorder.

Protect people with opioid use disorder by expanding access and use of naloxone—a critical drug that can reverse the symptoms of an opioid overdose and save lives.

State and local public health agencies, medical examiners and coroners, and law enforcement agencies must work together to improve detection of and response to illicit opioid overdose outbreaks to address this emerging threat to public health and safety.

CDC works with states, communities, and prescribers to prevent opioid misuse and overdose by tracking and monitoring the epidemic and helping states scale up effective programs. CDC also improves patient safety by equipping health care providers with data, tools, and guidance so they can make informed treatment decisions. Learn more at www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose.

Secretary Burwell has made addressing opioid abuse, dependence, and overdose a priority and work is underway within HHS on this important issue. The evidence-based initiative focuses on three promising areas: informing opioid prescribing practices, increasing the use of naloxone, and using Medication-Assisted Treatment to move people out of opioid addiction.

These efforts build on work that began in 2010, when the President released his first National Drug Control Strategy, which emphasized the need for action to address opioid use disorders and overdose, while ensuring that individuals with pain receive safe, effective treatment. The next year, the White House released its national Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan to outline goals for addressing prescription drug misuse and overdose. Since then, the Administration has supported and expanded community-based efforts to prevent drug use, pursue "smart on crime" approaches to drug enforcement, improve prescribing practices for pain medication, increase access to treatment, work to reduce overdose deaths, and support the millions of Americans in recovery.

**BLOCKBUSTER
AUTO SALES**

**701 E National Hwy.
Washington, IN**



812-617-5382

Carbon monoxide poses serious health risks

Staying warm in cold weather can be a challenge, especially if ice or snow storms cut power to homes. If it becomes necessary to use alternate heat sources, Hoosiers need to know how to protect themselves from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide, sometimes referred to as CO, is an odorless, colorless gas that can accumulate in enclosed spaces and cause sudden illness and death if inhaled. It is often known as the silent killer because people can be rendered unconscious before realizing something is wrong. Carbon monoxide is typically associated with heating sources such as small gasoline engines, stoves, generators, lanterns, gas ranges or by burning charcoal and wood.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 400 Americans die and more than 20,000 visit the emergency room each year due to unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning.

"It's important to stay warm during the winter, but Hoosiers need to be smart about their choices to prevent a tragedy," said State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams, M.D., M.P.H. "Regularly maintaining furnaces and knowing the proper way to use generators and other heating sources can prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and be the difference between life and death."

In order to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

-Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas-, oil- or coal-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.

-Never use generators, grills, camp stoves or other devices powered by gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal indoors.

-Never allow your car to idle within a

closed garage.

-Have at least one working carbon monoxide detector in your home. These low-cost devices can be found at local hardware stores. Replace the detector's batteries twice each year, at the same time you replace smoke-detector batteries.

-Use caution when heating with propane appliances, older wall or floor gas furnaces and fireplaces.

-Place emergency generators outdoors away from windows and doors to prevent fumes from entering the home.

Carbon monoxide from combustion sources can build up suddenly or over long periods of time in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces and can affect people and animals. Common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. People who are asleep or intoxicated may be poisoned and not experience any of these symptoms.

Anyone experiencing these symptoms should:

-Get fresh air immediately.

-Open windows and doors for more ventilation, turn off any combustion appliances and leave the house.

-Call 911.

Before turning your fuel-burning appliance back on, make sure a qualified service technician checks and approves its use.

To learn more about carbon monoxide, visit the CDC's carbon monoxide poisoning page at www.cdc.gov/co/default.htm. For more information about the Indiana State Department of Health, visit www.StateHealth.in.gov. Follow the Indiana State Department of Health on Twitter at @StateHealthIN and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/isdh1.

Public health emergency declared for Monroe County

State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams, M.D., M.P.H., Tuesday declared a public health emergency for Monroe County, allowing the county health department to establish a syringe exchange program as part of a broader effort to reduce the spread of hepatitis C.

"Monroe County is experiencing an epidemic of hepatitis C tied to intravenous drug use," said Dr. Adams. "The syringe exchange is part of a comprehensive approach that will connect residents with treatment, healthcare and other services critical to improving their health and halting the spread of disease."

Senate Enrolled Act 461 made syringe exchange programs legal in Indiana for the first time. The law sets forth the procedural and substantive requirements that local communities must meet in order for an emergency declaration to be considered by the state health commissioner.

Steps in the process for local communities: Local health officer must:

Declare that an epidemic of Hepatitis C or HIV exists

Determine that it is primarily transmitted through IV drug use

Deem that a syringe exchange program is medically appropriate as part of a comprehensive response

County commissioners must:

Hold a public hearing

Take official action adopting the declarations of the local health officer (above)

Describe other actions taken regarding the epidemic that have proven ineffective

Request a public health emergency declaration from the state

By declaring this public health emergency, the state health commissioner concurs with the declarations of the local health officer and county commissioners. By law, specific aspects of design and implementation of the program are left to local officials. No federal or state funding is appropriated for syringe exchange programs.

The declaration of public health emergency will run through December 21, 2016. Dr. Adams has previously declared public health emergencies in Fayette, Madison and Scott counties.

For questions regarding the syringe exchange program, contact Kathy Hewett at the Monroe County Health Department at (812) 349-2722. Visit the Indiana State Department of Health at www.StateHealth.in.gov for important health and safety information, or follow us on Twitter at @StateHealthIN and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/isdh1.

Hoosiers who do not have health care coverage or access to a doctor are encouraged to check availability for the new Healthy Indiana Plan—HIP 2.0—by visiting www.HIP.IN.gov or calling 1-877-GET-HIP-9.

Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY DECEMBER 14

12:45 a.m. - Received a report of a disturbance in Loogootee. Deputy Salmon and Loogootee Captain Akles responded.

1:15 a.m. - Received a report of a fire in Loogootee. The Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded.

3:14 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

6:00 a.m. - Received a report of a tree blocking the road north of Loogootee. Martin County Civil Defense and Deputy Salmon responded.

6:36 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

8:04 a.m. - Received a report of an accident on US 50, east of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

8:30 a.m. - Received a report of an alarm near Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

9:30 a.m. - Sheriff Roush took one inmate to court.

11:00 a.m. - Sheriff Roush worked a case of forgery in Shoals.

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

12:55 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene took one inmate to court.

12:57 p.m. - Received a report of a break-in in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

3:43 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. The Loogootee Police Department was notified.

7:16 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic situation in Crane. Sergeant Keller responded.

7:29 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic situation in Loogootee. Sergeant Keller and Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15

9:00 a.m. - Sheriff Roush took one inmate to court.

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

12:40 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Sheriff Roush, Chief Deputy Greene, ISP Trooper Lents, ISP Trooper Brumett, Shoals Fire Department, and Martin County Ambulance responded.

2:01 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

3:03 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:21 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene took two inmates to court.

3:49 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene took one inmate to court.

6:56 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Norris responded.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16

8:15 a.m. - Major Burkhardt made a speaking engagement at the Shoals School.

10:00 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene took one inmate to court.

11:36 a.m. - Major Burkhardt transported one inmate to the jail from the Daviess County Security Center.

11:45 a.m. - Received a report of a personal injury accident south of Loogootee on US 231. Loogootee Fire Department, Martin County Ambulance, Sheriff Roush, Chief Deputy Greene, Major Burkhardt, Loogootee Captain Hennette, and Conservation Officer Doane responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:13 p.m. - Received a request for an

ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:08 p.m. - Received a report of water running across US 231, south of Loogootee. The Martin County Highway Department responded.

4:18 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Crane. ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

4:40 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic situation near Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded.

6:18 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down on US 50, east of Shoals. The Shoals Fire Department removed the tree.

6:30 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

8:37 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic situation in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Nolan responded.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 17

12:40 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Crane. Major Burkhardt responded.

12:45 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic situation in Crane. ISP Trooper Lents responded.

12:55 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene took two inmates to court.

2:00 p.m. - Major Burkhardt took three inmates to court.

2:45 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

3:32 p.m. - Received a report of an accident east of Shoals on US 50. Sheriff Roush worked the accident.

5:32 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Shoals. ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

7:55 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic situation in Loogootee. Corporal Baker, Loogootee Officer Nolan, and ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

10:38 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:59 p.m. - Received an alarm call north of Loogootee. Corporal Baker, Loogootee Officer Nolan, and ISP Trooper Beaver responded. All was okay.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 18

6:19 a.m. - Received an alarm call in Loogootee. Corporal Baker, Loogootee Officer Nolan, and ISP Trooper Beaver responded. All was ok.

7:00 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

4:08 p.m. - Received a report of a property damage accident west of Shoals. ISP Officer Beaver responded.

5:49 p.m. - Received a report of cows out on Lundy Road. Owner of the cows was notified.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 19

1:21 a.m. - Received a report of an alarm at Stoll's Restaurant. Deputy Baker responded.

