

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 10, Issue 10

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

Seven pages

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-Photo provided

Shown in the front row, from left to right, are Jarod Waggoner, Jocelyn Davis, Shyla Taylor, Mallory Waggoner, Oliva Alcorn, Andrew Newland, and Colton Mullins. In the back row, from left to right are Evan Wagoner, Alan Cook, Jordan Fromme, Zane Lake, Tristan Peterson and Noah Stoll.

Shoals Jug Rox Robotix advances to state tournament

The Shoals High School Robotics team, Jug Rox Robotix, had an outstanding performance at the Lafayette FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics qualifying tournament. During FTC qualifying tournaments a match consists of two, two-team alliances. These two teams compete against an opposing alliance (also made up of two teams) to complete the game challenge and to earn the highest score. During final rounds, an alliance may consist of three teams during double elimination play. Teams also have to give a presentation to a panel of judges concerning the organization of the team and their robots design.

At the Lafayette qualifying tournament, the Jug Rox competed against 33 other teams. They were ranked 7th during the qualifying rounds and competed in the semi-final rounds. For the first time, they were the Inspire Award winner.

The Inspire Award celebrates a team that, in the opinion of the judges, is a strong contender in many award categories. The reliability of the robot during the robot competition is one as-

pect of this award, but it does not carry more weight than any other requirement. The Inspire Award winner is an inspiration to other teams, acting with Gracious Professionalism both on and off the playing field. This team is able to communicate their experiences, enthusiasm and knowledge to other teams, sponsors, their community, and the judges. Working as a unit, this team will have demonstrated success in accomplishing the task of designing and building a Robot.

Jug Rox Robotix now advances to the Indiana State FTC tournament on March 16, 2019. A good performance at this event will advance the Jug Rox to the FTC World Championship in Detroit in April. The team would like to thank the following sponsors: Shoals Community Schools, Kimball Electronics, Jasper Engines, General Motors Bedford, Martin County Community Foundation, Chastain's Flowers and Gifts, Jones Oil Company, Loughmiller Machine Tool & Design, German American Bank, Tania's Touch, USG, DoD (NeDEP) and Greene's Body Shop.

Two arrested on meth charges

A joint investigation by the Washington Police Department, Daviess County Sheriff's Office, Indiana State Police, and the DEA Task Force led to the arrest of two Martin County residents on dealing methamphetamine charges on Monday.

On March 4, at approximately 9:15 p.m., officers with the above listed agencies and the Loogootee Police Department served a search warrant at 508 Butcher Boulevard in Loogootee across from the Loogootee Jr/Sr High School.

Officers reported locating approximately 133 grams of methamphetamine (4.6 ounces), paraphernalia associated with methamphetamine use and distribution, schedule IV controlled substance pills, marijuana, six handguns, and 21 long guns.

James Cunningham, 60, and Georgia Cunningham, 58, were arrested on charges of dealing methamphetamine over 10 grams, possession of methamphetamine over 28 grams, maintaining a common nuisance, and possession of paraphernalia. The case is being handled by the Martin County Prosecutor's Office.

All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Library groundbreaking

The Loogootee Library groundbreaking has been postponed to Thursday, March 21 at 3 p.m. It was originally scheduled for this past Monday but cancelled due to the cold temperature. The new library will be built next to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Park Street in Loogootee.

Prosecutor wants extra help, sheriff wants new vehicles

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Prosecutor Aureola Wright spoke to the Martin County Council at their meeting Monday night, March 4, about her office's workload and the need to hire an additional attorney.

Wright said having another deputy prosecutor in the office would provide better quality as the caseload increases. Since she took office in January, Wright said they have found many old cases that have been left inactive for a long time. For instance, she said she recently worked for two days on a case that hasn't been looked at since 2016. She added that the increase in cases began four years ago and they piled up. Her main concern is victim advocacy. She said the victims in any case are near and dear to her and she doesn't think it is right that they have to wait years for a resolution on a case. She said they also need to have staff at the prosecutor's office to keep them updated, answer their questions and provide them with support.

Prosecutor Wright also told the council that the prosecutor's office does more than just misdemeanors and felony cases, they also handle all search warrants and warrants for arrest, deal with those out on pretrial home detention who have reoffended, child support issues and bad check cases.

The prosecutor's office currently only has the prosecutor and the chief deputy prosecutor in the office to serve as attorneys. The state pays the salary of both their positions. Any additional attorneys would have to be paid by the county and Wright said before she put out feelers for one to add to her office, she wanted to see what the council would be on board with. Wright said she expects it to take a couple years to get the case load back to a manageable level, if arrests don't increase more than they have the past few years.

Community Corrections Director Kathy Collins spoke up agreeing with Wright saying they must get the cases through the system faster. She said she has a client, for example, who has spent \$25,000 on bail and costs for house arrest and has been waiting for resolution to his case for two and a half years. Collins said that is too much time for anyone to have to wait not to mention the loved ones involved.

"I'm not here to place blame," said Wright, adding that she just wants to provide the council with the information on where things stand.

Auditor Bobbie Abel said the only way they could fund an additional position this year is to do an additional appropriation. If the council wanted to go forward with it for 2020, they would need to add it into the prosecutor's budget.

The council discussed with Wright the possibility of having a lawyer do a contract with the county, more on a part-time basis, as opposed to being a full-fledged county employee, which would come with benefits. Benefits could increase the cost to the county by up to half the salary paid. Wright said she could ask around but felt the cost on a contract would have to be a bit higher than if she hired someone as a county employee because most lawyers wouldn't want to take on this type of caseload at a low wage. She asked for an amount she could use as a starting point with attorneys. She suggested \$55,000 to \$60,000. The council gave her the go ahead.

Wright said she would have to talk to lawyers outside of Martin County because there are only four lawyers in Martin County. She said ideally, she could find a lawyer fresh out of law school, who has passed the bar, and would want to take the job for the experience. The lawyer could work on the low level cases to get started. Wright said all the cases are important but it would free up her and her deputy to work on higher level cases that need more time.

