

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 11, Issue 49

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020

Seven pages

Superintendent resigns after 32 years with highway department

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners accepted the resignation of Highway Superintendent Leo Padgett at their meeting Tuesday, December 1. Padgett, who has been with the highway department for 32 years, will use up his accumulated vacation time and his last day on the county payroll will be Friday. Commissioner Paul George initially voted against accepting the resignation, with the other two commissioners voting in favor. Later in the meeting, George rescinded his vote, saying he didn't want to accept it, but he will. "I hate to see him go but appreciate everything he has done for us," said Commissioner George.

The commissioners discussed whether they wanted to move one of the current highway employees into an interim superintendent position but in the end decided not to. Commissioner George said he has been in contact every day with Highway Clerk Terri Alcorn, handing out assignments, and he, along with the other two commissioners, will continue to do so until a new superintendent is hired. They plan to advertise for the position soon.

Tim Hunt, with HWC engineering, said he is "disheartened" that Padgett is leaving, and it will be a big blow to the county. Hunt went on to say that not having a superintendent in place will make his job harder until the position is filled but he will do the best he can for the county.

Hunt presented the commissioners with a list of roads for approval for the January round of the Community Crossings grant applications. The roads include Mill Road, Mt Olive Road, Rutherford Road, and Rama Dye Road. Hunt said they may also submit for small sections of East or West River roads or Chicken Farm Road. He said if they are able to free up some additional money, they have other roads as backups they can add. The commissioners approved the list.

Hunt also updated the commissioners on the bridge 66 replacement on Mt. Pleasant Road. He said he spoke to REMC and they will be working to put a power supply around the bridge so that 1,800 homes can still have electricity while the work is done. Once that is completed, the bridge will be closed for at least two and a half months for replacement. He said it is all dependent on weather and they expect to start work in roughly two weeks.

Public Health Nurse Julia Albright reported there were 168 cases of COVID-19 in the county in November. She said in all the previous months, there were a total of 215 positives so this has been quite a jump in one month's time. She said the ambulance service has reported many, many COVID positive residents being transported to the hospital and they are starting to see positives from the Thanksgiving holiday. "I can't stress enough to stay home if you are sick or getting tested," she said. She added that she is (See 'SUPERINTENDENT' on page 3)

Animal complaint leads to gun and drug charges for serious violent felon

On Wednesday, November 25, the Martin County Sheriff's Office received a complaint concerning abandoned puppies at a residence in Loogootee. Martin County Animal Control Officer Joshua Hughett and Martin County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Tyler Reed responded to the location.

Upon arrival, Officer Hughett and Sgt. Reed made contact with a male sleeping in a vehicle at the location. Officers advised him of the complaint and the male advised that he had the puppies in his vehicle. The puppies were present in the backseat of the vehicle and the male was identified as Michael R. Hert, 45, of Loogootee. While speaking with Hert, officers smelled the odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. Sgt. Reed ordered Hert to exit the vehicle twice with Hert refusing both times.

Sgt. Reed attempted to open the vehicle door, but it was locked. Sgt. Reed then reached through the window to open the door from the inside. Hert rolled up the window on Sgt. Reed's arm. Sgt. Reed was able to open the door from the inside and free his arm from the window. Hert was then detained in handcuffs. Loogootee Chief Kelly Rayhill, ISP Trooper Andrew Beaver, and MCSO Major Keith Keller arrived to assist. The puppies were secured

in ACO Hughett's vehicle. Officers then conducted a search of the vehicle.

A search of the vehicle resulted in officers locating a firearm with an obliterated serial number, one gram of a white crystal substance that field tested positive for methamphetamine, 341 grams of a green plant-like substance that field tested positive for marijuana, one syringe that contained residue that field tested positive for methamphetamine, three burnt hand-rolled cigarettes containing a green plant-like substance that field tested positive for marijuana, and one digital scale that contained residue that field tested positive for methamphetamine.

Hert was arrested and transported to the Martin County Security Center. ACO Hughett took possession of the puppies.

Hert was charged with possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon, a Level 4 Felony; possession of methamphetamine w/ enhancing circumstance (firearm), a Level 5 Felony; possession of a firearm w/ obliterated serial number, a Level 5 Felony; unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 Felony; battery to law enforcement, a Level 6 Felony; resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor; dealing in marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor; and possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.



-Photo provided

Jana Seal was chosen by the Loogootee Festival Committee as this year's Christmas Parade Grand Marshal.

Loogootee Christmas Parade to be held this Sunday night

The 2020 Loogootee Festival of Lights Christmas Parade will be held Sunday, December 6 at 6 p.m.

The Grand Marshal, this year, will be Jana Strange Seal. Seal is a nurse who travelled to New York this past spring to help them through the COVID-19 surge.

The parade route will start down Butcher Boulevard, turning right on to JFK Avenue then turning left on Church Street ending at St. John Church. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no candy will

be distributed this year. There are an estimated 30-40 entries in the parade this year.

The festival committee is asking all participants and spectators of the parade to social distance and wear masks. Stores will be open throughout the evening between 4 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and will be again requiring masks and social distancing.

The annual tree lighting will be on facebook live only. No spectators can attend. There will also be no photos with Santa this year.

LHS students compete, win awards in virtual Beta Convention

The 30th Annual Indiana State Beta Convention was held virtually this year, and Loogootee Senior Beta members managed to win many awards despite the challenges of a virtual competition. Loogootee Junior Grace Gingerich was elected Indiana State Beta Secretary replacing the current State Secretary, Loogootee Senior Jaelyn Walker.

