

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 15, Issue 6

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Eight pages

County council discusses Shoals Library expansion, FSG contract

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council met Monday night, February 5. Council Member Andrew Beaver was not present.

Sylvia Albaugh, director of the Shoals Public Library, went before the council to have a resolution approved moving forward with the library's expansion project. The library will be constructing a two-story addition at the back of the current building, allowing for space for children's programs. It will also include an elevator and new bathrooms. The library received a \$500,000 grant from OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Affairs) last fall and will be acquiring a USDA Rural Development loan for \$490,000 to pay for the rest of the project. The estimated cost is \$1,040,000. Albaugh said with money in their budget, help from the Martin County Community Foundation and donations from supporters, they will have enough funds to cover any remaining balance. The plan is to put the project out for bids in the next few months with construction planned for spring. "We've been working at this for a lot of years now," said Albaugh, noting that the COVID pandemic halted their

plans for a period of time.

Albaugh said they also plan to make some improvements to the existing library, built in 1914. Those updates include replacing the floors, repairing the water stains on the ceilings and other minor repairs. They will keep the integrity of the current structure intact. There is also a plan to add parking after the addition is complete.

Attorney Dave Lett explained the library has to get approval from the council to move forward because more than 50 percent of their tax base resides outside of the Town of Shoals. The library will not be asking for any additional money from Martin County residents. The \$490,000 loan is to be paid back over a 40-year period with the library's existing tax levy. The council approved the resolution to seek bids for the project.

The council spent quite a bit of time discussing the Financial Services Group (FSG) contract they tabled at the last meeting. FSG serves as the county's financial advisors. The contract amount is the same as it has been for the past three years, not to exceed \$25,000. At last month's meeting, the council discussed having FSG scale back on the services they provide and asked Auditor Michelle

Norris to discuss it with them. Norris said on Monday that FSG told her they will only charge the county for the time requested and won't do anything they are not asked to do. It was noted that even though the contract states not to exceed \$25,000 a year, FSG charges almost the full amount. Council Member Monty Gregory asked Auditor Norris if she still needs FSG's help. Norris said she does when it comes to certain aspects of the county's financials. She told the council, as an example, that she was asked at the solid waste meeting last week to find out how much the levy would need to be if the solid waste district went back on the tax rolls. She said she called the state board of accounts and they recommended she speak to the county's financial advisor or the county attorney. She said since the county doesn't have a signed contract with FSG, they told her it would cost \$2,500 to help with that issue. She said this is just an example of areas she needs help that she can't get from the state. She also cited the sustainability plan and changes that come from the state.

Council Member Warren Albright noted that most counties have a financial advisor and reminded the other council (See 'COUNTY COUNCIL' on page 2)

noted that Attorney Dave Lett and Commissioner Roush were appointed last month, however Potts appointment was missed.

Auditor Michelle Norris was asked if she was able to get a link added to the county website for residents to send their questions or concerns to the commissioners. Norris said she is working on it however residents are welcome to contact her office with any issues and she will pass that information on to the commissioners. The auditor's office phone number is 812-247-3731.

Attorney Lett said he is still working on litigation for bridge 44 on Deep Cut Lake Road. The bridge was damaged by a truck driver. The commissioners are waiting to hear back from the county's insurance company to see if the bridge can be repaired now with reimbursement later from the driver's insurance company.

The next commissioners' meeting is Tuesday, February 20 at 9 a.m.

reach out to the DLGF to find out if only the TIF money can be invested and what percentage of the fund can be invested.

Commissioner Roush stated the Martin County Alliance is working to find a bank to provide an office in Shoals. He asked if the county would be willing to move funds if a bank were to come into Shoals. Treasurer Sanders stated the incoming bank would have to match the rates the county is getting with the current bank. She said the county's bank, German American, has provided excellent customer service and above market interest rates to the county. Commissioner George stated the interested bank may need to get a proposal package put together to give to Treasurer Sanders.



Deadline this Friday to run for county office

Filing period is for the Martin County Primary Election will end February 9, 2024, at noon.

You must be a registered voter at the time of filing for one of the above positions. You may obtain the proper forms for filing at the Martin County Clerk's Office at 129 Main Street in Shoals.

All registered voters in the county will be eligible to vote in the May 7 election. If you are unsure of your voting status, you may contact the Martin County Clerk's office, visit an Indiana BMV office, or go online at <https://indianavoters.in.gov/to> register or update your voter registration.

You have until April 8, 2024, to update or register to vote in order to vote in the Primary Election.

The following are current local candidate filings:

Martin County Auditor
Michelle Norris (D)

Martin County Recorder
Sheri Crandall (R)

Martin County Treasurer
Rhonda Sanders (R)

Martin County Coroner
Tony Abel (R)

Mark Franklin (R)

Martin County Surveyor
Nathan Hoffman (R)

Martin County Commissioner District 1

J. Cody Roush (R)

Retha Warner (R)

Martin County Commissioner District 3

John L. Daniel (R)

Dana Tom Strange (R)

Aaron "Moose" Summers (R)

Martin County Council-at-Large (three seats open)

Warren D Albright (R)

Matthew Matt Ray Copeland (R)

Gerald D Montgomery (R)

Stephen Shout (R)

Jim Woody (R)

The following positions will only be on the ballot if they are contested:

Republican Precinct Committeemen

Carolyn Sue McGuire (R), Perry 1

David A. Smith (R), Perry 5

Becky L. Sellers (R), Mitcheltree

Gerald D Montgomery (R), South Halbert

Dean Crandall (R), South Center

Adam Greene (R), South Center

Nathan Dale Hoffman (R), South Center

Bill Shaw (R), North Halbert

Benjamin "Snoop" Shaw (R), North Center

J. Cody Roush (R), East Memphis

Four Republican Convention Delegates-at-Large

(See 'ELECTION' on page 2)

Commissioners approve planned detour, contracts

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners held a quick 17-minute meeting Tuesday morning, February 6.