6:20 a.m. - Received a report of an alarm at the Dollar General store in Loogootee. Captain Akles responded.

6:26 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:26 a.m. - Received a call requesting assistance with a vehicle in Shoals. Sergeant Keller assisted the caller.

10:09 a.m. - Received a report of an alarm at the White River Co-Op. Sergeant Keller responded.

10:22 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. Martin County Ambulance transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

12:07 p.m. - Received a call reporting a dog complaint in Crane. Sergeant Keller responded.

4:13 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle on Hwy. 50, west of Shoals. Sergeant Keller responded. While assisting Sergeant Keller's vehicle was hit by a grey ford F150 going eastbound. Driver left the scene. Sergeant Keller was not injured.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20

9:03 a.m. - Received a call reporting a house fire north of Shoals. Shoals Fire and

Martin County Ambulance responded.

6:42 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire first responders and Martin County Ambulance responded and transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:48 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver eastbound toward Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

JAIL BOOKINGS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

3:00 p.m. - John Reichenberger, 60, of Shoals, was arrested by ISP Trooper Beaver for habitual traffic offender (lifetime suspension). His bond has been set at \$50,000 10%.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:25 p.m. - Donald Gibson, 40, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Nolan for domestic battery and battery in the presence of a minor. He is being held without bond.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

4:40 p.m. - Larry Holt, 40, of Shoals, was arrested by Sheriff Roush on charges of possession of meth and maintaining a common nuisance. No bond has been set.

4:40 p.m. - Devaughn Mesarosh, 40, of Shoals, was arrested by Sheriff Roush on charges of possession of meth and maintaining a common nuisance. No bond has been set.

6:01 p.m. - Caleb Truelove, 18, of Shoals, was arrested by Corporal Baker and K9 Virka on charges of possession of marijuana and maintain a common nuisance. No bond was set.

6:01 p.m. - Nathan Truelove, 20, of

Shoals, was arrested by Corporal Baker and K9 Virka on charges of possession of marijuana and maintaining a common nuisance. No bond was set.

6:01 p.m. - Janet S. French, 71, of Shoals, was arrested by Corporal Baker and K9 Virka on the charge of visiting a common nuisance. No bond was set.

6:01 p.m. - Tony Truelove, 48, of Shoals was arrested by Corporal Baker and K9 Virka on the charge of visiting a common nuisance. He was released on his own recognizance by Judge Ellis.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

3:23 a.m. - Kent Bradley, 41, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Nolan on a charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated-refusal. Bond set at \$25,000 10%.

3:30 p.m. - Roger Tinkle, 59, of Loogootee, was arrested by Captain Akles on charges of intimidation, misuse of 911 and harassment. Bond set at \$25,000 10%

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

4:59 a.m. - Dylan Street, 19, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Salmon on charges of operating a vehicle while intoxicated. Bond set at \$10,000 10%.

Martin County real estate transfers

James Travis Roush and Candace (Candice) Sue Ellen Roush, of Martin County, Indiana to **Cory Roush**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lots Numbered 13 and 14 in Doe Run Subdivision.

NLK&B Properties, LLC, of Martin County, Indiana to **Belcourt Properties, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 4 in Brook's Addition to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Monty L. Gregory, of Martin County, Indiana to **Gregory & Sons Properties, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 4 in Block "G" in Loogootee Land Company's Addition to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Jessica A. Lampert, of Martin County, Indiana to **Betty L. Salmon**, of Martin

County, Indiana, a part of Section 30, Township 3 North, Range 3 West.

Bernard F. Smith and Mary Ann Smith, of Martin County, Indiana to **Joshua D. Huff and Andrea D. Huff**, of Martin County, Indiana, 45 feet of even width off of the south end of Lot Number 14 in the First North Addition to the Town, now City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Joseph D. Watson, of Martin County, Indiana to **Joseph Daniel Watson**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: Lot Number 201 in the West Shoals Addition to the Town of Shoals, Indiana. Tract II: 96 feet off the east side of Lot Number 200 in Daugherty's Addition to the town of West Shoals, now Shoals, Indiana. Tract III: A strip 24 feet wide of even width off of the west side of Lot 200 in Daugherty's Addition to the town of West Shoals, now Shoals, Indiana.

William Heckard and Amanda Heckard, of Martin County, Indiana to **Travis N. Harner**, of Martin County, Indiana, 1.02 acres, more or less, more commonly known as 8031 Weisbach Road Shoals, 47581.

Accident reports

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

6:35 a.m. - Eva H. Burcham, of Loogootee, was operating a 2001 Ford and attempting to pull onto Broadway Street when she pulled into the path of a 2006 Chrysler operated by Melvin G. Carpenter, of Shoals. Chief Rayhill was the investigating officer.

12:20 p.m. - Ruth A. Willyard, of Loogootee, was operating a 2006 Chevy on NW 1st Street when her vehicle struck a mailbox. Chief Rayhill investigated.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:02 p.m. - Phyllis G. Waddle, of Loogootee, was operating a 2005 Buick on US 50. Waddle went to turn onto Kentucky Avenue and lost control. Waddle's vehicle side swiped an utility pole. Sgt. Norris was the investigating officer.

Martin County JOURNAL

A weekly online newspaper published every Wednesday

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: FREE
BUT \$10 DONATION APPRECIATED

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

LOW-COST ADS TO FIT EVERY BUDGET!

Publishers/Owners:
Josh & Courtney Hughett and sons
courtney@martincountyjournal.com
josh@martincountyjournal.com

CONTACT INFORMATION
PO Box 148, Loogootee, IN 47553
Phone: 812-259-4309
Fax: 1-888-380-2761
info@martincountyjournal.com
www.martincountyjournal.com

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

1:15 a.m. - Loogootee Fire was paged out to a possible brush fire on Bloomfield Road.
 8:40 a.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a residential alarm.
 1:00 p.m. - Caller reported someone had been into his shed on Cedar Street.
 4:08 p.m. - Caller reported a loose dog complaint.
 5:13 p.m. - Caller reported a fight in Shaded Estates.
 5:30 a.m. - Caller requested a male to be escorted off their property.
 10:30 p.m. - Caller reported a theft of medication.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:54 a.m. - Captain Hennette assisted with a funeral procession.
 11:46 a.m. - First responders were requested on US 231 for a vehicle accident.
 6:35 p.m. - First responders were requested at McDonalds for a medical call.
 8:44 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious vehicle on West Main Street.
 10:10 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious person in Redwing Trailer Court.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

12:45 p.m. - Caller reported a vehicle all over the road on Hwy 50. Chief Rayhill located the vehicle and spoke with the driver.
 2:45 p.m. - Caller reported a speeding vehicle on US 231. Officers did not locate.
 11:59 p.m. - Officer Nolan responded to a business alarm.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:19 a.m. - Captain Akles responded to a business alarm.
 6:52 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless vehicle on Hwy 50.
 12:30 a.m. - Loogootee Fire was dispatched to Bellbrook for a fire alarm.
 2:40 p.m. - Caller reported a theft from Cir-

Governor Pence announces plan to build a new state-of-the-art neuro-diagnostic institute

Governor Mike Pence last week unveiled the state's plans to build a new state-of-the-art neuro-diagnostic institute that will provide major advancements to Indiana's public mental health delivery system. The institute, scheduled to begin serving patients in 2018, will be a key component of the state's initiative to improve Indiana's network of state-operated mental health facilities.

"This new institute will serve as the centerpiece of our ongoing commitment to improve mental health care and address the scourge of addictions in Indiana," said Governor Pence. "This new institute is another part of our strong commitment to improving health care in Indiana and to caring for our most vulnerable fellow citizens, including those living in poverty, with disabilities and impaired from psychiatric illnesses, brain diseases and addictions."

This new 159-bed institute is projected to have the capacity to treat 1,500 patients each year. With the establishment of the new institute, which will be located on the campus of Community East Hospital in Indianapolis and operated in partnership with Community Health Network, Indiana will be better equipped to deliver expert neuro-diagnostic evaluations and treatment for patients upon their arrival and move them more efficiently and effectively into the most appropriate treatment settings within the state's mental health system.

"Neuro' is a word that pertains to the brain," said Dr. John Wernert, Secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). "'Diagnostic' reflects the techniques used in diagnosing illnesses."