Wright said she would report back with who she is able to find.

Sheriff Travis Roush and Chief Deputy Josh Greene talked to the council about upgrading six cars in the sheriff's department fleet and buying two new trucks to completely replace the last two cars. Sheriff Roush said the goal is for the entire department to drive four-wheel drive trucks. He said it makes more sense when they are the only 24/7 agency responding in the county.

Roush said he heard from a few citizens when he was on the campaign trail who were upset about the sheriff's department buying trucks because they were poor on gas mileage. Roush said analyzed it and the trucks are not as bad as some think they are and are only 33 percent less fuel efficient. He said they are needed in snow, helping pull vehicles out of ditches, and dealing with poor roads and poor road conditions around the county.

Council Member Buck Stiles said that when Sheriff Roush asked to hire additional deputies, he also said they wouldn't need to purchase more vehicles. Roush replied that he did say that however he also said he would be housing 15 out of county inmates and he is actually housing 25.

The sheriff's department, under Roush's tenure, has done a vehicle rotation program to keep the fleet at low miles and trading them in when they get to around 50,000 miles. Last year, they purchased a vehicle outright and only traded in one other older model. Now, they have six 2017 vehicles that need to be traded in at a cost of \$7,000 (See 'COUNTY COUNCIL' on page 2)

COUNTY COUNCIL

(Continued from page one)

each. Also, the council approved having a full-time deputy at the courthouse last year and that deputy took one of the pool vehicles, available to any officer. That leaves one pool vehicle. Roush said that when his three reserve officers show up to donate time, they don't have a vehicle available to them. Roush said this is turning down free labor to keep the county safe.

The total amount the sheriff is asking for is \$106,000 which includes the \$42,000 to trade in the six 2017 models, \$54,000 to buy two new trucks to replace the last of the cars in the fleet and the remaining funds to outfit the new trucks and make them road-ready. They do have some money in the budget for this year to pay for around \$20,000.

Albright said they need to leave one vehicle available in the pool.

Councilman Stiles asked how much money was actually being made off the housing of out-of-county inmates. He said he knows the gross amount is expected to be \$300,000 this year but after meals and other costs, he wanted to know the net amount. Roush said he didn't have that amount with him but said, "I can tell you this, it's a hell of a profit."

Roush said he doesn't want all the money back that he is making with out of county but when he has a need for his department, he wants to get it. Roush said if the council was not in favor of spending that kind of money, he would forgo buying himself a truck this year and continue with his car until next year. He said he wanted his deputies to have dependable vehicles. The council members said they felt Roush needed a new vehicle.

The council decided to think it over before next month's meeting to see what could be done. It was discussed that it may be a better idea to trade in three of the 2017 models now for 2019 models and trade in the three others at the end of the year so they would be 2020 models. And also purchase one new 2019 model and one 2020 model at the end of the year. They will discuss it further next month.

Sheriff Roush also told the council that they needed to move the police pension from Morgan Stanley to German American. Roush said he received a letter late last year that Morgan Stanley, who has held the police pension for around 15 years, ended their relationship with many small counties, effective March 29 of this year. The merit board interviewed three new investors and chose German American. Roush said that Lawrence County just went through the same issue a few weeks ago so he brought a copy and paste version of their resolution for the county to sign. The council approved the resolution.

Laura Albertson, Director of Martin County Solid Waste, said she wasn't on the agenda for the meeting but wanted to give the council a heads up on her plan to adjust the way solid waste is funded by taxes. She said she has officially retired from the solid waste district but is currently working under contract while she ties up loose ends and transitions a new director. She said the market has crashed when it comes to recyclables and she has been trying to sell a truck load of shrink wrap since last year to no avail. She said the cost of a ton of cardboard has gone down from \$180 a ton to \$60 a ton and it is costing her \$100 a day in gas and \$100 a day in labor to even pick up the cardboard to make \$60 a ton off of it. She said years ago she took away the tax levy and added on a \$24 a year user fee on to property taxes. She now wants to put back on the tax levy.

When asked if she plans to double tax the residents, Albertson replied that it is not a double tax and she doesn't want to increase the amount of taxes she is currently getting. She said she would get the mailing addresses of all the council members and send them information on what she wants to do. She said that the state board of accounts said it has to be completed by May 1 in order to take effect for 2020 so she would like the council to vote on it next month. She said if the council chooses to vote no, she would just have to increase the \$24 annual fee on homeowners.

She added that she brings in around

\$115,000 a year in tax revenue and has to raise an additional \$400,000 a year, by selling products, to keep the recycling center open.

Auditor Bobbie Abel brought back up the possibility of starting a salary and wage committee this year, prior to budget hearings. She said she suggested this a few times in the past and hopes a committee could talk about salaries and come up with a plan prior to budget hearings instead of trying to debate it for hours. She checked with Daviess County and they have a salary and wage committee with three council members. She said Martin County could possibly have one commissioner, three council members and an elected official.

Abel was asked if other counties, other than Daviess County, do salary and wage committees. Abel replied that she didn't check with any county other than Daviess.

Abel said that budget committee hearings would have to be like regular advertised open-door meetings and minutes have to be taken.

Council Member Buck Stiles said he thinks it needs to be done for more consistency.

Abel added that Martin County is one of the lowest paid in the state and the committee could meet to see if there is a way to rectify that prior to budget hearings each year. She said there would be no definitive solution until budget hearings but at least there would be a plan.

Kathy Collins spoke up wanting to know when job descriptions were created. Auditor Abel said they were done in 2016. Collins wanted to know why job descriptions were done. Abel replied that job descriptions were created to give to new hires to sign and if they were not meeting their job description, the employer had a basis to go on to potentially terminate employment. The job descriptions had other purposes, she said, including for safety reasons, etc.

