

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 12, Issue 6

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

Seven pages

Commissioners discuss Pineview Road, road paving

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners met Tuesday, February 9. Commissioner Paul George was not present for the meeting.

Travis Summers talked to the commissioners about the need to officially add Pineview Road to the county's inventory. Travis said the highway department has been maintaining the road however when he went back through minutes of previous commissioners' meetings and could not find where it was approved as an official county road.

Summers said they also want to extend the length of the road due to a lot owner with new construction ready to pour a driveway and they want to make sure the county is on board with the extension. The current road is .51 of a mile and the extension will make it .63 of a mile.

County Attorney Dave Lett explained to Commissioners Aaron Summers and Cody Roush, who are both new to the board, that the commissioners typically accept a road into the inventory as long as it meets the county standards.

According to Travis Summers, the current Pineview Road is in the state's inventory as a county road however the highway department does not show it. He said the road was installed in 2005. Attorney Lett said that he wasn't the county attorney at that time, so he is not privy to any discussion then. He recommended the highway superintendent inspect the road, including the proposed extension, and report back to the commissioners. He also suggested the highway department provide Summers with a spec sheet of what is required for county roads.

Tim Hunt, with HWC Engineers, provided the commissioners with a report on the Community Crossings grant over the past five years. He reported that the coun-

ty has done 36 miles of road paving in the past five years and the current Community Crossings application for this year has another 16 miles. If approved, the county's paving progress will be 50 miles. The county has also rehabbed nine bridges with grant funds over the past five years.

Hunt said the state is going to try to keep the Community Crossings grant program going for the long haul. He said that Martin County has 170 miles of paved roads and around 170 miles of gravel roads. The goal, he said, is to finish working on the paved roads and eventually start paving some of the gravel roads.

Hunt also told the commissioners that there are issues with the recent replacement of the Mt. Pleasant Bridge. He said the bridge plans submitted to INDOT are not what the company installed. He recommended setting up a meeting with the highway superintendent, at least one commissioner and the company to see how this is going to be corrected. There are also serious issues with the approaches to the bridge.

The commissioners approved a memorandum of understanding between the sheriff's department and the Town of Shoals for \$1,534 per year for the sheriff's department to provide dispatch services. Sheriff Travis Roush said they set the price based on the town's population.

Sheriff Roush also reported there are currently 75 inmates in the jail and 28 of them are from Vigo County. The sheriff noted they have had an influx of local arrests, so the Vigo County numbers are down by a few.

Alliance Director Angie Risacher told the commissioners that she found out more information on TIF funds and they can be used to purchase a vehicle as long as the vehicle is used in the TIF district. (See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)

City planning to replace downtown fountain

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee City Council held a short meeting Monday night, February 9 and mainly discussed the fountain on the square. Council Members Rick Norris and Carroll Rayhill were absent.

Mayor Noel Harty had requested at last month's meeting that the council approve \$25,000 from the EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) fund to go toward the replacement of the fountain. At Monday night's meeting, he requested up to \$50,000. He said they have received two grants totaling \$33,000 and a donation of \$300 and expect the cost of the fountain replacement to be around \$83,000.

Council Member Teresa Nolley asked what the replacement entailed. Mayor Harty replied that they are purchasing a new fountain and pump and replacing the sidewalks around the square, along with seeding new grass. He said the fountain they are interested in purchasing is made of marble and will be delivered in 75 pieces. They will also have to fill in the current fountain because the new fountain is not in-ground. It will sit on level ground.

The council discussed where the \$50,000 would come from. The mayor

said the park board may be able to give some money, but they would have to meet first and decide. He said remaining money would come from EDIT.

After some silence, the mayor asked if the council had any thoughts on approving the \$50,000 now or would rather wait until all council members were present.

Council Member Nolley said she would rather wait. "You just doubled the price on us," she said.

The mayor replied that he realizes he asked for \$25,000 at the last meeting however he wasn't sure at that time how much the replacement would cost. He added that the fountain was in the middle of the city so was quite important and the one they have picked out will last forever. He added that the current fountain has not been replaced in decades.

Rick Roll, with eSolve, asked if there was a budget for the fountain project. The mayor replied that there is not anything formal, they just estimated the cost.

The council decided to hold a special meeting in two weeks, on Monday, February 22 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the issue further. The mayor said they can get with the park board to see if they have any money available to put toward the project. The other two council members could also be present at the meeting.

Radius Indiana wage and benefits study reports regional employers anticipate hiring in the next year

Many regional employers expect to add workers over the next 12 months, according to Radius Indiana's second regional survey of wages and benefits in southwest Indiana.

"Businesses and industry in southwest Indiana are competing for workforce talent," said Ed Cole, president of Dubois Strong, Dubois County's economic development source. "The Radius Regional Wages and Benefits Survey provides employers the information they need to remain competitive."

The 2020 Radius Indiana Wages and Benefits Survey gives local companies up-to-date, real-world information about the labor market in the Radius region compared to the state of Indiana and the United States. Seventy-six firms participated in the survey, contributing compensation data for 14,640 employees across 63 occupations, in addition to information about insurance and other benefits.

"Wage and benefits surveys provide us the means to compare and analyze our compensation packages with other companies in the local market," said Laura Kessens, Human Resources director for MasterBrand Cabinets in Jasper. "Remaining competitive in compensation allows us to attract, motivate, and retain employees."

Whorton Marketing and Research, a consulting firm that conducts industry and membership research, conducted the survey in September and October 2020, and Dubois Strong sponsored its completion. No employee names or other personal information were reported to Radius in the production of the report.