First Place Winners
Agriscience 9th grade: Mackenzie Craney
Agriscience 10th grade: Ashden Walton
Color Photography Div. I: Lindsey Nolan

Digital Art Div. I: Tasha Kreilein
Digital Art Div. II: Makenzie VanHoy
Drawing Div. I: Isabelle Waggner
Onsite Drawing Div. I: Shawna Mason
Performing Arts (Solo/Duo/Trio): Karoline Tedrow and Wayden Wagoner
Sculpture Div. I: Kieragen Napier
Sculpture Div. II: Reece Tippery
Spanish 9th grade: Allie Henninger
Robotics Showcase: Nick Keller, Jacob Lengacher, Brady Taylor, Isaac Arvin, Nicholas Poole

Second Place Winners
Black/White Photography Div. I: Mad-die Fischer
Math 11th grade: Isaac Arvin
Painting Div. I: Tasha Kreilein
Poetry Div. I: Kage Lyon
Poetry Div. II: Hannah Lengacher
Portfolio: Macy McAttee

Recyclable Art Div. I: Ashden Walton
Recyclable Art Div. II: Chantel Greene
Science 10th grade: Abbey Fischer
Science 12th grade: Sara Street
Spanish 11th grade: Hannah Lengacher
Third Place Winners
Creative Writing Div. I: Ava Summers
Fiber Arts Div. I: Brooklyn Summers
Jewelry Div. I: Madison Esch
Jewelry Div. II: Jacob Lengacher
Mixed Media Div. I: Tasha Kreilein
Mixed Media Div. II: Chantel Greene
Onsite Drawing Div. II: Tierlan Norris
Onsite Painting Div. II: Mikenna Jones
Social Studies 12th grade: Matthew Poole

Spanish 10th grade: Caitlin Carrico
Woodworking Div. II: Brayden Sutton
The Loogootee Middle School students also competed virtually. The following are the winners:

Luke Guy - 1st in Social Studies
Cacia Wilcoxon - 2nd in Performing Arts
Noah Esch - 2nd in Science 8
Ella Parker - 2nd in Sculpture
Technology - 2nd place (Ruger Wathen - Team Lead, and Daniel Miller)
Breanna Courter - 3rd in Math 8
Quiz Bowl - 3rd place (Ashley Green - Team Lead, Addy Lengacher, Owen Tompkins and Koen Wagner)

These entries, plus Robotics, Service Learning and Living Lit Teams will all be submitting projects to National Convention in summer of 2021.



Making A Difference

By Curt Johnson
MCCF Director



-- CHALLENGE GRANTS --

The Martin County Community Foundation awarded 22 grants totaling \$98,232 as a result of the 2020 Impact Grant Cycle. It's a competitive process with limited funds available for us to grant. So sometimes we give a type of grant called a "challenge grant" as a way to help our nonprofit partners meet a need.

A challenge grant requires that the grant recipient raise a portion of the funds on their own prior to receiving their grant. A challenge grant enables the recipient to raise more money than the grant can provide and brings awareness to the community of the need that exists.

-- FOOD PANTRY --

As part of this year's grants, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry received one of those challenge grants to purchase a delivery van. The van will be used to deliver food to the homebound as well as other needs of the poor in our county. This grant was a 1:1 Challenge Grant for up to \$12,500. So, once St. Vincent de Paul raised \$12,500 of the cost of the van on their own, the MCCF granted them

\$12,500 to help with the purchase. Pictured are Nancy Smith and Keith Greenwell with the new van.

-- MUSTERMING ELM --

Another completed grant to tell about is the one awarded in 2019 to the Trinity Springs Mustering Elm Group. It was for \$7,875 to help build an event deck at the Mustering Elm Park. Located on State Road 450, the park is used for reunions, picnics, weddings, car shows and other events. The new deck will help people to appreciate even more this peaceful, beautiful, and historic park. Pictured are MCCF and Mustering Elm Board members at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

-- MORE INFORMATION --

For more information about the MCCF and how you can help our community, please contact the MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or mccf@cf-partner.org.

You are also welcome to visit our webpage at www.cfpartner.org, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MartinCountyCF, and "like" the MCCF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mc-communityfoundation.



Pictured left to right are Jerry Braun and Garry Smith (MCCF Board members), and Mustering Elm Board members Katina Clifton (Vice-President), Rowena Tripp (Secretary), John Andis (landscaping), Robert Boyd (past President), Sarah Sexton (Treasurer), and John Chattin (supporter).

Christmas Toy Store still needs your help

This year has brought hard-times and changes to many people in Martin County. There are a lot of families in our communities that are struggling to make ends meet, to figure out how to stay in their homes, feed their families, pay the bills, etc.

And now Christmas is coming, and those same parents are trying to figure out how to bring some joy to their children in a little over a month.

This year finds toy store organizers with more people needing help with toys for Christmas. But at the same time, people that usually help with toy and gift donations are not going to their normal places of work or services because of COVID. Because of that, they are expecting less toy donations from those places than in

previous years.

Please open your heart and your pocketbook to get a present for a child and see that it gets to the Toy Store by Friday, December 11 at the Loogootee United Methodist Church.

Known collection points for toys are the Loogootee United Methodist Church, Redemption Christian Church, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Family Dollar, Loogootee Dollar General, Crane Credit Union, Old National Bank, and German American Bank.

If you want to start a collection point somewhere else too, organizers thank you.

Just be sure to get the toys to the LUMC by December 11 or contact Curt Johnson, 812-296-7013, to arrange pick-up.



Pictured with the new delivery van are Nancy Smith and Keith Greenwell of the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

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OBITUARIES

JACKIE HOLT

Jackie Lee Holt, formerly of Shoals, passed on December 1, 2020 at the Timbers in Jasper. A resident of Dale, he was 81.