Collins said she thinks they need to be updated even though she knows department heads would "rather stick a needle in their eye than update them." She feels they are out of date.

Auditor Abel said it was like pull-

ing teeth to get people to write out the job descriptions to begin with. Council Member Sherri Bowling said that updating them would not be as difficult as last time because they are not creating them from the beginning.

Council Member Richard Summers said they need to make a decision on the salary and wage committee and job descriptions prior to the next meeting.

Council Member Stiles said he would like to request an executive session with the commissioners for as soon as possible. He wants to know where the gas tax money is going and why it's not being spent on the roads. He said they keep telling people they can't do anything with the roads unless they get Community Crossings grants. He said he keeps looking to find where the money is going but has been unsuccessful. "Shame on us if it's there and we don't know anything about it," said Stiles.

Alliance Director Tim Kinder talked to the council about becoming a broadband ready community. He said that 13 communities so far are designated as broadband ready and Brown County is the only one, that he knows of so far, that has included the county and the only town. He would like to see Martin County do a resolution with the City of Loogootee and the Towns of Crane and Shoals.

Kinder showed the council what Bedford put together in their process of becoming broadband ready, as an example. The state has created a next level connections fund of \$100 million to give out toward broadband installation and broadband ready communities may get top billing in that money.

It was discussed that the broadband installation would be determined by what companies would want to come into Martin County. Council Member Warren Albright said that if the county doesn't get a grant to help, he didn't see broadband happening.

The council agreed that it would be better to have a combined joint resolution. Kinder said he would work one up. He said that currently, only eight percent of Martin County businesses have access to broadband.

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Obituaries

MARTIN COUNTY JOURNAL

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

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LARRY MCBRIDE

Larry Gene McBride passed away on March 4, 2019 at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis. A resident of Loogootee, he was 74.

He was born September 27, 1943 in Clay City; son of the late Donald and Bonnie J. (Fields) McBride. Larry was a graduate of Clay City High School and Indiana State Teachers College. He worked as an accountant and a salesman. He was a United States Air Force Veteran.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Bonnie McBride; his paternal grandparents, Vernon and Lenna McBride; his maternal grandparents, Herbert and Jenny Fields.

He is survived by his brother, Roger (Inga) McBride of Paoli; his sister, Donna McBride and Ed Koch of Long Lake, New York; nephew, John Day of Loogootee and many other nieces and nephews.

Cremation was chosen according to Larry's wishes. A graveside service and military rights will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 13 at Goodwill Cemetery in Loogootee.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Arrangements were provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

LOIS BRASSINE

Lois Ilene Brassine passed away March 3, 2019 at the Martin County Health and Rehabilitation Center in Loogootee. A resident of Shoals, she was 79.

She was born March 17, 1939 in Martin County; daughter of Hillard and Betty (Gilbert) Inman.

She graduated Williams High School in 1957 and was retired.

Survivors include one son, Christopher Wright of Jasper; five daughters, Kelly White of Shoals, Shawna Stinson

of Shoals, Debbie Wilson of Shoals, Makiah Brassine of Shoals and Brandi Brassine of Shoals; 14 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one sister, Diana Evans of Fayetteville.

Preceding her death are her parents and two brothers, Douglas Inman and Gary "Jake" Inman.

A Celebration of Life Reception will be at the Shoals Christian Church Community Center on Thursday, March 7 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Burial will be at a later date.

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

BURTIS GAITHER

Burtis M. Gaither passed away at 10:53 a.m. Monday, March 4, 2019 at The Villages at Oakridge. A resident of Cannelburg, she was 97.

She was born February 4, 1922 in Loogootee; daughter of the late Paul and Laura (Huebner) Fuhrman.

Burtis married Commander Don Gaither March 21, 1943 and he preceded her in death on September 18, 1983.

She was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She enjoyed spending time in the garden and taking care of flowers. She cherished the memories made while raising her family and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Burtis was preceded in death by her husband, Commander Don Gaither; parents, Paul and Laura (Huebner) Fuhrman; siblings, Carl (Wilma) Fuhrman, Clarence Fuhrman and Pauline (Alpha) Walton; and brother-in-law, Bobby Buchta.

She is survived by her children, Jill Gaither Hansen of Indianapolis, Ann (Ron) Gaither Hamilton of Bloomfield and Paul (Kathy) Gaither of Cannelburg; grandchildren, Kristi Hoffman, Beth Goss, Cheryl Gibbs and Travis Gaither; eight great-grandchildren;

three step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren; sister, Wilma Buchta of Loogootee; and sister-in-law, Beulah Fuhrman of Loogootee.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 6 at Blake & Wagler Funeral Home in Montgomery. Burial will follow in Bethany Ceme-

tery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Washington.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Arrangements were provided by Blake & Wagler Funeral Home in Montgomery.



Making A Difference

MARTIN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

By Curt Johnson
MCCF Executive Director

-- SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE --

The scholarships offered by the MCCF come from one of the five types of funds we hold. I have talked about the types of funds in other columns, which are available in our online library. Feel free to check them out; links are on our Facebook and web pages.

Below are the scholarships provided to our Martin County students who are pursuing higher education. Some are specific to the Loogootee High School, some to the Shoals High School, and some reach out to all Martin County residents. Here are summaries for each scholarship.

-- LOOGOOTE HIGH SCHOOL --

- Ann Jones Burch Tennis (Two \$1,000)

A scholarship to both a boy and a girl student has a commitment to tennis, has participated in other school activities, and shown that they are a good citizen.

- Rita and Jack Butcher Loogootee Basketball Family (\$1,000)

Has a good attitude, work ethic and performed well academically. Has participated in sports and/or other extracurricular activities.

- Gerdon Jones Memorial (\$2,859)

Participated in high school athletics and showed improved skills. Displays a positive mental attitude.