"This survey is an important way for Ra-

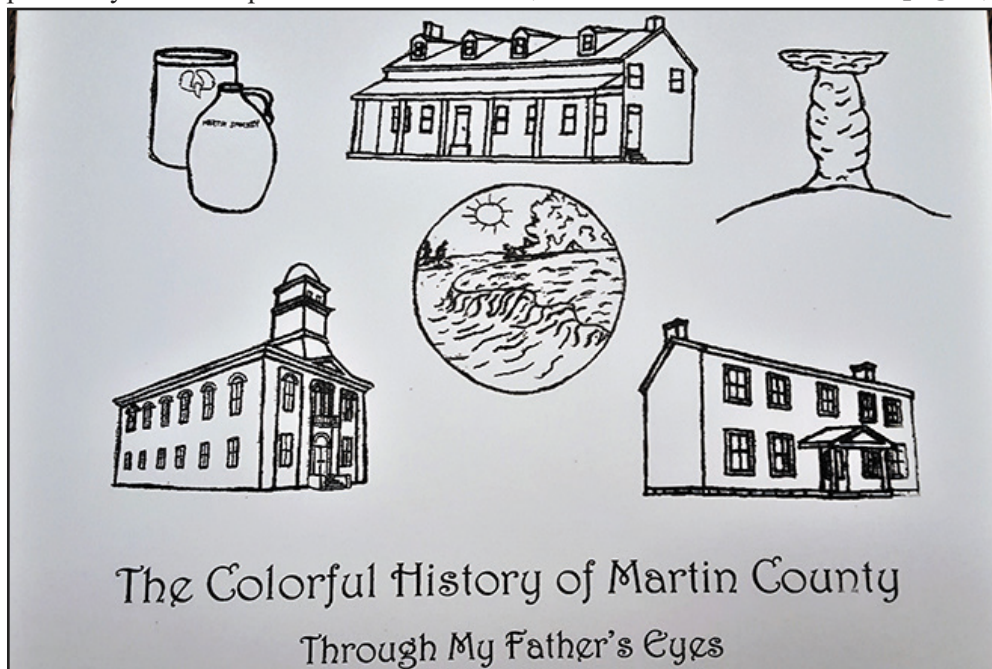
dius and the local economic leaders in our counties to serve private businesses in our communities," said Chris May, director of Manufacturing and Workforce Services for Radius Indiana. "Delivering timely and accurate information to the manufacturing sector allows those companies to be alert to changes in the labor market. We want to deliver tools like these, and in the future we want to build even better and stronger relationships with our local employers so that we can become more responsive to their needs."

Among the survey's findings: Average salaries for positions including office managers and material managers in the Radius region were below state and national averages, according to the report. Internal auditors and construction managers in the region earn between the state and federal levels, while sales managers/supervisors and chief information officers earn a higher mean salary in the Radius region than the state and national averages.

The survey also reported:

- Employers planning pay raises in the next 12 months: 77 percent;
- Average number of employees added in the previous six months: 30.7 employees;
- Average number of employees laid off in the previous six months: 27 employees;
- Mean salaries for engineers rose by 12.56 percent compared to the 2018 survey findings;
- Assembler mean salaries grew by 8.38 percent during the same period;
- Forklift/Equipment Operator mean salaries declined by 0.2 percent in the two-year period.

(See 'RADIUS' on page 2)



Coloring book grant

-Photo provided

The Martin County Historical Society has received a grant from Hoosier Uplands to reprint "The Colorful History of Martin County" coloring books. The grant has made it possible for the historical society to provide county history coloring books to the second grade classes at Shoals and Loogootee schools and any homeschool students in the county for the next three years. The coloring book's first print was created in 2015 in memory of County Historian Robert Greene, using information he wrote in his newspaper article "Just Martin County" and his book "Images of Loogootee". All illustrations were created by Bill Greene. If you want more information about the coloring books, you can contact Bill Greene, MCHS President, at historical@frontier.com.



Making A Difference



By Curt Johnson
MCCF Director

-- SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE --

The scholarships offered by the MCCF come from one of the five types of funds we hold. I have talked about the types of funds in other columns: unrestricted, designated, field-of-interest, donor-advised, and scholarship funds.

Below are the scholarships currently announced for our Martin County graduating seniors who are pursuing higher education. Some are specific to the Loogootee High School and some to the Shoals High School. Here are summaries for each scholarship.

-- LOOGOOTEE HIGH SCHOOL --

- Ann Jones Burch Tennis (Two \$1000)

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

- Ben Trout Memorial Student Athlete (\$2000)

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

- Gerdon Jones Memorial (\$2574)

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

- Loogootee Alumni (\$820)

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

- Robert Scott Waggner Memorial (\$500)

Has a good attitude, work ethic and performed well academically. Has participated in sports, extracurricular activities, and/or is an active community or school member and is a supporter of their school and others.

- Saint Vincent de Paul Society (\$1155)

Must have financial need as determined

using standard financial need discovery instruments.

- William McGovern II Fund

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

-- LHS (SELECTED BY MCCF) --

- Rita and Jack Butcher Loogootee Basketball Family (\$1500)

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

- Wilma L Bateman Memorial (\$500)

A female senior who has participated in high school athletics for at least two years. Has shown leadership qualities and been involved in community activities.

- George M and Barbara Cropp (up to \$2500)

Must have a GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale). Financial need and/or special circumstances may be a consideration. This scholarship may be renewed subsequent years to the student if criteria are met.

-- SHOALS HIGH SCHOOL --

- Faye Shobe Memorial (\$719)

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

- Saint Vincent de Paul Society (\$1181)

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

-- SHS (SELECTED BY MCCF) --

- George M and Barbara Cropp (up to \$2500)

Must have a GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale). Financial need and/or special circumstances may be a consideration. This scholarship may be renewed subsequent years to the student if criteria are met.

