

Martin County JOURNAL

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Nine pages

Economic Development Director leaving position

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council met Monday night, April 4. Alliance Director Angie Risacher told the council that she will be leaving her position to take another job. She said the hours she is putting in as the economic development director has prevented her from being able to attend her children's school events. She said she is working 60 hours a week with meetings up to four nights a week and on weekends. She told the council that she will not leave the position until someone else is hired and trained because she cares about the projects that are already in the works for the county. She will be working full-time until April 15 and then move to part-time until the position is filled. Risacher also noted that anyone hired for the director position will have to be a Martin County resident or become a resident after hired.

Teresa Winger, with the auditor's office, and Auditor Bobbie Abel talked to the council about the search for a human resources director. Abel said they received around 15 applications but only one applicant was qualified for the position. That person didn't work out, however. Abel said after advertising for six months, they have realized they are not going to find someone. The ladies suggested hiring another person for the auditor's office and Winger and Abel will train them in HR. Abel said the money is already in the budget as the human resources position was approved last year.

Auditor Abel noted that Winger's hours due to her workload have been extensive. She said Winger is working until 6-7 p.m. every night trying to get everything done.

Council Member Barb McFeaters asked what exactly the new employee would be in charge of. Winger replied that the main things that consume so much of her time are onboarding new employees, reconciling benefits statements with insurance and getting employees signed up for benefits. She said that running monthly safety meetings and dealing with workman's compensation claims have also taken up her time.

McFeaters noted that Winger has accrued a lot of comp time, which is time and a half.

Winger replied that she has although it is not by choice because she doesn't want to put in all those hours.

A member of the audience asked if the new human resources employee would be supervised by the auditor. Auditor Abel replied that they would although the person would have a private office to discuss anything personnel-related.

Council Member Warren Albright said that complaints against the auditor, if one should arise, would have to go to the commissioners.

Council Member Adam Greene asked why this discussion on hiring another employee for the auditor's office wasn't on the agenda.

Auditor Abel replied that the agenda is fluid and can change at any time up until the meeting.

Council Member Greene said it would have been nice to know about this request so he, and other council members, would have had time to do some research.

Council Member Albright said they have discussed hiring a human resources employee for months and now the request is instead to shift around staff. He said
(See 'COUNCIL' on page 2)



-Photo provided

Martin County Chief Deputy Josh Greene is shown above with the prescription drug drop boxes that will be housed at the jail and the Loogootee Police Department.

Martin County Sheriff's Office partners with 525 Foundation to prevent drug abuse

After months of planning, 525 Foundation and Martin County Sheriff's Office are proud to unveil Drop 2 Stop prescription drug drop boxes at the Martin County Jail and Loogootee Police Department.

The program features specially designed, secure boxes that allow people to properly dispose of expired or unneeded drugs anytime.

"We are grateful to the 525 Foundation for their donation of a new drug disposal boxes. This has shown to help tremendously in keeping drugs off the street and out of the hands of our youth in other areas of Indiana. We highly encourage anyone that has medications to dispose of to use the drug box. It is available 24/7 for the public's use. Items that are not allowed in the box are needles, inhalers, aerosol cans, thermometers, lotions, liquids, and Hydrogen Peroxide," said Chief Deputy Josh Greene.

Drop 2 Stop is funded by the 525 Foundation. The collection boxes are located

inside of the Loogootee Police Department lobby and at the Martin County Jail.

"We are so excited to have the opportunity to partner with the Indiana State Department of Health, Law Enforcement and Health Care Systems, to be able to expand our Drop2Stop program to other communities throughout our state! This program offers a safe and convenient way for people to properly dispose of unused or expired medications. These boxes will also serve as a visual reminder, encouraging everyone to be a part of the solution, making our community a safer place."

"This is just the start of a great relationship between 525 Foundation and the Martin County Sheriff's Office," said Becky Savage

525 Foundation is a 501(c)(3) with a mission to promote prevention through awareness and education of and awareness of substance misuse. Contact Chief Deputy Greene or 525 Foundation at info@525foundation.org for questions.

Commissioners talk roads at meeting

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioner met Tuesday night, April 5. Highway Superintendent Scott Seals reported that DNR requested to close Mundy Cemetery Road for logging. Seals said he told them it would have to be on an as needed basis for loading or dropping trees, not a complete closure. There will be specific dates provided when they are ready to get started. The closure request was for two years. The commissioners approved.

Seals asked that the highway department move to four 10-hour days at the end of the month. The commissioners gave the okay.

Highway Secretary Terri Alcorn said she talked to INDOT about changing the other side of Simmons Creek Road that was discussed at the last meeting. Lost River Fire Department had asked that

the road name be changed because it is not connected to the rest of Simmons Creek Road and is confusing for emergency personnel. Alcorn said the issue is taken care of now with INDOT and they just need to come up with a name. Commissioner Cody Roush suggested naming it Lost River Road. Commissioner Paul George said that was a good name, but they may want to think on it to see if there were any other suggestions.

Alcorn, from the audience, suggested Clifton Road, named after a resident who had owned property on that road. The commissioner approved naming it Clifton Road.