- Loogootee Alumni (\$892)

Displays good citizenship, gentleness, easy to speak to, and participates in school activities. Be one of humility, and unwavering belief in the dignity and aspirations of those they touch, commitment to their fellowman and the strength of self-discovery and individual growth.

- Saint Vincent de Paul Society (\$1,000)

Must have financial need as determined using standard financial need discovery instruments.

- Ben Trout Memorial Student Athlete (\$2,000)

Earned an academic honors degree and a varsity athletic letter. Shows outstanding mental attitude, team spirit and sportsmanship.

- William McGovern II Fund

Provides scholarships to seniors planning to pursue higher education at a college, university or trade school.

-- SHOALS HIGH SCHOOL --

- Faye Shobe Memorial (\$500)

Preference will be given to a student seeking a degree in the field of Elementary Education.

- Saint Vincent de Paul Society (\$1,000)

Must have financial need as determined using standard financial need discovery instruments.

-- COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP --

- Terri Sullivan Callaway (\$2,651)

For students who transition straight

from high school OR for those with 1 or more years after high school. Must be a member of a Christian faith church and pursuing the field of nursing. Priority is given to members of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

-- HOW TO APPLY --

The majority of the scholarships are available through the Loogootee and Shoals High School counselors and selected by each school. The exceptions are the Butcher Loogootee Basketball Family and Terry Sullivan Callaway scholarships that are available online at www.cfpartner.org/mccfgrants.htm. THESE TWO ARE DUE MARCH 15th.

-- MORE INFORMATION --

For more information about the MCCF, please contact the Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or mccf@cfpartner.org.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

The City of Loogootee Park and Recreation Dept. is accepting applications for **SUMMER POOL HELP**



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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

12:20 a.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Crane. Crane Ambulance responded.

2:55 a.m. - Received a report of domestic dispute in Crane. Corporal Reed and Deputy Gibson responded.

6:52 a.m. - Received a report of a deceased deer on US Highway 231, south of Loogootee. ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

9:38 a.m. - Received a report of property damage in Crane. Major Dant responded.

11:55 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee First Responders responded. Martin County Ambulance transported one subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:00 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

6:03 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee First Responders responded. Martin County Ambulance transported one subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

9:52 p.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee First Responders responded.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

6:47 a.m. - Received a report of car-deer accident in Crane. Major Dant responded.

9:20 a.m. - Deputy Lents took three inmates to court.

10:17 a.m. - Received a report of reckless driving on US Highway 50, east of Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

11:08 a.m. - Received a report of debris in the roadway on US Highway 50, west of Shoals. Major Dant responded.

11:35 a.m. - Major Dant, Loogootee Chief Rayhill and Loogootee Captain Hennette assisted a motorist on US Highway 231, south of Loogootee.

12:28 p.m. - Received a report of scam phone calls in the area.

12:40 p.m. - Deputy Lents took three inmates to court.

12:57 p.m. - Deputy Wright assisted a motorist in Loogootee with a vehicle unlock.

1:29 p.m. - Received a report of reckless driving on US Highway 50, east of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill and Major Dant responded.

1:35 p.m. - Received a report of reckless driving on US Highway 231, north of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill and Major Dant responded.

2:11 p.m. - Deputy Lents took four inmates to court.

2:13 p.m. - Deputy Wright took one inmate to court.

2:20 p.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported one subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

3:16 p.m. - Received a report of theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

3:40 p.m. - Received a report of vehicle running a school bus stop arm in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

4:00 p.m. - Received a report of reckless driving on State Road 550. Major Dant and Deputy Lents responded.

4:33 p.m. - Received a request for extra patrols in Crane. Deputy Wright responded.

5:35 p.m. - Received a request for welfare check north of Shoals. Deputy Wright responded. Everything checked out okay.

6:01 p.m. - Received a request for ambulance South of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee First Responders responded.

6:20 p.m. - Shoals Town Marshal Eckert assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock in Shoals.

6:28 p.m. - Received a report of civil dispute in Shoals. Deputy Wright responded.

7:00 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

7:47 p.m. - Deputy Gibson assisted a motorist in Loogootee with a vehicle unlock.

9:15 p.m. - Received a report of theft near Shoals. Deputy Wright responded.

10:39 p.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

2:57 a.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded.

10:25 a.m. - Received an animal complaint east of Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

10:35 a.m. - Received a request for vin check on mobile home in Shoals. Deputy Wright responded.

11:17 a.m. - Received a report of debris in roadway on US Highway 50, west of Shoals. Deputy Wright responded.

11:33 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

6:09 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County Ambulance transported one subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

5:35 a.m. - Received a report of loose horse in the Dover Hill area. Deputy Gibson responded.

6:10 a.m. - Received a report of car-deer accident on US Highway 231, south of Loogootee. Deputy Gibson responded.

6:14 a.m. - Received a report of vehicle vandalism in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

8:02 a.m. - Received a report of suspicious individuals on US Highway 231, south of Loogootee. Major Dant responded. Everything checked out okay.

9:43 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Shoals. Major Dant responded.

11:15 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn on US Highway 231, south of Loogootee.

11:27 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

12:01 p.m. - Received a report of an accident on State Road 450, north of Shoals. Martin County Ambulance, Shoals Fire Department, Williams Fire Department, Chief Deputy Greene and Deputy Wright responded. Martin County Ambulance transported one subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

12:35 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Crane. Indiana State Police responded.

1:25 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification check in Loogootee.

Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

2:27 p.m. - Received a report of an accident near Shoals. Deputy Shinn responded.

4:07 p.m. - Received a report of civil dispute in Loogootee. Deputy Shinn and Deputy Wright responded.

4:54 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

7:30 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Chief Deputy Greene responded. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

8:04 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee Captain Hennette and ISP Trooper Beaver responded. Martin County Ambulance transported one subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:27 a.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

10:38 a.m. - Received a report of reckless driving in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

2:30 p.m. - Received a report of reckless driving in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette and Loogootee Officer McBeth responded.

