

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 10, Issue 52

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019

Seven pages

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Toy Store donates to 431 Martin County children this Christmas

The Martin County Christmas Toy Store was held this year on December 14 at the Loogootee United Methodist Church. The Toy Store served 157 families able to shop for 431 children. 78 bicycles and tricycles and over 1,400 toys and stocking stuffers were given away.

The Christmas Toy Store was possible because of the generosity of our area churches and the help of around 79 people that volunteered their Saturday to make the Toy Store happen. Toy Store organizers send a big “thank you” to all the volunteers from the churches and youth groups: St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Loogootee United Methodist Church, St. John Lutheran Church, Redemption Christian Church, and Loogootee High School Beta students.

Local organizations, churches, and many people in Martin County donated

the toys. The Toy Store also wants to recognize the contributions and support from the Naval Support Center Crane “Toys for Tots” program, Martin County Community Foundation, Daviess-Martin County REMC, German American Bank, Crane Credit Union Loogootee Branch, Old National Bank, Family Dollar, Dollar General, Hawkins Health Center, Harvest Health and Rehab, the Loogootee IGA, the Masons at White River Lodge #332, and others.

And, of course, the shopper signups could not have been completed without the help and support from the Shoals Library, the Loogootee Library, Hoosier Uplands and the Loogootee United Methodist Church. The help of everyone in Martin County made this a very successful Christmas Toy Store. Many families and children will have a merrier Christmas thanks to all of you.

Martin County jobless rate ticks up to 2.5 percent for November

Martin County’s jobless rate ticked up a tiny bit in November to 2.5 percent, up from 2.4 percent the month before. The county had the sixth lowest jobless rate in the state for November, tied with Daviess, Jackson and Rush counties.

In November, the county had 5,297 residents in the workforce and 130 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 5,345 residents able to work and 126 of them were without jobs. In November of 2018, Martin County’s unemployment rate was 2.8 percent with 5,159 residents in the workforce and 142 of them without work.

Daviess County’s jobless rate also went up just slightly from 2.2 percent in October to 2.5 percent in November. The county was tied with Martin, Jackson and Rush counties for the sixth lowest jobless rate in the state for November.

In November, the county had 16,692

residents in the workforce and 413 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 16,824 residents able to work and 377 of them were without jobs. In November of last year, Daviess County’s jobless rate was 2.6 percent with 16,524 residents in the workforce and 433 of them unemployed.

Dubois County’s jobless rate ticked up to 2.3 percent in November, up from 2.1 percent the month before. The county had the second lowest jobless rate in the state, tied with Bartholomew County.

In November, the county had 22,766 residents in the workforce and 528 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 22,980 residents able to work and 480 of them were without jobs. In November of 2018, Dubois County’s unemployment rate was 2.4 percent with 22,966 residents in the workforce and 558 of them without jobs.

Greene County’s jobless rate moved from 3.5 percent in October to 3.7 percent in November. The county had the ninth highest jobless rate in the state for November, tied with Delaware, Lawrence, Randolph and Sullivan counties.

In November, the county had 13,751 residents in the workforce and 515 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 13,808 residents able to work and 482 of them were without jobs. In November of last year, Greene County’s jobless rate was 4.3 percent with 13,780 residents in the workforce and 591 of them unemployed.

The top ten spots in the state for lowest jobless rate for November were Tipton County at 2.1 percent, Dubois and Bartholomew counties at 2.3 percent, Hamilton and Boone counties at 2.4 percent, Rush, Martin, Jackson and Daviess counties at 2.5 percent; (See ‘RATE’ on page two)



NSWC Crane Employee Jerry Schnarr (left) was recognized by the Red Cross’s Lance White (right) for donating more than 11 gallons of blood during his lifetime so far. (Photo by NSWC Crane Corporate Communications)

NSWC Crane, Crane Army, and NSA Crane receive joint award for blood donation milestone

The Red Cross recognized Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane), Crane Army Ammunition Activity (CAAA), and Naval Support Activity Crane (NSA Crane) for donating upwards of 1,000 units of blood, making Team Crane the top blood collector for 2019 throughout the state. The amount of units donated could save more than 3,000 lives.

“Team Crane is not only dedicated to serving the warfighter but also to supporting the community,” said **Summers named district 3 replacement for commissioner**

The Martin County Republicans held another caucus on Monday night, December 23, to vote on a replacement for outgoing commissioner Dan Gregory. Gregory is retiring effective December 31, 2019. Aaron Summers was voted in, 8-3, against John Richer. Wayne Souerdike was also in the running but received no votes.

The republican party held a caucus on December 10 that ended in a tie vote between Summers and Richer. Republican Party Chairman Earl Boyd, Jr. broke the tie and named Summers the replacement. The caucus was contested, however, because the party did not properly notify precinct committee members via written letter 10 days prior to the caucus. They had actually made phone calls to all the precinct committee members less than a week before the vote. The caucus was then done again, this time following proper state procedure.

Summers will take over on January 1, 2020 and will finish out Dan Gregory’s term through 2020. The seat, in district 3, will be up for election next year. District 3 encompasses Perry Township, Crane and Rutherford.

CDR Timothy Powers, Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity Crane. “By leading the way in blood donations throughout the state, we add another way that what we do across Team Crane equates to saving lives.”

Crane’s impressive number is up 47 percent from 2018, in large part due to strategic scheduling of blood drives throughout the year.

