

# Martin County JOURNAL

Year 12, Issue 22

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

Seven pages



## Memorial Day services

-Photos by Joshua Hughett

On Monday May 31, the Ceremonial Unit of The American Legion Post 120 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9395 paid homage to the veterans of all wars with a visit to 10 cemeteries in Martin County. Shown above is the service at Burns City Cemetery. . This was the 65th year for the Legion to conduct these services. They announced a roll call for all deceased veterans in each cemetery, followed by a 21-gun salute and playing of taps.

## Crane HR Specialist receives Community Award for Excellence

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane) Human Resource (HR) Specialist Jill Winger was recently awarded the Department of the Navy (DON) Civilian HR & EEO (CHREEO) Community Award for Excellence in recognition of her outstanding level of performance and aspiring leadership within the HR & EEO community. Her significant contributions to the NSWC Crane Human Resources Office have earned a tremendous amount of credibility and respect from her peers, the union, and command leadership as a subject expert and adviser in employee discipline and the drug free workplace program.

The DON CHREEO Community Awards for Excellence program recognizes teams and individuals whose contributions have resulted in exceptional impact or improvement in the human resources community.

Winger began her career at Crane in 2009 as a Management Clerk Intern where she assisted and prepared NSWC Crane leadership for high level visits, formulated articles for the weekly bulletin, and coordinated events such as command luncheons, job fairs, Change of Commands, Navy Balls, and the internal Strategic Business Communication Conference.

Winger was detailed into the Labor & Employee Relations (LER) Branch within the HR Division in April of 2019 and permanently assigned in May of 2020.



JILL WININGER

The LER Branch Manager, Brittany Mitchell, states that "In just under two years, Jill has exceeded all expectations and has proven to be an outstanding LER specialist within the Human Resources Office (HRO)."

As a Human Resource Specialist, Winger was instrumental in preparing NSWC Crane for the Inspector General (IG) audit. As a result of her efforts, LER successfully passed the audit with zero actionable findings in her areas of responsibility. Winger also quickly became the primary specialist leading several working groups and teams within the LER Branch.

## Commissioners discuss grants along with other county business

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
Martin County Journal Publisher

Danielle Murphy, community corrections director, submitted two letters of support for the Martin County Commissioners to sign for grants at their meeting Tuesday night, June 1. One of the grants was to the Indiana Department of Corrections for \$168,410 and the other is for the jail treatment program for \$22,074. The commissioners signed the letters. Commissioner Paul George asked Murphy how things are going in her new position as community corrections director. Murphy said things are going well and they currently have 10 clients on home detention.

Scott Seals, highway superintendent, reported they are doing a lot of mowing and currently have two mowers active and plan to have a third soon. He reminded drivers to be cautious of the highway employees on the equipment.

Julia Albright, public health nurse, told the commissioners that the health department has administered 4,100 COVID vaccines so far this year. There were 37 positive COVID cases reported for Martin County residents in May and 324 positive cases so far this year. She said the health department is getting back into their regular routine with standard vaccinations for school children.

The commissioners discussed bids received for remodeling the clerk's office. They went over a quote from Wagler and Sons however discussed the need to have

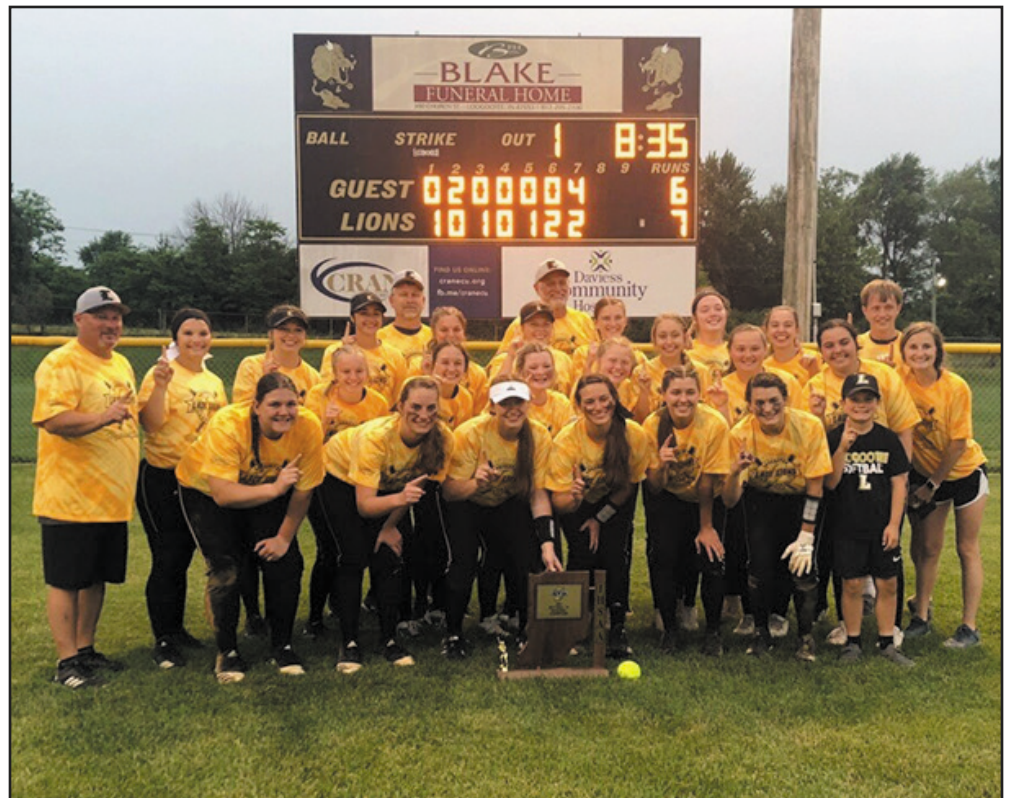
some line items removed pertaining to the prepping and painting of the walls. They voted to hire Stacy Tinkle to do that work for \$3,500. The commissioners requested that the clerk speak to Wagler and Sons about submitting a new quote minus the work on the walls. Quotes for remodeling the clerk's office. Wagler and Sons main construction part minus the \$3,000 for wall repairs.