-- HOW TO APPLY --

The majority of the scholarships are available through the Loogootee and Shoals High School counselors and se-

lected by each school. The exceptions are the Butcher Loogootee Basketball Family, Wilma L Bateman Memorial, and George M and Barbara Cropp scholarships. These scholarships are selected by the MCCF and are available online at www.cfpartner.org/scholarships and ARE DUE FRIDAY MARCH 5, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. The Terri Sullivan Callaway (for nursing students) will be available next month.

-- MORE INFORMATION --

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

You are also welcome to visit our webpage at www.cfpartner.org and "like" the MCCF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mcccommunityfoundation.

COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

She is working on getting the legalities taken care of as she wants to make sure the county does everything lawfully.

County Attorney Lett presented two ordinances to the commissioners for them to look over. One is to enforce charging companies who damage county roads with their trucks or equipment and the other pertains to utility companies who want to do excavation in county rights-of-way. He suggested the commissioners look over the ordinances and they can be discussed at a future meeting.

RADIUS

(Continued from page one)

"The local business sector and the local economic development professionals in the Radius region have worked together to develop this survey, and it is a very tangible example of the way economic development organizations can be used by their local businesses to deliver a service and a tool," Radius Indiana President and CEO Jeff Quyle said. "We look forward to finding more opportunities like this to help our businesses be successful."



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MICHAEL MCDONALD

Michael W. McDonald, formerly of Loogootee, passed away Wednesday February 3, 2021 at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper. A resident of Jasper, he was 64.

He was born October 1, 1956 in Loogootee; son of the late Howard "Shine" and Janie (Horn) McDonald.

Michael enjoyed taking long car rides and trips with his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Howard "Shine" and Jane McDonald and two infant siblings.

Michael is survived by his sister, Wanda (Gary) Burris; his nephews, Travis Arvin and Troy Arvin; his step-nieces,

Christie Wilcoxon and Shannon Burris, and cousins, and friends.

A funeral service was held Saturday February 6 at Blake Funeral Home. Burial followed in St. John's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Autism Speaks Foundation 1060 State Road, Second Floor, Princeton, NJ 08540 or the Martin County Humane Society in Michael's memory.

Online condolences can be made to www.blakefuneralhomes.com.

SUSAN STRANGE

Susan Strange passed away Saturday, February 6, 2021 at Parkview Assisted Living. A resident of Odon, she was 74.

She was born December 2, 1946 in Chicago, Illinois; daughter of the late Bernard and Marion (Fauth) Driebergen.

Sue was a member of the St. Martin Catholic Church, St. Martin Altar Society and the Red Hat Society. She enjoyed crafting and was a published author in various craft magazines.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Strange, who passed away on April 5, 2018; her parents, Bernard and Marion Driebergen; and her sister-in-law, Maureen Driebergen.

Sue is survived by her brother, Dennis Driebergen of Chicago, Illinois; niece, Julie Driebergen of Lake Elmo, Minne-

sota; her beloved dog, Cha Ch; many Strange nieces and nephews; brother-in-law, Paul Strange and sister-in-law, Linda Hunter, both of Loogootee.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker at noon Friday, February 12 at St. Martin Catholic Church in Loogootee. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be held Friday, February 12 from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

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

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

National jobless rate edges down to 6.3 percent

The unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point to 6.3 percent in January, while nonfarm payroll employment changed little (+49,000), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week. The labor market continued to reflect the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain it. In January, notable job gains in professional and business services and in both public and private education were offset by losses in leisure and hospitality, in retail trade, in health care, and in transportation and warehousing.

This news release presents statistics from two monthly surveys. The household survey measures labor force status, including unemployment, by demographic characteristics. The establishment survey measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry.

Household Survey Data

In January, the unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point to 6.3 percent, and the number of unemployed persons decreased to 10.1 million. Although both measures are much lower than their April 2020 highs, they remain well above their pre-pandemic levels in February 2020 (3.5 percent and 5.7 million, respectively).

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates declined over the month for adult men (6.0 percent), adult women (6.0 percent), Whites (5.7 percent), and Hispanics (8.6 percent). The jobless rates changed little for teenagers (14.8 percent), Blacks (9.2 percent), and Asians (6.6 percent).

Among the unemployed, the number of persons on temporary layoff decreased in January to 2.7 million. This measure is down considerably from the recent high of 18.0 million in April but is 2.0 million higher than its February level. The number of permanent job losers, at 3.5 million, changed little in January but is 2.2 million higher than in February. The number of reentrants to the labor force decreased in January to 2.0 million. (Reentrants are persons who previously worked but were not in the labor force prior to beginning their job search.)

In January, the number of persons jobless less than 5 weeks decreased to 2.3 million. The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more), at 4.0 million, was about unchanged in January and accounted for 39.5 percent of the total unemployed.

After accounting for the annual adjustments to the population controls, both the civilian labor force and the number of employed persons changed little in January. At 61.4 percent, the labor force participation rate was about unchanged over the month but is 1.9 percentage points lower than its February level. The employment-population ratio, at 57.5 percent in January, changed little over the month but is 3.6 percentage points lower than in February.

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons, at 6.0 million, changed little in January. This measure is

1.6 million higher than the February level. These individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part-time because their hours had been reduced or they were unable to find full-time jobs.

The number of persons not in the labor force who currently want a job, at 7.0 million, edged down in January but is 1.9 million higher than in February. These individuals were not counted as unemployed because they were not actively looking for work during the last 4 weeks or were unavailable to take a job.

The number of persons marginally attached to the labor force, at 1.9 million, decreased in January. These individuals wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but had not looked for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. The number of discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were available for them, was little changed over the month at 624,000.

Household Survey Supplemental Data

In January, the share of employed persons who teleworked because of the coronavirus pandemic edged down to 23.2 percent. These data refer to employed persons who teleworked or worked at home for pay at some point in the last 4 weeks specifically because of the pandemic.