The commissioners approved the state recommended detour for the closure of Highway 50 for a box culvert replacement to be Stiles Road to Williams Road. The work will not be done until March of next year and the highway will be closed for two weeks. Commissioner George said they still need to get photos of Stiles Road so they can get it ready for the increased traffic.

Vic Wallace, who was in the audience, asked if the county could regularly fill the potholes on his road instead of him having to call into the highway department each time it needs to be done. He also requested that Wallace Lane be scheduled for repaving, along with Brooks Bridge Road. Commissioner George said they

can't make any promises but will see what they can do.

The commissioners approved the Financial Services Group (FSG) contract for 2024. The council approved the financial aspect of the contract at their meeting on Monday night and the commissioners were tasked with approving the actual contract.

The commissioners approved a contract with Core Facilities for not to exceed \$20,000 to serve as project coordinator for the remodel of the recorder's office, assessor's office and the courtroom. There is currently around \$200,000 in the courthouse improvements fund of the budget. It was recommended by Commissioner Cody Roush that they also look into remodeling the bathrooms downstairs.

The commissioners approved the appointment of Alliance Director Jessica Potts to the SIDC (Southern Indiana Development Commission) board. It was

of June 1, 2024. The total interest earned on the checking account with German American for 2023 was \$394,835.35. The interest received in 2022 was \$101,237.31.

Commissioner Roush asked if the money in the TIF fund could be invested in a stand-alone CD. He stated the redevelopment commission is required to have a financial plan for 2024. If the financial plan is outlined, money should be invested to increase profits in that fund. Attorney David Lett asked Auditor Norris the approximate balance in the TIF fund. Auditor Norris responded that it is around \$850,000. Attorney Lett recommended to the board not to invest the whole balance of the fund. Treasurer Sanders is going to

Board of finance meets to go over county investments

The Martin County Board of Finance held their annual meeting Monday, January 29. Members present were Commissioner Paul George, Commissioner Cody Roush, and Treasurer Rhonda Sanders. Commissioner Aaron Summers was absent. Also present were Attorney David Lett and Auditor Michelle Norris.

Treasurer Rhonda Sanders presented to the board a summary regarding the investments which were made at the end of November and beginning of December of 2023. A six-month CD and a nine-month CD were obtained for \$1,000,000 each. The nine-month CD has a rate of 5.19 percent with a maturity date of August 29, 2024, and the six-month CD has a rate of 5.20 percent with a maturity date

COUNTY COUNCIL

(Continued from page one)

members that FSG had told them that most counties pay rates of \$75,000 a year.

Council Member Dant said most counties have a lot more going on than Martin County and have larger budgets.

Albright also reminded the council that FSG helped them find thousands of dollars sitting in the budget that they didn't know was there. He said they have also helped the county invest the cash balance to increase interest. He said he believes \$25,000 is pretty much a bare bones price and they are not going to find anyone else who offers a contract price the same as it was four years ago. "I don't care about everyone else," said Council Member Dant.

Council Member Gregory said he fears upsetting FSG, and they end up walking away. He said they would have to start over with a new financial advisor and that would most likely cost twice as much as the FSG contract.

The council discussed whether FSG could provide more detailed quarterly invoices, so they know what they are paying for. They also decided to specify what they will need FSG's help with and if Auditor Norris needs anything outside that, she would need to bring it to the council first.

Council Member Gregory then made a motion to accept the FSG contract at the current rate with the caveat that they would only use FSG's services for the sustainability report and updates from the state. Council Member Albright made the second and the motion passed unanimously.

At the end of the meeting, Council Member Jim Hamby asked if the sheriff's department employees received the 5 percent raise in 2024 that the rest of

the departments received. Several council members told Hamby that they didn't because they all received their raises a few months prior to budget hearings. They noted that the ambulance service also didn't get that raise.

The council approved the following additional appropriation requests:

- \$2,514 for the soil and water office for new coordinator training from the general fund. It will be needed once a new coordinator is hired.
- \$1,800 for the redevelopment commission for meals provided at their monthly meetings. Auditor Norris said she recently received a bill for \$812.86. Council Member Jordan Dant asked if the redevelopment commission is hosting outside guests because providing meals seemed to be an unneeded expense. "Can't you guys bring a sack lunch or something?" he asked. Council Member Warren Albright, who serves on the redevelopment commission, said they do oftentimes have guests attend the meetings.
- \$25,000 for professional services from the TIF fund to pay for the Mid-States Corridor plan the county is putting together with USI Consultants. The cost of the plan is \$35,600 however the City of Loogootee paid half the cost. The re-

maining amount of the additional appropriation request, \$6,000, is to cover the cost of the county's comprehensive plan that has not been updated since 2009. Council Member Gregory said the plan done in 2009, around the I-69 interstate construction, was cookie cutter and the same as all counties so it wasn't specific to Martin County's needs. He said it

ELECTION

(Continued from page one)

Warren D Albright (R)
Gerald D Montgomery (R)
J. Cody Roush (R)
Adam Greene (R)
Mike Engleman (R)
Nathan Dale Hoffman (R)

Two Democratic Convention Delegates-at-Large

Stephen A Deckard (D)
Audra P Deckard (D)

School board offices will be on the November General Election ballot only. School board candidate filing period has changed. The filing period will run from Tuesday, May 21 through Thursday, June 20 at noon.