Auditor Bobbie Abel presented letter of resignation from Carol Rischer from tourism board. She said Jamison Hibbs is working on getting someone to replace her.

The commissioners voted to stop appointing the custodian and highway department clerk each year. According to Auditor Abel, after speaking to a human resources specialist in Indianapolis, the commissioners should not be making those appointments. Both positions should be treated like regular employees with an application process.

Abel reported that the commissioners need to have an interim report submitted to the government by August 31 for the American Recovery Act funds received. The county has already received half of the \$1.9 million. Abel said the plan doesn't have to be carved in stone, it just needs to be an initial plan. They have until December 2024 to encumber the money and until 2026 to spend it.

Abel also reported that they recently had issues with the phones and the communication system in the elevator due to (See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)



## Regional win

-Photo by Susan Wittmer

The Loogootee Lady Lions Softball Team (14-7) won Regional Tuesday night, June 1 by defeating North Daviess 7-6 at North Daviess. The girls move on to semi-state on Saturday, June 5 at 11 a.m. at North Daviess where they will face off against West Washington (21-9). Clay City will face Hauser at 1 p.m. and then the winner of both games will compete at 8 p.m. for the semi-state title. In the front row, from left to right, are Adie Nolley, Jaelyn Walker, Makenzie VanHoy, Sara Street, Isabelle Waggoner, Asia Crim and Holden Lingenfelter. In the second row, from left to right, are Rachel Lents, Caitlin Carrico, Allie Henninger, Jocelyn Bruner, Lindsey Nolan, Ashlee Arvin and Chrislynn Holland. In the third row, from left to right, are Assistant Coach Brady Lingenfelter, Grace Lingenfelter, Kyleigh Courter, Sydnee Wittmer, Alana Hedrick, Claire Kemp, Ashlynn Gilbert, Kortni Rumble, Emily Hawkins, Manager Jack Fellers and Assistant Coach Sydney Davis. In the back row are Assistant Coach Travis Davis and Head Coach Greg Clark



## COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

work being done on the cell phone towers in the area. The elevator, by law, is required to have two forms of communication in case of breakdown. Abel said the cell phone towers are being upgraded to 5G by January and wanted the commissioners to know that the box in the elevator will need to be updated by then as well. She said it is possible to have a landline telephone installed in the elevator however that will come with a cost and a monthly fee. She wanted the commissioners to have time to consider what they want to.

The next commissioners' meeting will be Tuesday, June 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.



## Making A Difference

By Curt Johnson  
MCCF Director



The scholarships offered by the MCCF are one of the five types of funds we manage: (1) Unrestricted, (2) Designated, (3) Field of Interest, (4) Donor Advised, and (5) Scholarships. The MCCF had the privilege of presenting sixteen scholarships to Martin County students who are pursuing higher education.

-- LOOGOOTEE SCHOLARSHIPS --

On May 23, Curt Johnson (MCCF Director) and Paula Ringwald (MCCF Board member) presented thirteen scholarships to the following Loogootee graduating seniors.

-- MAKENZIE VANHOY --

Makenzie VanHoy was awarded the Loogootee Alumni Scholarship that is reserved for a senior who has been an excellent role model for their peers and embodies the characteristics of good citizenship, gentleness, belief in others, and the strength of self-discovery and individual growth.

Makenzie was also awarded the Ben Trout Memorial Scholarship which is given to a student athlete who has performed well in school, show outstanding mental attitude, and displays extraordinary team spirit and sportsmanship.

-- KAROLINE TEDROW --

Karoline Tedrow was awarded the Saint Vincent De Paul Scholarship, which is given to a worthy senior with a good all-around work ethic, knows the value of hard work, and how commitment and determination can help a person succeed.

-- JAEALYN WALKER --

The Rita and Jack Butcher Loogootee Basketball Family Scholarship was



presented by Jack and Rita Butcher. It is given to a senior who has participated in sports and/or other extracurricular activities, has demonstrated a good attitude and work ethic, and

has performed well academically. Jaelyn Walker received this scholarship, and she exemplifies what being a good student and a good citizen means.

-- CONNER WILCOXEN --

and

-- SHEALYN ARTHUR --

The two Gerdon Jones Scholarships were awarded to Loogootee seniors Conner Wilcoxen and Shealyn Arthur. This scholarship focuses on the value of sports in our students' lives. It is presented to a student athlete who displays extraordinary positive mental attitude and has shown improved skills through their high school career.

-- SARA STREET --

Sara Street was awarded the Wilma L. Bateman Memorial Scholarship. Greg Bateman represented the Bateman family to award this scholarship. It is for a female senior who has participated in sports for at least two years, has performed well academically, has shown leadership skills, and has participated in community activities.

-- BRAYDEN SUTTON --

Bayden Sutton was awarded the Terri Sullivan Callaway Scholarship which is given to a student who is a member of a Christian faith church and is pursuing the field of nursing.

-- JORDAN WILDMAN --

Jordan Wildman received the Ann Jones Burch Tennis Scholarship. This scholarship is given to a student who has participated on the tennis team and has demonstrated good citizenship, is well-rounded and civic minded, and involved in school activities.

-- JALEN WILDMAN --

Jalen Wildman was awarded the Robert Scott Wagner Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is given to a student who has a good attitude and work ethic, performed well academically, participated in sports and extracurricular activities, and supports others and their school.

-- MACY McATEE --

Macy McAtee was awarded one of the two George M and Barbara Cropp Scholarships. This scholarship is given to a student who has performed well ac-



-- KALEA FLEMING --

ademically and plans to attend a two- or four-year public or private institution. This scholarship may be renewed subsequent years if criteria are met. Kalea Fleming was awarded the other George M and Barbara Cropp Scholarship. This scholarship is given to a student who has performed well academically and plans to attend a two- or four-year public or private institution. This scholarship may be renewed subsequent years if criteria are met. Kalea also received an Ann Jones Burch Tennis Scholarship. This scholarship is given to a student who has participated on the tennis team and has demonstrated good citizenship, is well-rounded and civic minded, and involved in school activities.