Dr. Wernert explained that the focus of this new institute would be on the precise diagnosis and assertive treatment of brain-based disorders, including:

- acute and chronic mental illness
- chronic addictions
- intellectual and developmental disabilities
- traumatic brain injury
- neuro-degenerative illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease

Dr. Wernert said precise and comprehensive diagnosis drives more effective treat-

ment and better outcomes for patients. He added the term "neuro-diagnostic" also encompasses the integration of medical care, which will be made possible by locating the institute at Community East Hospital.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:20 a.m. - Captain Akles responded to a business alarm.
 7:12 a.m. - Caller reported a suspicious person in Southwind Apartments. Captain Akles responded.
 10:04 a.m. - Caller reported a disturbance in Redwing Trailer Court.
 10:22 a.m. - First responders were requested on Vine Street for a medical call.
 4:07 p.m. - Caller reported a forged document.
 4:30 p.m. - Caller reported property damage.
 7:52 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on Hwy 50.
 8:15 p.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

12:01 a.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on North Line Street.
 12:43 a.m. - Caller reported a suspicious vehicle on Clarke Street.
 1:34 a.m. - Officer Todd assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a suspicious vehicle on State Road 550.
 1:57 a.m. - First responders were requested on John Street for a medical call.
 3:03 a.m. - Officer Todd assisted Martin County Sheriff's Department with a traffic stop.
 4:33 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on Sycamore Street.
 5:29 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver.
 5:58 p.m. - Caller reported a person operating a vehicle without a license.
 6:15 p.m. - First responders were requested on US 231 for a medical call.
 7:30 p.m. - Caller reported a theft of Christmas lights.
 10:18 p.m. - Caller reported harassment.

ment and better outcomes for patients. He added the term "neuro-diagnostic" also encompasses the integration of medical care, which will be made possible by locating the institute at Community East Hospital.

"As a practicing psychiatrist, I recognize that advances in brain research and clinical care of mental disorders have made it imperative that we strive to significantly move our public mental health delivery system forward," said Dr. Wernert. "FSSA is engaged in an ongoing effort to integrate the state's mental health facilities and other elements of the public mental health system into a comprehensive, integrated mental health network. This new, cutting-edge neuro-diagnostic treatment center will complement the development of the state-operated facility network and significantly improve the quality of care."

Construction will begin on the institute in April of 2016 and it will open for patient admissions in late 2018. It will eventually replace one of the state's six current facilities, Larue Carter Hospital in Indianapolis, which will be phased out of operation.

"As the largest provider of mental health services in Indiana, we know firsthand the desperate need that exists for these services," said Bryan Mills, president and CEO of Community Health Network. "We are committed to training providers through our psychiatric residency program and we are honored to work with the state to provide cutting-edge services through the Indiana Neuro-Diagnostic Institute."

This new facility represents a novel model of care for Indiana and will be a Center of Excellence and best practices, where modern genetic and imaging techniques will drive precise diagnosis and appropriate treatment regimens that maximize recovery and stable community placements.

Co-locating the institute with an acute care hospital and clinical partner will leverage the emergency services, specialty medical care and neuro-diagnostic techniques of the clinical partner, and provide needed integrated medical services currently unavailable to patients throughout the state system.

State police urging Hoosiers to protect themselves from scammers posing as IRS

The Indiana State Police are warning Hoosiers of a lingering scam that has unfortunately stayed in Indiana. The latest scam circulating involves individuals calling potential victims claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service. The caller explains to the victim that money is owed to the Internal Revenue Service and that if it isn't payed, they would be arrested.

Rest assured the Internal Revenue Service is not calling residents about their unpaid taxes.

Officials are investigating a particular phone scam involving IRS impersonators who demand immediate payments with prepaid debit cards and wire transfers. The caller often claims the victim owes thousands of dollars in overdue taxes. According to the IRS, the agency would always make contact with the taxpayer first by mail or with a personal visit.

The scam continues when the impersonator tells the victim he cannot use standard forms of payment, specifically a credit card to pay the taxes. The caller tries to justify why the money has to be wired to a PayPal account or paid using a prepaid debit card. If the caller is unsuccessful talking to the victim the scammer will then threaten the victim with an arrest warrant.

The IRS doesn't have the authority to issue warrants.

As with most scams, the calls are originating from cell phones or over the internet from all over the country. Tracking down this 21st century con artist is no easy task. As defined by TechTarget, caller ID spoofing is a technology that allows a caller to

masquerade as someone else by falsifying the number that appears on the recipient's Caller ID display. Just as email spoofing can make it appear that a message came from any email address the sender chooses, Caller ID Spoofing can make a call appear to come from any phone number the caller wishes, including the Internal Revenue Service. The Indiana State Police feel that a well-informed public is the best defense in combating scammers and remind everyone that these phone scams and cyber crimes are becoming commonplace.

The IRS will never:

-Call to demand immediate payment, nor will they call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.

-Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.

-Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.

-Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

-Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

The Indiana State Police would like to remind everyone to:

-Call the IRS directly at 800-829-1049

-Or visit <http://www.irs.gov/>

Also, if you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at (800) 366-4484 or on the web at: www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml.

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		
Jasonville (812) 665-3969	Bicknell (812) 735-3545		

MARTIN COUNTY SAFE COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

JANUARY 16, 2016 AT THE MARTIN COUNTY COMMUNITY BUILDING

Who will be there?
 Martin County Sheriff's Office, Indiana Conservation Officers, Indiana State Police, Loogootee Police Department, Shoals Police Department, Indiana Excise Police, and Community Corrections



Door Prizes will be drawn and Food will be available all day!

WE WANT YOU!!

TO COME VISIT US ON THE 16TH..

The Police Officers serving Martin County are having a community appreciation event on January 16, 2016 and we would personally like to invite you and your family to attend this first ever event. The event which is called the "Martin County Safe Community Campaign" will give you a chance to hang out with the Police Officers of the county and enjoy a fun-filled day of talks and presentations.

This event will also serve as a Food Drive for the local Martin County food banks. All donations of food and money will help feed a hungry family in Martin County. Bring a single item, a grocery sack full, or a truck load of food and we'll take it!

Opening ceremonies will begin at 10:00 am.. The event will conclude at 2:00 pm!

Admission to the event will be one item of non-perishable food.. If you are able to give more, please don't stop there! Each item will go to feed a hungry family in Martin County...

For information on how you can help or if you would like to donate items, please contact: ICO Eric Doane (317) 694-3064 or Sheriff Travis Roush (812) 247-3726



Birds, birds, birds -Photo by Bill Whorrall, www.billwhorrall.com

The above photo was taken at Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area. Photographer Bill Whorrall saw hundreds of Sandhill Crane, ducks and Whooping Cranes on his visit last week. Shown above are a few of the Whooping Cranes he saw.

DNR awards \$135,000 for community tree programs

DNR's Division of Forestry has awarded \$135,000 in federal funds to 12 cities, towns and non-profits in Indiana for urban forestry projects.

The projects include tree inventory and analysis for management planning, new tree plantings and education and awareness campaigns. Urban forests enhance air and water quality, making communities healthier, safer and more beautiful.

Funds for tree inventory and analysis were awarded to: the cities of Elkhart, \$20,000; Kendallville, \$17,425; and West Lafayette, \$18,562; and the town of Pendleton, \$11,575.

Funds for tree-planting projects that target environmental issues such as water quality, flooding, air quality and pollutants were awarded to: the cities of Bloomington, \$10,000; and Fort Wayne, \$10,000; the

towns of Churubusco, \$4,000; Dyer \$9,000; Mount Ayr, \$2,000; and Valparaiso, \$7,688; and the Rensselaer Urban Forest Council, \$5,250.

Funds for urban forestry awareness, education, and outreach projects were awarded to the Indiana Urban Forest Council, \$17,500, and the City of Bloomington \$2,000.

Funding came through the DNR Community and Urban Forestry (CUF) program from the U.S. Forest Service.

To learn more about the projects listed above or about community and urban forestry in Indiana, or to request an urban forestry visit to your community, contact Carrie Tauscher, acting community and urban forestry coordinator, at (317) 234-4386 or ctauscher@dnr.IN.gov.

Registration open for Indiana Small Farm Conference

BY DARRIN PACK
Purdue University News Service

Registration is now open for Purdue Extension's 2016 Indiana Small Farm Conference, March 4-5 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds.

The conference is designed for anyone interested in or currently operating a small or medium-sized farm.

"Nearly half of Indiana farms are less than 50 acres, and we have seen an increasing number of small and medium-sized farms established in the past several years," said James Wolff, Extension educator in Allen County and conference organizer. "The conference is an opportunity to gain practical knowledge about vital production and marketing topics, as well as to build relationships with other farmers, vendors and experts."

Conference sessions are organized by themes. On March 4, presenters will focus on restoration agriculture, vegetable production, flower farming and farm financing. On March 5, topics will be livestock pro-

duction, on-farm energy and equipment, fresh produce and farm management.

The Purdue Extension Small Farms Team is offering a series of daylong preconference workshops March 3. Topics are direct marketing, woodland management, starting and sustaining a small farm in Indiana and hops production. Participants will also have an opportunity to tour This Old Farm, a sustainable beef and pork production facility in Colfax, about 20 miles southeast of Lafayette.

Cost is \$60 to attend a preconference workshop and \$120 for the conference itself. Those who register before Feb. 14 pay \$50 for a workshop and \$100 for the conference.

The Hendricks County Fairgrounds are at 1900 E. Main St., Danville.

Registration is available through Purdue's The Education Store at https://edustore.purdue.edu/wk_begin.asp.

For more information, go to <https://ag.purdue.edu/extension/small-farms/Pages/default.aspx>.