“The people at Crane, whether Army or Navy, are already dedicated to doing all they can to support the warfighter, so it isn’t surprising they also turn out to give blood to support their fellow Americans in need,” CAAA Deputy to the Commander Norman Thomas said. “I am deeply impressed with the commitment to giving that happens with our workforce. It is truly inspiring.”

The Red Cross recognized NSWC Crane’s Jerry Schnarr for donating more than 11 gallons of blood during his lifetime – so far. According to the Red Cross, Schnarr’s donations could have been used in a number of ways: emergency and trauma patients, cancer treatments, organ transplant procedures, and more.

“Jerry is an employee that embodies the NSWC Crane value of service to a ‘T,’” said Technical Director Dr. Brett Seidle. “We’re proud to have him and many other employees who take the time to donate.”

With 2020 just around the corner, Crane plans to continue the upward trend.

“We at the American Red Cross are truly honored that Crane has chosen to partner with us for over a decade, and humbled by their incredible generosity and commitment to our shared mission to maintain a consistent blood supply to hospitals and patients across the nation,” said Lance White, Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator.



From the Hughett Family -
Josh, Courtney, Wyatt
and Alex



-- YOUR CONCERNS --

Earlier this month I talked about your year-end giving for those concerns important to you and how the MCCF can help you meet your needs. We have several types of funds that can be tailored to meet your goals and the cares and concerns that mean the most to you. Usually endowment funds are started when someone like you feels compelled enough to begin a fund for something that is important to them.

-- CARING FOR THEM --

The MCCF serves as the caretaker of these funds. Part of what we do is guard the principal in these funds so that it remains stable, and to provide the ability to administer these funds, forever. The funds are invested and professionally managed and over time will grow to provide stable income for the beneficiaries or causes to which they are dedicated.

-- CARING FOR COMMUNITY --

Some donors have a genuine concern for the future of our community, and even some specific concerns, but at the same time understand that the needs of Martin County will change over time. The "unrestricted" funds allow for that flexibility to address those emerging community needs, including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made.

-- AND WE'LL HELP --

And as you consider your giving options, please know that if you donate to one of these MCCF "unrestricted" funds, the MCCF has a matching grant opportunity where we will match \$2 for every \$1 donated. We will also match 50¢ for each \$1 donated to any other fund type such as designated, donor advised, scholarship or field of interest funds. The matching grant is available through December 2020, but on a first-come, first-served basis while the grant

funds are available.

-- A LARGE IMPACT --

Since the MCCF was established in 1999, these unrestricted funds have provided \$191,765 in community grants. There have also been \$157,131 in MCCF scholarships; \$2,944,065 in the Lilly Endowment scholarships; and \$229,506 from our designated, field of interest, and donor advised funds.

-- BRINGING IT IN --

The MCCF has also taken advantage of initiatives from other sources to secure funds into Martin County. During 2000-2009, there was \$4,050,000 from Community Alliance to Promote Education (CAPE) grants. And \$1,964,000 was received from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) from 2007 to 2011. The Lilly Endowment's Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) programs have brought \$2,296,763 for direct community, challenge, and capacity building grants.

-- HERE FOR OUR COUNTY --

The MCCF has many times been a leader, a catalyst, and a contributor for improving the quality of life in Martin County. Since 1999, the MCCF has secured more than \$11.7 million dollars in benefit to Martin County. We are pleased and grateful to be able to continue those efforts far into the future.

-- MORE INFORMATION --

For information about how the MCCF can help you give back to our community, please contact the MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or mccf@cfpartner.org.

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

Both county schools need bus drivers

Due to the low number of bus drivers around the state, Shoals and Loogootee Schools are trying to get more people interested in getting a license to drive a school Bus "CDL". Both schools need drivers for field trips, ball games, and substitute drivers for contracted routes.

A driver receives an hourly rate for driving on field trips and sporting events. Pay includes the time you are at the field trip event or watching the ball game.

Contracted drivers for both districts have times they are unavailable due to illness and sub drivers are needed. Payment for these days can be up to \$100/day - paid directly by the contracted driver. To get a CDL, a driver

must pass a physical fitness exam, pass a background check, take a 3-day training course, register for drug and alcohol testing, log four hours of observation time, log eight hours of practice driving time, and pass a written and driving test. Both Shoals and Loogootee Central Offices can help with these tasks.

The Department of Transportation will be offering the three-day course at Loogootee Schools on February 19, 20, and 21 and at Shoals on May 27, 28, and 29.

If you are interested in getting registered for one of these three-day courses, please contact the Shoals or Loogootee Central Office.

WestGate Authority 2020 Meeting Schedule

Each meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the WestGate@Crane Academy Building 13598 East WestGate Drive, Odon, IN 47562.

Tuesday, January 14

Tuesday, February 11

Tuesday, March 10

Tuesday, April 14

Tuesday, May 12

Tuesday, June 9

Tuesday, July 14

Tuesday, August 11

Tuesday, September 8

Tuesday, October 13

Tuesday, November 10

Tuesday, December 8

RATE

(Continued from page one)
and White, Wells, Steuben, Posey, La-Grange, Johnson, Hendricks, Hancock, Gibson, Decatur and Clinton counties at 2.6 percent.

The top ten spots in the state for highest jobless rate for November were Fayette and Vermillion counties at 4.6 percent, Lake County at 4.5 percent, Starke and Vigo counties at 4 percent, Blackford and LaPorte counties at 3.9 percent, Parke County at 3.8 percent, and Delaware, Greene, Lawrence, Randolph and Sullivan counties at 3.7 percent.