If you have questions, please call the Martin County Clerk's Office at 812-247-3651.

needs to be redone.

-\$40,000 for the Martin County Alliance to help fund the new project coordinator position. It was noted that with the Alliance office growing and so much going on with the Mid-States Corridor and the microelectronics expansions at WestGate, Director Jessica Potts needed the additional position.

The courthouse will be closed Monday, February 19 for President's Day. The next county council meeting will be Monday, March 4 at 6 p.m.

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LARRY TEDROW

Larry Tedrow passed away at 12:51 a.m. Friday, February 2, 2024, at Memorial Hospital and Healthcare Center. A resident of Shoals, he was 77.

He was born October 17, 1946, in Shoals; son of the late Harley and Margaret (Rutledge) Tedrow.

Larry was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. He was a wonderful piano player and tuned pianos at Kimball in French Lick. Larry loved to take care of his family and often took care of others before himself. He was very smart and enjoyed writing plays and even wrote a book.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harley and Margaret Tedrow and his siblings, Richard L. Tedrow, Katie Waggoner, Roger D. Tedrow, Donna McDaniel, and Judy Gammon.

Larry is survived by his siblings, Gary (Phyllis) Tedrow of Loogootee, Cathy Johnson of Shoals, and Pam Gammon of Jasper; nieces and nephews, Pam Gammon, Harley Eugene Gammon, Charles (Jennifer) Tedrow, Tammi Flynn, Jeff Waggoner, Shannon Waggoner, Ruth Ann Whaley, Mikey Seals, Rogetta Seals, Terri Gammon, Shelly (Chuck) Emmons, and Debbie Smullenberger.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker today, Wednesday, February 7 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee. Burial followed in Spring Hill Cemetery in Shoals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com.

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Indiana is honored to serve the family of Larry Tedrow.

JUSTIN BROWN

Justin Scott Brown passed away Friday, February 2, 2024, at Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital after a brief battle with an aggressive cancer. A resident of Bloomington, he was 38.

He was born July 25, 1985, in Madison, Tennessee; son of Gregory Scott Brown and Teresa Lynn (Jones) McGeary Fletcher.

Justin was a professional poker player. His passion for statistics, and a general love of numbers, kick-started his career into professional poker. Justin entered a whole host of live poker tournaments, in addition to the World Series of Poker circuit, with many years of success. He was a 2004 graduate of Mitchell High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Indiana Univer-



JUSTIN BROWN

Justin was of the Christian faith.

Survivors include his mother, Teresa Lynn McGeary (Kent) Fletcher of Bloomington; his father, Gregory Scott (Beth) Brown of Mitchell; brothers, James Lee Brown of Mitchell, Jeremy Lewis (Mor-

sity. Justin enjoyed many of life's pursuits including traveling, playing golf, several competitive sports, and mushroom hunting. He had a passion for creating and executing recipes in the culinary arts.

County offices move to new space in Loogootee

The Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth, Inc and Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District have moved to a new office in Loogootee, from their offices at the fairgrounds.

"We loved the Martin County Community Learning Center. It was a very collaborative space being in the building with Purdue Extension, WIC, Martin County Community Foundation, Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District, SOAR, and Middle Way House. The only issue we had with the space was so many people did not know about the Alliance. I was asked all the time if we actually had an office," said Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth, Inc. Executive Director Jessica Potts. "It has always been a goal of the Board of Directors for the Alliance to have a more visible presence."

The new home for Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth, Inc. is 404 N. JFK Ave. Loogootee.

"Our new location puts us in the middle of the three communities we work with in Crane, Loogootee and Shoals. We will be directly across the street from the Southern Indiana Development Commission, a regional planning commission. Not to mention we share office space with Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District. We are still in the middle of a good synergy and still have the collaborative hub to work with various community partners."

Another reason for the change for the Alliance is that the organization has begun to outgrow its previous space.

"When I started, I was the first LEDO (Local Economic Development Organization) to have a part-time person in the office. The office we were in was not equipped to have two people in it. We

gan) Brown of Bloomington, and Kate-lyn Diane (Eric) Brown of Bedford; his niece, Emma Grace Brown; uncles, John A. Jones of Williams, and Norvin A. Jones III of Shoals; and many cousins.

His grandparents; John L. Brown, Ruth E. Emmert, Norvin A. Jones Jr., and Betty L. Rodman; and uncle, Mike L. Brown preceded him in death.

Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, February 8, in the Memorial Chapel of Chastain Funeral Home & Cremation Center with Matt Nigg officiating. Burial will follow at Cresthaven Memory Gardens.

The family will receive friends from 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Wednesday, February 7, and

from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service on Thursday at the funeral home.

In memory of Justin, as requested by his family: "If you think of me, and would like to do something for my memory do this; volunteer at a school, church or library; write a letter to someone and tell them how they have a positive effect on your life; if you smoke-quit; if you drink and drive-stop; turn off the electronics and take a kid out for ice cream and talk to them about their hopes and dreams; forgive someone who doesn't deserve it; stop at all the lemonade stands run by kids and brag about their product; and make someone smile today if it is in your power to do so."



just outgrew the space," said Potts. "The Alliance staff is growing again. We are bringing on a full-time project coordinator. The new location will give us the capability to have our own office spaces, so we are not interrupting each other when we are on calls. It's a better layout for our organization."

While the office is moved into the new building there are still some final touches going into the facility.