JACKIE HOLT

He was born December 2, 1938 in Martin County; the son of Cecil and Minnie (Trimble) Holt. He married Rebecca Stine on January 19, 1974

and she survives.

Jack was a self-employed mechanic and was previously employed with the Martin County Highway Department where he proudly used the CB handle "County Mechanic". He enjoyed spending time at McDonalds in Loogootee, loved country music and dancing. He attended the Shoals Christian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca; his children, Bridgette (James) Canada and Crystal Taylor; grandchildren, Ashlyn Burns of Texas, Justyn Moffatt, Chris (Mikayla) Blevins, Darrin Huntsman, Jason Taylor and Alyssa Taylor; great-grandchild, Adrian Louis Blevins; and one sister, Beverly Sue Hopkins. Several nieces, nephews and his "babies", Pepper and Precious, also survive. Preceding him in death are his parents and siblings, Betty Harding, Larry Holt,

Robert Holt and Patty Hert.

Funeral services will be held Friday, December 4 at 1 p.m. at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals with Pastor Matt Sullivan officiating. Burial will be in the Spring Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Thursday at the Queen-Lee Chapel.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Martin County Humane Society.

The Queen-Lee Chapel of the Thorne-George Family Funeral Homes has been entrusted with the arrangements.

DORIS LINDSEY

Doris E. Lindsey, age 92, of Loogootee, passed away Thursday November 26, 2020 at Bridge Pointe Health Campus in Vincennes. A resident of Loogootee, she was 92.

She was born January 1, 1928; the daughter of Noel and Amelia (Fuhrman) Wildman. She married John D. Lindsey on July 6, 1950, he preceded her in death on February 9, 2005. Doris was a member of the Loogootee United Methodist Church, and she graduated from Loogootee High School in 1945. She was employed by Indiana Bell as a telephone operator, Walkers Drug Store in Loogootee, and worked as a school cook for Loogootee School Corporation for 35 years. Doris also enjoyed being a Martin County 4-H leader.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John D. Lindsey; her parents,



DORIS LINDSEY

Noel and Amelia Wildman; one son, James F. Lindsey of Crawfordsville in 2017; her sister, Betty McBurnett, and one infant brother.

Doris is survived by two sons, John Michael (Terri) Lindsey and Kevin (Lisa) Lindsey of Shoals; her daughter, Dora (Mark) Wampler of Bicknell; her daughter-in-law, Lisa Lindsey of Crawfordsville; eight grandchildren, Holly (Chris) Kirkwood, Lindsey (Brady) Zollman, Jared Lindsey, Lucas Kesvornas, Ben (Sky-lar) Lindsey, Brandon Lindsey, Brandon

(Alexis) Ivey, and Abbey Lindsey; six great-grandchildren, three brothers, Jack Wildman of Seymour, Edward (Beulah) Wildman of Savannah, Illinois and Larry (Judy) Wildman of Loogootee and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A funeral service was held Monday, November 30 at Loogootee United Methodist Church with Pastor Colleen Harden officiating.

Private burial followed in Mt. Union Cemetery in Loogootee.

Memorial contributions can be made to Martin County 4-H or Loogootee United Methodist Church in Doris's memory.

Online condolences can be made at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Arrangements provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

~LETTER TO THE EDITOR~

'We have to follow the guidelines'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

On behalf of Daviess Community Hospital, I want to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season. I know this year has been different than we ever imagined. However, with the recent increase of COVID-19 cases we must remain diligent with masking, social distancing, and frequent hand hygiene. Many of the hospitals are experiencing a shortage of both beds and staff to care for the overwhelming number of COVID positive patients. Some Indiana hospitals have had to take steps such as diverting ambulances and delaying some medical procedures. Governor Holcomb recently stated, "We must do all we can to protect our hospital capacity so they can protect patients and care for them not only those who have COVID but for the cancer patient, the heart patient, and other Hoosier patients who need care." Pandemic fatigue is real and affects all of us. We all want life to go back to normal, but as COVID positivity rates continue to climb in our community, we have to follow the guidelines.

At Daviess Community Hospital, we are taking every precaution to ensure the safety of our patients, families, employees, providers, and visitors. I am very proud of how the employees have responded to this unprecedented healthcare crisis. Let's all do our part this holiday season and follow the recommendations of masking at all times, social distancing, frequent hand washing, and stay home when you are sick. The DCH COVID hotline number is 812-254-2764 and is answered 24/7.

I know it is hard to stay positive during this difficult and challenging time, but I have been inspired by the numerous examples of our community coming together, businesses providing support to those in need, and neighbors caring for each other. I have confidence that we will get through this holiday season together and be ready to celebrate the effectiveness of the vaccines, so life can return to normal!

Sincerely,
Tracy Conroy, CEO
Daviess Community Hospital

SUPERINTENDENT

(Continued from page one)

seeing a large portion of the spread being in work situations, with co-workers exposing co-workers. "Be super careful," she said.

Auditor Bobbie Abel presented two proposals for the commissioners to consider. The first one allowed a scan of all the old title transfer books in her office, so they could be digitally accessed. The cost would be \$10,138.15 to scan them. The second proposal was to pay to have the data hosted online for a one-time fee of \$2,500 and an annual fee of \$350-\$500 a year. The data could then be searched by the public or title firms. Abel noted that all transfers are done digitally now, they no longer update the books, so this would only include the books stored in her office. Commissioner Kevin Boyd asked how the computerized data, not in the transfer books, would be integrated in the online search. Abel said he assumed it could be added for an additional fee. The commissioners recommended Abel find out how much that would be and re-

port back at their next meeting.