Indiana's unemployment rate stands at 3.2 percent for November and remains lower than the national rate of 3.5 percent. The monthly unemployment rate is a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicator that reflects the number of unemployed people seeking employment within the prior four weeks as a percentage of the labor force.

Indiana's labor force had a net increase of 346 over the previous month. This was a result of an increase of 308

unemployed residents and an increase of 38 employed residents. Indiana's total labor force, which includes both Hoosiers employed and those seeking employment, stands at 3.38 million, and the state's 64.4 percent labor force participation rate remains above the national rate of 63.2 percent.

Learn more about how unemployment rates are calculated here: <http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov/infographics/employment-status.asp>.

Employment by Sector

Private sector employment has grown by 8,100 over the year and has increased by 800 over the previous month. The monthly increase is primarily due to gains in the Manufacturing (2,400) and the Private Educational and Health Services (1,800) sectors. Gains were partially offset by losses in the Professional and Business Services (-2,300) and the Leisure and Hospitality (-700) sectors. Total private employment stands at 2,731,800, which is 300 below the December 2018 peak.

NSWC Crane honored more than 70 inventors in patent showcase

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane) honored more than 70 inventors in the Sixth Annual Invention and Technology Showcase at the High Velocity Innovation Center (HiVe) on December 12, 2019. Three NSWC Crane employees were recognized as "Technology Transfer (T2) Contributors of the Year", one from each of Crane's mission areas.

75 inventors were honored at the Inventor and Technology Showcase. This past year, 37 patents were issued in Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19); many of which were on display at the event.

"The Invention and Technology Showcase is a great way to celebrate the efforts made by the national technical leaders here at NSWC Crane," says Dr. Brett Seidle, the Technical Director at NSWC Crane. "For the past six years, we've celebrated the inventors and the novel technology they create for the warfighter. It's exciting to look around the room and see the impact of their work."

The Technology Transfer (T2) team organizes the event each year. Jenna Dix, the T2 Director at NSWC Crane, says the impact of these inventions are diverse and widespread.

"Crane scientists and engineers are looking to solve problems and find better ways of doing things," says Dix. "In some cases, these inventions have provided game-changing solutions that meet the needs of warfighters. Some of these drastically reduce the cost of products or processes and can be integrated externally into the commercial sector. The inventions are unique and the impact extends beyond the Department of Defense."

Three inventors were awarded for their T2 contributions in 2019: Dr. Corey Bergsrud, an engineer, Ryan Ubelhor, a chemist, and Dr. Matthew Gadlage, an engineer.

Dr. Bergsrud, an engineer at NSWC Crane, has used a variety of T2 mechanisms to enable the mission, including using CRADAs with academic partners to further STEM education in innovation.

Dr. Bergsrud has initiated Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) with Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and with Bloomington High School South, two pending invention disclosures, and one patent application. Dr. Bergsrud's use of T2 tools has enabled

him to work with interns and students to give them real-world experience, encouraging them to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. His work with IUPUI has also expanded into two new joint senior design projects relating to radiofrequency (RF) wireless power beaming.

Ubelhor, a chemist at NSWC Crane, serves as a point of contact for a specialty technology area. This involves active collaboration with other government agencies, universities, corporations, and representatives of foreign governments. These collaborations often occur through the use of T2 mechanisms, such as CRADAs or joint research proposals. These efforts make him an active Subject Matter Expert within the related international technical community.

Dr. Gadlage, an engineer at NSWC Crane, has been heavily involved with technology transfer and patent programs since he joined the NSWC Crane team. He has multiple CRADAs with industry partners and over 15 issued patents in the IP portfolio, with three of them issuing in FY19.

Dix says it is important to recognize all the inventors.

"The technology created is not only critical to solving warfighter problems, but it is a crucial part of the broader innovation ecosystem," says Dix. "These inventors are leaders in their fields of study. This event brings everyone together to celebrate those who keep their heads down and work hard around the clock."

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Obituaries

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Wednesday, December 25, 2019

JEWEL PRIDEMORE

Jewel M. Pridemore passed away Friday, December 20, 2019 at the Daviess Community Hospital. A resident of Loogootee, she was 89.

She was born September 26, 1930 in Shoals; the daughter of Fred and Irene (Savage) Dickey. She married Paul

Pridemore on December 31, 1948 in Martin County and he preceded her in death on August 5, 2007.

She was employed by Sarkes Tarzian in Bloomington and also the Loogootee Shirt Factory.

Surviving are her children, Mike Pridemore of Loogootee, Paula

(Mike) Carmody of Colorado, and Roger (Cindy) Pridemore of Greenwood; six grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, one son, Brad Pridemore; three sisters, Vivian Jean Savage, Mary Jo Freuhwald and Gloria Lea Dumond; two brothers, John and David Dickey; two half-sisters, Shir-

ley Allen and Dottie Bough and three half-brothers, Buddy, Bobby and Eddie Dickey.

A graveside service was held Monday, December 23 at the Spring Hill Cemetery in Shoals.

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



Coloring contest winners

-Photo provided

Hawkins Health Center recently announced the Christmas Coloring Contest winners from Loogootee Elementary School. In the front row, from left to right, are Fara Fisher, Masen Hayden, Lane Taylor, and Bronson Holt. In the back row, from left to right, are Akira Haycraft, Jack Davis, Abbi Bradley, Kendrix McCloskey, and Lanita Weigle. Not pictured is Nick Milligan. All of the coloring pages were given to the residents at the local nursing homes.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

1:56 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Officer Allen responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:41 a.m. - Received an alarm call in Loogootee. Deputy Wells and Loogootee Officer Allen responded.