Alcorn told the commissioners that extensive work will be done on State Road 450 starting in February of next year, including raising the road where flooding occurs. INDOT wanted to know if the county had any unofficial detours. Com-
(See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)



-Photo provided

Early warning siren

The additional early warning siren being installed in West Shoals was completed on Wednesday, March 23. The siren was installed on Lower Circle Drive. The early warning siren project was funded by a grant received from the Martin County Community Foundation. The pole that houses the siren was purchased at a discounted rate from Duke Energy. With the additional early warning siren that was recently installed in East Shoals (also grant funded) this now makes a total of four sirens to sound off during an emergency event in the Town of Shoals.



Make My Day Grant

-Photo provided

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry was presented a \$500 Make My Day Grant from the Martin County Community Foundation. These Make My Day grants are to help organizations meet their needs and support the important services that they provide in our community. Shown above, from left to right, are Food Pantry members Neal Jackson, Nancy Smith, Carol Steele, Vernita Williams, Gabby Love, Andy Bruner, Paula Ringwald, Tom Peter, Keith Greenwell receiving the \$500 grant from MCCF Board member Richard Burch, and Food Pantry members Greg Potts and Dan Gregory.

COUNCIL

(Continued from page one)

most human resources professionals want \$30 to \$40 per hour and the county cannot pay that so this is the alternative.

Auditor Abel said she sends out meeting notices as she is required to do but she no longer sends out agendas to anyone but council members.

Greene asked why the agenda he received did not have all the information that was going to be discussed.

Abel replied again that the agenda can change up to the meeting time.

Council Member McFeaters said she calls into the auditor's office on the Monday before the meeting to find out what is on the agenda.

Council Member Greene replied that with the excessive workload already in the auditor's office, he doesn't believe having seven phone calls from council members on Monday will help the situation.

Council Member McFeaters then made a motion to approve hiring another employee for the auditor's office. The motion passed 5-0-2 with Council Members Greene and Randy Wininger abstaining. Greene said he would have liked to have more information before voting.

The council approved an additional appropriation request of \$246,000 from

Sheriff Travis Roush for work on the three communication towers. The towers to be renovated include Windom Road, Peeks Road and Highway 231. The sheriff said the contractors are currently doing site prep and he's not certain when work will actually begin. It was noted that they are ahead of schedule however from what was originally discussed.

The council also approved \$7,500 for hiring bonuses for the sheriff's department. The money is coming from the jail's commissary fund and the request was to move it to the general fund.

The council also approved the donation last year from Jason and Pam Loughmiller to provide raises to 10 deputies for 2022. Sheriff Roush said he will be coming to the council in the near future to request raises for other staff members including corrections officers, cooks and 911 dispatchers. The sheriff noted that he is now fully staffed in the jail.

The council approved the Loogootee Library's recommendation to re-appoint Patricia Hale to their board.

Auditor Abel reported that the county's financial advisor, FSG, found several dormant funds that have not been touched in a number of years. One fund for \$13,000 was for emergency management and civ-

Consumer Alert: Products Recalled in March

Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers of important consumer protection concerns for products recalled in March. Attorney General Rokita wants consumers to take advantage of opportunities available for those who purchased the recalled items.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the following consumer products were recalled in March:

- Ionic Smartwatches from Fitbit
- Bee Happy 12 Days of Craft Advent Calendars from ALDI
- PIRANA Descender Canyoneering from Petzl
- Snowmobiles from BRP
- Free-Standing and Slide-in Electric and Gas Ranges from Danby
- Flashlights from Olight Ecommerce Technology
- Be the Band Music Sets from Crate and Barrel
- Off-Highway Vehicles (ROVs) from American Honda

- Airborne Gummies from Reckitt
 - Illuminated Mirrors from RH
 - B. toys Walk 'n' Learn Wooden Activity Toddler Walkers from Maison Battat
 - Sirrus Bicycles with Alloy Cranks from Specialized Bicycle Components
 - PhysiciansCare Brand Over-the-Counter Drugs from Acme United Corporation
 - DigitDots Magnetic Balls from HD Premier
 - Portable Water Immersion Heaters from ToolGuards
 - Dimensions Bluetooth Speaker Helmets from Sakar International
 - Ninebot Children's Bicycle Helmets from Segway
 - EGL and ACE-branded Youth ATVs from EGL
 - Ramones 14-Inch Kids Bicycles from Commencal
 - tonies Blocks from Boxine U.S.
 - Metal Lockable Drug Chests from Maped Helix USA
 - Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms from Universal Security Instruments
 - Bluetooth Speakers from SOUND-BOKS
 - Kid O Hudson Glow Rattles from PlayMonster
- If you believe you recently purchased a recalled product, stop using it, and check its recall notice (linked above for all products). Then follow the notice's instructions, including where to return the product, how to get the product fixed, how to dispose of the product, how to receive a refund for the product, or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.
- To view recalls, visit www.cpsc.gov/Recalls.

il defense will be using the money. One fund was pandemic assistance, and the health department will be using that money. The other three need to be addressed and they are the workforce development fund for \$1,737.87 that has been dormant since 2018, the JAG Edward Burn Memorial Fund for \$1,620.54 that has been dormant since 2015 and the community development block fund for \$1,428 that has been dormant since 2017.