In January, 14.8 million persons reported that they had been unable to work because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic--that is, they did not work at all or worked fewer hours at some point in the last 4 weeks due to the pandemic. This measure is 1.1 million lower than in December. Among those who reported in January that they were unable to work because of pandemic-related closures or lost business, 12.7 percent received at least some pay from their employer for the hours not worked, little changed from the previous month.

Among those not in the labor force in January, 4.7 million persons were prevented from looking for work due to the pandemic; this measure is little changed from December. (To be counted as unemployed, by definition, individuals must be either actively looking for work or on temporary layoff.)

These supplemental data come from questions added to the household survey beginning in May 2020 to help gauge the effects of the pandemic on the labor market. The data are not seasonally adjusted. Tables with estimates from the supplemental questions for all months are available online at www.bls.gov/cps/effects-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic.htm.

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment changed little in January (+49,000) but is below its February 2020 level by 9.9 million, or 6.5 percent. In January, notable job gains in professional and business services and in both public and private education were offset by losses in leisure and hospi-

tal, in retail trade, in health care, and in transportation and warehousing.

In January, employment in professional and business services rose by 97,000, with temporary help services accounting for most of the gain (+81,000). Job growth also occurred in management and technical consulting services (+16,000), computer systems design and related services (+11,000), and scientific research and development services (+10,000). These gains were partially offset by job losses in services to buildings and dwellings (-14,000) and in advertising and related services (-6,000). Since February, employment in professional and business services is down by 825,000.

In January, employment increased in local government education (+49,000), state government education (+36,000), and private education (+34,000). In both public and private education, pandemic-related employment declines in 2020 distorted the normal seasonal buildup and layoff patterns. This likely contributed to the job gains in January (after seasonal adjustment).

Wholesale trade continued to add jobs in January (+14,000). However, employment in the industry is 263,000 below its February level.

In January, employment in mining increased by 9,000, with a gain of 8,000 in support activities for mining. Mining employment is down by 133,000 since a recent peak in January 2019, though employment in the industry showed little change for several months prior to the uptick in January.

In January, employment in leisure and hospitality declined by 61,000, following a steep decline in December (-536,000). In January, employment edged down in amusements, gambling, and recreation (-27,000) and in accommodation (-18,000).

Employment in food services and drinking places continued to trend down (-19,000). Employment in leisure and hospitality fell by 8.2 million during March and April, increased by 4.9 million from May to November, and then declined by 597,000 over the past 2 months. Since February, employment in leisure and hospitality is down by 3.9 million, or 22.9 percent.

Retail trade lost 38,000 jobs in January, after adding 135,000 jobs in December. Over the month, employment declined in general merchandise stores (-38,000), electronics and appliance stores (-29,000), and nonstore retailers (-15,000). These job losses were partially offset by gains in food and beverage stores (+15,000), clothing and clothing accessories stores (+15,000), and health and personal care stores (+14,000). Employment in retail trade is 383,000 lower than in February.

Employment in health care declined by 30,000 in January. Within the industry, job losses occurred in nursing care facilities (-19,000), home health care services (-13,000), and community care facilities for the elderly (-7,000). Since February, health

care employment is down by 542,000.

Employment in transportation and warehousing declined by 28,000 in January and is 164,000 lower than in February. In January, job losses occurred in warehousing and storage (-17,000) and in couriers and messengers (-14,000); however, employment in these industries is higher than in February by 97,000 and 137,000, respectively. Employment in air transportation increased by 15,000 over the month but is 105,000 lower than in February.

Employment in manufacturing changed little over the month (-10,000), following 8 months of growth. Within the industry, durable goods lost 17,000 jobs in January. Employment in manufacturing is up by 803,000 since April but is 582,000 lower than in February.

Construction employment changed little over the month (-3,000), after increasing for 8 consecutive months. However, employment in the industry is down by 256,000 since February.

In January, employment changed little in other major industries, including information, financial activities, and other services.

In January, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 6 cents to \$29.96. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees, at \$25.18, changed little (+3 cents). The large employment fluctuations over the past several months--especially in industries with lower-paid workers--complicate the analysis of recent trends in average hourly earnings.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.3 hour to 35.0 hours in January. In manufacturing, the workweek also increased by 0.3 hour to 40.4 hours, and overtime was unchanged at 3.2 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 0.2 hour to 34.4 hours.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:50 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Sergeant Gibson, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to IU Health in Bedford.

9:43 a.m. - Received a report of a slide-off south of Loogootee. ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

11:56 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

11:17 p.m. - Sergeant Gibson assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock near Shoals.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9:42 a.m. - Major Keller assisted with a semi with Farmers for Families in Shoals.

10:35 a.m. - Received a request for the coroner in Crane. Assistant Coroner Hamby responded.

12:46 p.m. - Major Keller and Loogootee Chief Floyd assisted a disabled motorist in Loogootee.

12:54 p.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist in Loogootee with a vehicle unlock.

1:15 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took two inmates to court.

3:09 p.m. - Received an animal complaint north of Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

4:04 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check near Loogootee. Corporal Barnett, Captain Reed, Loogootee Chief Floyd, and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

8:29 p.m. - Corporal Barnett assisted the department of child services with a welfare check south of Loogootee.

8:53 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12:38 a.m. - Received a request for a security check south of Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth and Sergeant Gibson responded. The building was found unsecured. It was cleared and secured.

2:22 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Martin County Ambulance, Shoals Fire, and Sergeant Gibson responded. The subject was transported to IU Health in Bedford.

2:58 a.m. - Received a report of an active domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth and Sergeant Gibson responded.

11:30 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

1:02 p.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist near Shoals with a vehicle unlock.