-- SHOALS SCHOLARSHIPS --

On May 27, the MCCF had the privilege of presenting three scholarships to Shoals graduating seniors. These scholarships were awarded to the following students. Presenting for the MCCF was Garry Smith, Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

-- ALYSSA HOWELL --

Alyssa Howell, daughter of Chris Howell and Mike and Misty Newland, received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship that provides a full tuition scholarship to an Indiana public or private college or university. It is awarded to a senior exhibiting

commitment to the community, dedication to their education and pursuit of excellence in all they do. Alyssa was one of three students nominated and then was selected by the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI).

-- EMMA HERT --

Emma Hert was awarded the Saint Vincent De Paul Scholarship which is given to a worthy senior with a good all-around work ethic, knows the value of hard work, and how commitment and determination can help a person succeed.

-- ALAN COOK --

Alan Cook was awarded the George M and Barbara Cropp Scholarship which is given to a student who has performed well academically and plans to attend a two- or four-year public or private institution. This scholarship may be renewed subsequent years if criteria are met.

-- MORE INFORMATION --

For more information about MCCF scholarships or other endowments, please contact the MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or mccf@cfpartner.org. You are also welcome to visit our webpage at www.cfpartner.org and "like" the MCCF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mccommunityfoundation.

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## YARD SALES

**HUGE FAMILY YARD SALE** Friday, June 4th, 8- ? AND Saturday, June 5th, 8- 2 at 1042 N 350 E (formerly Billings Rd) Washington, IN 47501. Most everything is in excellent shape or brand new & unopened!! Tupperware, Corningware, Home Interior, iPhones, sewing machines, grinder on stand, tools, toys, tons of VHS & DVDs, CDs, afghans, holiday decor, lots of ceramic figurines, home decor, exercise equipment, purses, trinkets, games in original boxes, camo clothes & hunting items, antique bar carts, misc clothes & MORE!

**BURNS CITY TOWNWIDE YARD SALES** June 12, 8 a.m.-?

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# OBITUARIES

## MICHAEL DOWNS

T Michael Downs, known affectionately as "Mike" passed away at his home to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, May 27, 2021, after a courageous battle with colon cancer, surrounded by his loving wife and daughters. A resident of Bristol, he was 54.

Mike was born February 15, 1967 in Washington; son of Tom and Audie (Diamond) Downs. After graduating from Shoals High School in 1985, Mike attended Indiana University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Business in 1989 and later went on to be the



**MICHAEL DOWNS**

President of Polygon Company in Walkerton, Indiana. IU is also where he met the love of his life, Shannon. Together they have three daughters, Alexandra, Chloe, and Abigail.

Spending time with his family and friends in the great outdoors brought Mike great joy in life. He loved to camp, cycle, hike, read, spend time on the riv-

er, and cheer on his Hoosiers. He was the dad who never missed an opportunity to root for his daughters in a sporting or school event, and never ceased to tell them how proud he was of them.

Mike's greatness is evident in his love for Christ and his love and commitment to his wife, daughters, and family. He is survived by his parents, Tom and Audie Downs; his wife, Shannon (Haines); their children Alexandra Melisse of New Orleans, Louisiana; Chloe Lorraine of Fort Worth, Texas; and Abigail Kay; his brother, Darin (Natalie) Downs of Davidson, North Carolina; his niece Elizabeth (Austin) Jacobsen; mother-in-law, Trina (Kevin) Haines-Mull; brother-in-law, Steven Haines and nephew, Will Haines.

Through Mike's business travels to China, he developed a passion for a special needs orphanage in Xiamen. If you would like to honor Mike with a donation in his memory donations can be made to Global Horizons- FH (Future Hope) P.O. Box 60459 Egan, MN 55164-0059.

Friends may visit with family from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday June 2 at Hartzler-Gutermuth-Inman Funeral Home, 403 W Franklin St, Elkhart, IN 46516.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday June 3, at Trinity on Jackson, 2715 E Jackson Blvd, Elkhart, IN 46516. The Rev. Karen Koelsch will officiate, and burial will be in Oakridge Cemetery in Bristol.

## ROBERT BOARDMAN

Robert Earl Boardman peacefully went to Heaven, with his wife by his side, on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at Loogootee Nursing Center. A resident of Elnora, he was 91.

He was born June 25, 1929, in Vincennes; son of Fred and Alegra (Mallett) Mallore Boardman. Bob married Patty (Smith) Boardman and after her passing, he married Phyllis (Tungate) Boardman.

Bob was a US Army World War II Veteran. He was a member of the Elnora Christian Church and the Odon American Legion Post #293. Bob was retired from Crane NWSC with 41 years of service.

Family left to cherish the memory



**ROBERT BOARDMAN**

of Bob include his wife, Phyllis Boardman; two sons, Bobby (Leslie) Boardman of Odon and Rick (Karen) Boardman of Enid, Oklahoma; two step-grandchildren, Melissa Webster of Odon, and Brandi Blosl of

Evansville and five great-grandchildren. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, first wife, Patty Boardman and one sister, Marjorie Booker.

Funeral services were held this morning, Wednesday, June 2 at Meng Family Funeral Home in Odon with Jim Pfeifer officiating. Bob was laid to rest in Sugarland Cemetery Mausoleum following military graveside rites by the Odon VFW Post #9627.

The Boardman family has entrusted all arrangements to the Meng Family Funeral Home in Odon. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family online at [www.mengfuneralhome.com](http://www.mengfuneralhome.com).

