

"A SMALL TOWN
NEWSPAPER WITH
A BIG LION HEART"

The Loogootee Times

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eetimes.com

VOLUME II EDITION XI · LOOGOOTE, INDIANA'S TOP NEWSPAPER · WEEKLY EDITION · MARCH 18, 2026 · FREE

Indiana Passes Controversial Bill Targeting Homelessness

BLOOMINGTON, Ind (WFHB)- Under a new Indiana bill, unhoused people may soon be forced to leave their encampments or face criminal charges. Indiana Governor Mike Braun signed Senate Bill 285 into law on March 5th. This bill prohibits a person from sleeping, camping, or taking long-term shelter on public land. Those who do so could also be charged with a Class C misdemeanor if they are still in the area 48 hours after receiving a warning.

Senate Bill 285, authored by State Senator Cyndi Carrasco, was introduced on January 12th. On February 26th, the Indiana Senate agreed to House amendments, passing this bill with a 28-22 vote. Carrasco and other proponents of the bill say it aims to address homelessness in an effective way, while opponents argue that it essentially criminalizes being unhoused. State Representative Matt Pierce opposed the bill. Pierce said a more effective way to address street homelessness would be to expand treatment capacity for substance use disorders and mental health

82-year-old Fortville Man Passed Away After Floodwaters Sweep Truck Off Roadway in Shoals



MARTIN CO., Ind. (WTWO/WAWV) — The body of a man who was swept away by flood waters while inside his truck was recovered Monday, state officials said. Officers with Indiana's Department of Natural Resources located James Petty, 82, at about 1:45 p.m. Monday. A coroner will now determine the cause of death. The incident occurred amid ongoing flood conditions affecting numerous communities across Indiana. Emergency crews continue to monitor the situation closely, urging residents to exercise caution and stay informed about local weather updates.

The tragic event highlights the dangers of submerged roadways, particularly during heavy rainfall and flood events. Authorities have repeatedly emphasized the importance of avoiding driving through flooded areas, as even a seemingly shallow depth can pose significant risks to motorists.

Rescue efforts began immediately following the incident. The Shoals Volunteer Fire Department, working in conjunction with local sheriff's deputies, responded swiftly to the scene, deploying a boat to retrieve the survivor. The passenger was then transported to a safe location and provided

with medical assessment, though reports indicate he was not seriously injured.

The body of James Petty was recovered later that day by specialized rescue teams. His remains were found in an area close to the original scene, where the floodwaters had receded enough to allow search and recovery operations. A coroner's report is pending and will determine the official cause of death.

The recovery of James Petty marks a somber chapter in the ongoing response to recent flooding incidents. Local communities remain vigilant and resilient,

COME JOIN US!
SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH
8:00-10:00AM
BREAKFAST AT AG DAY!
Only \$5 per person &
5 years and under eat
FREE!!!

drawing on the support of emergency services and each other to navigate these challenging times. Petty and a passenger were in the truck on Spout Springs Road just south of Shoals in high standing water when the vehicle was swept away. The passenger managed to climb out a window, grab a tree vine, and survive. He then called 911. The Shoals Volunteer Fire Department, along with local sheriff's deputies, used a boat to rescue him.

Celebrating the Success of the Loogootee Senior Center Open House



The Loogootee Senior Center celebrated its grand opening with an open house, drawing a large turnout from the community. Attendees participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the official opening of the new community space. The event was characterized by a positive atmosphere and excitement for future activities and programs.

Organizations involved in the project expressed gratitude for the community's support, including the City of Loogootee, local volunteers, and various community partners such as the Martin County Community Foundation and Being for Others Health and Wellness Foundation. Crane Credit Union sponsored the event with a charcuterie board prepared by Wittmers Catering.

As the project concludes, organizers emphasized the importance of community collaboration in making the space a reality. They looked forward to a bright future for the center and the neighborhood it serves.

**BARR REEVE HIGH
SCHOOL PREPARES TO
REGIONALS MATCHUP
AGAINST WEST
WASHINGTON SATURDAY**

**MARTIN COUNTY
POLICE & EMT
REPORTS PROVIDED
BY THE MARTIN
COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE**

**EMBARGOED STATEWIDE
POLL RESULTS — MID-
STATES CORRIDOR AND
GOVERNOR BRAUN
APPROVAL**

**OBITUARIES
WEEKLY OBITUARIES
BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE BLAKE FUNERAL
HOME**

CONT.D COMMON COUNCIL MEETING (From pg.1)

challenges, which are underlying causes of homelessness. "Instead of passing this bill and creating another opportunity to warehouse people in jails who should be in facilities where they can get treatment, we should be putting our resources and our efforts into building up this mental health and drug treatment capacity so we can actually serve the underlying causes of the problems that unhoused people face," said Pierce. Pierce added that the bill is likely to place additional strain on already overcrowded jail systems. "One of the things they say is, 'Well, the officer doesn't necessarily have to arrest the person, they can just issue them a summons, since it's a misdemeanor.' But what is likely to happen is if you have an unhoused person who is battling substance use disorder or

a mental health challenge, chances are they're gonna miss their summons to appear," said Pierce. "So then a bench warrant's gonna go out for failing to appear at their hearing, and then that's gonna get them arrested and incarcerated." Senate Bill 285 also states that when a police officer encounters someone using public land in violation of the bill, they are required to determine if that person qualifies for an emergency detention order due to mental illness. If so, that person will be placed on an involuntary hold at a medical facility, typically for up to 72 hours. "The Republicans in the House were trying to address all the criticisms that we were leveling at the bill, and so they created all these different off-ramps which are not likely to work, but they were trying to combat the allegation that they were criminalizing homelessness," said Pierce. "And so they put things in the bill where if the police officer wants to, instead of just arresting the person, the police officer could seek to have an emergency detention order, which essentially puts someone in a civil

commitment. That then means that they're going to be in a hospital using up space there that may not very well exist because we don't have these regional treatment facilities to offer residential treatment programs." WFHB also spoke with Andrew Bradley, the Senior Director of Policy and Strategy for Prosperity Indiana, an organization that aims to strengthen Hoosier communities through social and economic opportunity. Bradley said he's concerned that requiring law enforcement to decide if a person sleeping in public qualifies for emergency detention will create more complications. "That's gonna require some really specific new training and public information – not just for law enforcement so they know how to correctly diagnose somebody in a park or another public space, but also for homeless service providers so that they can be able to provide information to the people that they work with, to the court system so that they know how to deal with another provision that was added saying that if there's no housing or services available, that can be used as a defense once you get to court," said Bradley. "So suddenly we've added these new what were thought of as mitigating factors but really are complicating and confusing factors to this already problematic law." Bradley added that Senate Bill 285 will have economic drawbacks. Prosperity Indiana published a [fact sheet](#)

outlining the potential monetary cost of the bill, estimating an additional one to two million dollars per year due to the costs of holding a greater number of people in local jails. This prediction was based on data from the effects of a similar bill that passed in Kentucky in 2024. "I think something that was not fully understood by the legislature is that under this law, whenever there are no housing and services available, the direct path into the criminal justice system will require that 14,000 bed nights per year will be used to house homeless Hoosiers rather than true threats to public safety," said Bradley. Bradley went on to say the possibility of criminal charges will likely have a negative effect on relationships between unhoused people and law enforcement. "Unfortunately now that we know that there's a Class C misdemeanor that could be charged at any of these interactions, that's gonna mean that homeless people are going to try to avoid any interaction with law enforcement, and that could escalate what could previously have been positive interactions, and now adding a new heightened sense of danger to those," said Bradley. Brian Giffen, the Homelessness Response Coordinator for the City of Bloomington, said Senate Bill 285 will require the city to make significant changes to its current approach to addressing street homelessness. "For us in Bloomington, when we