3:53 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

4:08 p.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire Department responded. Martin County Ambulance transported one subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

4:19 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

6:10 p.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported one subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:48 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

11:30 p.m. - Received a report of harassment in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Floyd responded.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

12:40 a.m. - Received a report of commercial burglar alarm on State Road 450. Corporal Reed responded. Everything checked out okay.

3:40 a.m. - Received a report of an accident on US Highway 231, north of Loogootee. Corporal Reed, Reserve Deputy Harmon, Reserve Deputy Greene and Martin County Ambulance responded.

8:32 a.m. - Received a report of residential burglar alarm in Shoals. Sergeant Keller and Loogootee Officer McBeth responded. Everything checked out okay.

8:43 a.m. - Received a report of suspicious male in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth responded. Everything checked out okay.

10:36 a.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported one subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:16 a.m. - Received a report of domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth and Indiana State Police Trooper responded.

1:00 p.m. - Received a request for vehicle identification check in Shoals.

Sergeant Keller responded.

3:05 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

4:05 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Crane. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

2:34 p.m. - Received report of civil issue in Shoals. Deputy Gibson responded.

4:10 p.m. - Deputy Gibson completed a vehicle identification check in Shoals.

4:47 p.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported one subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

6:51 p.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded.

9:06 p.m. - Received a request for ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded. Martin County Ambulance transported one subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

ARRESTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

12:56 p.m. - Christine White, 20, of Bedford, was arrested by Deputy Wright on a Martin County Warrant for failure to appear and is being held without bond.

9:11 p.m. - Keely McNabb, 21, of Vincennes, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Floyd and charged with driving while suspended-prior, operating without financial responsibility-prior, and was also wanted on a Knox County warrant. She is being held on a \$20,000 10% bond.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

1:45 a.m. - Daniel Lauderdale, 38, of Bloomfield, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Floyd and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of a syringe, possession of paraphernalia and operating a vehicle after registration suspended or revoked. He is being held on a \$25,000 10% bond. Corporal Reed assisted with the arrest.

1:55 a.m. - Michael Fields, 54, identified as homeless, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Floyd and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of a syringe and possession of paraphernalia. He is being held on a \$25,000 10% bond. Corporal Reed assisted with the arrest.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

3:35 a.m. - Galen Raber, 20, of Montgomery, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Floyd and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-refusal, minor consumption and operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment. He is being held on a \$25,000 10% bond.

4:25 a.m. - Mark Parker, 58, of Loogootee, was arrested by Corporal Reed and charged with driving while suspended-prior, false informing and possession of marijuana. He is being held on a \$25,000 10% bond.

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COURT NEWS

Persons listed on criminal charges are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

CRIMINAL COURT New Charges Filed February 4

Braxton K. Ford, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Courtney E. Sutton, battery, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Stephen J. Petit, shooting from or across a public highway, a Class B Misdemeanor; failure to retrieve crippled or killed wild animals, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Cory J. Cox, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Level 6 Felony; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Level 6 Felony; three counts of possession of a controlled substance, Class A Misdemeanors; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Jeffery S. Stewart, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; two counts of unlawful possession of a syringe, Level 6 Felonies; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

February 5

Oscar De Santiago Moreno, operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor.

John D. Wagler, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor.

February 6

Chelsea N. Dunbar, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

February 7

Paul D. Adkins, possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia,

Real estate transfers

Sara J. Clark, of Auglaize County, Ohio to **Michael Thompson and Amy Thompson**, of Martin County, Indiana, the west half of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 7, Township 1 North, Range 3 West, containing 20 acres, more or less.

Thomas Joseph Arvin and Christina Dawn Arvin, of Morgan County, Indiana to **Waylon James Matthews**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number One in Roger's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana. Also, Lot Number 2 in Roger's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Dan McCarty and Jean McCarty, of Martin County, Indiana to **Gary M. Kebert and Cheri L. Broach-Kebert**, of Martin County, Indiana, all that part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 3, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, containing 40 acres, more or less. All that part of the east half of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter in Section 3, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, containing 20 acres, more or less. Except sections containing 7 acres, 2.95 acres, and .60 acres.

a Class C Misdemeanor.

February 8

Courtney P. Hawkins, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Jesse A. Daniels, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Kade J. Tretter, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Billy Craft, domestic battery against a disabled person resulting in bodily injury, a Level 5 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony.

February 11

David G. Jenkins, two counts of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, Class A Misdemeanors.

Joshua E. Schmitt, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

February 12

George B. Douglas, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Jeffrey D. Hodson, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Level 6 Felony; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor.

February 14

Brian A. Dant, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Level 6 Felony; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Level 6 Felony.

February 15

James E. Hardesty, invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Brock E. Gill, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class A Misdemeanor.

February 19

Dustin M. Holt, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony.

Amy K. Qualkenbush, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony.

February 21

David W. Terry, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

February 25

Faleigh L. Milne, battery resulting in bodily injury, a Class A Misdemeanor.

David W. Stoll, possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor.

James C. Truelove, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor.

James R. Maple III, dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 2 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 3 Felony; carrying a handgun without a license, a Level 5 Felony; two counts of criminal recklessness, Level 6 Felonies; resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Damon M. Dant, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Robertta J. Warren, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; false informing, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & SENTENCING

January 24

Jordan G. Davis, convicted of invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 215 days suspended and credit for 75 actual days previously served plus 75 Class A credit days. Defendant received 11 months of probation.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

January 24

Jordan G. Davis, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; residential entry, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed.

February 20

Jessica J. Allen, domestic battery by means of a deadly weapon, a Level 5 Felony, dismissed; criminal mischief, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

February 13

Nutrien AG Solutions vs. Larry N. Kiesling, civil collection.