5:54 a.m. - Received a report of a prowler in Crane. Deputy Wells responded.

10:01 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

11:40 a.m. - Received a report of an accident east of Shoals on US 50. Sheriff Roush, ICO Mann, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

2:50 p.m. - Received a report of an accident on US 50, east of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill, Deputy Barnett, Martin County Ambulance, and Loogootee Fire responded.

4:31 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down on SR 550. Shoals Fire and Sheriff Roush responded.

5:18 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:27 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 near Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

8:28 a.m. - Received a report of an accident on US 50, east of Shoals. Major Keller, Corporal Reed, Deputy Lents, Martin County Ambulance, and Shoals Fire responded.

1:00 p.m. - Deputy Lents took three inmates to court.

2:27 p.m. - Received a report of a possible fire in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire responded.

2:00 p.m. - Deputy Lents took three inmates to court.

2:46 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle south of Loogootee on US 231. Loogootee Officer McBeth responded.

4:12 p.m. - Received a dog complaint near Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

12:50 p.m. - Deputy Lents took three inmates to court.

7:39 p.m. - Received a noise complaint in Shoals. Deputy Barnett responded.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

3:34 a.m. - Received a report of a disturbance in Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

6:31 a.m. - Deputy Wells performed a vehicle unlock north of Shoals.

8:40 a.m. - Corporal Reed performed a vehicle unlock in Loogootee.

10:34 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Loogootee Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

1:00 p.m. - Deputy Lents took three inmates to court.

4:49 p.m. - Deputy Wright performed a vehicle unlock in Shoals.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

12:18 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Deputy Seymour, Loogootee Sergeant Floyd, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:30 a.m. - Deputy Lents took three

inmates to court.

1:35 p.m. - Received a report of a cow out north of Loogootee. Corporal Reed responded.

2:25 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock in Shoals.

2:45 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock in Shoals.

8:07 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Crane. Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee Reserve Officer Cummings, and Crane Fire responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

2:05 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:31 a.m. - Deputy Seymour assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock north of Shoals.

8:10 a.m. - Received a report of mailbox vandalism near Shoals. Major Keller responded.

9:10 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver near Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette and ISP Beaver responded.

3:08 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic argument in Crane. Corporal Reed responded.

3:36 p.m. - Major Keller and Loogootee Officer Allen assisted a motorist near Loogootee.

3:40 p.m. - Received a report of a minor accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Allen and Big John's Towing responded.

4:39 p.m. - Received a report of an animal complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was contacted.

5:47 p.m. - Received a report of an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was contacted.

6:23 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn near Loogootee.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

1:06 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Lost River Fire Department responded.

7:39 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

11:07 a.m. - Deputy Wells performed a vehicle unlock in Shoals.

11:59 a.m. - Deputy Wells performed a vehicle unlock in Loogootee.

12:15 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver near Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

2:05 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver near Shoals. Deputy Wells and Loogootee Officer Allen responded.

2:12 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Officer Allen responded. Subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:17 p.m. - Deputy Barnett responded to a motorist inquiry near Loogootee.

5:37 p.m. - Received a report of a theft in Loogootee. Deputy Barnett responded.

8:11 p.m. - Received a report of a break in near Shoals and a suspicious vehicle. Deputy Barnett responded.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

1:40 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle north of Loogootee. Deputy Seymour and G&M Wrecker responded. Big John's Towing transported vehicle.

8:06 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance, Deputy Barnett and

Real estate transfers

Lyndon W. Beachy and Julie J. Beachy, of Martin County, Indiana to **Raymond A. Graber and Linda K. Graber; Kevin D. Graber and Amanda K. Graber; and Allen R. Graber and Loretta J. Graber**, of Martin County, Indiana, the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 23, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, containing 40 acres, more or less.

Charles M. Halbert and M. Darlene Halbert, of Martin County, Indiana to **Martha Darlene Halbert TOD to the MD Halbert Trust**, 404 E. Main Street, Loogootee, IN 47553 and 300 Walker Street, Loogootee IN 47553.

Aaron D. Smith and Brenda J. Smith, of Martin County, Indiana to **Rick D. Bauer**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.054 acres, more or less.

Kevin D. Graber and Amanda K. Graber, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Darvin J. Knepp and Delores Knepp**, of Daviess County, Indiana, a portion of the southeast quarter of fractional Section 31, Township 3 North, Range 4 West in Perry Township. Martin County, Indiana, containing 18.56 acres.

Clint A. Jones, of Martin County, Indiana to **Clint A. Jones and Kenneth R. Jones**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 20, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, containing 40 acres, more or less, except a section containing 4.79 acres, more or less.

Ronald L. Wilkerson and Craig M. Wilkerson to **Land of Indiana, Inc**, the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 1, Township 1 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 40 acres, more or less.

Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County Ambulance transported subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:27 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Cummings responded.

10:33 a.m. - Deputy Barnett performed a vehicle unlock in Shoals.

11:48 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Officer Cummings responded.

12:56 p.m. - Deputy Barnett performed a vehicle search near Loogootee.

1:44 p.m. - Received a report of property damage in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Cummings responded.

11:47 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. Deputy Seymour responded.

ARRESTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

2:33 p.m. - Autumn Roberts, 34, of Loogootee, was arrested by ISP Trooper Lents and charged with a parole violation and possession of methamphetamine. She is being held without bond. Assisting with the arrest was Corporal Reed.

2:38 p.m. - Lige Sizemore, 45, of Loogootee, was arrested by ISP Trooper Lents and charged with possession of methamphetamine and maintaining a common nuisance. She is being held without bond.

4:58 p.m. - James Osborne, 56, of Loogootee, was arrested by Corporal Reed and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of a syringe, resisting law enforcement, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, and maintain a common nuisance. He is being held without bond. Assisting with the arrest were K9 Officer Yirka and Loogootee Officer Cummings.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

5:50 p.m. - Erik Tosti, 41, of Crane, was arrested by Corporal Reed and charged with domestic battery, possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia and intimidation. He is being held without bond.

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COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING

November 21

Brandi J. Pottorff, convicted of judgment of conviction, a Class A Misdemeanor, amended from possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony and two counts of nonsupport of a dependent child, Level 6 Felonies. Sentenced on the first count to serve 8 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 4 actual days previously served plus 4 Class A credit days. Sentenced on the second count to serve 730 days with 730 days suspended. Defendant received 24 months of probation. Sentenced on the third count to serve 540 days with 540 days suspended. Defendant received 18 months of probation.

November 26

Richard Lee Cobb, convicted of possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor and possession of paraphernalia, Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced on the first count to serve 118 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 59 actual days previously served plus 59 Class A credit days. Sentenced on the second count to serve 60 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 30 actual days previously served plus 30 Class A credit days.

Charles O'Connor, convicted of judgment of conviction, a Class A Misdemeanor, amended from operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 508 days with 365 days suspended and credit for 111 actual days previously served plus 111 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

December 3

Andrew J. Petry, convicted of domestic battery resulting in moderate bodily injury, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 220 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 110 actual days previously served plus 110 Class A credit days.

Hoosiers urged to practice ice safety

With the recent snowfall and dropping temperatures, Indiana Conservation Officers advise being mindful of the potential hazards of frozen lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.

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

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers safely enjoy fishing, skating, hiking, or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice.

Just like driving differently on snow versus clear roads, some may need to re-learn how to safely have fun on ice.

Put safety first. The best rule of thumb is, when thinking about getting on the ice, believe it is thin ice unless proven otherwise.

Here are a few tips to remember when considering standing on or walking on a frozen lake or pond:

- No ice is safe ice.
- Test the thickness of the ice with an ice auger. At least 4 inches of ice is recommended for ice fishing; 5 inches is recommended for snowmobiling.
- If you don't know the thickness of the ice, don't go on it.
- Wear life jackets or flotation coats.
- Carry ice hooks and rope gear.
- Before going on the ice, leave a note of your whereabouts with a friend or family member.
- Don't test the thickness of the ice while alone.

December 5

Kevin James Akles, operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Level 6 Felony and possession of marijuana, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 900 days with 708 days suspended and credit for 6 actual days previously served plus 6 Class A credit days. Defendant to serve 180 days on the Martin County Community Corrections Home Detention Program. Defendant received 23 months of probation.

December 12

Tyler Dale Smith, convicted of possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor and possession of paraphernalia, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 10 days with 0 days suspended.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

November 21

Brandi J. Pottorff, residential entry, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

November 26

Charles E. O'Connor, impersonation of a public servant, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed.

December 5

Kevin James Akles, resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT New Suits Filed

December 11

Cindy Nicholson vs. Jessica (Wininger) Stephens and Gerald Stephens, complaint.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

December 20

Brooke Elaine Meenach of Shoals and Cody Daniel Hert of Shoals.

Wearing a life jacket is especially important when on the ice. If you fall through, a life jacket will keep your head above the water until help arrives. The coating of snow that Indiana just received can make for treacherous ice conditions. The snow can insulate the ice, causing it to freeze at a slower rate. When snow and rain freeze into ice, it is never as strong as solid, clear ice.

If you see a pet or other animal in distress on the ice, do not go after it. Doing so can often end in tragedy. Instead, contact your local emergency response personnel, who are equipped to make a rescue.

Some bodies of water will appear to be frozen solid but actually can have thin ice in several potentially unexpected areas. Flowing water, such as rivers and streams, should be avoided when covered by a layer of ice. Water that is surrounded by sand may freeze with inconsistencies in the thickness of the ice.

Underground springs, wind, waterfowl and other animals can also keep areas of ice thin.

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Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:01 a.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident in the German American parking lot.

1:05 p.m. - Male came on station with a civil complaint.

2:50 p.m. - First responders were requested on Hwy 50 for a traffic accident.

4:04 p.m. - Female reported a hit-and-run accident in Chuckles parking lot.

4:57 p.m. - Dispatch requested extra help for traffic control on Hwy 50.

4:59 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident in the IGA parking lot.

5:13 p.m. - First responders were requested on NW 1st Street for lifting assistance.

9:43 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless vehicle on US 231.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:30 a.m. - Chief Rayhill tagged an abandoned vehicle in Country Place Apartments.

12:45 p.m. - Female reported a civil complaint.

1:30 p.m. - Caller reported a syringe on SW 1st Street.

2:27 p.m. - Loogootee Fire was paged out to Sunset Trailer Court reference a possible gas leak.

2:46 p.m. - Officer McBeth assisted with a broken-down vehicle on US 231.