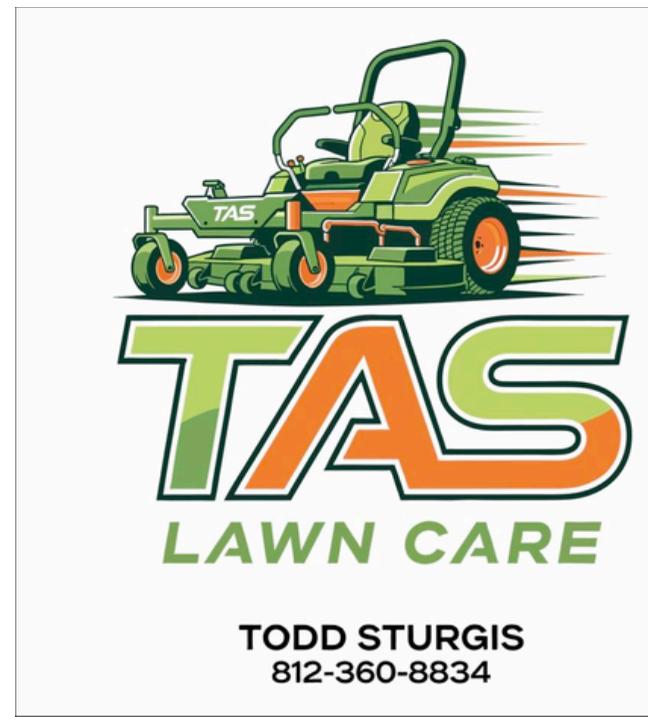
encounter larger scale encampments that are on public property, we try to do our best to work with those folks to make sure they can get access to resources and services. And if we ultimately need to make the determination to close those encampments, we give a 30 day notice," said Giffen. "So, shortening that to 48 hours and then requiring that we comply with that policy just is kind of an overstep, and it's also just a radical change to how we're trying to handle homelessness issues with compassion and understanding and really trying to help these people rather than penalize them for having to be in these situations." Giffen also noted that the most effective approach to helping people experiencing homelessness in Indiana varies from one community to the next. "They're forcing a policy on every community. Some other communities, they don't have policies, this maybe gives them an outline for how they could enforce," said Giffen. "But it doesn't fit Bloomington, it doesn't fit our plan, and it just doesn't really provide anything other than effectively criminalizing sleeping outside." Senate Bill 285 is scheduled to go into effect on July 1st. Representative Pierce encouraged Hoosiers who feel strongly about this issue to make their voices heard. "I just think it's important for all of us not only to pull together in helping our nonprofits on a local level who are dealing directly with these issues, but also just make sure our voices are heard to the legislature, and particularly asking candidates for office what they think is the best approach," said Pierce. "Do they think this idea of criminalizing homelessness is the way to go, or are they willing to support actually providing resources to solve the underlying problems that contribute to what we see happening on our streets?"

CHA Consulting Receives Momentum Award from Radius Indiana

MITCHELL, IN – CHA Consulting, Inc., was recognized by Radius Indiana during its Annual Stakeholder Meeting held March 11th at Spring Mill State Park. The annual event hosted over 120 business leaders, elected officials, and community partners who gathered to celebrate the award recipients and receive updates on key initiatives from Radius leadership. The full-service civil engineering and consulting firm received a Gold Momentum Award, recognizing businesses that are helping drive economic momentum through job creation, revenue growth, and market expansion. The firm's overall contributions to the Radius Region's economy were also considered, including the September 2025 acquisition of Loogootee-based Midwestern Engineers, Inc. "This recognition is a tremendous honor," said Jon Craig, of CHA's Business Development Team.



"This award celebrates both the long-standing legacy of Midwestern Engineers in the Region and the abilities of CHA Consulting's expanded resources to assist dozens of clients who are also working hard to help the Radius Region thrive." The nomination highlighted both CHA's investment in Southern Indiana and the new opportunities for the Loogootee-based staff to serve as subject matter experts for CHA projects across the United States. The Award underscores the firm's commitment to strengthening local communities through reliable infrastructure, trusted partnerships, and forward-looking investment



Information Regarding the 2026 Loogootee Schools Alumni Celebration for Loogootee & St. John's High School

**THE 2026 LOOGOOTEE SCHOOLS ALUMNI CELEBRATION FOR
LOOGOOTEE HIGH SCHOOL**

&

ST. JOHN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND THEIR GUESTS

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH, 2025

ST. JOHN CENTER LOWER LEVEL IN LOOGOOTEE

SOCIAL HOUR AT 6PM FOLLOWED BY A MEAL

CATERED BY WITTMER'S CATERING AT 7:00pm

There will be a cash bar provided by Red Bones!

The 50 year (1976) and 25 year (2001) honored classes will be introduced, followed by a presentation that promises to be entertaining.

Various classes from both schools have chosen to celebrate their special years with us over these many years. The alumni celebration provides a simple solution for your class to reminisce together without the hassle of finding a venue, food, drinks and décor. So, bring a friend, gather your classmates and join us for this special evening.

Please send your reservation with your year of graduation and school along with

\$30 per person to:

Loogootee Schools Alumni, P.O Box 78 Loogootee, IN 47553

If you prefer to pay by Venmo, you can do so @Gregory-Bateman-1 with the following information.

Alumnus name, School and Graduation Year

- **Guest name (Maiden name and Graduation Year ONLY if LHS or St. John alum)**
- **Alumnus Contact info: phone or e-mail**

Please note: we will reserve tables for the honored classes, however we can not take requests as to who you may wish to sit with.

Feel free to e-mail Greg Bateman at gbateman8159@gmail.com with any questions you may have.

Name(s) (Please include maiden name only if alum of LHS or St. John)

Names attending:

School and year of Graduation (only if alum)

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

PLEASE RESPOND BY SATURDAY, JULY 18TH, 2026!

**Festivities For The Event Begin on July 25, 2026 Honoring The
Classes of 1976 & 2001**

Track Chairs to Increase Access to Nature at Every Indiana State Park, Funded by Lilly Endowment



45 new track chairs make Indiana a national leader in accessibility at state parks. Visitors to Indiana State Parks with limited mobility will soon have a free tool available to help them get outside and explore trails, with state-of-the-art track chairs coming to all Indiana State Parks throughout the state.

“Nature is for everyone, and that includes the ability to enjoy the scenic trails at Indiana State Parks,” said Governor Mike Braun. “By making at least one track chair available at every state park, we’re opening miles of trail to explore to more people statewide and positioning Indiana as a national leader for accessibility at our state parks.”

A track chair is an all-terrain, electric-powered wheelchair that helps people with limited mobility safely explore rugged, off-road environments.

Purchase of 45 track chairs was made possible by \$1 million in funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The funds were part of a \$50 million grant the foundation made to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in 2024 to support new development and upgrades across the Indiana State Park system. The track chairs will be



distributed statewide for use at each Indiana State Park and Indiana State Park Inn. The new chairs supplement the 13 powered mobility chairs that are currently available at Indiana State Parks.

This investment makes Indiana the current national leader in the availability of track chairs at state parks, with a greater number of chairs than any other state park system in the country.

“DNR works daily to ensure Indiana’s public lands are accessible to all,” said Alan Morrison, DNR director. “Whether it’s traversing a trail, viewing wildlife, enjoying the beach, fishing, hunting, or other outdoor pursuits, our DNR properties are open and welcome to Hoosiers of all interests and abilities. With support from Lilly Endowment, we’re proud to be the national leader in track chairs at our state parks.”

More information about accessibility at DNR properties is at on.in.gov/dnr-accessibility and information on Lilly Endowment’s investment in Indiana state parks is available at <https://events.in.gov/event/lilly-endowment-awards-50-million-grant-for-indiana-state-parks>.

Legacy-Martin County Adult Leadership Class Celebrates Non-Profit and Community Service Day



On Mar. 13, the Legacy-Martin County’s Adult Leadership class gathered at the Martin County Courthouse in the Commissioner’s room to participate in Non-Profit Day and Community Service Day. The group was honored to welcome Kenny Lannan, Vice President of the Martin County Council on Aging, who shared insights into the services provided for Senior Citizens in the community.

Following this, Curt Johnson and Megan Hawkins discussed the significant impact of the Martin County Community Foundation on the area. Johnson highlighted that the foundation is a granting organization that supports local nonprofits—the organizations working on the ground. He also noted that the foundation awarded nearly a million dollars in grants last year alone, a remarkable achievement for a county of this size.

The program also featured Amanda Johnson from Hoosier Uplands, who outlined the various services and opportunities the organization offers to community members.

Throughout the day, leadership class members learned about the vital role nonprofits play in enhancing quality of life in Martin County. They also completed a personal vision board assignment, which serves as a roadmap for their future goals and plans. The students enthusiastically presented their boards and shared their passions.

In the afternoon, the class gave back to the community by volunteering at the Martin County Historical Society, where they swept, dusted, and cleaned glass cases and windows. The day served as a reminder that leadership is about action and setting an example, not just holding a title.

Looking ahead, the second cohort of Legacy Leaders is expected to graduate next month and complete their Capstone Project.



Uplands Smart Start Launches Regional Provider Survey to Enhance Child Care Support

Uplands Smart Start is conducting a regional survey aimed at understanding the challenges faced by early childhood programs. The survey, which takes approximately 20 minutes to complete, seeks input from early care providers to help shape future funding, support, and professional development resources.