Sabra D. Taylor vs. Robert E. Taylor, petition for dissolution of marriage.

February 14

Kasey C. Strange vs. Eric K. Strange, petition for dissolution of marriage.

February 15

Crane Credit Union vs. Shaun Lindsey, civil collection.

Larry G. Belcher vs. Jamie A. Belcher, petition for dissolution of marriage.

February 19

Capital One Bank vs. Linda D. Carlson, civil collection.

Lynnetta D. Bell vs. Scotty P. Bell, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Renaee G. Keller vs. Charles A. Keller, Jr., petition for dissolution of marriage.

February 21

Scotty P. Bell vs. Lynnetta D. Bell, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Crane Credit Union vs. Teresa L. Parks, miscellaneous civil.

February 22

Larry S. Corrie vs. BMW, miscellaneous civil.

February 25

Midland Funding, LLC vs. Henry Kent, civil collection.

Ricky L. Graber vs. BMC, miscellaneous civil.

February 26

Katherine J. Miner s. William C. Miner III, petition for dissolution of marriage.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

February 19

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff LVNV Funding, LLC and against the defendant Mattie Hall in the amount of \$1,420.71.

February 25

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Midland Funding, LLC and against the defendant Lisha Young in the amount of \$1,558.99.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff LVNV Funding, LLC and against the defendant Latrisha McKibben in the amount of \$868.29.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Ryan Lawrence in the amount of \$11,752.48.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Jonathan D. Weh in the amount of \$5,673.37.

March 1

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Cach, LLC and against the defendant Shelly Petty in the amount of \$854.69.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Credit Acceptance Corp. and against the defendant Joshua Williams in the amount of \$3,899.04.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suits Filed

February 19

Monty Gregory vs. Morgan Combs, complaint.

February 21

Richard and Charla Ivey vs. Affordable Towing, complaint.

February 26

Isha Wright-Ryan vs. Carissa King, complaint.

Isha Wright-Ryan vs. Anna Yates, complaint.

SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

February 25

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Family Dental Care and against the defendant Anson Wagler in the amount of \$423.55.

February 27

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Dusty J. Morrow in the amount of \$1,018.98.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Randy Frye in the amount of \$2,518.30.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendants Carla F. Guise and Terrance E. Guise in the amount of \$956.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Brock E. Mercer in the amount of \$4,403.38.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff White River Cooperative, Inc. and against the defendant Bob McIntosh in the amount of \$629.93.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Anthony G. Jones and against the defendant Larry G. Belcher in the amount of \$2,770.47.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Shirley L. Christy in the amount of \$2,666.23.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Kenneth E. Smith in the amount of \$2,419.98.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Stephan A. Elliott in the amount of \$2,858.79.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Satanna L. Meriwether in the amount of \$1,766.64.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Kevin R. Carter in the amount of \$3,333.41.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Amber L. Ankney in the amount of \$3,196.78.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

March 1

William D. Combs of Loogootee and Kimberly J. Hall of Washington.

March 4

Tony K. Allen II of Shoals and Trenady Star Miller of Shoals.

More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



AS I GET OLDER I REALIZE:

1. I talk to myself, because sometimes I need expert advice.
2. Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.
3. I don't need anger management, I need people to stop ticking me off.
4. My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance of idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
6. When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.
7. The day the world runs out of wine is just too terrible to think about.
8. Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound.
9. Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes, come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
10. "Getting Lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why I'm there.

THOUGHT PROVOKERS:

- *It's OK to not be OK. Some days are just harder than others.
- *It's not about who is real to your face; it's about who stays loyal behind your back.
- *Go into the world and do well, but more importantly, go into the world and do good.
- *People can be divided into three groups – those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened.
- *I hate when you're on a roll clean-

ing and being productive...then you sit down for a second and lose all motivation and energy to continue.

DID YOU KNOW? I'VE GOT A FROG IN MY THROAT

Meaning: I'm hoarse from a cold.
Origin: Surprisingly, this wasn't inspired by the croaking sound of a cold-sufferer's voice, but by a weird medical practice. "In the Middle Ages," says Christine Ammer in *It's Raining Cats and Dogs*, infections such as thrush were sometimes treated by putting a live frog head first into the patient's mouth; by inhaling the frog was believed to draw out the patient's infection into its own body. The treatment is happily obsolete, but its memory survives in the 19th century term frog in one's throat."

RANDOM THOUGHTS

- *If I ever have to run for my life, I can assure you it's not going to end well.
- *Brain cells, hair cells, and skin cells all die constantly, but freaking fat cells seem to have eternal life.
- *I just checked my account balance at the ATM. It printed me a coupon for Ramen noodles.
- *So technically, Moses was the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.
- *I have the right to remain silent...I just don't have the ability.
- *I'm not getting old, I'm just becoming a classic.

Make someone smile today!



Loogootee Students of the Month -Photo provided

The Loogootee Elementary Students and Staff Member of the Month have been chosen for February. In the front row, from left to right, are Hunter Bays and Elin Wade. In the second row, from left to right, are Angel Gonzalez, Cashlynn Skirvin, Landry Strange, Liam Kluesner, Jaxon Smith, and Anderson Toy. In the back row, from left to right, are Wyatt Osborne, Emmett Graber, Mrs. Traci LeTourneau, Skyler Hudson, and Joshua Goldsberry.

TOY'S AUTO PARTS, INC.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Food pantry hours

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

Free lunch for kids

New Beginnings Community Church will be offering a free lunch to all school-age children every Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. at the fellowship hall of the church, located at 200 West Main Street next to the post office. For more info, call 812-709-2525.

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!

Humane society meetings

The Martin County Humane Society meets on the third Friday of the month at the animal shelter at 507 N Oak Street in Loogootee, at 5:30 p.m.

Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste

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

Soil and Water meetings

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

Attention Senior Citizens

The Loogootee Senior Citizen Center, located in the annex building attached to JFK Gym on JFK Avenue in Loogootee provides activities for seniors every Monday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon. For \$5 a year, seniors can participate in Euchre tournaments, games, puzzles, etc., with other local seniors. Anyone interested is welcome to stop by, there are no age or residency requirements to participate. Seniors are also offered lunch at the Loogootee Senior Center every Monday and Thursday. A freewill donation is requested. Call 812-295-3130 to make a reservation.



The Martin County Veteran Service Officer has an office in the Martin County Courthouse. An appointment is necessary. For assistance, call 812-247-2210; transportation needs, call 812-247-2450 and leave a message or e-mail martincountyvso2013@yahoo.com. Calls are returned on Tuesday and Thursday.

During the month of February, the veteran service office assisted seven veterans and had three meetings. The veterans' van took three trips transporting three veterans to VA medical centers and clinics.

DRIVERS NEEDED for the veterans' van. I am aware that we all have very busy lives and very little free time which is why I am looking for reliable drivers to add to my call list. I am looking for VOLUNTEERS that are willing to transport a veteran possibly one trip a week to medical appointments at VA hospital and clinics in the surround-

ing area. This is not a paid position. You must have an Indiana license and a clean driving record. If interested, please contact me.

The veterans' van only transports to appointments at VA hospitals and clinics. You must contact me for transportation needs. Do NOT contact the driver's directly, they do not have the van schedule. The veterans' van is not a part of the DAV program, it is funded by Martin County taxpayers so we only transport Martin County residents.

The veterans' van will only transport to Indianapolis and Northern clinics on Tuesday and Thursday, Louisville and New Albany on Wednesday and Friday and Southern clinics on Monday's. The veterans' van will NOT leave the recycling center earlier than 7 a.m. Please schedule your appointments accordingly.

The Veterans Crisis Line provides confidential help for veterans and their families. Call at 1-800-273-8255 (PRESS 1) for help.

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



FIONA is a female dilute tortoiseshell cat, around 2 years old. She is very sweet and gets along with other cats. She is spayed and up to date on shots. Adoption fee is \$45. The Martin County Humane Society Animal Shelter is located at 507 N. Oak Street in Loogootee. For info or to see all the dogs and cats available for adoption, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.

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Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton
NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

I have seen a lot of pugged pastures the last few weeks. Pugged meaning soil trampled into consolidated mud by hooves.

There are a few parts of the state that have remained frozen long enough to retard excess damage to pastures. The rest of the state has remained wet enough that any pastures or overwintering areas that have been used have occurred damage to the sod.

I mentioned last month that I was asked about temporary or summer cover for overwintering areas. I have also had lots of questions about what to do with damaged pastures. Good questions, but not the easiest to answer because really, "it depends." Time and weather are also factors in whether you can address it sooner or later.

Overwintering areas take a major beating but are worse under almost constant wet conditions. Winter feeding of hay and other feed creates tractor tracks along with the churning of soil from livestock hooves. The overabundance of nutrients and organic material in these feeding areas are often a mess by the end of winter and both producers and livestock can't wait to stay out of it. These overwintering areas are ideally designated areas, not entire pastures or pasture systems. Destruction of the sod is bad enough on small units but is devastating over large areas. Heavily pugged fields can have up to 75 percent reduction in desirable forage yield. These areas usually have less legumes, more erosion, a loss of nutrients, potentially horrible weed problems from opening up the seed bank, are extremely rough to walk or drive on, and may increase some livestock health issues.

When we talk about pastures, it is usually recommended that you change the field that you start the season with every year to help maintain forage diversity and to not accidentally stress the same fields over and over the same time periods. When it comes to overwintering areas, it's probably best to determine the best location and continue using it every year. An ideal location is away from any water bodies and close to equipment when possible. The area will need to have an all-weather watering facility and ideally some heavy use area rock pads to make life for both you and the livestock a little better. The portion that doesn't have a pad, will normally get torn up.

So, what can you do with these damaged areas? First of all, these areas will need to dry up and that may not happen until after the livestock are back out on pastures again. Once dry enough, animal waste and any remaining decomposing hay should be cleaned up and ideally spread on a field that could use the organic matter and nutrients. These overwintering areas quite often have some perennial forage remaining and trying to survive the turmoil. Unless animal units are very low, trying to maintain perennials on these sites can be difficult. A mixture of annuals and perennials is best, but just annuals can also work.

If you decide to seed something early (March-April), a mix of oats and or annual ryegrass, and red clover can be used, and you certainly could add a little tall fescue at the same time if you want to provide some longer lasting se-

curity. If you cannot get around to planting until a little later (May-early June) due to weather, row crop planting, or just procrastination, then warm season forages might be better. These species could include Japanese or Pearl millet, sorghum-sudangrass, sudangrass, cowpeas, and perhaps a forage crabgrass. If you don't plant anything in these overwintering areas, then nature will usually fill the void with species you and the livestock may not really appreciate, including those that tend to thrive or like higher nutrient and organic matter levels such as barnyard grass, prickly pigweed, jimson weed, goose grass, and ragweed.

It is important to remove excess manure from the area if possible. If you have too much organic matter on the site, especially leftover hay that hasn't broken down, then it will tie up nitrogen for the forages that you are trying to grow. Adding legumes in the mix can help provide nitrogen to help break this matter down. If the site happens to be heavy in nitrogen from feeds, then excess nitrates could also be an issue.

Once the site is cleaned up and the "product" taken and spread on a field(s) needing the nutrients, then only level the area if needed. Any other disturbance, especially with tillage tools, will alter structure of the soil to the depth of the tillage tool used. The disturbed depth will be softer and more prone to disturbance and future pugging until the natural structure of the soil is restored. No-till drilling is the preferred method of planting.