## Photo contests captures beauty of Indiana's rural landscape

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture is now accepting submissions for the 14th annual Indiana Agriculture Photo Contest. The contest is open to all Indiana residents and was created to recognize the hard work and contributions of Hoosier farmers, as well as the beauty of the state's agricultural landscape.

"Each year I look forward to seeing the photo submissions that so beautifully capture the heart of our state's rural scenery and countryside," said Lt. Gov Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Displaying the winning photos in our Family of Business's offices throughout the year serves as a wonderful reminder of the importance and beauty of our Hoosier agriculture industry."

Participants are encouraged to submit photos reflecting the wide array of agriculture. The categories photos can be entered under are:

-On the Farm: Showcasing any building, piece of equipment or activity that is a part of life on an Indiana farm.

-Faces of Agriculture: Featuring those who grow and produce food, fuel and fiber in Indiana.

-Agritourism: Spotlighting Indiana's seasonal and agricultural destinations, such as orchards, wineries and farmers markets.

-Conservation: Highlighting Indiana's natural beauty with landscapes, water and

wildlife.


In total, ten winners will be selected: two from each category and two overall. Winners will be invited to attend a special ceremony at the Indiana State Fair, where they will be recognized and receive certificates from Crouch and Indiana State Department of Agriculture Director Bruce Kettler. Contest winners will also have their photographs featured in the offices of the Lt. Governor's Family of Business in Indianapolis throughout the year.

"You do not have to be a professional photographer to enter the contest. Each year we receive incredible images, taken with both high-resolution cameras and cell phones, from everyday Hoosiers and professional photographers alike," Kettler said. "We are so grateful for each of the individuals who utilize their talents to showcase our agriculture industry through this contest."

Contestants can submit up to five photos in digital format accommodated by a submission form for each photo. Photos will be evaluated based on creativity, composition and category representation. Entries must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. (ET) on June 30, 2021.

Visit [www.in.gov/isda/programs-and-initiatives/indiana-state-department-of-agriculture-photo-contest/](http://www.in.gov/isda/programs-and-initiatives/indiana-state-department-of-agriculture-photo-contest/) for entry forms, guidelines and criteria.

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## Martin County Sheriff's Department log

### MONDAY, MAY 24

4:05 a.m. - Captain Reed and Loogootee Captain Hennette assisted the Daviess County Sheriff's Office with an accident near Loogootee.

6:21 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:53 p.m. - Received a report of vandalism in Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

4:21 p.m. - Received a report of a possible theft north of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson responded.

5:03 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene assisted with traffic control at a slide off north of Loogootee.

6:20 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene assisted a motorist southeast of Shoals with a vehicle identification check.

8:06 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee Fire, Sergeant Gibson, and Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:56 p.m. - Received a report of a disturbance in Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

### TUESDAY, MAY 25

12:45 a.m. - Received a report of a stolen cat in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded.

9:42 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

10:02 a.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist north of Shoals with a vehicle identification check.

12:12 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson and Deputy Seymour responded.

12:29 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check near Shoals. Deputy Seymour responded.

1:57 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

1:58 p.m. - Received a report of an accident on US 50, east of Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

3:12 p.m. - Received a report of property damage near Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

5:50 p.m. - Received a report of trespassing in Loogootee. Loogootee Police responded.

6:59 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene assisted a motorist near Shoals with a vehicle unlock.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

4:52 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Indian Creek Fire responded. No one was transported.

9:33 a.m. - Deputy Seymour assisted with a disabled vehicle in Shoals.

12:34 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

2:15 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check east of Shoals. Major Keller, ISP Trooper Beaver, and Town Marshal Eckert responded.

4:38 p.m. - Received a report of an impaired driver on SR 550, west of Shoals. Loogootee Police responded.

6:52 p.m. - Received a report of an impaired driver on US 231, south of Loogootee. Loogootee Police responded.

7:25 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Major Keller, Haysville Fire, Loogootee Fire, Martin County Ambulance, and the Martin County Coroner responded.

10:10 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Shoals. Deputy Lents responded.

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

### THURSDAY, MAY 27

10:40 a.m. - Received a request for a welfare check north of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene and Major Keller responded.

12:31 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. No one was transported.

1:16 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took two inmates to court.

3:08 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Major Keller, Haysville Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:48 p.m. - Received a report of an accident south of Loogootee on US 231. Major Keller, ISP Trooper Beaver, Loogootee Police, Martin County Ambulance, and Haysville Fire responded. No one was transported.

### FRIDAY, MAY 28

10:00 a.m. - Received a report of an accident east of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded.

11:38 a.m. - Received a report of property damage east of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

12:10 p.m. - Deputy Lents assisted a motorist east of Shoals with a vehicle identification check.

12:20 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

12:48 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231 near Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief Rayhill responded.

4:43 p.m. - Received a report of a tree limb on US 50, east of Shoals. Shoals Fire responded.

7:22 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Police and Chief Deputy Greene responded.

8:54 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down on SR 450, north of Shoals. Shoals Fire responded.

8:59 p.m. - Received a report of an accident near Shoals. Deputy Flanagan, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

10:39 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle west of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

### SATURDAY, MAY 29

1:10 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

1:15 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

2:56 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:25 p.m. - Received an alarm call east of Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded and all was okay.

11:19 p.m. - Received a noise complaint south of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

11:34 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check south of Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan and Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded.

11:56 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin

County Ambulance, Deputy Flanagan, and Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

### SUNDAY, MAY 30

3:22 a.m. - Received a report of an accident east of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

3:55 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Haysville Fire responded. No one was transported.

5:26 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan and Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded.

9:23 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Deputy Wells, Loogootee Assistant Chief Rayhill, and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

2:30 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle near Shoals. Sergeant Gibson and Deputy Wells responded.