"Our sign is on order and should be in place in a couple of weeks and we just had Flat Creek Woodworking, LLC, formerly Tedrow Wood Products, a local business, custom make a conference table for our conference room. The office is coming together!" said Potts.

The Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth Inc., a local nonprofit in Martin County, promotes and supports businesses and communities, and serves as the champion for spreading county news and accomplishments. An organization who is invested in the revitalization of our wonderful communities and seeks opportunities to improve the quality of life for our current and future resi-

dents has moved locations. The Alliance had been at the Martin County Community Learning Center since it was founded nearly 20 years ago.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department activity log

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

6:36 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded but did not transport.

7:48 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 Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:17 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No transport was needed.

12:08 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Chief Long responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:10 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer in Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

5:12 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Long responded.

5:35 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Long responded.

8:46 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 Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:47 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible traffic hazard south of Loogootee. Major Reed responded.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

1:44 a.m. - Received a call advising of a disabled vehicle south of Loogootee. Major Reed and Deputy Doane responded.

2:38 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Officer Davis responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

3:32 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

4:48 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a deer in the roadway east of Shoals. Major Reed responded.

5:20 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible disabled vehicle west of Shoals. Major Reed responded.

7:37 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle in Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

8:21 a.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident west of Shoals. Chief Deputy Keller and Loogootee Chief Long responded.

9:53 a.m. - Deputy Baumgart transported three inmates to court.

10:50 a.m. - Received a call advising that they would be testing fire alarms at Loogootee nursing homes today.

11:48 a.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 Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:25 p.m. - Deputy Baumgart transported three inmates to court.

2:55 p.m. - Deputy Baumgart transported one inmate to court.

3:15 p.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn south of Shoals.

3:18 p.m. - Received a call from Shoals School advising they are doing maintenance on the alarm system in case we get calls.

3:27 p.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department, Captain Gibson, and Corporal Hawkins responded. No transport was needed.

6:36 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer south of Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

10:00 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Davis responded.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

5:58 a.m. - Received a 911 call from a Lawrence County address. Transferred call to Lawrence County 911.

8:46 a.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident south of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Captain Gibson, Shoals Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital with a Daviess County Medic on board.

9:41 a.m. - Deputy Baumgart transported two inmates to court.

10:51 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

11:30 a.m. - Received a report of an injured animal in Loogootee. Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw responded.

11:34 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

12:33 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:54 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

4:52 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 Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:30 p.m. - Received a report of an accident with no injuries southeast of Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

6:53 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting possible harassment in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded.

8:13 p.m. - Received a call reporting possible harassment in Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:03 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Long responded.

6:15 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Medic 1 responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:55 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Medic 2 responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:30 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible theft in Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

8:50 a.m. - Deputy Baumgart transported one inmate to court.

10:15 a.m. - Deputy Baumgart transported three inmates to court.

11:09 a.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to a deputy. Deputy Branham responded.

11:35 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, Deputy Branham, and Martin County Medic 3 responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:05 p.m. - Deputy Baumgart transported one inmate to court.

12:53 p.m. - Deputy Baumgart transported three inmates to court.

2:05 p.m. - Deputy Baumgart transported one inmate to court.

2:05 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check north of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

4:28 p.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn south of Loogootee.

5:09 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to the sheriff. Sheriff Greene responded.

5:22 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:24 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to a deputy. Sergeant Wells responded.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

12:32 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

1:57 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident east of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Deputy Erwin, Shoals Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:58 a.m. - Received a call from Lawrence County 911 advising of same accident. Advised we had units enroute.

4:28 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a vehicle had slid off the road south of Shoals. Big John's Towing responded.

5:28 a.m. - Received a call reporting a lost item in Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Officer Davis.

7:35 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a tree on a power line south of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department responded. Orange County REMC was notified.

7:56 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle south of Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

9:00 a.m. - Duke Energy advised that 8th Street in Shoals will be closed today.

9:39 a.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

10:40 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

10:46 a.m. - Received a call reporting a possible theft north of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

11:36 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle east of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

12:00 p.m. - Received a call from Martin County Highway Department advising of a 10-ton weight limit on county roads.

1:53 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance southwest of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:59 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Davis responded.

2:42 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 2, Lost River Fire Department and Deputy Shields responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:32 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

7:16 p.m. - Received a call reporting possible harassment in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded.

7:46 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. Sergeant Wells responded.

11:05 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance and officers in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Sergeant Wells, Deputy Erwin, Deputy Shields and Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

6:11 a.m. - Received a call from Lifeline advising of a medical alarm south of Shoals. Deputy Erwin responded.

9:04 a.m. - Received a call from Astro Security advising of a fire alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Davis and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

10:23 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a field fire south of Shoals. Deputy Branham, Indiana Conservation Officer Mann, Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Medic 1 responded. No transport was needed.

11:37 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an officer and ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Martin County Medic 2, Loogootee Officer Wagoner and Deputy Branham responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

12:37 p.m. - Received a request to speak with an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded.

1:37 p.m. - Received a call from Lifeline requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Martin County Medic 2, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Officer Davis responded. No transport was needed.

1:51 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak to an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded.

2:41 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Davis responded.

3:22 p.m. - Received a call reporting a neighbor dispute in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

3:45 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

4:27 p.m. - Received a call reporting a controlled burn north of Shoals.

4:40 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

6:14 p.m. - Received a call from a Daviess County address. Gave Daviess County information.

6:16 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:34 a.m. - Received a request for a Loogootee officer. Loogootee Officer Davis responded.