USDA removes farm program payments to managers not actively engaged in farming

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today finalized a rule to ensure that farm safety-net payments are issued only to active managers of farms that operate as joint ventures or general partnerships, consistent with the direction and authority provided by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill. The action, which exempts family farm operations, closes a loophole where individuals who were not actively part of farm management still received payments.

"The federal farm safety-net programs are designed to protect against unanticipated changes in the marketplace for those who actively share in the risk of that farming operation," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "To ensure that help goes to those who genuinely need it, such as America's farm families, the Farm Bill authorized USDA to close a loophole and limit payments from those not involved on a daily

basis in nonfamily farm management."

Since 1987, the broad definition of "actively engaged" resulted in some general partnerships and joint ventures adding managers to the farming operation, qualifying for more payments, that did not substantially contribute to management. The rule applies to operations seeking more than one farm manager, and requires measurable, documented hours and key management activities each year. Some operations of certain sizes and complexity may be allowed up to three qualifying managers under limited conditions. The changes apply to payments for 2016 and subsequent crop years for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) and Marketing Loan Gains (MLG) realized via the Marketing Assistance Loan program.

As required by Congress, the new rule



In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser
Purdue University Master Gardener

About this time of year, many gardeners begin longing for the early spring blooms of crocus or glory of the snow. However, one need not wait that long to have blooms in the garden. At Sandhill Gardens, a flower bloomed this week—right on schedule.

The bloom was on one of my favorite garden plants, *Helleborus niger*. The black hellebore is commonly known as the Christmas rose. While not at all a rose, the plant does bloom around Christmas time. It is native to the Alps in Europe. According to legends, the first plants grew from the tears of a peasant girl who had no gift to give the Christ child in Bethlehem.

The Christmas rose offers a lot to the gardening world. The tough dark green foliage is borne on nearly black stems about a foot tall. The foliage will last through the winter, finally dying just in time for lush green growth in the spring. The white flowers are large, up to three inches across, and long-lasting. It is not unusual for blooms to remain on the plant until spring, turning a light tan as they age. The flowers in the species tend to be pendulous, so they are difficult to see. However, newer cultivars

Value of Indiana farmland likely to drop in 2016

BY DARRIN PACK
Purdue University News Service

Higher interest rates and low crop prices will likely drive down the value of Indiana farmland in 2016, but any losses should be moderate, Purdue University agricultural economist Craig Dobbins says.

"Land values would be expected to fall more quickly in an economic environment of low returns in combination with rising interest rates," Dobbins writes in the latest issue of The Purdue Agricultural Economics Report. "This appears to be the economic environment that agriculture will face in 2016."

But since there is a limited supply of farmland on the market, Dobbins expects values to fall slowly, continuing a trend that began last year after a decadelong rally.

He forecasts farmland values dropping 5-12 percent throughout the state next year after nearly tripling in value from 2003 to 2014.

According to the 2015 Purdue Land Value and Cash Rent Survey, prices for the state's top-quality farmland declined by 5.1 percent for the year, from an average of \$9,765 per acre in 2014 to \$9,266. Farmland considered to be of average quality fell by 3.8 percent, from \$7,976 to \$7,672 per acre, and prices for low-quality land fell 4.8 percent, from \$6,160 to \$5,863.

Analysts said last year's losses in farm-

have been bred to have up-right flowers. Some cultivars have double blooms and streaks of pink or green on the blooms. They are great as cut flowers, lasting a week or more in a vase.

The Christmas rose is easy to grow. It prefers partial shade, but will tolerate full sun as long as it gets adequate moisture. It is a great contrasting foliage plant for hostas in the shade garden. It forms a dense clump, crowding out competition. It makes a great plant for foundation planting, providing interest in all seasons.

The hardest thing about growing Christmas roses may be finding the plants. While the more common Lenten roses have become more widely available in recent years, the Christmas rose is rarely found in nurseries.

Mail-order companies may offer them, but be wary. If the plant is not labeled as *Helleborus niger*, it may be a hybrid. While the hybrids are good plants, they may bloom later than the true Christmas rose.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. If you find yourself in the neighborhood, stop by to see the miracle of the Christmas rose.

land values were due primarily to low commodity prices after two straight bumper crops. This year the major concern could be higher interest rates, which make it more expensive for buyers to borrow money for major purchases such as real estate.

"To date, lower expected returns have likely been the major force weakening the farmland market," Dobbins writes. "While there are still some reports of strong farmland prices, most broad surveys of farmland values in the Midwest consistently indicate that farmland values are declining."

Dobbins also expects cash rents to continue to fall statewide in 2016 after declining in 2015 for the first time in almost 30 years. The primary reason rents have been going down, he said, has been the drop in farm incomes.

"In addition to the tight margins faced by farmers in 2015, the wet Indiana spring and summer weather in many areas of the state took its toll in the form of lower yield," he writes. "While some of the yield loss will be offset by crop insurance indemnities, these localized yield losses did not raise fall prices, and thus the crop insurance revenue floor was not nearly as strong as the 2012 Midwest drought."

To read Dobbins' full analysis, download the Purdue Agricultural Economics Report at <https://ag.purdue.edu/agecon/Pages/Purdue-Agricultural-Economics-Report.aspx>.

does not apply to family farms, or change regulations related to contributions of land, capital, equipment, or labor. The changes go into effect for the 2016 crop year for most farms. Farms that have already planted fall crops for 2016 have until the 2017 crop year to comply. For more details, producers are encouraged to consult their local Farm Service Agency office.

Today's announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; estab-

lishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill. To learn more about Farm Service Agency, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

**Commercial Property
FOR SALE**

228 Main St. Shoals
*Formerly known as the
"Sugar Shack"*

Call or text: 812-631-0662

Indiana Bicentennial Birding Big Year starts January 1

Bird enthusiasts can celebrate the state's bicentennial by trying to find and log 200 bird species in 2016 as part of the Indiana Bicentennial Birding Big Year (IBBBY).

IBBBY starts January 1 and continues through mid-December.

Birders who find at least 100 species will receive a commemorative IBBY sticker or decal provided by the Indiana Audubon Society.

Birders who find at least 200 species will also be entered in a drawing for Indiana DNR Annual Entrance Permits, DNR Inns Gift Cards, complimentary Indiana Audubon memberships, Eagle Optic binoculars, tickets to the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival and

Sixth Annual Sportsman's Expo to be held in Bedford

The 6th Annual Sportsman's Expo will be held Saturday January 9 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at

Lawrence County Fairgrounds Expo Hall located at 11261 US Highway 50 West in Bedford.

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. No appointment is needed.

Admission to the expo is free. There will also be a free grab and go wild game lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., while supplies last

Music by the High Sierra (gospel bluegrass band) will be from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded every hour from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and you must be present to win.

more.

Because 2016 is also the 100th anniversary of Indiana State Parks and the National Park Service, 100 of the 200 species must have been found on an Indiana State Park (or reservoir) or National Park site in Indiana. State Fish & Wildlife Areas, State Forests and State Nature Preserves (not located inside a state park) do not count toward these criteria. Participants must log their checklists and download their year list into ebird.com by December 16.

IBBBY is an official Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project. Additional sponsorship comes from the Robert Cooper Audubon Society.

The following seminars will be held during the expo:

Turkey Calls by Red Dog Calls-9-9:30 a.m. and 1-1:30 p.m.

Traditional Bow Hunting-9:30-10 a.m. and 1:30-2 p.m.

Modern Archery-10-10:30 a.m. and 2-2:30 p.m.

Fishing by Bass Crazy 365-10:30-11 a.m. and 2:30-3 p.m.

For more information, contact Greg or Becky Eads at 812-279-0131 Ext. 6 or 812-279-5103. For booth rental information, contact Kim Hamlin at 812-276-3125. You can also email Sportsmansexpo@gmail.com or like the event on Facebook, Sportsman Expo 2016.

State parks begin 100th anniversary celebration

The Department of Natural Resources last Wednesday used a three-stop tour to kick off a year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Indiana state parks system.

The tour began with a pancake breakfast and ceremonies at Indiana's first state park - McCormick's Creek in Owen County - and included a proclamation from Gov. Mike Pence declaring the day as Indiana State Parks Day.

Additional stops were at the Statehouse in Indianapolis, where First Lady Karen Pence was the featured speaker, and at Turkey Run State Park in Parke County.

"Indiana's citizens have certainly enjoyed this birthday gift they first unwrapped in 1916," said Karen Pence, recalling childhood memories of state park camping trips. "Today there are an estimated 15 to 16 million visits each year. People hike, camp, stay in our great Indiana State Park Inns, ride a mountain bike, or visit a nature center."

Fritz Lieber, great grandson of Col. Richard Lieber, read a passage from his great grandfather's report to the 1916 Indiana Historical Commission that proposed development of a state parks system.

"The chief purpose of State Parks is to refresh and strengthen and renew tired people, and fit them for the common round of daily life," Richard Lieber wrote.