## Martin County real estate transfers

**Donald F. Bowling**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Nessa Friedel**, of Germany, a portion of the northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

**Gary L. Burden and R. Deanne Burden to Cody R. Newland and Reece N. L. Newland**, the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 35, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, in Martin County, Indiana, containing 40 acres, more or less. Also, the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 35, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, in Martin County, Indiana, containing 80 acres, more or less. Also, the east half of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 35, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, in Martin County, Indiana, containing 20 acres, more or less. Also, a part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 35, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, in Martin County, Indiana, containing 6 acres, more or less.

**Sharon T. Coppinger**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Brian Joseph Coppinger**, of Johnson County, Indiana and **Holly Marie (Coppinger) Fraley**, of Monroe County, Indiana. Tract I: A part of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter and a part of the north half of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 12, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1 acre. Tract II: A part of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter and a part of the north half of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 12, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 10.93 acres, more or less.

**Cory L. Rayhill**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jadan M. Wagler**, of Daviess County, Indiana, commencing at the northeast corner of Lot Number 4 in Eastgate Terrace Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana, containing 0.35 acre, more or less.

**Wayne Mae Property Group, LLC**, of Indiana to **GSES, LLC**, of Indiana, a part of the north half of Section 29, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Rutherford Town-

ship, Martin County, Indiana, containing 51.5 acres, more or less.

**A&L Farms, LLC**, of Indiana to **Wagler Enterprises, LLC**, of Indiana, the north half of the northeast quarter of Section 30, Township 5 North, Range 4 West, containing 80 acres, more or less.

The southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 30, Township 5 North, Range 4 West, containing 40 acres, more or less. All that part of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 30, Township 5 North, Range 4 West, containing 10 acres, more or less.

**Bonnie Troutman**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Bonnie Troutman**, of Martin County, Indiana. Tract I: A part of the northeast fractional Section 9, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.52 acres, more or less. Tract II: A part of the northeast fractional Section 9, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.89 acres, more or less. Tract III: A part of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 23, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Lost River Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.52 acres, more or less. Tract IV: A part of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 23, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Lost River Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.98 acres, more or less.

**Billy J. Walker**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Chloe A. Davis and Justin S. Davis**, of Martin County, Indiana, part of share no. 1 in the Gootee Partition, situation in the southeast quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.625 acres, more or less.

**Gary W. Lannan and Debra S. Lannan**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Robert Osborne and Rachelle Love**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 31, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, in Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 3.44 acres except a section containing 0.229 acres, more or less.

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



# COURT NEWS

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

## CRIMINAL COURT New Charges Filed April 29

Jason H. Stone, 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; operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor; leaving the scene of an accident, a Class B Misdemeanor.

### April 30

Sierra R. Hudson, criminal confinement, a Level 5 Felony; three counts of neglect of a dependent, Level 6 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of paraphernalia, a Class A Misdemeanor.

### May 3

Timothy L. Guy, three counts of possession of child pornography, Level 5 Felonies.

Jessica N. Jones, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

### May 4

Walter D. Manning, Jr., operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Gage M. Lechner, sexual battery, a Level 6 Felony.

### May 7

Gage M. Lechner, child molesting, a Level 4 Felony.

### May 10

Charles W. Smith, 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.

Kathleen J. Crodly, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor.

### May 11

Trevor W. Goldsberry, carrying a handgun without a license, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Jared R. Curtis, operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor.

### May 13

Charlie D. Davis, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

### May 17

Christopher L. Bearden, operating a vehicle after being a habitual traffic offender, a Level 6 Felony; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Level 6 Felony.

### May 18

Virginia L. Reynolds, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Amanda V. Moore, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

### May 24

Matthew J. Carruthers, reckless driving, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Brian M. Conley, operating a vehicle while intoxicated with prior conviction within 7 years, a Level 6 Felony; leaving the scene of an accident, a Class B Misdemeanor; refusal to submit to breath or chemical test, a Class A Infraction.

### May 25

Chase H. Hembree, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; minor in possession of alcohol, a Class C Misdemeanor.

**CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED**

### May 27

Aaron W. Qualkenbush, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

## CIVIL COURT

### New Suits Filed

#### May 24

Jennifer L. Swartzentruber vs. Douglas J. Swartzentruber, petition for dissolution of marriage.

#### May 25

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Jeremiah Wilkes, civil collection.

## CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

#### May 25

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Midland Credit Management and against the defendant Phyllis Mullins in the amount of \$3,515.78.

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crown Asset Management and against the defendant Ricky Heckard in the amount of \$7,681.49.

## SMALL CLAIMS COURT

### New Suits Filed

#### May 25

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Rodney L. Hedrick, complaint.

## SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

#### May 18

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Greene's Body Shop, Inc. and against the defendant Tina Willis in the amount of \$3,991.30.

# ARRESTS

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

12:06 p.m. - Casey Skelton, 29, of Evansville, was arrested by Chief Deputy Greene on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond. Sheriff Roush assisted with the arrest.

9:37 p.m. - Angela Crawford, 29, of Washington, was arrested by Deputy Wells on a Martin County warrant and is being held on a \$90.00 bond.

## SUNDAY, MAY 30

4:04 p.m. - Landon Anderson, 26, of Mitchell, was arrested by Sergeant Gibson and charged with burglary, theft, and resisting law enforcement with a vehicle. He is being held without bond. Deputy Wells assisted with the arrest.

4:23 p.m. - Chandra Wellman, 34, of Springville, was arrested by Sergeant Gibson and charged with theft and is being held without bond.

# Loogootee Police log

## MONDAY, MAY 24

11:50 a.m. - A complainant reported a possible scam by email.

3:49 p.m. - A caller reported suspicious individuals around a local business over the past month.

5:00 p.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill and Loogootee Fire Department assisted with traffic control on US 231 North where a tractor had overturned in a ditch.

8:09 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on North Line Street.

11:00 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a residential burglar alarm.

## TUESDAY, MAY 25

8:09 a.m. - A caller reported a road rage incident.

8:11 a.m. - Chief Floyd completed a welfare check on a child.

2:45 p.m. - Caller reported the red light out at the intersection of JFK Avenue and Broadway Street.