3:54 p.m. - Sergeant Gibson assisted a motorist near Shoals with a vehicle unlock.

4:46 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check north of Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert, Sergeant Gibson, Loogootee Chief Floyd, Loogootee Captain Hennessee, and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

5:05 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded.

ed. No one was transported.

5:29 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Dubois County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded.

6:19 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute east of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson, Town Marshal Eckert, Loogootee Chief Floyd, and Loogootee Officer Means responded.

9:36 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.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

12:33 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident west of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

7:26 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:14 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.

10:00 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

10:30 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

12:21 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check north of Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded and all was okay.

2:15 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

2:48 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took two inmates to court.

5:17 p.m. - Deputy Lents assisted the department of child services with a welfare check south of Loogootee.

6:19 p.m. - Received a report of a possible fire south of Shoals. Lost River Fire, Reserve Deputy Dorsey, and Martin County Ambulance responded. The call was substantiated.

9:54 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Shoals. Lost River Fire responded.

10:46 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Reserve Deputy Dorsey, and Loogootee Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

11:21 a.m. - Received a deer complaint south of Loogootee. ICO Doane was notified.

3:30 p.m. - Received a dog complaint north of Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

4:30 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:36 p.m. - Deputy Flanagan assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock near Shoals.

8:52 p.m. - Received an alarm call in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Means responded and all was secure.

9:24 p.m. - Deputy Flanagan assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock in Loogootee.

gootee.

9:42 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

3:29 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:21 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Shoals. Lawrence County Ambulance and Indian Creek Fire responded.

4:17 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

7:38 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan responded.

11:09 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Deputy Flanagan and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

4:24 a.m. - Received an alarm call in Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded and all was secure.

5:38 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. No one was transported.

10:03 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Haysville Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:26 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

2:40 p.m. - Corporal Barnett assisted a motorist in Loogootee with a vehicle unlock.

4:04 p.m. - Received an alarm call near Loogootee. Corporal Barnett responded and all was secure.

4:07 p.m. - Received a report of a slide-off east of Shoals. Corporal Barnett responded.

5:40 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Police responded.

6:23 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance west of Shoals. Corporal Barnett, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

8:32 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic south of Loogootee. Captain Reed, Corporal Barnett, Sergeant Gibson, Reserve Deputy Commander Gammon, and Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded.

ARRESTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

4:20 p.m. - James Holt, 31, of Loogootee, was arrested by Captain Reed and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, and unlawful possession of a syringe. He is being held without bond. Loogootee Assistant Chief Rayhill assisted with the arrest.

9:30 p.m. - Robert Faith, 36, of Paoli, was arrested by Captain Reed on a Martin County warrant and is being held without bond.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

4:14 p.m. - Grazzin Eaton, 22, of Montgomery, was arrested by Sergeant Gibson on two Martin County warrants and is being held without bond.

10:23 p.m. - Taylor Kavanaugh, 27, of Loogootee, was arrested by Sergeant Gibson on a Martin County warrant and is being held on a \$1,000 10% bond.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

2:20 p.m. - Kelby Roberts, 29, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Lents and charged with habitual traffic violator and is being held on a \$15,000 10% bond.

9:12 p.m. - Howard Phillips, 32, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Seymour and charged with dealing in methamphetamine and dealing in marijuana. He is being held without bond. Deputy Flanagan assisted with the arrest.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

12:08 p.m. - Shelby Harder, 26, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Seymour and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of marijuana. She is being held without bond. Corporal Barnett assisted with the arrest.

9:35 p.m. - Greg Machmer, 34, of Loogootee, was arrested by Sergeant Gibson and charged with intimidation with a deadly weapon, battery on a minor, and domestic battery in the presence of a minor. He is being held without bond. Reserve Deputy Gammon assisted with the arrest.

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COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING

February 2

William R. Bradley, convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 116 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 58 actual days previously served plus 58 Class A credit days.

Bradley A. Coleman, convicted of three counts of theft, Level 6 Felonies. Sentenced to serve 2 years with 1 year suspended and credit for 133 actual days previously served plus 133 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation. Also convicted of another count of theft, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 365 days suspended. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

February 2

William R. Bradley, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed. Ramone L. Stroud, theft, a Level 6 Fel-

ony, dismissed; operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Bradley A. Coleman, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

New Suits Filed

January 19

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Crane Credit Union and against the defendant Teresa A. Ziegler Holt in the amount of \$4,055.26.

January 27

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Midland Funding, LLC and against the defendant Darren Lannan in the amount of \$952.93.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Ryan L. Hawkins of Shoals and Ashley M. Albright of West Baden.

Brian D. Wildman of Shoals and Cinnamon L. Herd of Shoals.



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Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

2:27 p.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department and the Indiana Department of Corrections with a search at a local residence.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:10 a.m. - Chief Floyd responded to a report of a reckless driver on East Broadway Street.

12:58 p.m. - Chief Floyd assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a stranded semi-truck.

3:21 p.m. - Chief Floyd responded to a report of stolen property from a vehicle on Church Street.

4:08 p.m. - Chief Floyd assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a domestic dispute and medical call on Reinhart Road.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12:10 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a report of a reckless driver nearing Loogootee on US 231 South.

12:38 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a security check of a residence.

3:41 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a report of a deceased animal on the roadway that was causing a traffic hazard on US 231 North.

10:45 a.m. - Captain Hennette assisted with a funeral escort.

4:54 p.m. - Chief Floyd assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a domestic situation.

5:32 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Cedar Street.

6:20 p.m. - Officer Means assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a domestic dispute.

10:50 p.m. - Officer Means responded

to a residential burglar alarm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

7:45 a.m. - Captain Hennette completed a welfare check.

2:15 p.m. - Captain Hennette responded to a report of a property damage accident at a local business.