Participants’ responses are confidential, and all respondents will receive a free three-month trial subscription to the Indiana Early Learning Hub upon completion.

For more information or to participate, visit <https://forms.gle/Ckz5Au7p2eNEYf9WA>.

PHOTO GALLERY

Photos of Loogootee High School's LIVE Theatrical Performance of
"The Addams Family" Provided By LHS Musicial



PHOTO GALLERY (pg. 2)

Photos of Loogootee High School's LIVE Theatrical Performance of "The Addams Family" Provided By LHS Musicial



Mark Your Calendar: Martin County Non- Profit Roundtable on March 18th at Bowling Manufacturing

Mark your calendars for March 18th! Martin County's Non-Profit Roundtable will be held at Bowling Manufacturing from 1:00 to 2:00pm. We are pleased to welcome guest presenter Sara Marshall, who will speak on the significance of storytelling in achieving organizational success.

Sara Marshall is currently serving as the Administrative Coordinator for the Department of Transportation. She previously worked as a Project Coordinator for the IU Center for Rural Engagement. Her experience in these roles provided her the opportunity to collaborate with Martin County on the IU Rural Placemaking Studio scheduled for 2024.

The event aims to connect local nonprofit organizations, provide valuable insights, and foster community engagement. Attendees will learn how effective storytelling can strengthen their organizations and enhance community impact.

Participants are encouraged to RSVP by contacting the office at assistant@martinalliance.org or by filling out the registration form available at <https://forms.office.com/r/LbLBNHRh9d>. This ensures adequate preparation and materials for all attendees.

The Non-Profit Roundtable offers a valuable opportunity for local nonprofit leaders, staff, and volunteers to network,

share resources, and gain practical knowledge to support their missions. Sara Marshall's talk will highlight the power of storytelling as a tool for engagement and organizational growth.

We look forward to seeing you there. Don't miss this chance to strengthen your organization's outreach and impact in the community.



LOOKING FOR VENDORS

Spring
Vendor market

10x10 Booth \$10

@ The Pavilion in Loogootee

May 2nd 2026 | **9:00 Am - 3:00 Pm**
Call or text Andrea
812-351-1996



Announcing
Loogootee
Food Truck Fridays!

Starting April 10
5 to 8 PM • Railroad Street at the Pavilion

Enjoy food from:
Big Boys Burgers • Whitey's BBQ
Spill the Tea with Mama Z • Creations By Crystal

Visit booths from:
Crafted House • Sweet Celebrations LLC
Tracy Lynn's Candies, Etc. LLC

April food truck spots are still open, but limited.
Electricity available – Bring a long cord!

Contact Brittany Potts at 812-709-8830 or Tracy Stoll at 812-709-0498

<p>LAWRENCE</p> <p>Bedford Community Care Center Tues 10 am-noon + Thurs 6-7:30 pm 1018 J St, Bedford 812-279-4014</p> <p>Bread of Life Pantry Mon 10 am-noon + Tues 1-3 pm 95 S 10th St, Mitchell Church of Christ 812-849-3857</p> <p>Families First Mobile Pantry 4th Tues 4-6 pm 508 Fellowship Dr, Bedford Sherwood Oaks Church 812-334-8374</p> <p>Families First Mobile Pantry 4th Thurs 11 am-1 pm 405 N 12th St, Mitchell First Church of God 812-334-8374</p> <p>SPIN Kitchen and Food Pantry Mon-Fri 9-11 am 1414 H St, Bedford 812-329-1118</p>	<p>MARTIN</p> <p>Cornerstone Pantry Wed 12:30-2 pm 401 N Water St, Shoals 812-247-0773</p> <p>Families First Mobile Pantry 2nd Tues 11 am-1 pm 122 Miller St, Shoals Family Fellowship Church 812-334-8374</p> <p>Family Fellowship Food Pantry Thurs 3-5 pm 122 Miller St, Shoals Family Fellowship Church 812-631-3514</p> <p>Loogootee Main Street Church Food Pantry 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th Thurs 11 am-1 pm 208 W Main St, Loogootee 812-295-3049</p> <p>Saint Vincent de Paul Jan-Oct: 4th Thurs 9 am-noon + 1-3:30 pm Nov-Dec: 3rd Thurs 9 am-noon + 1-3:30pm 1508 Park St, Loogootee 812-295-3662</p>	<p>ORANGE</p> <p>Families First Mobile Pantry 2nd Thurs 11 am-1 pm 1319 S Maple St, Orleans Orleans Christian Church 812-334-8374</p> <p>Paoli Community Food Pantry Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am-noon 728 W Main St, Paoli 812-203-0015</p> <p>Safe Haven Food Pantry Tues 8:30 am-5 pm 308 S Oak St, Paoli 812-570-8712</p> <p>Springs Valley Pantry Wed 9-10:30 am Except last Wed 5-6:30 pm 8331 Hwy 56, West Baden French Lick Hotel Annex 812-936-4583</p> <p>Team OC Food Pantry Mon + Fri 8 am-5 pm + Tues-Thurs 8 am-7 pm 262 North West Court, Paoli 812-653-0288</p>
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NOW HIRING

FULL-TIME PATROLMAN




MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- 21-40 Years of Age Prior to Appointment
- High School Diploma or GED
- Valid Driver's License
- No Felony Convictions
- Successful Completion of PERF Physical & Psychological Testing
- Pass Department PT Standards Set by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy; Academy-Certified Candidates Are Exempt From the PT and Written Test*
- No Dishonorable Discharge from the Military
- Successful Panel Interview
- Legally Eligible to Possess a Firearm

BENEFITS

- Vacation and Sick Leave
- Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance
- Air Evac Coverage for Household (Paid by the City)
- Take-Home Vehicle
- Multiple Training Opportunities
- 1977 Police Retirement Plan
- 20-Year 67% Pension at Age 52
- \$1,200 Annual Uniform Allowance
- Paid Holidays

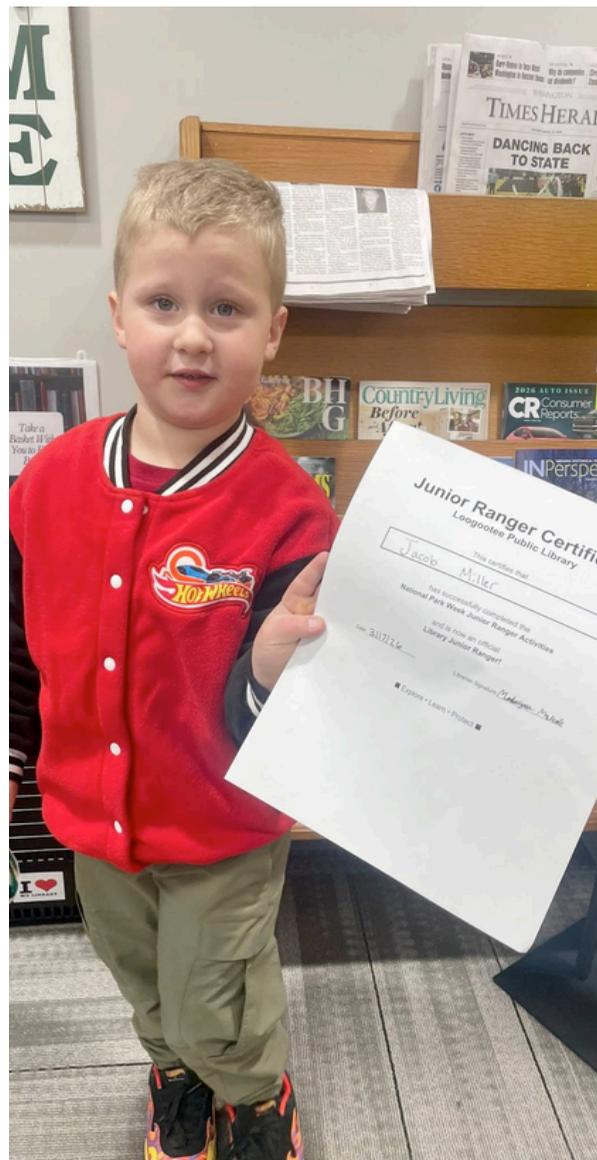
Book Club Meeting at the Loogootee Senior Center on April 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Attention readers, We will be starting a Book Club. Our first meeting will be on April 13 at 1:30 at the Loogootee Senior Center. This will be our kickoff meeting to decide what we plan to read first. Each month, we will read a book and meet to discuss it. Plan to join us for great discussions and visiting with friends both old and new!