5:57 p.m. - Chief Floyd and Sgt. McBeth responded to a domestic dispute.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

12:45 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to an alarm at the Loogootee Nursing Center. Everything checked okay.

4:18 p.m. - Chief Floyd responded to a report of a possible impaired driver near Loogootee from US 231 South.

4:38 p.m. - Caller reported a possible impaired driver entering Loogootee on US 50 East.

7:28 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Brooks Bridge Road.

9:56 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a report of a possible impaired driver near Loogootee on US 50 West.

10:38 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Crane Street.

## THURSDAY, MAY 27

12:33 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Pineview Drive.

3:47 p.m. - Chief Floyd and first responders assisted with a vehicle accident on US 231 South.

5:45 p.m. - Caller reported an erratic driver north of Loogootee on US 231 North.

6:09 p.m. - Chief Floyd spoke with a complainant in regard to retrieving personal items.

## FRIDAY, MAY 28

12:50 p.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill responded to a report of an erratic driver near Loogootee on US 231 North.

3:21 p.m. - Captain Hennette completed a welfare check.

5:09 p.m. - Captain Hennette responded to a civil dispute on East Broadway Street.

11:27 p.m. - Officer Gibson completed a welfare check.

## SATURDAY, MAY 29

7:40 a.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill completed a security check at a local church.

11:34 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a welfare check.

11:56 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on US 231 South.

## SATURDAY, MAY 30

5:26 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a deer accident on US 231 North.

10:23 a.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a medical situation on US 231 South.

12:46 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Cedar Street.

1:15 p.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill responded to a property damage accident in the Marathon parking lot.



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## More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



Sitting on the Highway 23 waiting to catch speeders, a Pickaway County Deputy sees a car pattering along at 23 mph. He thinks to himself, that car is just as dangerous as a speeder. So, he turns his lights on and pulls the car over. Approaching the car, he notices there are five old ladies, two at the front and three in the back, wide eyed and looking like ghosts.

The driver obviously confused said, "Officer, I don't understand, I wasn't doing over the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer said, "you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be dangerous."

"Slower than the speed limit? NO SIR! I was doing exactly 23 miles an hour," the old woman said proudly.

The officer chuckles and explains that 23 was the route number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned, thanking the officer for pointing out her error.

"Before I go ma'am, I have to ask, is everyone OK? These women seem badly shaken and haven't uttered a word all this time."

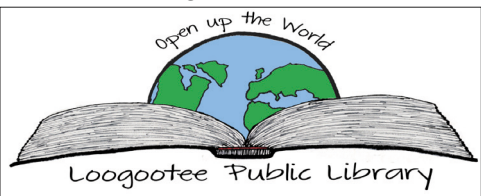
"Oh! They will be alright in a minute, officer, we just got off Route 104."

### ALL I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM THE EASTER BUNNY:

1. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
2. Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
3. Some body parts should be floppy.
4. All work and no play can make you a basket case.
5. Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.
6. Everyone is entitled to a bad "hare" day.
7. Keep your paws off other peoples' jelly beans.

### FUNNY OXYMORONS

\*found missing



BY DARLA WAGLER

Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

There is still time to register your kids for the summer reading program. Fun activities and prizes throughout June and July. There will be prize drawings for city pool day passes.

### New Books

Mystery Fiction: "Unfinished Business" by J.A. Jance and "Jackpot" by Stuart Woods.

Fiction: "The Golden Girl" by Elin Hilderbrand and "The Eagle's Claw" by Jeff Shaara.

Inspirational Fiction: "Jewel of the Nile" by Tessa Afshar and "Sustaining Faith" by Janette Oke.

DVDs: "Raya and the Last Dragon", "Minari", "Horizon Line", "Land", and "J.L. Family Ranch"

Library hours: Monday 10-7, Tuesday 10-5, Closed on Wednesday, Thursday 10-7, Friday 10-5, and Saturday 9-1. The library phone number is 812-295-3713 and check out the website [www.loogootee.lib.in.us](http://www.loogootee.lib.in.us) or like us on Facebook. The library has free Wi-Fi service available for patrons.

- \*open secret
- \*small crowd
- \*act naturally
- \*fully empty
- \*pretty ugly
- \*original copy
- \*only choice
- \*liquid gas

And the mother of them all: social distancing

A priest, a rabbit, and a minister walk into a bar.

The bartender asks the rabbit, "What will you have?"

The rabbit shakes his head and answers, "I have no idea. The only reason that I am here is because of autocorrect."

As you get older, you've got to stay positive. For example, the other day I fell down the stairs...instead of getting upset, I just thought, "Wow, that's the fastest I've moved in years."

Make someone smile today!

## Consumer alert: Products recalled in May

Attorney General Todd Rokita is encouraging Hoosiers who purchased consumer products that were recalled in May to take advantage of the remedies available. Consumer education and making the public aware of faulty products is an important aspect of the work of the Indiana Attorney General's Office to keep Indiana residents safe. The following consumer products were recalled in May, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Peloton Tread+ Treadmills
- IKEA Bowls, Plates, and Mugs
- John Deere Gator Utility Vehicles
- Polaris RZR Recreational Off-Road Vehicles
- TJX Infant Sleep Bags
- Scott Fetzer Consumer Multi-Use Water Pumps
- Kolcraft Inclined Sleeper Accessory
- Signature Hardware Towel Grab Bars
- TJX Outdoor Wooden Folding Chairs
- Kidde TruSense Smoke and Combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms
- CFMOTO All-Terrain Vehicles
- Briggs & Stratton YTL, Longli and TIYA Log Splitters
- K & M International Slap Watches
- Alliance Chemical Sodium Hydroxide Products
- The Lye Guy Sodium and Potassium Hydroxide
- BRP Snowmobiles
- Leisure Time Brutus Swing Sets
- Cheyenne Folding Chairs and Barstools
- Pro Supply Outlet Sodium and Potassium

If you believe you purchased a recently recalled product, stop using it. A recall is generally issued when there is a concern that there is an unreasonable safety risk or failure of a product to adhere to minimum safety standards or regulations. Once you've discontinued use, check its recall notice and follow the notice's instructions. Generally, the instructions will include directions about where to return the product, how to get the product fixed, how to dispose of the product, how to receive a refund for the product, or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

To view recalls issued, visit the Consumer Protection Safety Commission website at [www.cpsc.gov/Recalls](http://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Commissioners' executive meeting

The Martin County Commissioners will meet in executive session on Thursday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m. in the commissioners' room of the courthouse. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss strategy for initiation of litigation or litigation which is pending or has been threatened specifically in writing pursuant to 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B). The meeting is closed to the public.