Once planting and growing, the cover can be utilized for grazing when needed or left to build bulk and provide some protection for the next winter use. If planted to a warm season forage mix, the stand could be part of your contingency plan for later in the year if it turns hot and dry. It is actually good to lightly graze it once in a while to promote tillering and root growth and to keep more vegetative for forage quality. How valuable this is to the operation is somewhat dependent on the size of the area and what the rest of your forage-to-animal balance looks like. Vegetative cover on the site is certainly valuable for reducing erosion, recycling nutrients, reducing nutrient leaching, and in some cases, feed for livestock.

Let's move on to damaged pastures. Damaged pastures can have similar problems as the overwintering areas. The more damage or disturbance (or the barer the soil is), the higher the risk of erosion (even on pasture) and the chance of not only annual weeds, but perennial weeds. Heavy disturbance in pastures promotes ironweed, cockleburrs, Carolina horsenettle, thistles and whatever has been laying around in the latent seedbank. If the pasture had good desirable forage cover prior to the disturbance, then what is left is going to be competitive with anything that you plant with it due to the already established plants and their energy reserves.

Light disturbance or less than 20 percent of the ground disturbed may not need any help and if allowed a little extra rest, will most likely fill itself back in. Heavier disturbance could benefit from some intervention, even if it is only temporary. Redtop, annual ryegrass, timothy, and clovers all make

good "fillers" and if not out competed by existing perennial forages, can certainly add diversity and hopefully help provide enough growth quick to reduce undesired plants.

No-till drilling is still ideal, but over seeding can be fairly successful as long as there isn't too much competition and it's done as early as possible. All the previously mentioned species have a small slick seed that is more capable of reaching the soil than coarser seeds except annual ryegrass. I include annual ryegrass because the success rate is still pretty high if enough disturbance or bare ground is present even if the planting method is a bit precarious.

If you have two fields that could be rotated occasionally (every 4-5 years) that are used for winter feeding, established sods, especially with tall fescue, usually hold up a little better. Spring is

coming, keep the ground covered, and look forward to "keep on grazing!"

Reminders & Opportunities

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference (SIGC) – March 6, 2019, Crane, IN – Speakers include Greg Judy, Darby Simpson, and Peter Allen. For more information contact the Daviess County Soil and Water Conservation office at 812-254-4780, Ext 3, email Toni Allison dc.swcd@daviess.org or visit www.daviesscoswcd.org/index.php/sigc

or www.facebook.com/SouthernIndianaGrazingConference

Grazing 102 – June 21-22, 2019, Southern Indiana Purdue Ag Center. More information coming.

More pasture information and past issues of Grazing Bites are available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/technical/landuse/pasture/



I am hoping that the recent cold snap is winter's last gasp. I know we still have a couple of weeks before spring officially begins, but I must admit that I am ready for spring. I really need a few more nice days to complete clean-up of last year's debris and I need to get some things done in the greenhouse, but I am really itching to get my hands in the dirt. I received a shipment of bare-root plants last week and would like to get them planted. If the weather does not allow planting soon, I will be forced to pot them up and keep them in the greenhouse for a while.

I am excited about the plants I received. I continue to look for more natives and nativars to include in the gardens and I just received two plants which I have been wanting for quite a while. Button bush is a shrub that is native to eastern North America. It may be pruned to grow as a small tree but is most often a multi-stem shrub. In nature, it is usually found in moist woodlands, including swamp areas. However, once established, it will tolerate some dry out-croppings. Grown as a shrub, button bush usually grows to about ten feet, but there have been some tree forms that have reached thirty feet. The common name comes from the blooms that come in early summer. The white to pale pink flowers are almost perfectly round and are covered with rays, making the one-inch flowers look like fuzzy buttons or pincushions. The root system of this plant makes it a great plant for erosion control, so it is a good plant to put on the bank of a pond or to use in rain gardens.

The other plant I received is commonly called "doll's eyes". It is an herbaceous perennial, growing to about eighteen inches. In spring, it has small white flowers in loose racemes, but it is the berries that follow that looks like doll's eyes. The branching on the racemes is deep red and the white or pale blue berries stand out in the garden. There are some nativars which have red and pink berries. The plant is also known as white baneberry, and all parts are poisonous if ingested, so it is not a plant you would want to use in a garden where small children are not closely

supervised. The plant grows in woodland settings, so it is a nice foil for the large foliage of hostas and hellebores in shade gardens. Unlike the button bush, it will not tolerate standing water, but does well in moist, well-drained soils.

The weather over the weekend was not great for garden work, so I spent the day Saturday with other Hoosier Hillside Master Gardeners members at Goose Pond's Marsh Madness. Goose Pond is near Linton and is one of the best places in southern Indiana to see shore birds and waterfowl. We took a tour bus around the property, but later drove back to some spots to do a little more bird-watching. We were treated to hundreds of sandhill cranes and even saw a pair of whooping cranes. We saw white pelicans, swans, snow geese, Canada geese and many types of ducks. There are also many raptors in the area and we saw some hawks and watched two bald eagles in a nest, thanks to some binoculars and scopes. Many of the birds at Goose Pond will be leaving soon to travel north to their summer breeding grounds, but some of them stick around and other birds will arrive from the south soon. During the summer, thanks to large swaths of pollinator-friendly plants, it is a great place to watch butterflies. It is a marsh area, so be sure to take mosquito repellent if visiting during warmer weather.

Back at Sandhill Gardens, the birds have been emptying my feeders quickly. With most of the natural seed heads gone now, birds must forage more for nourishment. These late winter and early spring cold snaps require a lot of food for birds to maintain the body heat needed to survive. For the most part, bird feeders are for bringing birds in so we can watch them, but at this time of year, it may mean the difference between death and survival for some birds. It is fun and educational to watch the changes in the birds coming to feeders as migrations begin. It is also fun to watch the change in colors as birds put on their summer plumage. A homemade feeder and a little black oil sunflower will give you a great deal of entertainment and you may even learn something.