Auditor Abel also reported that since COVID, employees of the county have been working at home for free through TeamViewer. TeamViewer is now going to start charging for the service. It would be \$6,000 a year to have 10 licenses with a max of 40 users. Abel said only one license could be used at a time so no more than 10 people could be logged in at the same time. The commissioners spent some time discussing if this would be enough. Abel said they could also go with LogMeIn which would provide 25 licenses for \$3,500 a year. The commissioners voted to go with LogMeIn instead.

Julia Albright reported there is a culvert that is getting ready to collapse on Albright Store Road. She recommended the highway department take a look at it soon.

Tim Hunt thanked Kevin Boyd for his service as commissioner and appreciated working with him. Boyd's term will end on December 31, 2020.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

5:12 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Deputy Seymour and Deputy Flanagan responded.

5:49 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire responded.

10:28 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:42 a.m. - Received a report of an incident in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill and Major Keller responded.

12:07 p.m. - Received a report of threats in Shoals. Major Keller responded.

2:08 p.m. - Received a request for lift assistance near Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. No one was transported.

4:54 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check south of Loogootee. Major Keller, Sergeant Reed, Deputy Gibson, Deputy Wells, Loogootee Sergeant McBeth, and Martin County Ambulance. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:59 p.m. - Received a report of trespassing south of Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

5:30 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

6:44 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 near Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

7:00 p.m. - Received a report of a theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Police responded.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

5:25 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231, south of Loogootee. The Dubois County Sheriff's Office was notified.

7:58 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 near Shoals. Major Keller responded.

9:23 a.m. - Received a report of a threat north of Loogootee. Major Keller responded.

9:23 a.m. - Received a report of a theft in Loogootee. Major Keller responded.

10:00 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took three inmates to court.

12:05 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231, near Loogootee. Deputy Wells, Major Keller, and Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

2:25 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

3:22 p.m. - Received an alarm call in Loogootee. Loogootee Police responded.

7:21 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert, Sergeant Reed, and Deputy Barnett responded.

9:38 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check north of Shoals. Sergeant Reed, Deputy Barnett, ISP Trooper Nolan, ISP Trooper Henning, Martin County Ambulance, and deputies from Lawrence County responded.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

12:55 a.m. - Received a report of a sto-

len vehicle south of Loogootee. Sergeant Reed and Deputy Barnett responded.

8:10 a.m. - Received an animal complaint south of Loogootee. Major Keller responded.

8:39 a.m. - Received a report of a fire in Shoals. Deputy Seymour, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded.

8:45 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:17 a.m. - Received a report of an accident on US 231, south of Loogootee. Major Keller, ISP Trooper Beaver, Martin County Ambulance, Dubois County Ambulance, and Haysville Fire responded.

12:03 p.m. - Received a report of an accident south of Loogootee on US 231. ISP responded.

12:29 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

1:00 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

2:29 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

5:54 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:00 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Daviess County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

6:22 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.

7:47 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle east of Loogootee. Deputy Barnett responded.

8:08 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check near Shoals. Deputy Barnett and Reserve Deputy Dorsey responded.

10:14 p.m. - Received a report of an accident north of Loogootee on US 231. Deputy Barnett and Reserve Deputy Dorsey responded.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

11:37 a.m. - Received a request for medical assistance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Martin County Ambulance transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:39 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident near Shoals. Deputy Wells responded.

8:29 p.m. - Received a report of a commercial burglary alarm in Shoals. Deputy Barnett and Deputy Wells responded.

10:13 p.m. - Received a report of a dog loose in Shoals. Advised ACO Hughett and Deputy Barnett responded.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

2:50 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle near Shoals. Deputy Barnett responded.

3:17 a.m. - Received a request for a lift assist in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

5:56 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle south of Loogootee. Deputy Barnett and G & M Towing responded.

10:08 a.m. - Received a request for a VIN check near Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

3:45 p.m. - Received a report of a deer disposal site near Shoals. Advised South Region.

4:20 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver near Shoals. Advised Deputy Wells.

5:30 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check on Shoals. Deputy Wells and ICO Mann responded.

6:15 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Major Keller responded.

6:29 p.m. - Received a report of a theft in Shoals. ICO Mann responded.

9:05 p.m. - Received a report of a fire rekindle. Advised Daviess County.

11:10 p.m. - Received a report of a fire rekindle. Advised Daviess County.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

8:23 a.m. - Received a request for medical assistance near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported one to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:15 a.m. - Received a report of disabled vehicle south of Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Floyd, Deputy Lents and ICO Mann responded.

9:35 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn near Loogootee.

10:25 a.m. - Received a report of trespassing north of Loogootee. ICO Mann and Deputy Lents responded.

11:20 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident near Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Floyd, Loogootee Fire Department and Wagler's Automotive responded.

1:19 p.m. - Received a request for a VIN check in Shoals. Advised Deputy Lents.

2:32 p.m. - Received a report of animal neglect near Loogootee. Advised ACO Hughett.

2:34 p.m. - Received a report of breaking and entering in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Floyd and Deputy Lents responded.

2:51 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver near Loogootee. Advised Deputy Lents.

4:48 p.m. - Received a request for medical assistance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8:34 a.m. - Received a request for a lift assist east of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department responded.

8:38 a.m. - Received a request for officers, near Loogootee, due to suspicious activity. Loogootee Sergeant Floyd and Deputy Lents responded.

10:14 a.m. - Received a request for a lift assist in Shoals. Deputy Lents and Martin County Ambulance responded.

12:17 p.m. - Received a report of vandalism in Loogootee. Deputy Lents re-

sponded.

4:04 p.m. - Received a request for medical assistance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

5:45 p.m. - Received a request to remove person from a property. Loogootee Sergeant Floyd and Deputy Lents responded.