### Right to Life paper drive

The next Right to Life Paper Drive/Aluminum Can Drive will be on Saturday, June 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Tractor Supply Parking Lot in Washington and at the Martin County Recycling Center from 9 a.m. to noon. If you could volunteer for just one hour, please contact Louis Kavanaugh Jr. at 486-3658 or in Martin County, call Van McAtee at 295-4251.

### Community meal

The Loogootee Christian Church, at 206 Sherman Street, is having their monthly free meal for the community to be held Thursday, June 3 from 6-8 p.m. at the church. If COVID restrictions do not change food will be served in the basement. All members of the community are invited to attend.

### Ribbon cutting

First Choice Solutions, formerly the Pregnancy Care center, is having a ribbon cutting, building dedication and open house on Thursday, June 3. The ribbon cutting will start at 3:30 p.m. with the open house and building tour from 5-8 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

### 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 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.

### Mental Health Task Force

The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets on the second Wednesday of

the month from 1-2 p.m. at the Community Learning Center on the Martin County Fairgrounds.

### Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

### Local recovery meetings

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

### Free lunch for kids

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

### SOAR Tutoring

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!

### Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 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](http://www.martinswcd.com) or call at 295-3149.



## DOOR BUSTERS

## GREENWELL HARDWARE

June 2021

Quantities are limited. While supplies last.

 <p><b>\$169<sup>99</sup></b> Elongated Toilet-To-Go 0073593</p>	 <p><b>\$59<sup>99</sup></b> 6-Cu. Ft. Wheelbarrow 1212109</p>
 <p><b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 9-Oz. Deep Woods OFF! Insect Repellent 6047245</p>	 <p><b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b> 11-Oz. Gold Roach Spray 6756084</p>
 <p><b>\$4<sup>49</sup></b> 14-Oz. Black Flag Wasp/Hornet Yellow Killer 7067978</p>	 <p><b>\$24<sup>99</sup></b> Contractor Clean-Up Bags 7802630</p>
 <p><b>\$7<sup>59</sup></b> 16-Oz. Roach Kill Powder 7886393</p>	 <p><b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> 2-Pk. 14.5/100 Watts LED Bulbs 9961517</p>

## GREENWELL HARDWARE

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## In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser,  
Purdue University Master Gardener

Each year, I plant a variety of annuals and tender perennials to fill in the gardens and provide blooms for the summer. I like to try new things and new cultivars give a new look to the gardens each year. However, there are some plants that are on my list each year. One of those must-have plants is heliotrope. I love its deep purple flowers, but it is the vanilla/cherry pie scent that makes it indispensable.

My introduction to heliotrope came from a high school literature class. Mrs. Emmons had us reading the classic drama *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder. The character Emily Webb was with George Gibbs on the porch and noted how she loved the scent of heliotrope in the garden. Since none of us was familiar with the flower, Mrs. Emmons offered bonus points to anyone who could bring a heliotrope plant to class to enhance our understanding of the play. In that time, long before the internet, it took some phone calls to find a heliotrope plant, but an older gardening friend gave me a plant and I took it in. I was hooked. I am not sure about my classmates, but heliotrope has been a part of my summer gardens ever since.

Heliotrope's association with the arts is not limited to Mr. Wilder's drama from the 1930's. Ovid's *Metamorphoses* explains the origin of the plant. It seems that a water nymph named Clytie was in love

with the sun god, Helios. Helios betrayed Clytie, and in her anguish, she morphed into the flower we know as Heliotrope, whose rows of blossoms follow the sun. Composers Louis Chauvin and Scott Joplin also cooperated in writing a ragtime piano piece called "Heliotrope Bouquet".

While the deep purple blooms of common garden heliotrope are beautiful and the scent is seductive, one should never ingest the leaves and flowers. They are not considered palatable, but dried plants in hay have been known to kill livestock. For that reason, it is best not to plant heliotrope where it is accessible to plants or children. I like to elevate the plant to nose level by placing it on a display stand or in a hanging basket. I also like to have it near a pathway that I use often so I will pass by and enjoy the intoxicating scent.

Garden heliotrope is actually a tender perennial. It can be overwintered indoors, and new plants produced from cuttings. However, most gardeners choose to treat it as an annual. I had some difficulty locating plants this year, but finally did get some nice specimens. They will be potted up and take their place along the sidewalk between the house and driveway.

Once a Victorian favorite, heliotrope fell out of favor for a time, but has had a bit of a resurgence in popularity in recent years. I heartily recommend it to anyone who likes pleasant scents in the garden.

## Enjoy Indiana waters on Free Fishing Weekend

Indiana residents can fish the state's public waters without a fishing license or a trout/salmon stamp on Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6.

The two Free Fishing Days kick off National Fishing and Boating Week, June 5-13, a national celebration that highlights the importance of recreational fishing and boating. Those activities are excellent opportunities to get outside and connect with family and friends, and spending time outdoors is also good for your health.

June is an especially good time to fish for largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish, and Skamania steelhead. Fishing tips and videos can be found at [on.IN.gov/learn2fish](http://on.IN.gov/learn2fish).