The Loogootee Police Department is now accepting applications for Probationary Patrolman. Applications can be picked up in person at the Loogootee Police Department (401 JFK Ave, Loogootee, IN 47553) or requesting one by e-mail (police@loogootee.in.gov). Applications can be turned in at the Loogootee

Police Department or by e-mailing them to police@loogootee.in.gov. Application DEADLINE is Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

Congratulations to Two Amazing Junior Rangers, Jacob and Sarah!



Easter Bunny Express 2026: French Lick Scenic Railroad Hosts Family Train Rides, Holiday Activities, and Easter Fun

French Lick, Ind. (AP) — Families seeking springtime fun are turning to the French Lick Scenic Railroad, where the annual Easter Bunny Express is making its festive return March 28-29 and April 4. The event promises a memorable experience for children and adults alike, with rides that include a special visit from the Easter Bunny, themed activities, and the chance to make lasting holiday memories. The Easter Bunny Express, now a tradition in French Lick, draws hundreds of visitors from across the region. Organizers say the event is designed to provide a wholesome outing for families after a long winter, offering not just a train ride, but a full afternoon of entertainment. "Seeing the joy on kids' faces when they meet the Easter Bunny is priceless." Each ride lasts approximately an hour and features onboard activities such as storytelling, sing-alongs, and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny himself. Children

receive small treat bags, and families are encouraged to dress in their spring best for the occasion. The railroad's historic passenger cars are decorated with pastel streamers, Easter eggs, and other seasonal touches to set the mood. Advance tickets are strongly recommended, as the event often sells out. "We want to make sure every family has the chance to enjoy this special tradition," Thompson said. "In past years, we've seen seats fill up quickly, so we encourage people to book early." Local businesses and volunteers also contribute to the event, providing snacks, crafts, and extra hands to help with the festivities. The French Lick Scenic Railroad, which operates year-round, uses the Easter Bunny Express as a kickoff to its busy spring and summer season. Last year, the attraction welcomed more than 2,000 guests during Easter weekend alone. Tickets for the Easter Bunny Express are available through the French Lick Scenic

Railroad's website and ticket office. Trains depart from the depot at 8594 West State Road 56, with multiple departures scheduled each day of the event. For more information, visit frenchlickscenicrailroad.org or call (812) 936-2405. The Easter Bunny Express has become a cherished part of the community's spring celebrations, inviting families to create new traditions while enjoying the scenic beauty of southern Indiana. "It's about more than just a train ride," Thompson said. "It's about making memories that last a lifetime."

Important Information From The Martin County Election Board



The Martin County Election Board will be having a PUBLIC TEST of the ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS on Monday, March 30th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., in the Commissioner's Room at the Martin Co. Courthouse at 129 Main Street in Shoals pursuant to Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-5.

Martin County Historian

History Lesson Every Month By The Martin County, Ind. Historical Society

LOCAL PYTHIANS VISIT LODGE AT SHOALS, IND.

Last Thursday evening, seven Pythians from Pluto Lodge and eight from Orleans Lodge paid a fraternal visit to Shoals lodge, Knights of Pythias. A very pleasant visit was enjoyed by the Host Lodge and the visitors. Five members of Pluto lodge, one of Shoals and one of Orleans lodge, decided to take the side degree, "The Orient." The French Lick boys were Harvey Condra, Sam Ryan, Wilmer Butler, Lee Ridenour and Paul Ramsey.

W. C. Gruber, who had taken the work in 1911 when he was editor and owner of the Shoals News, managed to get the French Lick boys to become "Oriental Princes." Everybody enjoyed the initiation immensely. If you wish to take this side degree see Harvey Condra, who will arrange for an initiation at Shoals. They have the paraphernalia and know how to put it on.

Martin County Courthouse Closed Today, March 11, Due to Severe Weather

The Martin County Courthouse will remain closed today, March 11th, as a result of a town-wide power outage. The outage has affected multiple areas within the community, leading to the decision to suspend all courthouse operations for the day. Officials have indicated that repairs are underway, and they are working diligently to restore power as quickly as possible. Court services are expected to resume once electricity is restored and safety has been assured. Residents and legal professionals are advised to stay informed via local updates and to plan accordingly for any scheduled legal proceedings or visits to the courthouse. The local authorities appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during this unexpected disruption. The courthouse staff will provide further updates once the power issue is resolved. In the meantime, individuals needing urgent assistance are encouraged to contact alternative local government offices or legal agencies for guidance.

Loogootee TOWN WIDE YARD SALES
MAY 8TH & 9TH
REGISTER BY MAY 2ND!
Email your ADDRESS, DATES & TIMES you'll be open to:
Loogooteecall@gmail.com

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF INDIANA MAIN STREET

PAINT SALE

SPECIAL BUY!
\$60.00
Reg Price \$109.00
Not valid for the Buy 1 Get 1 FREE Promotion!
134034
5 Gallon Drywall Primer

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

Gallon of EasyCare® Ultra Premium Interior and Exterior Paints, EasyCare® Everyday Interior Paints or Woodsman® Stain*

Valid only with coupon. Limit five 1-gallon cans or one 5-gallon pail. Valid at participating TrueValue® stores. **March 16th-21st**

True Value Paints.com

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

Gallon of EasyCare® Ultra Premium Interior and Exterior Paints, EasyCare® Everyday Interior Paints or Woodsman® Stain*

Valid at participating True Value® stores March 16th-21st

*Excludes EasyCare® 365. Limit five 1-gallon cans or one 5-gallon pail per household. Consumer is responsible for all taxes and fees. Certain exclusions apply. See store for details. Do not duplicate. Woodsman Oil Stains not available in all states depending on local laws and ordinances.

STOLL Bros. Lumber, Inc.

509 South East Street, Odon, Indiana 47562 | (812) 636-4053
710 Industrial Ave, Loogootee, Indiana 47553 | (812) 295-2400

10

Vincennes PBS AMERICA 250 YOUTH VIDEO Competition

Create a 3-5 minute video that showcases your favorite part of your communities history to celebrate America's 250th Birthday.

WHAT?
A MINI-DOCUMENTARY STYLE VIDEO OF ANY HISTORICAL EVENT, PERSON, OR PLACE THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

WHERE?
VIDEOS WILL BE SHOWN AT GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MEMORIAL 401 S 2ND ST, VINCENNES, IN 47591 AND GRAND PRIZE AWARDED WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED DIRECTLY AFTERWARD

WHO?
AREA STUDENTS GRADES 9-12

WHEN?
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 27th @ 11:59 PM SHOWING & WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT: JUNE 27th @ 9:00 PM

RESOURCES SUBMISSION FORM QUESTIONS

MID-STATES CORRIDOR SECTION

Published Weekly by Mr. Jim Arvin



To the Editor,

On Monday, March 16, 2026 the Mid-States Corridor RDA folks, Mr. Bill Kaiser and Mr. Mark Schroeder, once again appeared before the Dubois County Board of Commissioners. They presented a resolution for the Commissioners, to approve, to recommend the continuance of the RDA's charter. To the credit of the Commissioners, they opted not to make the recommendation to the Dubois County Council. The County Council is to vote on continuing the RDA at their next meeting, March 30, 2026.

Mr. Kaiser and Mr. Schroeder have decided on a new tactic in their quest to force the continuance of the RDA on the citizens of Dubois County. In the past they have told us that there is nothing left for the RDA to do. They have fulfilled their mission by getting the Tier 1 EIS financed and completed. So why is there a need for the RDA to continue?

The why, is the new tactic. The Mid-States Corridor's future is now in the hands of the State's Budget Committee. This was the gist of SB 27 that stated any infrastructure projects with a price tag of over \$250 million in any one county, must be submitted to the Budget Committee for review. The recent exposure of the Mid-States Corridor to the Legislature and to a statewide audience resulted in both

the Legislature and the people of Indiana's rejection of the project by 74%. Don't forget that 81% of the people of Dubois County are opposed to the project as well.

The new tactic, as presented by Mr. Kaiser, is that the RDA is now needed to advocate for funding from the private sector, i.e. OFS, Myers Distributing, Jasper Engines and Masterbrands, to name a few. What funding? Well the local match of 10% of the project cost that INDOT requires, of course. None of the members of the RDA, Spencer County, Dubois County, Jasper or Huntingburg can afford the \$100+ million match. The solution? Ask the same folks who anonymously donated to fund the RDA to step up and fund the construction. I ask, is this even legal?

Kyanna Wheeler, INDOT, has for several months stated that "arrangements" could be worked out for the local match. She has said a deal could be done by using the future maintenance of US 231, or use of road equipment in lieu of the cash. Now she and the RDA are saying private donations can be accepted. So what will we get? A privately funded highway that the public has to maintain? This just doesn't sound right.