7:47 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded.

ARRESTS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

8:07 p.m. - Christopher Bearden, 42, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Wells and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated prior and possession of a controlled substance. He is being held without bond. Assisting with the arrest was ISP Trooper Nolan.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

5:35 p.m. - Terry Wininger, 44, of Washington, was arrested by Deputy Wells and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated and is being held on a \$3,000 10 % bond.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

4:11 p.m. - Michael Hert, 45, of Loogootee, was arrested by Sergeant Reed and charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of methamphetamine with a weapon, possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, unlawful possession of a syringe, dealing in marijuana, possession of marijuana, resisting law enforcement, and battery on law enforcement. He is being held without bond.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

1:00 p.m. - Megan Goetz, 29, of Terre Haute, was arrested by Vigo County officers on a Martin County warrant. She is being held on a \$450 cash bond.

Martin County
JOURNAL

A weekly online newspaper published every Wednesday

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**CONFUSED ABOUT MEDICARE?
I CAN HELP!**

The Annual Election Period (AEP) For Medicare will end on December 7th.
I would be pleased to assist you in your decision regarding your health insurance.

Call George Doyle at 317-847-2532

George Doyle is not connected with the Federal Medicare program. This is a solicitation for insurance and a licensed agent may contact you.

COURT NEWS

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

CRIMINAL COURT New Charges Filed October 29

Jalisa D. Phillips, invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Howard N. Phillips, invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Danny Lee Krodel, dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 3 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance – controlled substances, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; dealing in marijuana, a Level 5 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

November 2

Amanda P. Krodel, maintaining a common nuisance – controlled substances, a Level 6 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Larry G. Holt, Jr., possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Jonathan M. Payne, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance – controlled substances, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 4

Jordan D. Wright, false informing, a Class B Misdemeanor; reckless driving, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Johnathon Chace Allstott, dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 5 Felony; false informing, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Jessica Jo Allen, domestic battery, a Level 6 Felony; resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor; disorderly conduct, a Class B Misdemeanor; criminal mischief, a Class B Misdemeanor.

November 9

Amber N. Cissell, public intoxication, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Richard L. Ayers, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Dustin F. Coulter, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Lisa G. Cundiff, conversion, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Kelvin E. Canady, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 12

Jace R. Toy, possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of hash oil, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Logan R. Wagler, possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of hash oil, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Kaciane S L Newlin, possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of hash oil, a Class B Misdemeanor.

November 13

Trevor A. Knepp, possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of hash oil, a Class B Misdemeanor.

November 16

Jay Lawrence Sutton, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Kacrissa Jo Lintz, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Travis Ray Salmon, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony.

November 17

Danny Lee Krodel, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

November 23

Justin S. Lacey, possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor; driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

November 24

Christopher L. Bearden, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Level 6 Felony; possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & SENTENCINGS

October 22

Alicia M. Hitner, convicted of domestic battery, a Level 6 Felony and invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced on the first count to serve 365 days with 305 days suspended and credit for 30 actual days previously served plus 30 Class A credit days. Defendant received 10 months of probation. Sentenced on the second count to serve 365 days with 365 days suspended. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

October 27

Joshua C. Cundiff, convicted of judgment of conviction operating while intoxicated with prior, a Class A Misdemeanor; amended from operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic violator, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 359 days suspended and credit for 3 actual days previously served plus 3 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

November 18

Adam Shane Gibson, convicted of aggravated battery, a Level 3 Felony, amended from attempted murder, a Level 1 Felony and auto theft with habitual criminal enhancement, a Level 5 Felony. Sentenced on the first count to serve 13 years at the Indiana Department of Corrections with 0 days suspended and credit for 365 actual days previously served plus 121 Class B credit days. Sentenced on the second count to serve 486 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 356 actual days previously served plus 121 Class B credit days.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

October 22

Alicia M. Hitner, unlawful possession or use of a legend drug, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed.

November 18

Adam Shane Gibson, operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic violator, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; resisting law enforcement with habitual criminal enhancement, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

November 20

Brenton L. Griffin, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Ami Lynn Slaubaugh, check deception, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

November 20

Crane Credit Union vs. Brian D. McNabb, civil collection.

Crane Credit Union vs. Devin J. Brennan and Tammi L. Duzan, civil collection.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suits Filed

November 23

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Danny J. Arthur, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Kenneth J. McGuire, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Ashley L. Steiner, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Shannon J. Bell, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Andrew Ray, complaint.

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Lyndzee Hart, complaint.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

5:12 a.m. - A loose dog was retrieved from the Marathon and taken to the police station to locate the owner. Shortly after, the dog was returned to the owner.

1:45 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted with a funeral escort.

4:58 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to assist the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a possible suicidal subject on US 231 South.

6:08 p.m. - A caller advised of possible scam calls on her home phone and cell phone.

7:03 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth took a theft report from a resident on Mulberry Street.

9:55 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth assisted an employee with a problem with a door to a local business.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

12:06 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a report of an erratic driver nearing Loogootee on US 231 North.

3:10 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a slight property damage accident on West Main Street.

3:27 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to an alarm at a local business.

6:27 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a report of lumber and debris in the roadway on US 50 West.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

8:45 a.m. - Chief Rayhill and Loogootee First Responders were dispatched to a medical call on North Line Street.

3:20 p.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a traffic stop on US 50 East.

4:50 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to retrieve found medication.

5:58 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on North Kentucky Avenue.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

11:11 a.m. - A caller reported a paper license plate stolen off his vehicle.

11:40 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on John Strange Avenue.