Some urban parks will be stocked this week with catchable-size channel catfish; see [wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/urban-fishing](http://wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/urban-fishing) for locations. For public fishing areas and



access sites statewide, explore the Where to Fish map at [on.IN.gov/where2fish](http://on.IN.gov/where2fish). Indiana is also home to several water trails across the state that provide opportunities to fish while you paddle; see [on.IN.gov/watertrails](http://on.IN.gov/watertrails) for more information.

To learn more about Free Fishing Weekend events, visit [on.IN.gov/fish-free](http://on.IN.gov/fish-free). This year's last Free Fishing Day will be September 25.



## Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton  
NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

It's June. Am I the only one who feels like we lost a month somewhere? The longer-than-normal cooler spring has warped time a little. Forages in the last 14 to 21 days went from vegetative to seed heads. No, it's not your imagination, that was a bit early.

Not only was seed head production early, but the quantity of seed heads was also higher. Grass plants tend to react to stress factors by initiating their survival mode. This generally means they produce more seed. Cool season forages prefer cool, moist growing conditions. It has been a little cooler and while soil moisture conditions have varied quite a bit across the area, it's leaning more towards the drier side now, especially in some spots.

The real kicker this year, I believe, was late freezes. New spring growth was a little early this year and there was quite a bit of growth present, actually a lot in some locations, when temperatures dropped to below freezing. I was concerned about row crops that had been planted, fruit trees that were blooming, tender transplants in the garden, and heavy frost/freezes on forages. Cool season forages are pretty tolerable to frosts; freezing conditions can be a little more detrimental. I noticed light colored tips and even some whitening on orchardgrass. The plants quickly appeared to grow out of this with no ill effects, but I believe that the late freezes this year were the stress factor trigger that set the stage for earlier and heavier seed head production.

That push might not have been all bad. With drier weather conditions in many areas a lot more hay was cut this spring in a much timelier manner. This usually indicates higher quality hay. Depending on the severity of the earlier freezes and fertility, which is always a factor, yields for first cutting hay have been pretty good for the time frame.

I have always been a promoter of forage/pasture staging. What you really don't want to happen in a grazing system is all of your forage becoming mature at the same time. You really want to keep it as vegetative as possible for as long as possible. Years like this one make that extremely challenging. The fields that were "just" grazed are even trying to go to seed. Remember, the grass decided to go into survival mode just to be on the safe side. This is also where I have to ask myself sometimes, "does the grass know something that we don't?" I'll even go way out on a limb and say, could it possibly know what weather might lie ahead? Honestly, I don't think so, but it sure appears that way sometimes. Early maturity could conceivably be tied to future drier conditions, but that would be assuming a lot. The real topic at hand is how to manage this floodgate of maturing forage.

When forages are growing fast, move the animals likewise. When forages start slowing down, then the rotation can also slow down some. It is still important to keep the animals moving and never grazing closer than three to four inches whenever possible on cool season forages. When the floodgates are open though, you are usually better off top grazing. Top grazing is literally just that, allowing the animals to just graze off the very top one third or so of the plant. Certainly, less than "take half, leave half" and quite a reduction from stop grazing heights for sure. The normal goal should be to maintain as much pasture as possible in what I've referred to in the past as "stage two" growth - quality vegetative leafy growth prior to seed head production. We are past that now! We now just need to try and get forages back under some type of control. If this is not a problem for you and forage is short, then you actually have a bigger issue.

For most people, the first reaction is cutting it for hay. This can be a viable option, but quite often gets way out of hand. I've seen a few people cut everything for hay. What are some of the ramifying factors of doing that? First, that is a lot of nutrients being removed and moved; ka ching; enough said on that. Second, if it turns dry, and it could, you will end up turning around and having to feed that to the livestock quicker and usually less efficiently than if it was just grazed.

You never want to feed hay when you can be grazing except when doing so will provide needed rest for the pasture or prevent overgrazing, such as during a drought. On a few rare occasions, I've seen people feeding hay while making hay with very puzzled looks on the cows faces. In that case, there are way too many wheels turning and I don't know how you pencil that out. If you know that a certain amount of forage is going to be needed to feed the herd, leave it and let the cows work for you more! They work for grass.

I'd much rather have a problem with too much grass than not enough grass. But as I mentioned earlier, I'd rather try and keep forages as vegetative as possible too. If you can't top graze fast enough, and that is certainly possible right now, then mechanical topping might be warranted to help keep it vegetative and growing.

If you find yourself in this situation, then top the last paddocks that were grazed with the bushhog to delay the urgency of needing to return to those a little longer. This slight topping and deferment will usually reap benefits as long as sufficient moisture is available and even help some if moisture is short.

Raise the mower up enough to ideally, only remove stems and seed heads and very little leaf matter. Once leaf matter is removed, regrowth slows some because of the removal of good photosynthetic plant material. Removal of stems and seed heads should not be a large amount of material. Mowing deeper into the stand and laying down too much material not only removes some of that solar panel, but it also covers up a good bit of it, too. This slows regrowth and tillering; exactly what we want to promote.

If you can't mow it high enough then you have two choices; graze it or hay it. If you plan ahead and these runaway fields are ones that could use additional soil organic matter, improved soil health and/or nutrient cycling, then you are better off grazing them. Strip-grazing them is then the best scenario to achieve those goals, allocating out strips or small blocks of this forage using high stock density for a very short time frame. The livestock will eat the best and lay down and help re-set the rest. Grass that is "trampled down" is not wasted; it is mulch for moisture conservation and fertilizer for future growth. These fields are often some of the best stockpile for later use. This can be done even with mature forages that got skipped, but expect slightly less intake depending on the forages present.

Now, most producers do need some hay, and mowing it earlier rather than later means higher quality forage and probably more potential for increased regrowth. As any grass or legume plant matures, quality declines in terms of crude protein, energy and digestibility. Figure out how much hay you think you will really need for winter use and then stop. If you keep it vegetative, it is really not going anywhere. Grazing it is still the most efficient use of it and is usually the easiest on your bottom line. Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!

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