"In conclusion, I hope and trust that the small beginning we have made will have laid the foundation for a comprehensive system of State Parks which will not only stand forever as a token of the past, but which will bring health, wealth and happiness to our own generation and the many that will come after us."

McCormick's Creek and Turkey Run were presented to the State on December 16, 1916, as Indiana's first two state parks, representing a gift to Indiana citizens to mark the first 100 years of statehood.

Richard Lieber later became the first director of the Department of Conservation, the predecessor of today's DNR.

DNR director Cameron Clark noted at the morning ceremony at McCormick's Creek that the agency's Division of State Parks has grown to include 24 state parks, eight reservoir properties, and seven state park inns. The division encompass about 170,000 acres with 2,000 building, 700 miles of trails, 38 state-dedicated nature preserves embedded with parks, 8,400 campsites, more than 200 shelters, 22 nature centers, 16 swimming pools, 15 beaches, 631 hotel/lodge rooms and 149 cabins.

State Parks all across Indiana will continue the celebration through 2016 with a variety of special events. For more information on dates and locations, go to IN-StateParks100.com.

At Your Service Directory

Local professionals here to serve you!

AUTO REPAIR

MUFFLER MENDERS
Full-Service Auto Repair
204 E. Broadway, Loogootee
Shop: 812-295-3209
Toll Free: 888-302-3209
Fax: 812-295-3209



AUTO REPAIR

Loogootee COLLISION CENTER 295-4041
loogcollision@verizon.net
FULL SERVICE COLLISION REPAIR
NEXT DAY GLASS SERVICE
12851 E 150 N, Loogootee, IN 47553
(Next to Loughmiller Machine)

AUTO REPAIR

Greene's BODY SHOP
•Complete Collision Repair
•Glass Replacement
•Window Tinting
106 Wood St., Loogootee
Adam Greene 812-295-9840

AVAILABLE SPACE

ADVERTISE HERE FOR JUST \$25 PER MONTH!
Email
courtney@martincountyjournal.com

BUILDING SUPPLIES

BUILDER'S BEST LUMBER & HARDWARE
COMPLETE BUILDING SUPPLIES
Electrical, Lumber, Hardware, Plumbing, Roofing, Insulation, Tools, Paint, Heating Supplies and Service
710 Industrial Ave. Loogootee • 295-2400



CHIROPRACTIC CARE

HawkinsHealth CENTER
Providing Family Chiropractic Care
Dr. Jordan Hawkins~Dr. Brooke Hawkins
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!
211 SE 1st Street, Loogootee
812-295-3346

AVAILABLE SPACE

ADVERTISE HERE FOR JUST \$25 PER MONTH!
Email
courtney@martincountyjournal.com

EQUIPMENT RENTAL

CONSTRUCTION • INDUSTRIAL
HOMEOWNER • EQUIPMENT RENTAL
GENERAL Rental Center, Inc.
6 Sullivan Drive • Washington, IN 47501
www.generalrentalinc.com
812-254-2707 • Fax: 812-254-2873

GYM/FITNESS

The Bodyshop GYM
LOW-COST MEMBERSHIPS
Gym available 24/7 to members
Exercise or tan at noon or midnight, or whenever your schedule permits!
202 NE 1ST STREET, LOOGOOTEE
295-4762 or 295-8379
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. to noon
After hours call one of the numbers above for an appointment.

HAIR STYLING

Broadway Salen
Michelle Bruner
Owner/operator
1103 W Broadway Street
Loogootee IN 47553
812-295-3320
Walk-ins welcome



HEATING/COOLING

American Standard M&M ELECTRIC
HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING
•Geo-Thermal•
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
MARK & MARY FIELDS
107 West Main St. Office (812) 295-4699
Loogootee, IN 47553 Fax (812) 295-2487

INTERNET/SATELLITE

MIDWEST SATELLITE
"Your Local Authorized Satellite Retailer"
Collin Padgett | Sales
Cell: (812) 582.8803
121 Cooper Plaza
Loogootee, IN 47553
(812) 295.5588
www.midwestsat.com

dish
dish.NET
DIRECTV
exede
Offering Satellite TV and High Speed Internet!

LAWYER

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



LAWYER

Victor J. Ippoliti
Ippoliti Law Office, LLC
530 Main Street,
Ferdinand, IN 47532
Phone 812-367-0607
Fax 812-367-2795 • lawoffice@psci.net
www.sinlaw.com
Attorney at Law



MASSAGE

BOWLING MASSAGE
Kimberly Bowling,
Board Certified, NCBTMB
www.bowlingmassage.com
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
Call 812-709-9050
ADVANCED TRAINING IN ORTHOPEDIC AND GERIATRIC MASSAGE



MEDICAL

URGENT CARE
of Martin County
NO Appointment Necessary!
We accept most insurances.
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
104 Wood St., Loogootee • 295-2955



PET SUPPLIES/BOARDING

HOLLIES EATS & TREATS
Dog Boarding (\$10/day)
Dog Grooming Available
Dog & Cat Supplies
812-295-8305
THERESA ABNEY, OWNER/OPERATOR
One mile off Hwy. 231 on Hwy. 645 in Burns City
HOURS: MON.-FRI. 9 A.M.-5 P.M. • Weekends by appt.

PHYSICIAN

Daviess-Martin Medical Clinic
Cheryl Buss, ANP-BC, CME
Cathy Sager, FNP
Call us today for an appointment!
812.295.5095
Daviess Community Hospital

REFLEXOLOGY

Reflexology at your Fingertips
(Bowling Massage Office)
ANDREA NORDHOFF (CR)
200 N. JFK Ave.
Loogootee, IN 47553
(812) 630-4309
anordhoff@hotmail.com
"Give Me an Inch, I'll Take A Foot"



TRASH DISPOSAL

KRB Disposal
Pickup household trash weekly
NOW serving Martin & Daviess counties
812-247-3115 or
812-247-3604



More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



On this eve before Christmas Eve, I thought it would be appropriate to share the lyrics of the Vince Gill song, "Let There Be Peace On Earth." It's always been one of my favorites and with the world situation as it is, maybe it's more appropriate than ever.

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
With peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With god as our father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.

Make someone smile today and
Merry Christmas everyone!



Charity project

-Top photo provided, bottom photo by Courtney Hughett
Employees of Loughmiller Machine, Tool & Design in Loogootee donated money from their paychecks all year as part of a charity project. With what they collected, they were able to donate to four charities in the area. They donated to Santa Joe, an employee at the company that provides toys for families in need in the Lawrence County area. They also donated to the Salvation Army Red Kettle Fund and the Loogootee United Methodist Church Food Pantry along with the Martin County Humane Society. Shown above are employees of Loughmiller's with Santa Joe and in the photo below are Donnie Reinhart and CJ Cooper, Loughmiller employees, presenting \$150 worth of cat litter to Theresa Abney, board member of the Martin County Humane Society. The Loughmiller employees challenge other groups to consider trying a Charity Fund. Just a few dollars every pay from several people makes a difference in a year's time.



Bicentennial donations

-Photos by Shyann Hibbs

Two local businesses recently donated to the Martin County Bicentennial Committee. Shown above are employees of Old National Bank, who donated \$1,000 to be used in the bicentennial celebration on September 13, 2016. From left to right are Joy Gibson, Old National Bank Shoals Branch Manager; Kathy Havill, Old National Bank Commercial Loan Officer; Susan Arthur, Old National Bank Loogootee Branch Manager; Marie Hawkins, 2016 State Bicentennial County Coordinator; and Loogootee Mayor Noel Harty, Bicentennial Committee. Shown in the photo below is Richard Burch (on the left), of Midwestern Engineers, who donated \$1,000 to the bicentennial celebration. Burch is shown with Marie Hawkins, 2016 State Bicentennial County Coordinator and Loogootee Mayor Noel Harty Bicentennial Committee.



Calendar of Events

Loogootee Revival Center Christmas services

The Loogootee Revival Center Church, 205 NW First Street, will be having their annual Prayer & Anointing Service on Sunday, December 27 at 9:30 a.m. This is a time when each family is anointed with oil and prayed for.

Health department holiday schedule

The Martin County Health Department Immunization Clinic will be CLOSED on Wednesday, December 23. The Hoosier Up-lands, Martin County Health Department and Martin County WIC offices will be CLOSED December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, December 28.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Loogootee United Methodist Church at 208 West Main Street invites you to join them for a special night of worship on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. Throughout Advent, they have been looking forward to Christmas through the series entitled, Our Coming Savior. On this special night they complete this series with a candlelight Communion Service in the sanctuary.

SOAR Tutoring

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

Solid waste board

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

to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

Humane society meetings

The Martin County Humane Society meets on the third Friday of the month at the animal shelter at 507 N Oak Street in Loogootee, at 7 p.m. Members of the humane society are invited to attend.