12:30 p.m. - A caller reported a scam on items he purchased.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

3:17 a.m. - First responders were dispatched for assistance on South Oak Street.

3:05 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a residential fire on 1200 East, near the causeway on St. Mary's Road.

8:43 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth completed a welfare check on a resident in Larkin Apartments.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

9:11 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a request for assistance with two stranded vehicles on US 231 South.

9:43 a.m. - A caller advised of a lost wallet at a local business.

9:51 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted animal control with a report of a sick animal on North Oak Street.

11:20 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd and the Loogootee Fire Department responded to an accident involving a deer on US 231 North.

2:37 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a report of a domestic dispute and property damage at Country Place Apartments.

2:56 p.m. - A female caller reported her tires had been slashed on SE Third Street.

5:37 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted a resident with issues with a juvenile child.

7:40 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a dispute between two subjects at the Loogootee High School.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:05 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a suspicious subject walking along the roadway on Broadway Street.

12:15 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd responded to a report of threats received and damage done to vehicles on Church Street.

4:06 p.m. - First responders and Sgt. Floyd responded to a medical call on North Line Street.

5:53 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd and Sgt. McBeth assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a civil disturbance on St. Joseph Road.

Real estate transfers

Adam Tompkins and Jessica Tompkins to Adam Tompkins and Jessica Tompkins, part of the south half of the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 10.56 acres, more or less.

Charles K. Guy, of Martin County, Indiana to **Nicholas J. Guy**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 12 of Prutt Subdivision.

C. James Courtright, of Martin County, Indiana to **C. James Courtright and Deidre Courtright**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of fractional Section 23, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, Mitcheltree Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing one acre, more or less.

US Bank National Association to Monty L. Gregory, a tract of land in the City of Loogootee, Indiana, in Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, commonly known as 305 Queen Street, Loogootee, IN 47553.

Shad Arvin, of Martin County, Indiana to **Shad Arvin and Julie Arvin**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Rutherford Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing one acre, more or less.

Jennifer Tarvin, of Dubois County, Indiana and **John W. Lagle**, of Daviess County, Indiana to **Brooke W. Gregory**, of Martin County, Indiana, the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 6, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing 10 acres, more or less.

Aundrea M. Dant, of Martin County, Indiana to **Alex L. Guyer and Kaitlyn E. Guyer**, of Dubois County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of Section 17, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing 2 acres, more or less.

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

The City of Loogootee is accepting applications for a Utility Clerk position to begin as a part-time and become a permanent full-time position.

Applications may be picked up at the Utility or Mayors' offices
8 am-4 pm, Monday - Friday.

Deadline for applications is December 11th, 2020.

More Neat Stuff

By Ann Ackerman



An Airbus 380 is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h in 30,000 feet when suddenly a Eurofighter with Tempo Mach 2 appears.

The pilot of the fighter jet slows down, flies alongside the Airbus and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio, "Airbus flight, boring flight isn't it? Take care and have a look here!"

He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height, only to swoop down almost to sea level in a breathtaking dive. He loops back next to the Airbus and asks, "Well, how was that?"

The Airbus pilot answers, "Very impressive, but now have a look here!" The jet pilot watches the Airbus, but nothing happens. It continues to fly stubbornly straight, with the same speed.

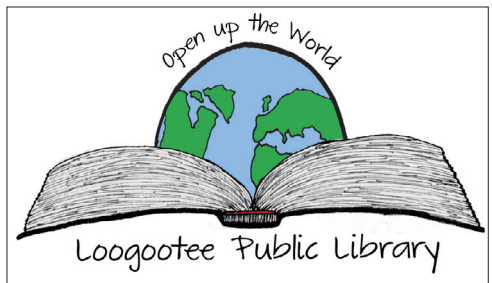
After five minutes, the Airbus pilot radioed, "Well what are you saying now?"

The jet pilot asked, confused, "What did you do? The other laughs and says, "I got up, stretched my legs, went to the back of the flight to the bathroom, got a cup of coffee and a cinnamon cake."

The moral of the story is: When you are young, speed and adrenaline seem to be great. But as you get older and wiser, comfort and peace are not to be despised either. This is called S.O.S: Slower, Older, Smarter.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (Thanks, Betsy)

*What if my dog only brings back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it?



BY DARLA WAGLER

Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

Because of the recent increase in COVID positive cases, the library has reduced operating hours but offer the same great services. Mondays from 10:00-6:00 and Fridays from 10:00-4:00. Grab-N-Go (place holds on materials and staff will check them out to a patron, on arrival ring doorbell on south door and staff will hand them out), faxes and copy service available, and essential computer use by appointment. Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00-4:00 limited number of people, essential computer users only, materials can be checked out or call ahead and make arrangements to pick up. Saturdays the library hours will be 11:00-1:00. WorkOne is requiring service by appointment only.

Kids programming will be virtual and craft bags will be available for pickup. Christmas BINGO will be sent home with parents.

New Books:

Nonfiction: "A Promised Land" by Barack Obama, "Modern Warriors" by Pete Hegseth, "Once a Warrior" by Jake Wood, and "Dolly Patron Songteller" by Dolly Patron.

The library phone number is 812-295-3713 or check out the website www.loogootee.lib.in.us or like us on Facebook. The library has free Wi-Fi service available for patrons.

*If poison is past its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?

*Which letter is silent in the word scent, the S or the C?

*Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?

*Why is the letter W, in English, called the double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?

*Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.

*Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.

*The word "swims" upside down is still "swims."

*Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to lose.

THOUGHTS

*Always help someone. You might be the only one who does.

*You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get up.

*Guess who's all caught up on laundry? Not me...but I'm sure someone is and I'm proud of you.

*Face masks don't always work. Well, neither do parachutes, but if I ever jump out of a plane I still want one.