10:52 p.m. - First responders were sent to a medical call on Butcher Boulevard.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

4:40 p.m. - Captain Hennette responded to a civil dispute on Doyle Avenue.

8:55 p.m. - Officer Means responded to an alarm at a local business.

10:45 p.m. - Officer Means responded to a complaint of a suspicious vehicle and loud noise.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

1:59 a.m. - Officer Means assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a welfare check.

3:29 a.m. - First responders and Officer Means responded to a medical call.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

5:42 p.m. - Chief Floyd responded to a property damage accident on Cooper Street.

Real estate transfers

Karl S. Britton, of Martin County, Indiana to Jerrold W. Harder and Marleen V. Cole-Harder, of Daviess County, Indiana, part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 2 North, Range 5 West.

Robert W. Sander, of Marion County, Indiana to Aram W. Wright and Dana A. Wright, of Martin County, Indiana, the south half of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 4, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, containing 27.75 acres, more or less.

CLASSIFIED ADS

BIDS WANTED

MOWING BIDS WANTED

Martin County 4-H Council is taking bids to mow and weedat the Martin County fairgrounds for this season.

Please send your bid to the following:

Martin County 4-H Extension Office

2668 US Hwy. 50, Loogootee, IN 47553

We will be taking bids until February 26, 2021.

Any questions, contact Josh Ausbrooks at 812-709-0984.

HELP WANTED

Martin County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications to fill open

FULL AND PART-TIME DISPATCHER POSITIONS

Successful applicants will serve as Dispatchers for Martin County and will be responsible for receiving incoming emergency and non-emergency calls, dispatching information to appropriate response units, and maintaining various computer records.

Applications:

To be considered for an open position, interested candidates are encouraged to pick-up an application at the Martin County Sheriff's Office: 318 Capital Avenue, Shoals, IN 47581.

Requirements:

1. Must be a citizen of the United States
2. Must be at least 18 years of age
3. Must have a high school diploma or GED
4. Must not have any Felony, Misdemeanor Battery or Domestic Violence convictions
5. Must be willing to submit to pre-employment drug screening
6. Ability and willingness to work a variety of shifts, including evenings, weekends and some holidays

Compensation:

Full-time Dispatchers: \$13.36 per hour/40 hour work week

Part-time Dispatchers: \$12.00 per hour/ up to 28 hours per week

Advancement opportunities are available

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More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



I think I can relate to the following. Over the last several months, I have worked a lot of jigsaw puzzles, done hours of counted cross-stitch projects, and answered many questions for a short essay. This could have happened to me:

SENIOR JOKE

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbor and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure how to get it started."

Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The silver-haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle.

She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then," he said with a deep sigh...Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."

THOUGHTS

*My yoga pants have never been to yoga class.

*Coffee (n.) A magical substance that turns, "Leave me alone or die," into, "Good Morning, Honey."

*It's time to get out the earmuffs. My ears aren't cold, I'm just tired of hearing people whine.

*Today I plan to be as useless as the "g" in lasagna.

*Somebody asked me what to do with leftover bacon. I've never heard of that kind of bacon. Is it new?

*I just realized that someone replaced the toilet paper roll. I'm now concerned that there is someone living here that I don't know.

*Coffee makes me user-friendly.

My grandfather told me that he saw the Titanic, and that from the beginning he warned all the people that the ship would sink, but nobody listened to him.

He was a brave man. He did not give up. He warned them again and again on several occasions...until they kicked him out of the cinema.

NICE THOUGHTS

*Be good to people for no reason.

*You are not rich until you have some money you can't buy.

*Treasure those who don't give up on you.

*Be somebody who makes everybody feel like somebody.

*Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.

-Henry Ford

--

"Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow.

Just walk beside me and be my friend."

-Winnie the Pooh

Make someone smile today!

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



HEIDI is a female shepherd mix, 2 years old. Very sweet but needs to be the only dog as she wants to be the boss. Adoption fee is \$100. The shelter is open by appointment only and an adoption application is required to schedule an appointment. For more info, visit www.humanesociety-ofmartincounty.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Card shower for Fred Woods

A card shower is being held for Fred Woods, former Martin County Soil and Water Director, who is turning 100 years old on February 26. The family is requesting birthday cards be sent to Mr. Woods at 4175 N Meadowlark Lane, Jasper IN 47546.

Shoals School Board meeting

The Shoals School Board will meet Thursday, February 11 at 6 p.m. in the central administration office. The meeting is open to the public.

City Council special meeting

The Loogootee City Council will hold a special meetings Monday, February 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the city council meeting room of the municipal building. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss funding for the railroad lot project at the corner of Church Street and JFK Avenue and also the fountain on the square. The meeting is open to the public.

Land Use Committee meeting

The Loogootee Land Use Planning Committee will meet Monday, February 22 at 6 p.m. in the council meeting room of the municipal building. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a variance for a local business. The meeting is open to the public.

Grief support program

A grief support program is being provided by Thorne George Funeral Homes free of charge. The program, normally \$79, can be received for free by using the coupon code "Thorne-George". The program is confidential and self-directed. Those interested can visit www.griefplan.com and click "take me to the grief plan program".

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-Narcot-

ics 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.

Daviess Community Hospital to observe Cardiac Rehabilitation Week

Join Daviess Community Hospital during National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week, February 14-20, to celebrate the life-saving impact of cardiac rehabilitation.

Cardiac Rehabilitation Week draws attention to the role of cardiac rehabilitation in reducing the potentially devastating effects of heart disease. The weeklong celebration is also a great opportunity for DCH to recognize our team members for their contributions.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death in both the United States and Indiana, and Indiana ranks thirteenth in the nation for number of deaths per year from heart disease.