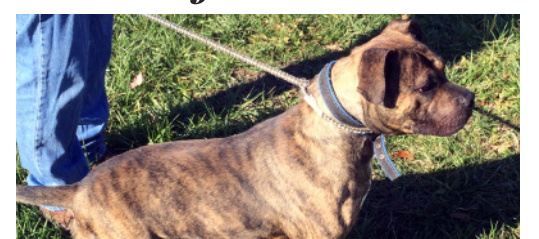
Tourism meetings

The MCCC Tourism Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Shoals Public Library. The public 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.

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



Buster is a male pit mix, weighs 70+ pounds. He is very sweet, loves people, loves to be outside. He is neutered and up to date on his shots. Adoption fee is \$80. The shelter hours are Wednesday 5-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment another day. Adoption fee includes spay/neuter, vaccinations, an adoption goodie bag, and a free bag of Hill's Science Diet food.



Governor leads caravan to open new 27-mile long section of I-69

Governor Mike Pence on December 9 joined state and local leaders to open I-69 Section 4 in Greene and Monroe counties. Following the ceremony, Governor Pence led a caravan to open the new 27 miles between U.S. 231 near Naval Support Activity Crane and State Road 37 south of Bloomington.

"Hoosiers know that roads mean jobs, and this new interstate section is a key component to the economic vitality and development of southwest Indiana," said Governor Pence. "Finishing what we've started with I-69 will connect an entire region of our state with improved access to jobs, education and healthcare."

Purdue University researchers tracked State Road 45 travel times within the past month and predict that the new I-69 section opening today will save commuters, on average, 18 minutes of travel-time. Purdue performed a similar study before the first I-69 sections opened in 2012 and estimated a 38-minute travel-time savings between Evansville and Crane.

"Projects like I-69 illustrate the Indiana Department of Transportation's strong commitment to modernizing Indiana's transportation infrastructure," Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Brandye Hendrickson said. "The more than \$1 billion invested in Indiana's roads over the last two years combined with Governor Pence's 21st Century Crossroads plan have Indiana positioned to remain the Crossroads of America for generations."

The new I-69 section has three new exits at State Road 45, State Road 445 and State Road 37. Teardrop-shaped roundabouts are used to control State Road 445 traffic at the I-69 Exit 104 ramps near the Greene-Monroe county line.

Indiana corporations can now put giving back to the community ahead of making profits

On January 1, 2016, Indiana businesses will be able to choose to register with the Indiana Secretary of State's office as a benefit corporation. Businesses that choose to be a benefit corporation are allowed to incorporate a social mission with their financial goals. Previously, corporate laws have not provided an exemption to shareholder supremacy. This limited how much a corporation could give back to the community. When businesses register as a benefit corporation, it enables the corporation to put its social mission of giving back alongside making money.

"Traditional corporate law has required directors to place profits above all else," said Secretary Lawson. "Allowing businesses to register with my office as a benefit corporation will allow them to incorporate their social mission into the core of their business."

Benefit corporations are similar to traditional for-profit corporations but they differ in one important respect. They expand the obligation of boards, requiring them to consider environmental and social factors, as well as the financial interest of shareholders.

"The new I-69 will easily connect the third largest naval installation in the world's national experts with DoD, industrial and academic leaders to develop advanced war-fighting technology," said Capt. JT Elder, commanding officer for the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division.

"Our infrastructure is one of the many reasons Indiana is recognized as a great place to do business," said Becky Skillman, former Lieutenant Governor and president and CEO of Radius Indiana. "This new-terrain interstate with sections wide open for development will be a game changer for many communities."

"Interstate 69 construction continues to progress north at a steady clip," said Kevin Brinegar, chair of the Hoosier Voices for I-69 Board of Directors. "Today's opening of I-69 Section 4 is the first, important link in establishing a direct, four-lane that connects Evansville and Indianapolis with the global economy."

Although Section 4 is now open to traffic, I-69 construction continues. Inspections and punch-list items will require occasional lane closures into 2016 between Crane and Bloomington. Traffic should expect delays at traffic shifts and lane closures as State Road 37 is upgraded to I-69 from Bloomington to Martinsville.

For more about the I-69 extension in southwest Indiana, visit www.i69indyevn.org, and a video to assist in navigating the new roundabout interchange can be found here: <https://youtu.be/x70zD6ntRuU>

Aerial footage of the new I-69 section, including 360-degree views of exits and major bridges can be found at <https://youtu.be/41Pqh2DHsK4>.

ers. This gives directors and officers the legal protection to pursue a mission and consider the impact their business has on their public benefit.

"Over the past two years, I've had numerous discussions with business owners about providing tools to allow businesses to better emphasize social responsibility alongside profit," State Representative Casey Cox (R-Fort Wayne) said. "This legislation is a great step toward retaining and attracting creative entrepreneurs and job creators to Indiana."

Existing and new businesses in the state of Indiana may choose to become a benefit corporation. It is recommended that businesses consult an attorney, accountant or business advisor about what structure is best before making any changes.

Businesses that are ready to make the switch can find the forms online at In.Gov/sos. To make the switch or register a new business as a benefit corporation, the forms can be filled out and mailed along with a filing fee to the Secretary of State's office at 302 W. Washington Street, Room E-018, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Business may also drop them off at the office.

Companies to add 600+ high-wage jobs for Hoosiers

Governor Mike Pence joined executives from 17 companies across Indiana today to announce expansion plans that are expected to create a combined 648 new jobs in Allen, Boone, Clark, Hamilton, Marion, Shelby and Vanderburgh counties. These new jobs are anticipated to pay an average annual salary higher than \$82,900, which is 85 percent higher than the state's average wage.

"This year, Indiana set an historic employment record with more Hoosiers working now than at any time in our state's 200-year history," said Governor Mike Pence. "And that number continues to rise because job creators, like those joining us here today, recognize the benefits of doing business in the Hoosier state. Companies both large and small are finding success and creating jobs across Indiana because we are a state that works."

Last Thursday's news is part of another record-breaking year of economic development results, with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) securing Hoosier job commitments with 323 companies from around the state, nation and world – up from 285 company commitments in 2014 and the highest on record since the IEDC was established in 2005. Together, these companies have committed to creating 26,555 new jobs over the next few years and investing more than \$4.79 billion in their Indiana operations.

These 26,555 positions, which encompass all IEDC projects in 2015, are expected to pay an average hourly wage of \$24.87, which is more than a 14 percent increase from IEDC project wages last year and is above both the current state (\$21.55/hour) and national average wages. More than 50 percent of the companies committing to expand their operations – 165 in total – will create jobs with average salaries above the state's average. These higher-wage commitments are expected to pay an average hourly wage of \$32.82. Nearly 30 percent of these expansions that will pay salaries above the state's average are in the manufacturing industry.

"Indiana's roots in manufacturing and agriculture continue to hold, and we are seeing these industries advance as technology and capabilities progress," said Governor Pence.

Radius Indiana names Jeff Quyle Chief Operating Officer

Radius Indiana last Wednesday announced that Jeff Quyle has been appointed Chief Operating Officer, a new position within Radius. The strategic addition strengthens the regional economic partnership by creating a succession plan for its top leadership, which ensures continuity for economic and workforce development initiatives.

"We are delighted to welcome Jeff to the Radius team. He is a seasoned, economic development professional who is uniquely qualified to lead efforts in the region," said Becky Skillman, Radius Indiana CEO. "I have tremendous confidence in Jeff's ability to capitalize on upcoming opportunities for Southwest Central Indiana, and to drive programs that will make a transformational change for our workforce and businesses."

Beginning January 5, 2016, Quyle will take a lead role on major initiatives, as directed by the CEO and Board of Directors, and provide strategic oversight and direction for business development including defense industry, manufacturing, workforce, education and tourism activities of the organization. In promoting Radius Indiana's economic development, he also will work to enhance relationships with key business, community and government leaders at the regional, state, national and international level.

"This opportunity to become part of the

"Meanwhile, the Hoosier State's economy is diversifying with remarkable growth in our technology, life sciences and aviation/aerospace sectors. Companies from Rolls-Royce and GM to Emarsys and Appirio are choosing to invest in Indiana because of our efforts to cut costs and taxes while investing in our Hoosier workforce and communities statewide."

In 2015, the IEDC secured commitments from 59 companies in the tech industry, a 156 percent increase from 2014. These expansions account for 4,622 planned Hoosier jobs – an 89 percent increase from committed tech jobs in 2014 – and \$159.67 million in planned capital investment in Indiana. These tech jobs are expected pay average annual salaries above \$72,000.

The 17 companies announcing plans to create high-wage jobs in Indiana include:

- AgReliant Genetics
- Balance Digital Marketing
- Creative Solutions Consulting (CSCI)
- DK Pierce
- Emmis Communications
- Level Up Development
- LifeShare Technologies
- Mediaura
- Microbide
- MorphoTrust USA
- One View
- Performance Assessment Network (PAN)
- Pondurance
- Sells Group (SG)
- STLogics
- Thieneman Construction
- Vertical Edge Consulting Group

Last Thursday's news comes at a time when national publications and site selection consultants are recognizing Indiana as a top location for business growth. Highlights from 2015 include a best-in-the-Midwest ranking from Chief Executive magazine, a top-10-state-for-doing-business ranking from Forbes and a top-three-in-the-nation ranking from corporate site selector Pollina Corporate Real Estate.