SERIOUSISMS

*One of the hardest pills I've had to swallow was realizing I meant nothing to people that meant a lot to me.

*Some people don't understand that sitting in your own house in peace, eating snacks, and minding your own business is priceless.

*It has been said, "Time heals all wound." I do not agree. The wounds remain. In time, the mind, protecting its sanity, covers them with scar tissue and the pain lessens, but it is never gone."

-Rose Kennedy

Make someone smile today!

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



PIXIE is a female black and white cat, around 2 years old. She is very sweet, very playful, and is fine with other cats. Her adoption fee has been sponsored so there is no fee to take her home. But you must have an approved application. The shelter is open by appointment only and an adoption application is required to schedule an appointment. For more info, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Right to Life paper drive

A Right to Life paper drive/aluminum can drive will be held Saturday, December 5. In Daviess County, it will be at the Tractor Supply parking lot in Washington. This is the main location with hours of 9 a.m.-1 p.m. All other locations around the county will be from 9 a.m.-noon. In Martin County, the drive will be at the Martin County Recycling Center from 9 a.m.-noon. If you could volunteer to help, contact Louis Kavanaugh Jr. at 486-3658 or in Martin County, call Van McAtee at 295-4251. Or you can show up the day of the paper drive.

Chamber meeting

The Martin County Chamber of Commerce will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 9 at noon at the West Boggs Activity Center. Zoom is also available for this meeting. Contact the chamber for more information at 812-295-4093.

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.

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 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.

Loogootee native new CFO of Altru Health System

Altru Health System announced that Doug Arvin, MBA, CPA, has been selected as the system's new Chief Financial Officer, effective December 8. Arvin is a 1980 graduate of Loogootee High School and the son of the late Raymond J. Arvin and Therese A. Arvin.



Arvin brings more than 20 years of financial leadership experience in the healthcare industry, most recently serving as Senior Vice President and Divisional Financial Leader at Wellstar Health System in Marietta, Georgia. In this role, he was responsible for providing financial leadership, oversight and direction for the health system, with annual revenues of \$3.6 billion in system-wide operations. He also led the successful integration of six new hospital sites during his four years in the position. Prior to joining Wellstar, Arvin served as Vice President of System Strategy and Financial Operations at UC Health System in Cincinnati and Facility Chief Financial Officer (Southeast Houston and Pearland Market) at Memorial Hermann Healthcare System in Houston.

"As we continue to focus on financial performance and the steady growth of our operations, I am confident that Doug has the experience, leadership skills and record of success that will help us achieve our ambitious goals for Altru," said Dave Molmen, CEO of Altru Health System. "We're excited to welcome Doug to the team and value the knowledge and expertise he will provide as we continue to ensure a strong financial future for our

health system."

Arvin received his Bachelor of Business Administration, Healthcare Administration, from the University of Evansville, and a Master of Business Administration, Accounting from the University of Houston. In 2012, he was named "Chief Financial Officer of the Year" by Cincinnati Business Courier.

"I'm proud to be joining an organization with such a deep legacy of providing high-quality, compassionate care to its communities," said Arvin. "I look forward to working with the team to continue to position Altru for long-term success."

Neat Feet Clinic at senior center

Daviess Community Hospital has announced the schedule for the 2021 DCH Neat Feet Clinic. This service is provided once per month at Senior & Family Services in Washington from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. A Registered Nurse from Daviess Community Hospital will trim toenails, file toenails, assess feet for any abnormalities, and apply lotion to groomed feet. The Registered Nurse will also instruct each client on proper foot care.

The fee is \$25. Appointments are necessary. To set up an appointment for the DCH Neat Feet Clinic, please call 812-254-8950.

2021 dates are: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 3, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 7, November 11, and December 9.



Dear Santa,
I have been good this year, probably because the COVID pandemic has kept me at home a lot more than usual and I have not had many opportunities to get out and get into trouble. Can the COVID virus survive at North Pole temperatures? If so, I hope you and the elves are social distancing.

As usual, I start my Christmas list with rocks. I actually have made some progress this year on some of the rock paving projects, but I still need some large, flat rocks to complete the small patio by the fire pit. I also need some flagstones for some new garden paths through some planting beds I have started. I need small boulders to line the paths and some crushed stone to put between the flagstones.

I have a couple of seating requests this year. I still would like the concrete hand chairs to put on one of the overlook areas on the rock cliff. Please be sure to bring both a left and right hand. I also would like a small swing to put in the swing stand at the end of the driveway. That swing stand doubles as a trellis in the summer and serves as an unofficial welcome station for visitors to Sandhill Gardens.

I would also like some additions to my antique garden tool collection. I am especially interested in some Native American tools. I would also like some more old seed catalogues, seed packets and a wooden seed display stand.

The new white garden I installed this year has increased my interest in showcasing the garden at night. For that, I would like to have more lights. Since electricity is not readily available in

some parts of the garden, solar lights would be a good idea. I need a mixture of pathway lights, spotlights to highlight special plants and a few whimsical lights.

Something I really need is tires in various sizes. The front tires on my lawn mower have been going flat and several of the lawn carts and wheelbarrows also need new tires. If you do not have the exact tires in stock, a gift certificate to a tire store would do the trick.

Speaking of gift certificates, I would also love getting some for my favorite nurseries. I know that it is not practical to bring live plants on the sleigh, so gift certificates will allow me to get the plants I want next spring.