10:52 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

11:21 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

11:40 a.m. - Received a call advising of someone burning in Crane Village. Deputy Branham responded.

12:26 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer's assistance in Crane Village, possible domestic dispute. Captain Gibson, Deputy Branham, ISP Trooper Wilson, Loogootee Officer Davis, Crane Naval Base Police and Martin County Medic 1 responded. No transport was needed.

1:45 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible traffic hazard southeast of Shoals. Deputy Doane responded.

5:07 p.m. - Received a call reporting burning trash east of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Wagoner responded.

5:54 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with the Sheriff. Sheriff Greene was notified.

6:34 p.m. - Received a call reporting possible trespassers northeast of Shoals.

6:45 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 2 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to IU Health Bedford.

6:45 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:49 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident east of Loogootee. Deputy Doane and Big John's Towing responded.

9:45 p.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 Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:04 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Doane responded.

Loogootee Police log

Dustin M. Holt, burglary, a Level 5 Felony; theft where value of property is between \$750 and \$50,000, a Level 6 Felony;

Jennifer Ann McClure of Loogootee and
James Curtis Like of Loogootee.

APKE Investments, LLC, of Ohio to **Raymond Alte**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter, a part of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter, and a part of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 9, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, Mitcheltree Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 5.36 acres, more or less.

Three recycling bins are shown side-by-side. The first bin is blue and labeled 'PAPER' with a recycling symbol. The second bin is green and labeled 'GLASS' with a recycling symbol. The third bin is orange and labeled 'PLASTIC' with a recycling symbol. Each bin contains its respective waste: paper, glass bottles, and plastic items.

More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



THOUGHTS

*I'm terrified of elevators so I'm going to start taking steps to avoid them.

*If you boil a funny bone, it becomes a laughing stock. . . That's humerus!

*I seriously need a speed bump between my brain and my mouth.

*Although I can still party like an absolute rock star, it would appear I cannot recover like one.

*I don't get nearly enough credit in life for all the things I manage not to say.

*Sometimes you might feel like no one's there for you, but you know who's always there for you? Laundry. Laundry will always be there for you.

*It's OK to be chubby because skinny girls freeze faster.

*3,026 years from now, life will either be really good or really bad. It's 5050.

*Frog Parking. Others will be toad.

*If your car is running, I'm voting for it.

*I want to grow my own food, but I can't find bacon seeds.

*What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

RIDDLES

1. What do you call a farm that makes bad jokes?

2. Why did the chicken marry the crocodile?

3. Which rock group has four guys who can't sing or play instruments?

4. What do you call bears with no ears?

5. What do you call a row of rabbits hopping away?

GOOD ADVICE

1. Compliment three people every day.

2. Watch the sunrise at least once a year.

3. Be the first to say "Hello."

4. Live beneath your means.

5. Treat everyone like you want to be treated.

6. Never give up on anybody. Miracles happen.

7. Forget the Joneses.

8. Never deprive someone of hope. It may be all he has.

9. Pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage.

10. Be tough-minded but tenderhearted.

11. Be kinder than necessary.

12. Don't forget, a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.

13. Keep your promises.

14. Learn to show cheerfulness, even when you don't feel like it.

15. Remember that overnight successes usually takes about 15 years.

16. Leave everything better than you found it.

17. Remember that winners do what losers don't want to do.

18. When you arrive at your job in the morning, let the first thing you say brighten everyone's day.

19. Don't rain on other people's parades.

20. Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.

ANSWERS

1. Corny, 2. Because crocodooladoo is a good family name. 3. Mount Rushmore, 4. B., 5. A receding hare line

Make someone smile today!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Redevelopment commission meeting

The Martin County Redevelopment Commission will hold a special meeting Thursday, February 8 at noon in the office of Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth at 404 JFK Avenue in Loogootee. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss developments with 232 Main Street Project in the Town of Shoals and any other business as may come before the commission. The meeting is open to the public.

Public records meeting

The Martin County Commission on Public Records will meet Tuesday, February 13 at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' room of the Martin County Courthouse. The meeting is open to the public.

Tourism meeting

The Martin County Tourism Council will meet Tuesday, February 20 at 5 p.m. at 404 JFK Avenue in Loogootee. The meeting is open to the public.

Farmers' Breakfast

A Farmers' Appreciation Breakfast, sponsored by the Shoals FFA, Shop Class and Culinary Departments, will be held Thursday, February 22 at 9 a.m. at the Shoals High School. Reservations are encouraged so the classes know how much food to prepare, but not required. RSVP by calling 812-247-2090, extension 2, by Friday, February 16. All local farmers are invited to attend.

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

Dog/cat Wellness Clinic

The Martin County Humane Society hosts a wellness clinic on the third Friday of each month from 5-6 p.m. The clinic offers low-cost vaccines, testing, nail trims, etc. No appointment needed.

Tri Kappa holds January meeting

BY AUDREY ROBINSON
Tri Kappa Recording Secretary

On January 23, the Delta Tau Chapter of Kappa, Kappa, Kappa, Inc. held their monthly meeting. Items were collected for the college gift packages, military packages, and civil service care packages. President Samantha Nelson called the meeting to order.

The December minutes were prepared by Recording Secretary Audrey Robinson. The treasurer's report was read by President Samantha Nelson for Dena Lyon. No correspondence was received by Corresponding Secretary Rachel Robinson.

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



CORA is a female beagle/husky mix, 2 years old. She is very sweet but having a hard time in the shelter environment. She is spayed, up to date on shots and microchipped. Adoption fee is \$100. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.