3:51 p.m. - Caller reported a loud boom around the northside of the city.

3:55 p.m. - Caller reported a possible domestic dispute inside of a moving vehicle on Hwy 50.

5:20 p.m. - Female reported a possible break-in at Bowling Trailer Court.

8:56 p.m. - Male requested a welfare check on a female.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:34 a.m. - First responders were requested on Love Cemetery Road for a medical call.

11:30 a.m. - Officer Allen assisted with a funeral procession.

12:42 p.m. - Male reported a social security phone scam.

5:40 p.m. - Male reported a theft of checks.

5:52 p.m. - Female reported a stolen cell phone.

7:30 p.m. - Female reported a traffic complaint.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

12:18 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted the county with a welfare check.

12:45 p.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted with a funeral procession.

2:38 p.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted ISP with an arrest.

5:36 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident at the McDonalds drive-thru.

5:43 p.m. - Officer Cummins assisted the county with an arrest.

8:34 p.m. - Officer Cummings assisted the county with an intoxicated male.

10:28 p.m. - First responders were requested on Hwy 50 for a medical call.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:10 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on US 231.

3:36 p.m. - Caller reported a broken-down school bus on US 231.

3:40 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident on Dewey Street.

4:03 p.m. - Male requested a vehicle identification check.

5:56 p.m. - Male reported problems with another male.

7:12 p.m. - Female reported a traffic complaint.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:02 a.m. - Caller reported a traffic

complaint on Hwy 50.

9:21 a.m. - Male reported a suspicious odor near Dewey Street.

12:15 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless vehicle on US 231.

2:05 p.m. - Caller reported a vehicle crossing the center line on Hwy 50.

2:12 p.m. - Officer Allen assisted the ambulance service on Hwy 50.

4:27 p.m. - Caller reported seeing smoke near SE 1st Street.

4:45 p.m. - Officer Allen assisted the county with a broken-down vehicle.

10:56 p.m. - Caller requested a welfare check on a female.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:27 a.m. - Caller reported a possible domestic on Walnut St.

11:48 a.m. - Officer Cummings assisted the ambulance service.

1:44 p.m. - Female came on station to report a civil complaint.

6:45 p.m. - Male came on station to report a civil complaint.

8:15 p.m. - Female reported a traffic complaint.

Martin County Primary Election

The 2020 Primary Election will be held May 5, 2020. Candidate filing will begin January 8, 2020 and ends on February 7, 2020 at noon. You can file at the Martin County Clerk's Office.

Voter registration will close on April 6, 2020. Please make sure you are properly registered by April 6, 2020. You can call the Martin County Clerk's office at 812-247-3651 or go to www.Indianvoters.com to check status of your registration.

You must have a photo ID to match your registration address in order to vote. In office absentee voting will begin April 7, 2020 and end May 4, 2020 at noon. You can request an application to vote by mail at any time by calling the clerk's office.

The following are the local offices up for election in the Martin County 2020 Primary Election:

Martin County Auditor
Martin County Coroner
Martin County Recorder
Martin County Surveyor
Martin County Treasurer
Martin County Commissioner District 1

Martin County Commissioner District 3

Martin County Council At Large – 3 Positions

State Convention Delegates – Democrats 3 delegates; Republicans 4 delegates

Republican Precinct Committeemen - 1 each Precinct

Any questions regarding candidate filing or voter registration please call the clerk's office at 812-247-3651. Please don't wait until the last minute to check your voter registration.

The following is a list of polling sites for the election:

Perry 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6: St. John's Center 408 Church Street, Loogootee, IN 47553

Perry 5 and Rutherford: St. Martin's Church Hall 524 Whitfield Rd, Loogootee, IN 47553

Perry 7 and Crane: Bramble Conservation Club 1024 Bramble Rd., Loogootee, IN 47553

North Center and Mitcheltree: Dover Hill Church of Christ 15581 N. State Rd 450, Shoals, IN 47581

North Halbert, South Halbert, Southeast Halbert, Lost River, East Memphis, West Memphis, and South Center: St. Mary's Church Hall 128 High Street, Shoals, IN 47581

More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, DECEMBER ARTICLES WILL BE FLASHBACKS FROM 10 YEARS AGO

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

1. The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

2. Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

3. The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

4. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

5. Don't let worry kill you off - let the church congregation.

6. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

7. Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

8. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

9. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

10. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

11. Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

12. Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

13. The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

14. Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5 p.m. - prayer and medication to follow.

15. The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

16. This evening at 7 p.m. there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

17. The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

18. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.

19. The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

20. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

21. And this one just about sums them all up. The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

THOUGHTS:

*Don't worry about the people who aren't happy for you. They probably aren't happy for themselves either.

*How you make others feel about themselves says a lot about you.

HMM THOUGHTS:

*Dear Life, when I said, "Can this day get any worse?" that was a rhetorical question, not a challenge.

*I wish everything in life was as easy as getting fat is.

*Romaine lettuce is being recalled because it's causing E. coli. And I can't say I'm surprised a salad is trying to kill us. All I'm saying is a donut would never pull this stunt.

*I'm a multi-tasking procrastinator. I can put off a bunch of stuff all at the same time.

*You can tell a lot about a woman's mood just by her hands. If she is holding a gun, she's probably angry.