Cardiac Rehabilitation Week, initiated by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR), coincides with both Valentine's Day and American Heart Month in an effort to draw greater national attention to heart health. This year's theme, "Beating Strong, Living Long," honors the patients, families, and healthcare professionals who are dedicated to cardiac rehabilitation as a vehicle for a healthy lifestyle.

To learn more about Cardiac Rehab services at DCH, please call 812-254-8895 or email vroark@dchosp.org.



FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

Friday, February 19
10:30 am - 1:00 pm
Loogootee United Methodist Church Parking Lot
(Take Out, Curb Side, Delivery. No dine in)
Call in orders to 812-295-3049

Menu: Fish Sandwich, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw & Dessert (Cherry Delight or Chocholate Cake) - \$10.00
Sandwich only - \$5.00

Proceeds go to support Larry Bennett who has cancer and the LUMC Seniors - Connor Wilcoxon, Justin Williams, Cody Carrico for their senior trip/college fund.



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Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton

NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

It might be early February, but I'm already thinking about new spring forage growth and I guarantee the livestock are also. In the past, we've discussed the impact of fall management on the next spring growth and production, but how much impact does it really have?

There are a lot of factors that influence spring forage growth. Let's take a look at some of these factors and then perhaps come to a better understanding of what we can impact.

It's been a fairly mild winter thus far. I actually question if we have truly ever reached full dormancy with a lot of forages. Generally, full dormancy requires several nights in a row with temperatures at 25 degrees F.

During the growing season, forages use photosynthesis to change carbon dioxide, water and inorganic salts into carbohydrates. The carbohydrates are used by the plant or are stored for winter hibernation. In the fall, forages move these "sugars" down into the roots to provide energy for winter months and spring regrowth. Plants need to go into dormancy to conserve energy and therefore dormancy is a mechanism that is vital to plant survival.

I'm a bit surprised to still see what I think is new growth on some hardier species, especially tall fescue. At this time of year, this is a bit unusual. This is for sure, somewhat dependent on your location and most certainly the site aspect. Southwest facing slopes do tend to be warmer in the winter and are more likely to show weakened dormancy, and occasionally the same thing happens on some sandy soils.

It is always best in the fall to try and not graze forages until they are dormant because we don't want to pull from reserves that may not be replenished sufficiently in time for winter. That is the time of year when, if practical and possible, the livestock are best moved off pastures and set to graze annuals, crop aftermath, a combination or a field that will be deferred a lot longer next spring. Pastures that are grazed up to the point of dormancy are compromised some and this is usually noticed the next spring in forage growth and production.

Grazing pre-dormancy is like borrowing from a bank account. The dividends are reduced until it has recovered. Interest in this regard is found in the slow redevelopment of roots and energy stores only remedied by spring warm days, sunlight and rest.

The same thing can happen mid-winter to some degree. If the plants do not go completely dormant or sneak out of dormancy from time to time over the winter it is temporary, but is primarily from stored energy, not photosynthesis. That reminds me of some people who like to adorn shorts on a warm winter day, it is usually very temporary and then the shorts go back into hibernation. Removal of this newfound growth may not be as detrimental as grazing pre dormancy, but it can still slow regrowth upon the arrival of true spring.

There can be advantages to slowing spring growth and that is usually to reduce competition of established forages, especially perennial grasses, when trying to get some new legumes established in the pasture. Oh, and by the way, it's a good time to be doing that if needed.

Where was I? Ah, fall management influences on spring growth. Pastures that are continuously grazed throughout the winter, and especially those that were grazed continuously from the end of the last fall growth, have compromised energy reserves. If kept grazed close with no defer-

ment or rest, they will also have reduced root mass. This automatically reduces energy storage space and later resilience to droughty conditions. Short roots have little reserve.

I like to experiment and test theories, even if anecdotal. I plan on placing some forage cages out again prior to any spring growth. This time looking at different residual post grazing forage heights of the same forages on the same soil type and, assuming, fertility. The differences in forage residual in this case has more to do with what I would call zone grazing. Zone grazing occurs when one end of the pasture is grazed heavier than the other. It is common with pastures with longer walking distances to shade, mineral or water, or a combination. The pasture or rather forage closest to the desired facility is almost always shorter than the part that is the farthest away.

In this case, it grants an opportunity to evaluate the impact of overwintering residual height on spring growth and yield. I will dig, observe and note root presence on each site and any other noteworthy features and also clip and measure the mass of the residual. I don't expect too much difference in root mass or depth between these and may seek to try and find a severely stressed point for comparison.

Next spring, differences in rate of regrowth and then yield can be evaluated. If I get really ambitious, I'll pull a soil sample from each also. Fertility, even though you would think would be similar, may not be, which is often noted in that same zone grazing scenario. Areas closest to the watering facility, mineral or the only shade in a pasture, generally have more manure deposited there especially if the livestock I tend to ruminate there. Areas visited less or utilized slightly less with little or no lounging can actually have nutrients transported to the favored rumination location.

Fertility certainly has a huge impact on forage growth and yield. I'm running short on time and space, so I'll only dust the high spots. Look at the soil pH first. Soil tests should be used to monitor the soil pH, and as long as it remains above 6.5, there will probably be little benefit from liming. If the soil pH does drop significantly below 6.5, there will usually be some benefit from liming and its impact on nutrient availability.

Phosphorus, potassium and magnesium are then the usual macro nutrients to assess. It's best to try and maintain these at optimal levels. These certainly fluctuate more where forages are also mechanically harvested. If the field is only grazed and grazing is managed well, then nutrient removal is not as remarkable. Most don't think about magnesium levels, but I like to look at those against calcium. The calcium to magnesium ratio should be around 4:1 for beef animals and probably 5:1 for dairy.