What can we as citizens, and tax payers, of Dubois, Martin and Daviess counties do? Well we can start by attending

every Property Rights Alliance (PRA) meeting, attending every County and City Council meeting, every Commissioners meeting and any town halls that are being scheduled. We must continue to remind our elected officials that we are the majority of their constituents and that we oppose the Corridor. We will no longer be bound by party affiliation but will vote only for those candidates who oppose the Corridor. We cannot allow this new tactic to continue.

Later this Spring and Summer, INDOT and the Lochmueller group will start pressuring land owners to sell their land for the Right of Way (ROW) for the Corridor. We must stand tall and firm. Those who want the Corridor want our land. We have seen that they will stoop to suing their neighbors to get what they want. They have already taken 165 Dubois County landowners to court to force them to allow surveyors onto their land. They will try and do the same, again, to force us to sell. We must fight them. We must "see them in court". We must remind everyone that the \$3 billion cost of the project does not include land acquisition costs or legal fees. If they are going to take us to court, again, it's going to cost them dearly. I'm sure the taxpayers and legislators are not onboard with this.

We must force the Budget Committee in it's review of the Mid-States Corridor to recommend for the cancelation of it; and, for INDOT to get back to work repairing our existing roads.

Jim Arvin
Rutherford Township
Martin County

Upcoming Events:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 7:00pm at Klubhaus61.

Dubois County Council Meeting, March 30, 2026

Aut viam inveniam aut faciam!

A Personal Essay by Jim McCoy



"If I can not find a way, I will make one" This is what the great Hannibal said to his generals in 218 BC, when they told him he couldn't cross the Alps to invade Rome with his vast war machine. It truly was an impossible task. He did it anyway.

Throughout human history, any victory worth mentioning started out as insurmountable. The greatest of victories began as a foregone conclusion that the goal would be achieved before the battle began. What happens in the middle is simply the workload that must be carried by the soldiers, but the victory itself is determined at the start.

VICTORY? YES!

By all accounts, the Mid States Corridor project is dead. INDOT has canceled all RFP's related to the MSC, and any hope of State funding for the project ended last Thursday with the passage of SB 27 (Amendment 11).

So, what really happened? because I was told, "If Braun wants this road, it's going to happen!" I've heard that more times than I can count. And how about this one... "Oh it's a done deal." Or here's another one... "those road people are going to do whatever they want. There's nothing I can do about it." Many of our elected officials in Martin and Dubois counties have actually made these statements! Our elected representatives! Clearly, anyone who made statements like that should not have our vote ever again. I've compiled a list that I'll be sharing in a later article. Standby for that.

I've made the analogy before, "if you rob a bank in the middle of the day and no one calls the police, is it still illegal?" Yes, it is still illegal. If no one calls the police though, what's to stop you besides your own moral compass? The bank teller has an obligation to call the police and report the crime.

The planning of this terrible MSC project is exactly like robbing a bank, and our obligation is to prevent it, even if it's the Law that's doing the robbing. How did the MSC get stopped? If you ask INDOT they'll tell you, "Oh it's just on hold." If you ask the corrupt Lochmueller Group, they'll blather on with some incoherent nonsense that Shakespeare himself couldn't comprehend. I actually can't wait to hear what Hanke Menke and Doug Bawel manage to eek out for an explanation. Bottom line... "it's a done deal!!!!!!!" and not in the way they'd like! What stopped the Mid States Corridor project was an adamant, foregone, predetermined conclusion. Once a real study had been conducted by honest people who weren't on the take, and it was deemed to be too damaging a project, a determination was made to forbid it. A decision made by the general public. Not through a referendum, but through organized, controlled opposition from both sides of the political aisle. Open, honest, substitutive dialogue shared with legislators, the press, and Hoosiers from all over the state. By blasting off the doors of secrecy, hidden agendas and the entire corrupt nature of the RDA and MSC, light poured in. When light

pours in and illuminates what was previously hidden, when honest, hardworking people peer in and see greed, hubris and avarice, they "suit up" and prepare for battle. When Loughmueller's surveyors started wandering onto private property without proper notice, Dubois County residents trespassed them. INDOT's opening salvo was to sue over 160 Dubois County landowners. Undaunted, these citizens gladly headed to Court to exercise their right to Due Process. Over 200 of them, filing in behind the "The Pfister Problem" for their day in court. Since then, battle after countless battle fought and won by regular, ordinary people against what most thought were some of the wealthiest and most powerful people in the state.

The United States may not have won independence from Great Britain without the aid of France. By 1775, we were threadbare and desperate and needed their help badly. They showed up. A century and a half later, when Great Britain and France couldn't hold on for another moment, the United States showed up and entered World War 2. According to Churchill, "just in the nick of time." Similarly, our Legislature showed up for us. The local, state and national press showed up for us.

When Jeanne, Mark, Carol, Sheila, Teresa, Marisa... first "suited up" and walked out onto the battlefield, they were just a few people standing against an insurmountable foe. But with a predetermined outcome in their minds to see this through, to make sure that

right beats might, we are now starting to see victory. When they turn around and look at the battlefield behind them, when they look to their left and their right, they see Legion! A Legion "suited up" stretching from New Albany to Hammond. From Evansville to Ft. Wayne. Practically everyone in the state from both sides of the political aisle leaning in and doing the good work. When will Braun admit defeat? He won't. Not ever! Even now, the Lochmueller group and INDOT are still blathering on about "purchasing" land, changing J turns into overpasses and continuing their "studies." They will never admit defeat. They will bray and bray like hungry donkeys until they get what they believe they're owed. Your land.

So, if we've beaten them, what's next? Next on the agenda is killing the RDA. Their precious RDA is their ace in the hole. The only one they have left. They're hanging ALL their hopes on Dubois County voting to keep this ace in the hole alive. The Dubois County Council (chaired by Mike Kluesner) will put it to a vote next week at the Council meeting. Mark Schroeder, Hank Menke, Doug Bawell, and Bill Kaiser have been frantically running between Spencer and Dubois Counties with hat in hand pleading with our elected officials to not take away their last hope of getting this road. They have gone so far as to call several of our elected officials (those that they don't have in their pockets) into their private offices to "talk" with them about their position on the road.

Taking out the trash I alluded earlier to naming the elected officials who are doing the cabal's bidding on this issue, and I will in good time. The long and short game here is to vote out anyone who does not represent their constituents as a whole. Forget about party politics. Left, right, Red, Blue. My vote will go only to representatives who actually represent.

Goliath wasn't a formidable foe... He just seemed like that to most.

Jason McCoy
Martin and Dubois Counties.

SPORTS

Winter Sports Banquet Honors Our Girls and Varsity Award Winners



The girls' basketball team held its winter sports banquet Thursday evening, with Coach Thompson organizing the event. Coaches and teammates praised the team's hard work throughout the season, and everyone gathered to celebrate their efforts. Awards were announced, highlighting top performers: Alaina Diamond was named MVP and led in rebounds; Ava Jeffers received the Mental Attitude Award and was recognized for the most assists; Lydia Hawkins achieved the highest shooting percentage from the field and scored the most steals; and Alexis Heckard had the highest free throw percentage.

BARR REEVE CLAIMS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN THRILLING FINISH



WASHINGTON, Ind. — In a highly contested moment for such a young kid, to put the Vikings on his back, the score was tight, in the final seconds of the Washington High School IHSAA Class 1A Regionals Championship took an intense turn towards the end, ultimately coming down to free throws, as Bar Reeve's #22 Carson Yoder successfully sank two crucial shots in the final moments. These free throws secured the victory for the Vikings, allowing them to claim the school's tenth Regional Championship title, their first since the 2023-24 season. Throughout the game, West Washington kept the score close, continually challenging Barr Reeve's efforts. This resilience was impressive, especially considering

Barr Reeve had nearly dominated the Loogootee Sectionals tournament with fewer mistakes and greater effort before the regional showdown at the Hatchet House. The Senators started with notable energy, opening the first half with a three-pointer that put them ahead 3-0. Barr Reeve fought hard for every opportunity, demonstrating resilience and determination, in contrast to their more fluent play during the Loogootee Sectional. At halftime, the scoreboard read Barr Reeve 21, West Washington 22. It was the first time since before the sectional that Barr Reeve trailed at halftime, adding suspense. The Vikings' defense continued to challenge the Senators, preventing easy shots and strong plays at every turn. In the third and fourth quarters, every basket and every touch of the ball was contested fiercely. West Washington's announcer noted how

Barr Reeve's defense played physically, disrupting the Senators' rhythm. Both teams matched each other blow for blow, with intense defense on display. The Vikings' lead widened at one point, reaching 51-42 with three minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. That margin, which seemed certain to secure a victory, evaporated as West Washington hit three consecutive three-pointers, turning a close 53-50 game near the end. The game's conclusion showcased the teams' defensive and offensive efforts, with both sides displaying remarkable intensity and resolve.