St. Vincent Food Pantry

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

Free lunch for kids

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

SOAR Tutoring

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

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.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 Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) meets the third Tuesday of the month at the SWCD office located at 404 JFK Avenue in Loogootee. The meetings are at 7:30 p.m. (April-October) and at 6:30 p.m. (November-March). Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Please call 812-295-3149 for assistance.

WEEK LONG
BOOK SALE!!



BOOK
LOVERS
BOOK
SALE!

FEBRUARY 10th: 8am-12pm

FEBRUARY 12th: 10am-6pm

FEBRUARY 13th: 10am-5pm

FEBRUARY 15th: 10am-6pm

FEBRUARY 16th: 10am-5pm

FEBRUARY 17th: 9am-12pm

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It is amazing how the additional light that February brings causes growth on houseplants. Plants in a sunny window have to be turned daily to keep them from growing toward the light. This lush new growth may also be a signal to cut some plants back to keep them compact and bushy. However, those cuttings may be put to use. When taking cuttings, be sure to use sharp tools. You may use a knife or scissors, or bypass pruners. Do not use anvil pruners, as they may crush the stem. If there has been any disease in your plants, sterilize your tools with a mixture of rubbing alcohol and water or a weak bleach solution between cuts to prevent the spread of pathogens.

Stem tip cuttings include the terminal bud and at least two nodes. The nodes will become the source of the adventitious roots. Some plants will produce the roots easily, but others will benefit from a little help. Rooting hormones are available in powder and gel forms. When using the hormones, put some out into a small dish. Do not dip your plants into the bottle. When using the powder, dip the stem cutting in water and then dip it into the powder, making sure that the nodes get some powder. Use a dowel rod or other stick just larger than the stem to make a hole in the moistened potting mix. Insert the cutting in the hole and press the mix in to touch the stem. Depending on the plant, roots will usually form in two to three weeks.

Some stem cuttings do not even need soil to form adventitious roots. Impatiens, tradescantia and other common houseplants will root if the stem is just placed in water. However, experts say that healthier roots form when starting them in a sterile potting mix.

You do not need to waste the rest of the stem once you have used the terminal bud. You can take other types of cuttings along the length of the stem. Take a leaf bud cutting by making two cuts—one just above a

leaf node and another just below the node. Your cutting should include a leaf, a node and an axillary bud (see last week's list of terms). Dip it in water and then touch it to the rooting hormone. Plant it in a moist potting mix.

Plants with thick stems may be propagated by a special type of stem cutting known as a cane cutting. Sometimes, this is a good way to rejuvenate a plant that has become a little leggy at the top or has just outgrown your house. A stem may be cut into sections about four inches long. You may either stand the stem vertically in the potting mix or lay it horizontally. If using the horizontal method, make sure that about half of the stem's diameter is beneath the soil line. This method may result in several new plants, which may be divided after they begin to grow, or you may let them grow as a cluster.

Some plants will produce roots from the leaf petiole. Many people use this method for starting new begonias. Simply place the cut end of the petiole in the starting medium. The cut will form a scab, and a new bud will emerge. That bud will become a new plant. Just remove the original petiole when the new plant emerges.

Some plants, including many succulents, will grow new plants by simply placing the end of a leaf in the growing medium. When using succulent cuttings, it is usually best to allow them to scab over before planting them. I usually break off a leaf and wait three to five days before planting them.

Like all plants, starts from cuttings require moisture and light. Make sure the growing medium stays evenly moist, but not soggy. The plants also require humidity. For that reason, cuttings are often put in plastic tents to keep the humidity up. They also need bright, indirect light. With the advent of the LED grow lights, supplying good light inside is easy and relatively inexpensive.

Natural Resources Commission seeks input on proposed deer hunting rule changes

The Indiana Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has opened a public comment period for proposed changes to Indiana's deer hunting rules before they vote on final adoption of the proposed changes. Most proposed changes intend to simplify Indiana's deer hunting rules to make them easier to understand.

Public comments can be submitted online at IN.gov/nrc/rules/rulemaking-docket/ via the "Comment on this rule" link in the Rulemaking Docket for the Deer Hunting Amendments. Comments can also be mailed to: Natural Resources Commission, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Ave., Room N103, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

The deadline for public comments is March 20. A public hearing will be held on March 20 from 4 to 8 p.m. ET at the Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis; you can attend in person or online anytime during that timeframe. To attend the public hearing, starting at 4 p.m. on March 20, go to Microsoft Teams and enter Meeting ID: 296 491 887 327, Passcode: xTCuyW.

Sign up for updates online at wildlife.IN.gov/rule-regulation-changes/.

Proposed changes include:

-A statewide bag limit of six antlerless

deer.

-A newly created County Antlerless Bag Limit instead of season antlerless bag limits. Because of this change, the bonus antlerless license would be the multiple-season antlerless license that could be used in the archery, muzzle-loader, and firearms seasons.

-Hunters would not be able to harvest an antlerless deer on Fish & Wildlife properties with a firearm.

-The use of crossbow equipment would be allowed with the archery license.

-The minimum caliber for a muzzle-loader would be reduced from 0.44 inches to 0.40 inches.

-If a deer is unfit for human consumption, DNR staff would be able to issue an authorization to take an antlerless deer in its place that will not count toward the statewide bag limit or county limit.

-Adding the deer Reduction Zones and County Antlerless Bag Limits.

-Removing the Special Antlerless Firearms season.

For more information on the proposed rule changes, visit wildlife.IN.gov/rule-regulation-changes/.

Questions about the proposed deer rule changes should be directed to 812-334-3795 or indeerhotline@dnr.IN.gov

Historic Preservation Month photo contest opens

The annual DNR Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology photo contest has started.