Make someone smile today!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Food pantry hours

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

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

Local recovery meetings

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

Free lunch for kids

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

SOAR Tutoring

Free spay/neuter for cats ending next month

The Martin County Humane Society has two spay/neuter transports remaining to fix cats for free, from a grant received from Hoosier Uplands. After the next two transports, the money will be used up.

Hoosier Uplands provided the humane society with a \$12,000 grant in August of this year to fix cats for Martin County residents for free. So far, 190 cats have been fixed. The goal of the humane society is to reach 250 fixed cats with the money provided from Hoosier Uplands.

The Martin County Humane Society Animal Shelter has a partnership with Pets Alive Spay/Neuter Clinic in Bloomington. Once a month, Pets Alive brings a truck to the shelter to pick up all pets signed up for that transport and returns them the next day. While the shelter will still have transports each month in 2020, the free cat transports will end in January. There are two transports scheduled for cats, one on January 20 and another on January 30. Any Martin County resident interested in having their cats fixed must visit the shelter during open hours to fill out paperwork. Only Martin County residents qualify for the grant.

The regular price for cats to be fixed is \$35. Dogs can also be signed up at a cost of \$65. You will also be charged an additional \$15 if your pet is not current on their rabies vaccination, which is state law.

Pets Alive comes to the shelter on the third Monday of every month to pick up for spay/neuter. Deadline to register is the second Monday of the month.

The animal shelter is open Mondays and Wednesdays 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org or email info@humanesocietyofmartincounty.org. The shelter can be reached at 812-295-5900 however you cannot register cats over the phone. You must visit the shelter during open hours. The shelter is located at 507 North Oak Street in Loogootee.

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

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 5:30 p.m.

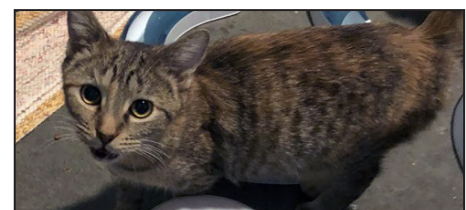
Solid waste board

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

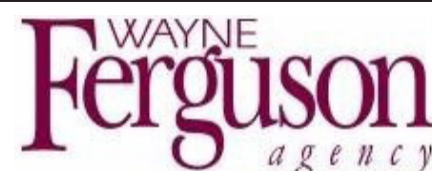
Soil and Water meetings

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

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



ANGEL is a female tiger stripe kitty, around 6 months old. She is very sweet and playful. She is spayed and up to date on shots. For info on all the dogs and cats at the Martin County Humane Society, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.



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In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser
Purdue University Master Gardener

Whether you are a day-after-Christmas person or a leave-it-up-until-Epiphany person, eventually, that beautiful Christmas tree has to come down. For some, that means a big plastic bag and store it away in the attic until next year, but for those who chose to use a natural tree, disposal may be a problem. There are several ways that your tree can find new life.

In some communities, the municipal government may offer to take the trees and shred them into mulch. The average Christmas tree would yield only a small bucket of chips, so do not make plans to mulch your entire garden unless you have a hundred trees in your house. However, some of those municipalities offer the chips to those who want them, so you may add yours to that of some of your neighbors.

A dead Christmas tree may still harbor a lot of life. By placing the tree in a corner of your garden, you will provide shelter for birds. The branches will shield birds from the wind and cold and also offer some protection from predators. Placing a tree near a bird feeder will allow birds to grab a seed and retreat to safety to eat. Come spring, the tree will be dry enough to burn in a fire pit. Be careful, as most conifers have air pockets in the wood that will result

in more sparks than a hardwood log.

If you have a pond with fish in it, sinking a Christmas tree will provide habitat for small fish. This protection will allow more fingerlings to mature to adult size. Simply tie a concrete block to the tree and throw it in.

Another use for a used tree is for plant protection. Take a pair of pruners and trim off the branches. If you see the foliage of spring bulbs pushing through the sod, covering them with the branches will give them some protection without smothering them. Save the trunk to use as a plant stake during the summer.

Another use for that trunk is to allow it to cure and cut it into sections to be turned on a lathe or carved. You can make ornaments that will grace your future trees. It is a great way to create and keep memories of Christmas past.

For those of you who chose a truly live tree, get it planted as quickly as possible. Your biggest problem will be winter desiccation, so water it whenever the ground is not frozen. A three-inch layer of mulch will help protect the tree from heaving.

Whenever you take down the tree and whatever is done with it, the important part of Christmas is the memories created with those you love. Cherish them. Merry Christmas.



Albino House sparrow -Photo by Bill Whorrall

This rare albino house sparrow was spotted grabbing a snack at the home of Bill Whorrall's friend recently. Albinos are one of the rarest birds in the world and are distinctive because of their pink eyes and pure white feathers.

Trails board nominations, grant applications sought

The DNR seeks nominations for five openings on the state's Indiana Trails Advisory Board (TAB). The openings are for representatives of the following trail-user groups: environmental groups, hikers, mountain bikers, trail support groups, and users with disabilities. Nominations will be accepted by the DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation through December 30.

Nominees should be involved with a regional or statewide organization, club or association related to the trail-user group they would represent. Selected board members would serve a three-year term starting March 1, 2020 and attend quarterly meetings. TAB meetings are on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December. All meetings start at 3 p.m. local time, with locations varying throughout the state.

The 15-member voluntary TAB advises DNR director Cameron F. Clark on trails-related issues. Members are also encouraged to report any news from their respective user groups to the board as well as share pertinent trail in-

formation with their constituents.