SEMI-STATE BASKETBALL INFORMATION ABOUT THE WASHINGTON SEMI-STATE FOR STUDENTS & THE PUBLIC

Barr-Reeve Athletics announced the boys basketball semi-state schedule for the IHSAA Class 1A tournament at Washington High School on Saturday, March 21. The event will feature two sessions: the first at 10:00 AM with Barr-Reeve facing Liberty Christian and Bloomfield playing Hauser at 12:00 PM, followed by the championship game at 8:00 PM

Admission is \$12 per session, with tickets available for purchase online or at the door with cash only. Children age preschool and under who sit with a parent are admitted free. Doors will open one hour before the start of each session.

Tickets can be bought digitally through links provided for each session: <https://public.eventlink.com/tickets?t=178836> for the morning session and <https://public.eventlink.com/tickets?t=178837> for the evening.

Spectators are advised that Barr-Reeve sections include F, G, H, and half of I, located opposite the team benches. Restrictions include no noise makers, signs, banners, sticks, balls, confetti, silly string, stuffed mascots, balloons, or line-up lanes. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Shirts must be worn, and faces must be visible at all times, as masks are not allowed.

Loogootee Sports Schedule

Softball (Girls V) - North Daviess (H)
3/24/2026 5:30 PM

Softball (Girls V) - Mount Vernon HS (Posey) (A)
3/26/2026 6:00 PM

with the State Championship playing on Saturday, Mar. 28. We will provide more information about Barr Reeve's road to the State Championship daily on our website www.loogooteetimes.com. For further information, contact the Barr Reeve High School Athletics office or visit the Barr Reeve Vikings social media pages. Barr Reeve will take on Liberty Christian at 10 a.m. with the Bloomfield

With the snow melting and warmer weather today, we're dreaming of Spring!

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Loogootee Schools Alumni Association Set for 50th Reunion on July 25

LOOGOTEEE, Ind. — The Loogootee Schools Alumni Association is gearing up for its 50th reunion, set for Saturday, July 25, at St. John Center's lower level. The celebration program will include the presentation of the prestigious Outstanding Alumnus Award, with this year's honoree announced at the event.

Last year's gathering featured surprises, including the award given to Kathy Combess Wittmer, a 1975 graduate of Loogootee High School. This year, organizers aim to make the milestone extra special by encouraging alumni to save the date and attend.

Registration details will be released soon. The event is open to alumni of Loogootee and St. John's Schools.

Senior Spotlight: Marley McAtee



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

FAVORITE TEACHER
MR. BAKER

FAVORITE HOBBY
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Contact Our Editor for more information and to order a Media Kit at braydyn_bearlents@loogooteetimes.com

LION SHOUTOUT!

Weekly Shoutouts & News From The Loogootee Community School District

BINGO NIGHT AT LOOGOOTEE ELEMENTARY



NCAA MARCH MADNESS DAY



Tickets Now Available for the Martin County Alliance Annual Dinner 2026

Tickets are now available for the Martin County Alliance Annual Dinner. The event, set to take place soon, aims to bring the community together for an evening of connection, celebration, and vision. This year, attendees can purchase tickets online, including individual seats or table sponsorships, to support local initiatives. The keynote speaker will be Shellie Phelps, a nationally recognized leader in community revitalization and author of *Becoming a Big Fish*. Phelps played a significant role in transforming Wetumpka, Alabama, which was featured as HGTV's Home Town Takeover winner. The event encourages residents to mark their calendars and join in supporting the future of Martin County. Tickets are available at <https://martincountyallianceeconomic.betterworld.org/>.

Nominees Announced for Little Company of Mary Outstanding Physician Award

Jasper, Indiana – Deaconess Memorial Medical Center has announced the names of the physicians nominated for the 14th annual Little Company of Mary Outstanding Physician Award.

The 2026 LCM physician nominees are:

- Aaron Blair, MD – Family Medicine, Deaconess Clinic Family Medicine – Dale
- Brian Blessinger, MD – Orthopedics/Spine, Deaconess Clinic Orthopedics – St. Charles
- Joseph El-Houjairy, MD – Hospitalist, Deaconess Memorial Medical Center
- Josh Leonard, MD – Cardiologist, Deaconess Clinic Heart and Vascular – Jasper
- Kevin Lusk, MD – Family Medicine, Deaconess Clinic Family Medicine – Ferdinand
- Erin Marchand, MD – Family Medicine, Deaconess Clinic Family Medicine and Specialists – Santa Claus
- Gary Riddle, MD – Family Medicine, Deaconess Clinic Family Medicine – Ferdinand
- Cassie Robertson, DO – Family Medicine, Deaconess Clinic Family Medicine – Ninth Street
- Kyle Schroering, DO – Emergency Medicine, Deaconess Memorial Medical Center

This award is based on outstanding job performance reflecting Deaconess Memorial's Mission Statement and the Core Values of Respect for Human Dignity, Compassionate Caring, Stewardship, Quality and Justice. It is named after the Little Company of Mary Sisters, the founders of Deaconess Memorial Medical Center. To be accepted as a nominee, a physician must be classified as a member of the hospital's medical staff for a minimum of twelve months and be in good standing with the medical staff. The recipient of this year's award will be announced during a prayer service held in the hospital's Chapel on March 30, 2026.

Martin County & Courts 15

Monday, March 9, 2026

7:10 a.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Shoals. Keyholder advised to disregard.

11:37 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance Northeast of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

11:37 a.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

12:05 p.m.- Received a call requesting an ambulance North of Shoals. Martin County Medic 2 and Shoals Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

12:11 p.m.- Received multiple 911 calls reporting an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

2:37 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a vehicle in the flood waters in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department, Chief Deputy Keller, Captain Gibson, Sergeant Hawkins, Deputy Clark, Indiana Conservation Officer Hembree, Indiana Conservation Officer Fuhrman, Indiana Conservation Officer Doane, Indiana Conservation Dive Team and Big John's responded.

4:04 p.m.- Received a call requesting an officer in Shoals. LPD Chief Cummings responded.

4:58 p.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn Southeast of Shoals.

5:38 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance South of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

6:47 p.m.- Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Deputy Clark responded.

7:19 p.m.- Received a report of a disabled vehicle West of Shoals. Deputy Clark and Marshal Copeland responded.

7:22 p.m.- Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings responded.

8:55 p.m.- Marshal Copeland on station with Cecorra Holt, a 27-year-old female from Shoals, arrested on a Martin County warrant. She is being held without bond.

8:59 p.m.- Received a call from Koorsen Fire and Security advising of a commercial hold up alarm in Loogootee.

LPD Chief Cummings, Sergeant Hawkins and Deputy Clark responded.

9:14 p.m.- Received a report of a car-deer accident Southwest of Shoals. Deputy Clark responded.

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

12:01 a.m.- Received a report of a car-deer accident South of Shoals. Major Reed responded.

8:53 a.m.- Sheriff Greene transported one inmate to court.

10:01 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and LPD Chief Cummings responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

10:48 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings responded.

11:20 a.m.- Received a report of possible fraud in Shoals. Marshal Copeland responded.

11:29 a.m.- Received a report of possible vandalism in Shoals. Captain Gibson and Marshal Copeland responded.

11:51 a.m.- Received a call from Mobile Health advising of a medical alarm in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

12:36 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down East of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

1:03 p.m.- Sergeant Hawkins transported two inmates to court.

2:02 p.m.- Captain Gibson transported two inmates to court.

2:09 p.m.- Received a report of a traffic hazard Southeast of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Sergeant Hawkins responded. INDOT was also notified.

2:38 p.m.- Sergeant Hawkins transported one inmate to court.

3:08 p.m.- Received a report of a possible traffic hazard South of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

4:14 p.m.- Received a request to speak with an officer. Marshal Copeland responded.

6:21 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance East of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

10:03 p.m.- Received a report of possible

flooded roads in the county. Deputy Clark responded.

10:44 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting assistance in Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings responded.

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

6:37 a.m.- Received a call requesting assistance Southeast of Loogootee. Martin County Civil Defense responded.

7:52 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting an accident South of Shoals. Martin County Medic 2, Shoals Fire Department, Captain Gibson and Big John's Towing responded.

8:08 a.m.- Received a report of a tree on a power line in Shoals. Duke Energy responded.