Full details about each company's expansion, job creation plans and committed incentives from the state and local communities are available at http://iedc.in.gov/assets/files/IEDC_Year-End-Press-Release.pdf.

Radius Indiana team is a dream position for anyone who works in economic development in Indiana, and I am deeply honored to be given this chance to participate in one of the best organizations in southern Indiana," Quyle said.

Prior to this appointment, Quyle served as the Economic Development Coordinator for Hoosier Energy and has more than 25 years' experience working for rural electric cooperatives in Indiana. He is an appointee (since 2010) to the Indiana General Assembly's Interim Study Committee on Economic Development Incentives. He is also a member of the Morgan County Council, a former appointee to the Indiana Air Pollution Control Board, and a member of the Indiana Farm Bureau Property Tax Task Force.

Quyle is past chairman of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Committee and past president of the Morgan County local economic development organization. He was a founding member of the board of the Indiana Rural Development Council, and has been a presenter and moderator for the Indiana Economic Development Association.

Quyle is past chairman of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Committee and past president of the Morgan County local economic development organization.

Tyner: Natural gas prices expected to stay low, too

BY KEITH ROBINSON
Purdue University News Service

It is likely that prices of natural gas - now at their lowest in two decades - will be even lower during the home heating season next winter, Purdue University energy economist Wally Tyner says.

In another good sign for low energy costs for consumers, Tyner also expects gasoline prices to stay in the range of \$2 to \$2.50 a gallon for much of 2016.

Consumers already are seeing lower heating bills this winter even before the recent price drop. Tyner said that while the price of natural gas in December is the lowest it has been since 1994, consumers won't see the full benefit of that in their gas bills this winter. That is because most of the natural gas that will be delivered this winter has already been contracted.

"However, it likely means that home heating costs will fall more next winter," he said.

Tyner lists several "supply-and-demand drivers" that are keeping the price of natural gas so low:

- * Natural gas is produced from both conventional and shale oil and gas formations, so the "fracking" boom has led to large supply increases of natural gas.

- * The large supply increase has been faster than the rate of demand increase, so price has

come down. Also, there is little international trade in natural gas, so the export market is quite limited.

- * While the low price has discouraged additional drilling for natural gas, oil and gas drilling efficiency has increased tremendously the past 2-3 years.

- * Normally, natural gas is put in storage in summer months, and the stored gas is used over the winter months. This year, however, so far the winter has been abnormally warm. Natural gas storage facilities are approaching full capacity, and limited additional storage is putting tremendous downward pressure on prices.

Tyner noted that natural gas is used not only by many consumers for home heating but also by industry for process heat and to generate electricity.

"Changes in natural gas prices, therefore, ripple widely through the economy," he said.

For gasoline, Tyner explained that price prospects depend mainly on what happens to the price of crude oil. Crude oil briefly was about \$32 per barrel in December 2008 and January 2009. Today, it is about \$35. He said forecasts for crude prices for 2016 range from falling to about \$20 to increasing to \$60 or more.

"My sense is that we are near the bottom for crude oil and that it will remain relatively low for much of 2016," he said.

Arts Commission soon accepting applications for Regional Initiative Grants

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) announced today that its Regional Arts Partners will soon begin accepting applications for Arts Operating Support (AOS I), and Arts Project Support (APS) Regional Initiative Grants for Fiscal Year 2017. Online applications will open January 1, 2016.

Arts Operating Support I grants provide annual operating support for the ongoing artistic and administrative functions of eligible arts organizations that provide quality arts activities. Arts Project Support grants provide support for distinct aspect of an organization's arts activities, such as a one-time event; a single production; an exhibition; an educational seminar; or series of related arts activities, such as art classes or training sessions.

These grants are managed through the Regional Arts Partners, which are community-based Indiana organizations that focus on providing better access to a variety of arts services in their counties. Application and reporting details vary by region. A listing of Regional Arts Partners can be found at www.in.gov/arts/2482.htm.

Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announces Indiana Site Certified Program

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) recently announced the launch of their new Indiana Site Certified (ISC) program at the Indiana Economic Development Association's (IEDA) Annual Conference. The program is designed to build upon what is currently known as the Indiana Shovel Ready certification, to validate sites that are ready for economic development opportunities.

The goal of the ISC program is to assist Indiana cities and towns:

- Illustrate the communities' commitment to economic growth

- Mitigate risks for businesses who want to locate or expand their operations in Indiana

- Serve as a marketing tool to promote sites that are ready for development

ISC recognizes three tiers of readiness: Silver, Gold and Prime:

- Silver—defines boundaries with a clear title, establishes a price, demonstrates executive level local government support, defines utility capacity and distance, and provides documentation such as Phase I environmental assessment, ALTA, topographical and property layout.

- Gold—builds upon Silver by requiring a minimum of 20 contiguous acres, a location

no more than 5 miles away from a state highway, a completed geo tech study, a seismic hazard map, proper zoning, a desktop archaeological investigation, utilities be located to the property line or future build be located in public right-of-way and area be free from recognized environment concerns.

Prime—builds upon Gold by requiring 30 contiguous acres, a location no more than 2.5 miles away from a state highway, and an archaeological investigation. In addition, the LUG, LEDO or REDO must own the property or an option must be held with the owner.

The ISC program is the result of a working group made up of stakeholders who were convened by OCRA to explore opportunities for programmatic enhancement of the Indiana Shovel Ready certification and further develop ways to assist communities in best practices to market their local sites.

Communities of any size may apply for the designation through OCRA. Applications for certification are accepted on a rolling basis. The first step is to contact your OCRA Community Liaison who will be able to offer current program details, evaluate readiness to proceed and provide application instructions.

Organizations in Region 7 (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion or Shelby counties) now will make their application through the new Regional Arts Partner, Butler University.

Application deadlines for RIG (AOS I & APS) grants are as follows:

Regions 1, 2, 4, 6, 9 and 12 due 4:30 p.m. (EST) March 1, 2016

Regions 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10 due 4:30 p.m. (EST) March 3, 2016

Organizations that are not currently recipients of Arts Operating Support grants and intend to apply through their Regional Arts Partner organization must first submit a Notice of Intent to Apply. These organizations have until 4:30 p.m. (EST) January 15, 2016 to submit their notice of intent located here <http://tinyurl.com/pthtjtrj>.

Questions regarding the Notice of Intent should be directed to IAC Director of Programs, Paige Sharp at psharp@iac.in.gov.

The Indiana Arts Commission is dedicated to the vision of the arts everywhere, every day, for everyone in Indiana.

New Year's Eve Watermelon Drop in Vincennes to be biggest ever

With the addition of an internationally acclaimed Night Time Air Show, the 8th Annual New Year's Eve Watermelon Drop in Vincennes will be the biggest one in the event's storied history, with activities planned from late afternoon on December 31 through early January 1.

It will also be Indiana's FIRST 2016 Bicentennial event—since it takes place in the very first second of the Bicentennial year, which organizers say is appropriate since Vincennes is Indiana's first city, founded in 1732.

The wildly wacky Watermelon Drop will feature the introduction of a Night Time Air Show, featuring 10+ airplanes over the Wabash River, compliments of Team AeroDynamix, and sponsored by the National Watermelon Association. With pilots coming from the southeastern U.S., this internationally recognized air show team will perform an exciting routine of precision formation with more airplanes in the aerobatic box at one time than any other air show team in the world.

The evening will also feature music by the band Hot Rod Lincoln, prior to the traditional fireworks and 16 watermelons dropping to a "splatform" at midnight. It is an event that continues to grow, attracting national and international attention since it began in 2008. Two years ago, the Watermelon Drop attracted CNN's live coverage during its New Year's Eve show with an audience of more than 2 million viewers.

This year there will be seven food vendors throughout the evening—including Evansville's Revolution Pizza served from a double-decker Bus—drinks of all varieties, stage entertainment, and additional entertainment in festival tents.

"We are delighted that the Watermelon Drop will be the first 2016 official legacy event of Indiana's Bicentennial celebration. It's only fitting that the place where Indiana history started will be the kickoff to this exciting year of statewide celebration," said Mark Hill, chair of the Knox County Bicentennial Committee. Hill noted that the festival's site is historic, surrounded by the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, Lincoln Memorial Bridge, Indiana's First Main Street, and Indiana's legendary Wabash River—all key features of Indiana's history.

Since the Watermelon Drop began, it has attracted major attention for Vincennes and Indiana's role in national watermelon production. In fact, last year Smithsonian magazine choose a photo of Vincennes' Watermelon Drop to illustrate its feature story, "From Possums to 200 Pounds of Bologna: Weird Things Cities Drop on New Year's Eve." The article noted that "crystal balls aren't the only things used to mark the New Year—in many places across the United States, cities drop objects that reflect local flavor and culture," such as watermelons.