I have several new birdfeeders this year, but I could still use something to put in them. Black oil sunflower seed is the seed preferred by most of the birds at my feeders. Suet blocks also seem to disappear quickly, so you could bring a few boxes of suet blocks in different flavors. While I have feeders for the birds, I would like a new squirrel feeder. Keeping the squirrels occupied seems to be the best way to keep them out of the bird feeders. I once had a squirrel feeder that held an ear of corn and turned like a Ferris wheel when a squirrel got on the corn. It seems to entertain both the squirrel and everyone watching.

I know that is quite a list and, honestly, I know I do not deserve all of that. However, perhaps it will give you some ideas for other gardeners on your Christmas list. Most of all, Santa, I wish for an end to the pandemic. Be sure to wear your mask when you visit on Christmas Eve.

Yours truly,
Ralph



I often talk about upcoming grazing conferences this time of year. Right now, meetings in person are scarce and perhaps rightly so. I still encourage you to continue learning whether it's from watching YouTube videos, reading books or articles, or attending a virtual meeting or conference.

It is also the time of year when I start thinking more about finding a comfortable chair, a warm blanket and some good reading material — especially when the snow flurries start. Winter is a great time for me to catch up on reading after checking on livestock in the cold, as long as I don't get too warm and nod off. But, that said, winter chores still must be done! I'm never mentally prepared for winter, but that won't stop it from happening. What's a perfect winter to me? It includes stockpiled forages lasting for as long as possible, dry or frozen ground and as little hay needed to be fed.

You certainly can't control the weather. You need to instead learn how to work around or with it, especially the farther north you live. Last month I asked the question "will there be enough feed or forage for your livestock until spring?" Livestock either have to be grazing something or be fed. One of the best ways to reduce winter feeding issues is to decrease the amount of winter feed that needs to be given to your animals. It is almost always cheaper to graze than it is to feed. Remember, if a wheel is turning, you are spending money.

The more animals are concentrated, and especially when fed in one spot, the more resource concerns you will have. Seasonal feeding areas need to be managed and minimized to reduce environmental impacts and for the health and well-being of the herd. Cold weather and mud certainly increase livestock nutritional requirements, intake and costs. So, let's first try to reduce the timeframe for when winter-feeding areas are really needed.

Certainly, the longer you can graze annuals or crop residue in the early fall, the longer the pastures get to rest, grow and stockpile. The more stockpile you have, the longer you can graze into the winter. This all reduces the amount of time needed in winter feeding areas.

Making hay and feeding hay is the most expensive part of being in the cow business! It generally costs up to \$2/cow/day to feed hay and that is without counting waste. Jim Gerrish, University of Missouri-Forage Systems Research Center Manager, really made me start thinking several years ago when he said "there was more money to be made in the cow/calf business by managing cattle during winter; not just during the growing season." Gerrish has also pointed out that no matter where people lived, they tended to feed similar amounts of hay. That doesn't make any sense! You would think the ones in the far north would be feeding a lot more than the ones in the deep south, but quite often that's not the case. The longer the growing season, the more forage you can normally produce allowing you to graze a lot longer and perhaps easily not feed any hay; some have learned to be efficient, some haven't. If a wheel is turning, you are spending money.

Your goal each year should be to feed less and graze more. Think about how short you can cut your feeding time frame. If you are feeding hay five months out of the year now, can you reduce that to four, three or less?

If you are short on forages during the growing season and don't change animal numbers or improve that animal-to-forage

balance, you will be spending a lot of time and money feeding during the winter. If you want to graze longer and reduce winter feeding inputs, you first need to balance your forage base with the number of animals you have. Generally—and this is a huge "it depends"—on where you are located, your forages and your soils, but you'll usually need at least 2.5 acres per animal unit to supply dry matter requirements. An animal unit is 1,000 pounds of live weight. That 2.5 acres also includes being efficient in grazing or feeding.

If you don't have enough acres, then work to increase forage yield on the acres you do have. If you can double production on what you have, you just doubled your acreage without the extra taxes. You also need to be as efficient as possible in allocating out that forage and getting as much production as you can from it. You can increase production with good fertility, good soil health and good management.

I talk about "stop grazing" heights quite a bit. This is not only important during the growing season, but also over winter. This residual is important in the winter to reduce runoff, increase infiltration and to help balance that grazing animal next spring when forages are washy and have less fiber. So, it's good to leave a bit behind anyway. What is ideal? Four inches for cool season forages such as orchardgrass and tall fescue and six inches for warm season grasses such as big bluestem.

That can be grazed down tighter if you want to slow spring growth which is a positive thing if you are trying to get more clover into the stand. It takes some of the competitive edge away from the perennial grasses.

Winter, and certainly early spring grazing, can be challenging at times. Ideally, you want either dry or frozen conditions, but you don't always get that. The more forage growth that is present when you do graze it, the less negative soil impact there will be in most cases. This is especially true if animals are not allowed to linger or remain on the same spot for very long. This is also true when grazing annuals on cropland and a good reason to not feed supplements or hay on cropland. You don't want to cause any undue compaction or have any long-term negative effects. An abundance of roots, soil life and natural freezing and thawing action fixes most compaction issues. You also don't want too much disturbance. This generally occurs trying to graze it down too close to not "waste anything," especially under wet conditions. Too much disturbance creates openings for opportunist weeds.

It would be nice if hay was just a primary part of your contingency plan — your insurance policy. You would use it to meet shortfalls in production. But don't be afraid to feed hay if needed, especially if it will help production later and or reduce winter feeding time frame. That option sometimes appears during dry spells in the late summer. Reduce its use when possible to decrease resource concerns and input costs. It also never hurts to keep animal numbers flexible too. Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!

Reminders & Opportunities

AFGC - The virtual event will be held January 11, 2021 - January 12, 2021. For more details go to www.afgc.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3459 Reduced price for virtual.

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference — In-person canceled. Other options are still being considered.



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