8:13 a.m.- Received a report of a tree down South of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

8:14 a.m.- Received a report of a stop sign down in Shoals. Town of Shoals responded.

8:16 a.m.- Received two 911 calls reporting an accident West of Shoals. Martin County Medic 3, Daviess County EMS, Shoals Fire Department, Martin County Civil Defense, Chief Deputy Keller and Big John's Towing responded. No one was transported.

8:28 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a tree down South of Loogootee. Martin County Civil Defense responded.

8:38 a.m.- Received a message from Shoals Community Schools advising they will be closed today due to a power outage.

8:53 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Notified LPD Dispatch.

10:00 a.m.- Received a report of a tree down in Shoals. Martin County Highway Department and Duke Energy responded.

10:30 a.m.- Received a call requesting assistance in Shoals. Captain Gibson and Sergeant Hawkins responded.

1:29 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down South of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

2:10 p.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check in Shoals. Marshal Copeland responded.

2:31 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down West of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department and Sheriff Greene responded.

2:37 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a disabled vehicle West of Shoals. Sergeant Hawkins and Marshal Copeland responded.

2:38 p.m.- Received a report of a disabled vehicle in Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

2:38 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

3:11 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

3:13 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a tree on a power line East of Loogootee. Sergeant Hawkins and REMC responded.

4:10 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down South of Loogootee. Martin County Civil Defense responded.

4:15 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting the same tree. Advised the caller units are enroute.

5:00 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

5:46 p.m.- Received a report of a disabled vehicle in Shoals. Deputy Branham and Big John's Towing responded.

6:34 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down South of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

7:25 p.m.- Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Deputy Clark responded.

7:42 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a tree down East of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Deputy Branham responded.

7:42 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a tree down East of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Deputy Branham responded.

8:44 p.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlocked in Loogootee. Deputy Clark responded.

Thursday, March 12, 2026

1:04 a.m.- Received a call from Central Station advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Deputy Droke responded.

7:17 a.m.- Received a report of an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey responded.

7:23 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting the same accident. Advised that units were enroute.

7:50 a.m.- ISP Master Trooper Lents on station with Jesus Arturo Saldana, a 25-year-old male from Kentucky, arrested for Driving without ever receiving a license. He is being held on \$3,000 10% bond.

8:23 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance Northeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Indian Creek Fire Department, Captain Gibson, LPD Chief Cummings and Martin County Coroner Abel responded.

9:18 a.m.- Received a call requesting assistance in Shoals. ISP Master Trooper Lents responded.

9:59 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and LPD Chief Cummings responded. No one was transported.

10:17 a.m.- Corporal Erwin transported two inmates to court.

11:05 a.m.- Received a 911 call from an Orange County address. Transferred the call to Orange County 911.

11:11 a.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

12:27 p.m.- Received multiple 911 calls reporting a dog-car accident South of Loogootee. Corporal Erwin responded.

1:17 p.m.- Received a report of a possible runaway juvenile in Shoals. Captain Gibson and Corporal Erwin responded.

1:50 p.m.- Corporal Erwin transported one inmate to court.

4:39 p.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Keyholder advised to disregard.

4:52 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey, Corporal Erwin and Deputy Branham responded.

5:16 p.m.- Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings, Corporal Erwin and Deputy Branham responded.

7:54 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department and Deputy Branham responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

8:15 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down North of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Deputy Branham responded.

11:04 p.m.- Taylor Kavanaugh, a 33-year-old male from Loogootee, on station to turn himself in on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

Friday, March 13, 2026

9:45 a.m.- Received a call reporting a tree down

in Lawrence County. Advised caller of the number for Lawrence County.

9:46 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Erwin responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

10:51 a.m.- Received a report of railroad lines down in Loogootee. CSX was notified.

10:59 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 responded and transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

11:49 a.m.- Received an animal complaint South of Loogootee. Corporal Erwin responded.

11:56 a.m.- Received a call requesting assistance South of Loogootee. Haysville Fire Department responded.

1:32 p.m.- Deputy Branham on station with Jason Walker, a 43-year-old male from Washington, arrested by Corporal Erwin for Possession of marijuana and on a Knox County warrant. He is being held without bond.

2:32 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy in Shoals. Corporal Erwin and Deputy Branham responded.

3:44 p.m.- Received a call requesting assistance Northeast of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

4:13 p.m.- LPD Chief Cummings on station with Michael Holt, a 46-year-old male from Loogootee, arrested on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

4:25 p.m.- Received a report of a possible traffic hazard East of Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings responded.

4:57 p.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings responded.

6:16 p.m.- Received a report of a verbal dispute South of Shoals. Deputy Branham and Marshal Copeland responded.

11:32 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department, Marshal Copeland, Deputy Branham and Deputy Droke responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

Saturday, March 14, 2026

1:43 a.m.- Received a call requesting an officer

(CONT.D Police, pg. 16)

in Loogootee. LPD Officer Purcell and Deputy Droke responded.

2:02 a.m.- Marshal Copeland on station with Hakeem Ahmed Khan, a 21-year-old male from Bedford, arrested for Possession of marijuana. He is being held on \$5,000 10% bond.

2:23 a.m.- Received a call from Dubois County requesting assistance South of Loogootee. Deputy Droke and LPD Officer Purcell responded.

3:19 a.m.- Received two 911 calls requesting assistance in Crane Village. ISP Troopers responded.

7:58 a.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn Northeast of Loogootee.

8:16 a.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn South of Shoals.

10:12 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance South of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Lost River Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

11:09 a.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn South of Shoals.

11:41 a.m.- Received a report of a tree down North of Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

11:57 a.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm East of Loogootee. The keyholder advised to disregard.

1:41 p.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn Northwest of Shoals.

2:14 p.m.- Received an animal complaint South of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

4:54 p.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn South of Loogootee.

6:46 p.m.- Received a call reporting a neighbor dispute in Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

7:43 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

8:08 p.m.- Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

8:14 p.m.- Received a report of a traffic hazard on US 231N coming into Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

8:35 p.m.- Received a report of a traffic hazard in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

Sunday, March 15, 2026

5:52 a.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy Northeast of Shoals. Deputy Droke responded.

9:33 a.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231S traveling Southbound. Corporal Erwin responded.

11:07 a.m.- Received a report of a tree down West of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Erwin responded.

11:10 a.m.- Received multiple calls reporting the same tree. Advised callers that units are enroute.

11:20 a.m.- Received a report of a tree down North of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Corporal Erwin responded.

11:37 a.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy East of Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

11:45 a.m.- Received a report of a tree down East of Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

11:57 a.m.- Received a report of possible drug paraphernalia in Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

12:00 p.m.- Received a call from Johnson Control advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Crane Village. Corporal Erwin responded.

12:14 p.m.- Received a request to speak with a deputy. Deputy Clark responded.

12:15 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a tree down Northeast of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

2:13 p.m.- Received a call from Crane Naval requesting mutual aid for a brushfire. Loogootee Fire Department responded.

2:25 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down East of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

2:36 p.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlocked Southwest of Shoals. Deputy Clark responded.

3:25 p.m.- Received a report of a low-hanging power line in Shoals. Deputy Clark and Duke Energy responded.

3:47 p.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm East of Loogootee. Sheriff Greene responded.

4:03 p.m.- Received a report of multiple trees down South of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

7:13 p.m.- Received two 911 calls reporting an accident South of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Medic 2, Loogootee Fire Department, Deputy Clark and Big John's Towing responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

10:44 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a transformer exploded North of Loogootee. Shoals Fire Department, Deputy Clark and REMC responded.

10:50 p.m.- Received a r

eport of a tree down in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department responded.

10:52 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down East of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

10:58 p.m.- Received a report of powerlines down East of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department, Deputy Clark and REMC responded.

11:16 p.m.- Received a report of powerlines sparking in Shoals. Duke Energy responded.

11:39 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down South of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

11:51 p.m.- Received a report of powerlines down East of Loogootee. REMC responded.

11:55 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down Southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department responded.

RIGHT to LIFE INDIANA

PROUDLY ENDORSES

Kristi Risk
for
Indiana Senate
DISTRICT 39

KRISTI RISK
STATE SENATE

SPENCER, IN – Today, Republican candidate Kristi Risk announced she received the endorsement of Indiana Right to Life. While acknowledging Indiana's strong legislative foundation for the unborn, Risk is calling for a renewed focus on the care and resources available to every family member, including single fathers.

Drawing from her own experience as a mother of four, Risk shared a defining moment that shaped her unwavering stance.