In August, the Watermelon Drop was also one of only two U.S. festivals listed by the British publication, The Guardian, in its list of the world's "best small festivals," as recommended by its readers. Joining the Watermelon Drop were festivals from Germany, Ireland, Italy, France, Switzerland, Vietnam, and Ithaca, New York. The article, which featured a photo of Vincennes' giant watermelon, also mentioned the community's summer Watermelon Festival.

Past Watermelon Drops have been featured on the CBS Sunday Morning Show and Country Living's "7 Wacky Ways to Ring in the New Year." The editors of the world's largest travel site, TripAdvisor, Inc., listed the event among its 2011 "Top Ten Quirkiest New Year's Eve Celebrations in America"—a list that also included North Carolina's Possum Drop and Alabama's Moon Pie Drop.

"Where else but Vincennes can you watch a 500-pound watermelon rise high in the sky as midnight approaches, culmi-

nating in 16 Knox County watermelons dropped on our "splatform" at the stroke of midnight—including fireworks? Add to that the night time air show and there really is no better way to ring in the New Year," said Rick Linenburg, one of the founding members of the National Watermelon Drop Committee.

Linenburg said the committee is also proud that the Watermelon Drop was selected the #1 Festival in the Vincennes Sun-Commercial's 2015 Reader's Choice Awards, as well as among the top two community events. He said the awards reflect the community's growing pride in the event as well as the watermelons that Knox County has become known for.

Entertaining the crowd leading to the midnight countdown will be Master Chef Joseph Poon, who has been featured on many TV shows, such as "Late Night" and "Ellen DeGeneres Show," where he has demonstrated the phenomenal watermelon carving skills that he will bring to Vincennes. "We are delighted to welcome back, by popular demand, Chef Poon. We thank the National Watermelon Promotion Board for sponsoring his fascinating performance," Linenburg said.

Other attractions this year include National Watermelon Queen Emily Brown and Illiana Watermelon Queen Lindsey Hampton, music, food and merchandise vendors, a wine and beer garden, and the 2015 American computer-animated family comedy film, "Minions II," shown in our heated movie tent.

Since its creation in 2008, the 18-foot watermelon has become a star attraction in Vincennes, including being featured in the town's July 4th and Christmas parades, as well as its summer Watermelon Festival. People also enjoy sharing photographs and videos of themselves standing next to the 18-foot-long watermelon throughout the evening on New Year's Eve.

The Watermelon Festival has come a long way since a few friends gathered at a small New Year's party at a Vincennes home and asked themselves the question, "Why don't we drop something in town to celebrate the New Year?"

"It is incredible that this year, thanks to the generosity of many sponsors and donors, our budget for the celebration is in the neighborhood of \$90,000, and it still is an all-volunteer organization that brings together the creativity and can-do spirit of the community that we love," Linenburg

Tent space is available for private family, company, or organization's New Year's Eve parties. For more information about reserving tent space, contact the Vincennes/Knox County Visitors and Tourism Bureau at 812-886-0400.

Calling the Watermelon Drop an "inspirational start to the New Year," Linenburg said the Poet Laureate of Vincennes sums up the anticipation of the growing number of fans of the event in this parody poem:

"'Twas the night before New Year's, when all through the town, all the people were stirring and riverfront bound. The watermelons were shined and stacked with care, in hopes to be selected for a launch through the air. The revelers in Vincennes were all snug and well fed, while visions of smashing watermelons danced in their head."

WHY IS THE WATERMELON DROP IN VINCENNES?

According to the Illiana Watermelon Association, one of the sponsors of the Watermelon Drop, the credit for the wide popularity of Knox County's great-tasting watermelons is ideal soil deposited by the great glaciers of the Ice-Age. The result is thousands of acres of melon fields in and around Knox County that produce over 7,000 semi truckloads of watermelons every summer. As the county seat of Knox County, Vincennes is proud to feature locally grown watermelons for its New Year's Eve celebration.



Hoosier Heroines Essay Contest launched by Indiana's First Lady and female elected officials

Indiana's First Lady Karen Pence, along with female statewide elected officials, announced details for the 2016 Hoosier Heroines Essay Contest for students in the 5th through 9th grades.

The annual competition was established to celebrate Women's History Month, annually celebrated in March. For 2016, in honor of Indiana's Bicentennial, students are asked to write about currently living or women from history who have made contributions in the following categories:

- 5th grade – Agriculture
- 6th grade – Suffrage
- 7th grade – Business
- 8th grade – Science
- 9th grade – Education

The submitted essays are then divided by grade and judged by the female statewide elected officials:

5th grade – Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann

6th grade – Secretary of State Connie Lawson

7th grade – Auditor Suzanne Crouch

8th grade – Treasurer Kelly Mitchell

9th grade – Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz

Application forms, suggested topics and further details can be found and submitted electronically at

www.in.gov/gov/firstlady/files/Hoosier_Heroine_Essay_Contest_Packet_2016_PDF.pdf. Applications are being accepted until February 22, 2016.

On March 30, 2016, a reception will be held with the First Lady and elected officials to honor the selected winner from each participating grade level at the Indiana Statehouse.

Bench donations

-Photos provided

The students at Loogootee Elementary received three more playground benches, thanks to three Loogootee businesses. The most recent benches were donated by the Dairy Master, Freedom Training-Angie Gibson, and the Loogootee Knights of Columbus #723. In the photo above, in the front row, from left to right, are Connor Swartzentruber, Brandon Bledsoe, Drew Walker, Leighton Jeffers, Mackenzie Craney, and Lily Moffatt. In the back row, from left to right, are Angie Gibson, owner of Freedom Training; Breigh LaMar, Employee of the Month at the Dairy Master; and Pete Smith, owner of the Dairy Master. In the photo below, in the front row, from left to right, are Mackenzie Craney, Leighton Jeffers, and Lily Moffatt. In the back row is Brandon Parker, representing Knights of Columbus.



Box Top contest

-Photos provided

The Loogootee Elementary School-Community Council recently held their 1st quarterly challenge. For this challenge, the members of the council were challenged to collect Box Tops. Box Tops are found on hundreds of food and household product packaging. The school receives 10 cents for each Box Top that is turned in. The winner of the challenge was the Loogootee United Methodist Church, second place was the German American Bank, and third place was CVS. Loogootee Elementary thanks all of the members of the School-Community Council that collected Box Tops for their school. Shown above, from left to right, are Sonja Bridgewater, representing German American Bank (3rd place); Greg Davis, Jennifer Seger, Sammie Seger, Joseph Seger, and Caleb Seger, representing Loogootee United Methodist Church (1st place); and Kelli Mathies, representing CVS (2nd place).



Kids helping animals

-Photos provided

The fourth graders at Loogootee Elementary brought in donations for the Martin County Humane Society Animal Shelter instead of participating in a traditional gift exchange at their Christmas party. The students brought in items that are needed at the animal shelter and some even brought cash donations. Shown in the photo with the items collected, from left to right, are Lily Moffatt, Mackenzie Craney, Brandon Bledsoe, Leighton Jeffers, Connor Swartzentruber, and Drew Walker.

Music clinic will help students prepare

Flute Day and Piano Day, a clinic designed specifically to help flute and piano students prepare for performance and competition, will be held at Vincennes University's Red Skelton Performing Arts Center on January 16. Students in grades 8-12 are invited to attend the workshop, hosted by the VU Department of Music and Theatre.

The clinic is free and advance registration is required. Clinic hours are 9:30 a.m. (EST) to 3:30 p.m. and lunch will be included.

With ISSMA solo and ensemble auditions and other competitions coming up soon, Flute Day and Piano Day will provide students with valuable feedback from two members of the VU music faculty, Claudia Bossard for piano and Eric Bowling for flute.

Flutists may also sign up with a small en-

semble that includes at least three performers.

Participants will perform in a master class setting and receive a recording of their coaching session. An additional workshop will engage students through critical listening and musical discussion. Piano students will cover tone and expression and have an interactive warm-up demonstration.

Flutists will discuss practice techniques and methods to solidify foundation of tone and intonation.

Online registration can be completed at <https://vumusicandtheatre.wufoo.com/forms/vincennes-university-piano-and-flute-day/>. For more information or to register, contact Matthew Latta, 812-888-4351, mlatta@vinu.edu.



Students, staff of the month

-Photos provided

The Loogootee Elementary Students and Staff Member of the Month were recently chosen for December. The character trait for this month's honorees was self-control. In the front row, from left to right are Brody Gilbertson, Mitchell Walton, Wayne Steimel, Haley Mason, Austin Willis, and Jade Lawson. In the second row, from left to right, are Landon Campbell, Anderson Williams, Olivia Nonte, Declan Todd, and Mrs. Lawson. In the third row, from left to right, are Hayden McClure, Mackenzie Craney, Isaac Wagner, Courtney Craig, and Brock Rayhill.