Having the TAB is required for Indiana to receive funding from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. The state annually distributes \$1.2 million in RTP grant funding to acquire and develop trails for both motorized and non-motorized trail use.

Units of governments and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for RTP funds. Applicants for RTP funds for their trail projects may request between \$50,000 and \$250,000, which is an increased maximum from the previous year. All applicants must provide a 20% match to be eligible. Grant applications for RTP funding are due to the DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation by March 1, 2020.

To learn more about the Indiana Trails Advisory Board and nomination information, see dnr.IN.gov/outdoor/4094.htm. For more information about the Recreational Trails Program, including how to apply, see: dnr.IN.gov/outdoor/4101.htm

Three years, 13 partners making positive changes for White River

Twenty years ago, a chemical discharge in Anderson contaminated the White River and killed millions of fish -- an unforgettable site of environmental devastation that impacted miles of river ecosystem all the way to Indianapolis. Much progress has been made since that massive 1999 fish kill as the region worked toward supporting a cleaner river. Yet, much still needs to be done.

For the past three years, 13 local non-profits -- many of which have worked on behalf of the White River for years or decades -- have come together to improve water quality and access to the White River under the Partners for the White River collaborative. With a \$5.5 million investment from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, the Partners have increased awareness of, and stepped up efforts to protect the rivers and streams that provide our drinking water and help fuel our economy.

Your River needs help -- everyone's help?

In September, the Indianapolis Star ran a series of articles and videos about the watershed's water systems and their challenges. It reminded us that our drinking water, stormwater and combined sewer systems have, for a century, been tied to the same river. Raw sewage and polluted runoff from lawns, streets, farms and industrial sites dump into our waterways, making the water dangerous at times to even touch—and making it harder and more expensive to clean before it is delivered to our faucets. With climate change and more frequent severe weather events, our waterways will see more erosion, associated pollution and flooding into the future. These waterways aren't just crucial for people; they are also home to diverse wildlife and unique plant species. We are facing a critical time of action that requires everyone's help.

What efforts are underway?

In addition to advocating for public policies to protect rivers and streams, the Partners for the White River are educating residents, neighborhoods, businesses, municipalities and elected officials about the role of water in our daily lives and ways to improve water quality. We're working with neighbors to improve the habitat around waterways to limit flooding, support wildlife and open up views to the river. We're working with Indiana farmers to reduce field runoff when it rains, with policymakers to reduce risks from power plant waste, and with municipal leaders on more sustainable stormwater practices.

The Partners are also developing a vision for the future of the White River and increasing access to it through trails, greenways and raft outings. We are having community conversations about how a healthy river can become the next frontier in building a livable Central Indiana, with connected parklands and destinations like dining, recreation and respite along its banks. This place-making and public engagement work includes making sure that historically disenfranchised neighborhoods have a voice in the future of the White River.

What can you do?

We can't have a truly clean river through these efforts alone. It requires broad collaboration among residents, businesses, organizations, government agencies and elected officials. Here's how to help:

1. Pick up trash and pet waste on the

ground, no matter where it is, as it all washes into the river

2. Reduce chemical use (fertilizers and pesticides) on lawns and fields

3. Plant native trees, shrubs and other plants on your property and along streams and rivers to filter stormwater

4. Get inspired by the beauty of the river by visiting one of the many parks, trails, neighborhoods, and destinations along it

5. Install green infrastructure (such as rain gardens) to conserve, clean and reuse rainwater and recharge well water sources

6. Remove invasive plants and install deep-rooted native, pollinator-friendly plants to improve habitat and water quality

7. Sign a pledge to take positive actions and measure the impact at <http://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/>

8. Get involved in activities with one (or more) of the Partners for the White River

9. Speak out about local and state policy and legislation that impact our waters

10. Tell your friends and neighbors how they can help

Cleaner water doesn't just bring us a step closer to safe recreation on the White River. Clean water is critical for everything we grow, eat, cook, wash and manufacture—it really is our most valuable resource. As we approach the 20th anniversary of the devastating fish kill, we must better understand our role in securing the future of our water. It requires taking steps, both big and small, in our lives.

(The above was submitted on behalf of Cliff Chapman, Central Indiana Land Trust; Mark Kesling, The daVinci Pursuit; Kevin Hardie, Friends of the White River; Brenda Myers, Hamilton County Tourism; Jesse Kharbanda, Hoosier Environmental Council; Emily Wood, Indiana Wildlife Federation; Patrick Flaherty, Indianapolis Art Center; Jeremy Kranowitz, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful; Larry Clemens, The Nature Conservancy; Charles Venable, Newfields; Gene D'Adamo, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust; Julie L Rhodes, Reconnecting to Our Waterways; and Jill Hoffmann, The White River Alliance.)

Officers investigating shooting of bald eagle

Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating the shooting of a bald eagle in Lawrence County that occurred Friday, December 20, 2019.

Shortly before 4:30 p.m., a Lawrence County Animal Control Officer and employees of Brown County Indiana Raptor Center were notified by a landowner south of the White River near Dixie Highway of the discovery of an injured eagle. The eagle, which had recently suffered an apparent gunshot wound, was treated for injuries, but died shortly thereafter.

Indiana Conservation Officer Ryan Jahn took possession of the carcass on 12/21/19 and initiated an investigation into the shooting. A reward is being offered to anyone with information concerning this investigation. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Indiana Conservation Officers' Central Dispatch at 812-837-9536 or their anonymous tip line at 1-800-TIP-IDNR.