"As a mother who has carried four children, my commitment to the sanctity of life isn't just a political position; it is a deeply personal one," Risk said. "When I was pregnant with my first child, I was encouraged to choose abortion based on a misdiagnosis. I chose life instead. Today, that 'choice' is my beautiful daughter, who has brought immeasurable joy to our family."

Risk's advocacy extends well beyond her personal story. As the former director of the New Beginnings Pregnancy Resource Center, she spent years on the front lines assisting mothers, young families, and children through the early stages of development. During her tenure, she was

also instrumental in facilitating a local adoption, successfully bringing two families together.

"In the State Senate, I will be a steadfast voice for the most vulnerable," Risk continued. "But being pro-life doesn't stop at the law. Our work now is to bridge the gaps in our support systems. We must ensure that our communities are equipped to support the entire family. Whether it's a mother in crisis or a single father working to provide, they deserve the resources and care necessary to raise their children in a stable, loving home."

As a community leader for decades, Risk remains focused on family-first policies, government transparency, and local "Home Rule" governance as the May 5th primary approaches.

HOOPS FOR HEALTHCARE
ONLINE AUCTION IS LIVE!

Visit givebutter.com/c/HFH26/auction
or scan the QR code to bid on a variety
of unique items and experiences!
Bidding ends 9 a.m. Saturday, March 21.

Local Obituaries

*Brought to You Weekly By Blake Funeral Home
300 Church Street, Loogootee, Ind. 47553*

Rita Louise Lents

July 21, 1940- March 13, 2026



Rita Louise Lents, age 85, of Loogootee, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 13th, at Sycamore Care Strategies, in Loogootee. Born on July 21, 1940, in Loogootee, she was the beloved daughter to Adrian and Josephine (Spaulding) Greenwell. On March 5, 1962, she married Edward Lents.

Rita was a caring person who always thought of others. She led an active life and held a variety of jobs, most of them centered on serving her community. Over the years she worked at local banks, in the community school system, and as a beautician for several years, before finally retiring from Prairie Farms so she could spend more time with her beloved husband as he retired.

Family meant everything to Rita, and she took great joy in caring for and spending time with her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed baking, gardening, crocheting, and working puzzles. For more than 30 years, she looked forward to Thursday night Bunco with friends. She was also a member of the Red Hat Society for many years and a lifelong member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children, Douglas (Mari) Lents, Daniel Lents, and Dennis (Jenny) Lents; grandchildren, Patricia (Bobby) Moore, Curtis (Lisa) Lents, Adriene Lents, Matthew Lents, and Carly (Alec) Evers; great-grandchildren, Landon Lents, London Johnson, Ty Moore, Tegan Moore, Nash Lents, Bennett Lents, and Lila Lents.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and two brothers, Harold and Kenneth Greenwell.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18th, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, with burial to follow in St. John's Catholic Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on the same day from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., at the church.
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Vincent's de Paul Society.
Blake Funeral Home handled the arrangements.



Easy

			7	6	4			
1	2	6	5	9	8			
	9			3		6	8	
8				5	6	4	7	
		2	3			8		
	5	4					2	
9	3	1			7	5	6	
	7		9		5		4	2
		5			3		9	

Medium

	9			3				1
5			6	2		3		
			1			2		
				1		4		
9		7		5	2		8	
4	3		7				1	
	6			7	4			
3		4		6		5		8
	2				5			

Hard

					6			
9	3		5					
						8	9	1
							1	
5			4					7
	6		9	1		2	5	
	7					5		
2				6		4		
8	5				4			2

Expert

6					9			1
8	3						4	
							2	
		7		3				
			5					8
2		4	6			7		
4		5	8				6	
			9	2	4			
							3	

Master

		4					5	6
	5			6	2			1
					3			
			7					
9						8		
	4			1	5			2
		8		7	6	2		
			4					7
	6		3					

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Sudoku Daily Game #35

Easy

5	8	3	7	6	4	2	1	9
1	2	6	5	9	8	7	3	4
4	9	7	1	3	2	6	8	5
8	1	9	2	5	6	4	7	3
7	6	2	3	4	9	8	5	1
3	5	4	8	7	1	9	2	6
9	3	1	4	2	7	5	6	8
6	7	8	9	1	5	3	4	2
2	4	5	6	8	3	1	9	7

Medium

2	9	6	5	4	3	8	7	1
5	8	1	6	2	7	3	4	9
7	4	3	1	9	8	2	5	6
6	5	8	3	1	9	4	2	7
9	1	7	4	5	2	6	8	3
4	3	2	7	8	6	9	1	5
8	6	5	9	7	4	1	3	2
3	7	4	2	6	1	5	9	8
1	2	9	8	3	5	7	6	4

Hard

1	8	7	2	9	6	3	4	5
9	3	4	5	8	1	7	2	6
6	2	5	7	4	3	8	9	1
7	4	2	6	5	8	9	1	3
5	9	1	4	3	2	6	8	7
3	6	8	9	1	7	2	5	4
4	7	6	1	2	9	5	3	8
2	1	3	8	6	5	4	7	9
8	5	9	3	7	4	1	6	2

Expert

6	7	2	4	8	9	5	3	1
8	3	1	7	5	2	6	4	9
5	4	9	3	1	6	8	2	7
1	5	7	2	3	8	4	9	6
3	9	6	5	4	7	2	1	8
2	8	4	6	9	1	7	5	3
4	1	5	8	7	3	9	6	2
7	6	3	9	2	4	1	8	5
9	2	8	1	6	5	3	7	4

Master

2	8	4	1	9	7	3	5	6
3	5	9	8	6	2	4	7	1
7	1	6	5	4	3	9	2	8
6	2	5	7	8	9	1	4	3
9	7	1	2	3	4	8	6	5
8	4	3	6	1	5	7	9	2
5	3	8	9	7	6	2	1	4
1	9	2	4	5	8	6	3	7
4	6	7	3	2	1	5	8	9

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Sudoku Daily Game #35

SOLUTIONS

Coloring Sheet

Stop N' Sea The Barr Reeve Vikings!



Across

- 1. Light show source
- 6. Lucy's love
- 10. Unholy figurine
- 14. Tell good jokes
- 15. Gem mined in Australia
- 16. Church part
- 17. Is motionless
- 19. Ostracize
- 20. Main course
- 21. Corn unit
- 22. Shade trees
- 23. French state
- 25. Corn unit
- 27. Towel word
- 30. One place provisions are kept
- 36. Faced the day
- 38. Sort of setter
- 39. Set the pace
- 40. Eye shade
- 41. Kind of race
- 42. Writer Zola
- 44. Where a Lt. may get his training
- 45. Kilns
- 47. Poe's bird
- 48. Makes a Philly sub, in a way
- 51. Obtains
- 52. Start of many French titles
- 53. Finish the dinner dishes
- 55. Trunk item
- 58. James' creator
- 61. Crazes
- 65. Pons solo
- 66. Wheels and deals in the market
- 68. It's a win to a dieter?
- 69. Went lickety-split
- 70. Barbera's partner in animation
- 71. Baby bouncer
- 72. Sort of shot
- 73. Balance sheet plus

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17					18					19				
20							21				22			
			23			24		25	26					
27	28	29			30		31	32			33	34	35	
36				37		38					39			
40						41				42	43			
44				45	46					47				
48			49						50		51			
			52				53		54					
55	56	57			58	59	60		61			62	63	64
65					66			67						
68					69					70				
71					72					73				

Down

- 1. Summer camp site, often
- 2. Last word in prayer
- 3. Tallow source
- 4. Coffee choice
- 5. Bowling alley button
- 6. Common "point" of j and i
- 7. Long narrative poem
- 8. Casa component
- 9. Flu, e.g.
- 10. Newspaper advertising piece
- 11. Actress Arlene
- 12. Female germ cell
- 13. Camera accessory
- 18. Salton and Sargasso
- 24. Parched feeling
- 26. One of the 12 tribes
- 27. Devastation
- 28. "Love Story" novelist Segal
- 29. "Assumption" painter Fiorentino
- 31. Fuming
- 32. Two-handed log cutter
- 33. Drink garnish
- 34. Sublease
- 35. Utopias
- 37. Irregularly notched
- 43. Purplish red colors
- 46. Lends a hand
- 49. "I beg of you"
- 50. Basinger and Novak
- 54. Former Turkish title
- 55. Type of daytime show
- 56. It's forged
- 57. Skyrocket
- 59. MPs' concern
- 60. Japan's first capital
- 62. Charged particles
- 63. Teen's trouble
- 64. Card game for three
- 67. Type of rally or pill

Crossword Puzzle #35

Crossword Puzzle #35 SOLUTION