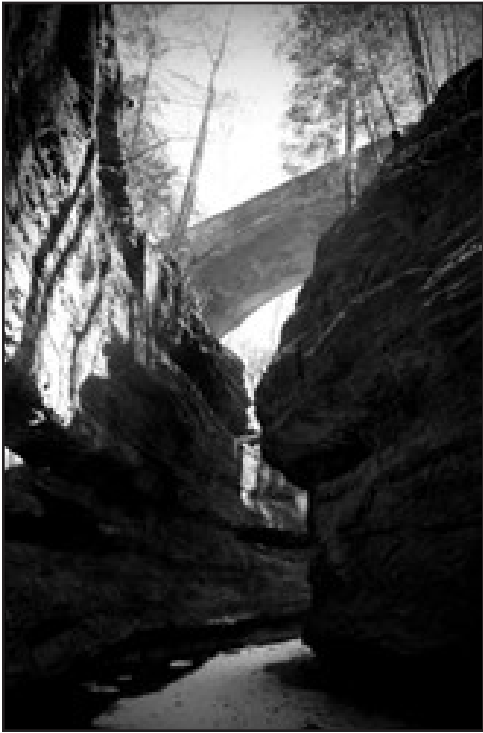
Open to photographers of any age and skill level, the contest has been held since 2005 to promote Indiana's historic resources.

All structures in photo entries must be at least 50 years old and in Indiana but don't have to be fully restored. Photos of exclusively natural elements will not be accepted.

Photos can be black and white or color and must have been taken within the last two years. New this year is a category highlighting the annual theme of Historic Preservation Month. This year, the theme is Indiana's historic scholastic gymnasiums, so consider sending photos of your favorite community basketball gym that meets the contest criteria.

Each photographer may enter up to three images along with the required respective entry form for each photo. Images should be emailed to DHPAConnect@dnr.IN.gov and must be JPEG files that are 10MB or smaller. Participants should only send one photo and one entry form per email.

For complete rules and guidelines and for the required entry form, see on.IN.gov/preservation-month.



The contest deadline is Friday, April 5.

Follow the DNR Instagram account (@indianadnr) in May where, for a week, the Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology will feature selected photos along with contest winners to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month.

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Sullivan (812) 268-5252	Martinsville (765) 342-6623	Linton (812) 847-4494	
Jasonville (812) 665-3969	Bicknell (812) 735-3545	Bloomfield (812) 384-4453	

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING Full-Time Soil & Water Conservation District Coordinator

The Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is seeking to fill a full-time (30 hrs. wk.) SWCD District Coordinator position. This position provides administrative and office management support to the SWCD board.

This position requires a minimum of 3 year's office experience. Proficiency in QuickBooks, Microsoft Office, Publisher, Excel and Word is a must.

Full job description and application can be obtained by emailing (see email below) or visiting the SWCD office during office hours.

Applications with cover letters and resumes will be accepted until February 15, 2024.

Please email application with cover letter to martinswcd@yahoo.com or mail to

Martin County SWCD, PO Box 142, Loogootee, IN 47553



LOVELY HOME: Features beautiful open kitchen, dining & living rm, 2 BR, & 1.5 baths on the main level plus 2 spacious BR & half bath upstairs, updated light fixtures, carpet, water heater, & freshly painted. Enjoy the outdoors in the large back yard w/basketball goal, sitting area, fire pit, & garden area. Also includes a large 3-car det grg w/heated & cooled workshop & plenty of storage. There is also parking for an RV camper & power hookup. \$249,900. Call Billy. MLS#202401955

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PURE COUNTRY *Throwback*

By Dan Gregory

Originally published July 15, 2009

I always said, "I love it when a plan comes together." That statement has become my mantra. It doesn't have to be a particularly big thing, but to see a plan or system come together and achieve a goal is a beautiful thing to witness or be a part of. This past week there was an event in Martin County that made me sit back and think about all the plans that came together to yield an outcome that has many parts.

A very good friend of mine had a stroke last week. He was at home, and fortunately so was his wife. This set into motion a whole series of inter-related activities. First was a call to 911 to report a medical emergency. A few months back would maybe have got a quick response too, but with the enhanced version of 911, the ambulance was dispatched and on the scene in ten minutes. That is about as fast as humanly possible. A quick ride with excellent care from the ambulance crew got them to the local hospital, where a lifesaving shot was administered to my friend. From there a Life Flight helicopter ride to Deaconess in Evansville put my friend in one of the finest cardiac units in the world. This plan came together because enough people cared to invent, procure, establish and invest in systems that work. While this may seem routine to some, all the parts had to work exactly as intended....and they did. All the parts were put together over time and through much trial and error. Research and development of these various parts had to be proven and coordinated, and

yes, they all had to be paid for. In this case and many like it, everything worked in what is at best a very perilous situation. As you probably know, a stroke victim has a limited amount of time to get the proper treatment before the damage is irreversible. My friend was home three days after a serious and life-threatening event. This would have been a medical miracle not that long ago.

I know this particular case is more personal to me because the gentleman is my friend. But everyone is special to someone, so each time something like this happens it is personal. To his friends and family having him with us still is the most important and blessed thing. I thank God we have the people and services that made it possible for him to still be with us.

We need to speak out and be positive about all the things we have similar to this. People are out there working on plans constantly and our community and country has so much to be proud of when these plans bear fruit. Which takes me back to my opening sentence, "I love it when a plan comes together."