With cleaner air from coal-powered power plants, sulfur is starting to show more as being a bit deficient. If legume content is good or nitrogen from applications is sufficient and yet you are still seeing some yellow tips, lack of enough sulfur could be the issue. This can be fairly easily remedied by using a nitrogen or potassium fertilizer that includes sulfur.

In closing, management does impact spring regrowth and can influence fertility. Maximize forage production, be as efficient as possible in grazing and maintaining it, and it will have a positive impact on your bottom line. Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!

Prep for the 2021 season with the Indiana Small Farm Conference

BY NICK ROGERS

Purdue University News Service

Organizers of the Indiana Small Farm Conference remind farmers that it's never too early to gain new insights ahead of the growing season.

"The longer and busier days will be here soon enough," says Tamara Benjamin, assistant agriculture and natural resources program leader and diversified agriculture specialist for Purdue Extension and a conference organizer. "The Indiana Small Farm Conference is a great way to learn what's new and what's next in production, marketing and other areas to make the most of your efforts in 2021 and for years to come."

Featuring keynote speakers Richard Perkins and Dan and Julie Perkins, the ninth annual conference and trade show will take place March 4-6, with live and on-demand content delivered through the interactive Microsoft Teams application. All content will remain available to participants after the conference is over.

Registration is open, and the fee to attend all three days of the conference is \$35 per person. This year's conference offers several tracks, from which attendees can choose sessions that best align with their farming operations and goals:

- Advanced Livestock, with a focus on pasture renovation and management, as well as breakout sessions on beef, goats, sheep and poultry.

- Advanced Vegetable Production, with panels on leafy greens, soil health and cover crops, and on-demand crop-update/growing technique content.

- Beginning Farmer, which will help newcomers set themselves up for success through sessions on developing farm stands and diversifying enterprises.

- Farm Business & Marketing Plans, with suggestions from successful vendors to increase sales, presentations on e-commerce and tax benefits and more.

- Regenerative Agriculture, featuring a grower panel and a presentation by Ray "The Soil Guy" Archuleta, a soil scientist with over 30 years of experience.

- Urban Agriculture, with a variety of sessions covering urban farms, soil health, pest management and community engagement.

A youth track will offer sessions on careers in agriculture and small farms to middle school and high school audiences. On March 5, an Exploring Agriculture and Small Farm Careers panel will showcase interactive discussions about careers in horticulture, organic farming, livestock farming, agricultural entrepreneurship and more. Saturday's Show-and-Tell sessions will feature presentations on beekeeping, horticulture, livestock management and more. The Purdue Ag Ambassadors and Purdue chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) will discuss their collegiate agriculture experiences.

"It's exciting to see the next generation, including Purdue Agriculture students, take the lead on Saturday," Benjamin says. "The future of farming depends on inspiring young people to consider what they can achieve now and in the years ahead."

The Purdue Extension Farm Stress Team also will provide pre-recorded on-demand videos and resources related to mental health, including resources specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With the unique challenges of 2020 added to existing stress for agriculture professionals, it was essential to offer focused content about mental health and

well-being," Benjamin says.

The 2021 Indiana Small Farm Conference begins March 4, with on-demand availability for virtual tours of such Indiana farms as Four Flags Farm, Freedom Valley Farm and Maple Hills Farm. Testimonials from farmers about how they have persevered through COVID-19 also will be available on demand.

Keynote speakers for the 2021 conference are:

Richard Perkins (12:30-1:30 p.m. EST, March 5) is the co-owner, director and lead designer of Ridgedale Farm AB in Värmland, Sweden, author of the internationally renowned Regenerative Agriculture, and producer of the series "Making Small Farms Work." Blending dynamic instruction and down-to-earth pragmatism, he promotes a philosophy of permaculture in farming — design strategies to capitalize on patterns and resilient features in natural ecosystems. He will discuss how focusing on regenerative agriculture can empower small farm enterprises to be resilient, entrepreneurial and profitable.

Dan and Julie Perkins (12:30-1:30 p.m. EST, March 6) operate Perkins' Good Earth Farm, an organic vegetable farm on 20 acres in DeMotte. After balancing a career in soil and water conservation with farming on the side, the Perkins family made a transition to full-time farming in 2019. Dan and Julie will discuss their experiences in "the beautiful, sometimes chaotic, get-your-hands-dirty, oh-so-satisfying working of the land."

Vendors also can participate in a virtual trade show, for which they will receive their own designated channel to engage with attendees for the entirety of the conference. Vendor registration is \$70, which includes access to all conference sessions. Vendors interested in exhibiting can sign up here.

Due to the popularity of the Indiana Small Farm Conference, credit card payment is strongly recommended. Attendees will receive Microsoft Teams login information for the conference only after payment is received.

If you have a question about registration, email edustore@purdue.edu.

If you require special accommodations to participate in the conference, or have questions about the conference itself, email welsh@purdue.edu or call 765-494-8490.

A detailed conference schedule will be available several days before the event, and currently scheduled sessions are subject to change. For more information, or to sign up, visit the Indiana Small Farm Conference website.

Paynetown SRA hosts flowerpot painting workshop

Create beautiful flowerpots for your spring patio on Sunday, March 14 at 2 p.m. at Paynetown State Recreation Area, 4850 S. State Road 446 in Bloomington.

The two-hour workshop will be led by Monroe Lake interpretive naturalist Jill Vance. Registration is required by March 10 at bit.ly/flowerpot2021 and is limited to 10 people. The fee is \$10 per person.

Each participant will be able to decorate two 5-inch terra cotta pots (saucers included) using acrylic paints and decorative tiles. Vance will discuss plants with aromas that encourage mosquitoes to stay away and are also suitable for a patio planting. Masks are required for all participants, and the workshop will be set up to allow for social distancing between groups and individuals. Questions about this workshop should be directed to jvance@dnr.IN.gov or 812-837-9967.