Free Fishing Days for 2024

This year's Free Fishing Days in Indiana are May 12, June 1-2, and September 28. On these days, you can fish the state's public waters without a fishing license or trout/salmon stamp. All other rules such as seasons, bag, and size limits apply. Visit www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/where-to-fish-interactive-map/ to see where to fish.

Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton

NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

I'd quickly take one of the hottest weeks in the summer over some of the frigid weather we have seen this winter. My wife just hopes that the long, icy-cold period was long enough to set back the stink bugs still hanging around.

Cold weather can have some advantages, especially after some of the rains we received lately. If you are having to concentrate livestock or are wanting to graze wet or saturated ground, frozen ground or free concrete has some advantages.

If you are still grazing stockpiled forage, frozen ground helps to protect the soil surface and reduce compaction from hooves. In reality, if you have a good stand of stockpile, it has to get almost bitter cold to freeze that ground. The blanket of forage serves as pretty good insulation. Like I've said before, if I have to dig a hole in the winter time, I'm for sure going to dig where I have heavy sod, it is most likely not frozen.

On the contrary, ground that has little cover left will freeze quicker and deeper. It will also be more susceptible to pugging and compaction when grazed or walked on when thawed out and wet.

I've had a few people asking if they should go ahead and graze some stockpile that they were not able to graze earlier. This evokes the questions, "How much forage is there and how will it be managed?" If the soil is saturated with water and you don't have an enormous amount of grazable vegetation present, you will probably do more harm than good.

If the soil is frozen, then perhaps even a meager amount of 3,000 pounds of forage per acre might be worth pursuing, but it would also make a great field to possibly graze early in the rotation in the spring because it will certainly rebound quickly and have ample amounts of soil protection and dry matter after the initial green-up. You won't get that from fields that were grazed tighter - they will be slower to rebound.

Fields with quite a bit more than 3,000 pounds of stockpile per acre are pretty rare this time around. But, if you did have some, the more vegetative cover that you have, the more resilient the field will be. Heavy stockpile will have more and deeper root systems, helping to create more resilient structure and more soil surface protection unless under very saturated conditions.

You might ask how to estimate available forage. If you took a grazing stick or yardstick and measured the forage height in the potential field and measured it from the ground to a compressed height and multiplied that by 250 for normal dense stand, you would get a quick estimate of the total pounds of dry matter present.

It's best to use a "compressed" height to be more accurate. I usually have a light clipboard with me and lay it on top of the forage and measure below that. You will quickly note that it takes quite a bit of standing forage to be even 3,000 pounds. Not all of that will be desirable or grazable, nor should it be.

If you want a more accurate estimate of the vegetation present, you can make yourself a clipping frame that is approximately 12 x 23 inches or 1.92 square feet. Lay that frame on the ground and clip the forage that is within the frame and place it in a pre-weighed paper bag. If time allows, set the bag of forage in a warm dry spot until the forage is air dry - this normally takes several days depending on conditions. You can also carefully dry the forage in a microwave, but this too is time consuming, a bit precarious, and also usually annoys my wife

if done in the kitchen.

Once the forage is dry, weigh the sample in grams. If you don't have a gram scale, weigh it in ounces and multiply it by 28.35 to get grams. Multiply the grams of dry weight by 50 and you have an estimate of total pounds per acre of dry matter. I've only seen one field since December that was over 3,000 pounds.

Pastures that are grazed or treaded on by livestock during the winter, especially when the ground is not frozen and saturated, will usually have quite a bit of sod disturbance that will not only increase compaction, reduce desirable plant density, and increase opportunities for annual weeds, but also increase the likelihood of erosion. Be careful grazing this winter, especially after such a dry, lower production fall.

We should still have some good opportunities to get a little fresh snow which is ideal to frost-seed legumes into. I especially like it because I can see my tracks and know where I've been and get a better pattern with the seeder. With most fields having slightly less forage than usual left behind, frost seeding some clover into these fields and getting a good stand should be pretty easily done.

Slightly higher seeding rates are best for frost seeding than for conventional seeding. White clovers can be seeded at 1-1.5 lb. per acre. Remember it is a very small seed than red clover - you can get it on too thick if not careful. I've found that mixing it with another seed as a carrier is good. Red clover should be seeded at 6-8 lbs. per acre; birdsfoot trefoil at 5 lbs. per acre and common lespedeza with hulled seed at 10 lbs. per acre. Those are single species rates, if mixing, then each would be reduced.

All legumes should be inoculated with the appropriate inoculants (rhizobia) for that species to insure proper bacteria, good germination and growth. Coated seed, when available, can solve lots of problems including seed size, the inoculants and it can even help the pH for the seedling.

Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!

Reminders & Opportunities

Purdue Beef Basics - <https://extension.purdue.edu/events/county/morgan/2024/02/purdue-beef-basics-in-the-eastern-cornbelt.html>

Northern Indiana Grazing Conference - February 2-3, 2024 - Michiana Event Center, Shipshewana, IN - Call (260)463-3166 Ext.3 for more information.

Indiana Forage Council Tour, Annual Meeting and Seminar - February 5, 2024 - Tour of Freshly Dairy www.freshly-dairy.com/ mid-afternoon followed by the annual meeting, meal and seminar at a nearby community. - Details will be posted at the Indiana Forage Council website (www.indianaforage.org) when known.

Grazing cover crops is a topic included at this year's Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC) Annual Meeting - February 13-14, 2024 - www.midwestcovercrops.org/meetings/

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference - March 27th, 2024 - Shiloh Community Building, Odon, IN - For more information call (812)254-4780 Ext 3 or <https://sigc2024.eventbrite.com>

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