Council Member Albright noted that those funds would not have been found if it were not for FSG.

The council voted to move all of the money into the general fund.

COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

Commissioner George said that the detours he can think of are in Lawrence County. He suggested Seals contact Lawrence County to discuss it with them. "We'll figure it out, we always do," said Commissioner George.

The commissioners approved Billy Kirkman, with Thompson Insurance, as agent of record for the Colonial Insurance and Rex Strawn, from Strawn Agency, as agent of record for liability insurance.

An audience member asked if there is a procedure in place for complaints against the auditor's office since the council approved hiring someone for HR for the auditor's office at their meeting last night. Teresa Wininger, from the auditor's office said she believes it's in the handbook now to go to the commissioners if such a situation arises. Commissioner George said the new human resources employee will start in the auditor's office but they plan to have a place out of the auditor's office for HR in the future.

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OBITUARIES

THOMAS FISCHER

Thomas J. Fischer passed away Friday, April 1, 2022, at his home. A resident of Cannelburg, he was 67.



THOMAS FISCHER

He was born April 19, 1954, in Washington; son of the late Cyril and Rita (Kelley) Fischer.

Tom married Patricia Spears on August 11, 1973, and she survives.

He graduated from Barr-Reeve High School in 1972. Tom loved working with wood, building custom kitchen cabinets and furniture. He also worked in factories in Jasper. Later in life, he started mowing cemeteries and delivering newspapers for the Jasper Herald and Evansville Courier and Press for 21 years.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Cyril and Rita Fischer.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Patricia Fischer of Cannelburg; sons, Michael J. (Rhonda) Fischer of Lawton, Oklahoma, Scott C. (Clarissa) Fischer of Houston, Texas, and Joshua D. (Alissa) Fischer of Puyallup, Washington; several grandchildren and brother, Mark Fischer.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 9, at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee. Burial will follow in Hindostan Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Friday, April 8, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

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

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Thomas J. Fischer.

LYNN SMITH

Mary Lynnette "Lynn" Smith passed away at 7:56 p.m. Friday, April 1, 2022, while surrounded by loving family. A resident of Loogootee, she was 72.



LYNN SMITH

She was born March 19, 1950, in Washington; daughter of the late Hugh F. and Margaret A. (Strange) Smith.

Lynn was a member of the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, American Legion Post 120 Ladies Auxiliary, Knights of Columbus Council 732 Ladies Auxiliary, and a lifetime member of the Veteran of Foreign War Post 9627 Ladies Auxiliary.

She was employed at the Naval Surface Warfare Center-Crane as a Senior Lead Integrated Logistics Support, Configuration Manager, and Logistics Management Specialist. She began her civilian career for the US Navy in 1970. She provided support to our military from 1970-1989 and again from 2000-2012. She held various positions throughout her career providing logistic and supervisory support to several large NAVSEA and NAVAIR projects.

While employed at NSWC Crane, she provided 12 years of service to the International Society of Logistics. During this service, she earned two President's Awards. The most notable award received in 2009 was the Morris "Mo" Grumbine Award for Service to SOLE and the Logistics Field for accomplishments in mentoring and training the life cycle logistics field both within the SOLE Organizations and for NSWC Crane employees and contractor support personnel. She was also a member of FEW (Federally Employed Women).

Lynn was a huge supporter of the US Military. She was very proud of her grandsons in the US Navy. She enjoyed needlepoint and genealogy. She loved to watch her sons and son-in-law participate in parades with local Shriners. She

enjoyed watching her grandchildren's sporting events, band concerts, musical and choral events.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hugh and Margaret (Strange) Smith; brothers, infant Charles Owen Smith and Michael "Mick" Smith.

Lynn is survived by her children, Audrey (Chuck) Robinson, Mike (Katie) Milligan and Eric (Krissy) Milligan, all of Loogootee; grandchildren, Dana (Lacey) Robinson, PO2 Brett Robinson, Rachel Robinson, Mattie L. Milligan, Nick Milligan, Josh (Shaylee) Milligan, Ryan (Jamie) Holland, PO1 Tyler (PO2 Shelby) Smith, PO3 Kyle Smith and Justin Smith; six great-grandchildren; siblings, Steve H. Smith of Martinsville and Marsha (Ken) Sternberg of Jasper; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be cel-

ebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 7, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 14, at St. John Catholic Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, April 6, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee and Thursday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Martin County Historical Society, Loogootee VFW Post 9395, or St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

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

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee is honored to serve the family of Lynn Smith.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, MARCH 28

6:45 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Loogootee. Property owner advised it was a false alarm.

6:52 a.m. - Received a request for a lift assist northeast of Shoals. Indian Creek Fire Department responded.

8:45 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Deputy Hawkins, Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:12 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

10:13 a.m. - Received a report of spam calls in Loogootee. Loogootee Police were notified.

11:13 a.m. - Received notification of controlled burns north of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department was notified.

12:40 p.m. - Sergeant Gibson assisted a motorist north of Shoals with a vehicle identification check.

12:51 p.m. - Received a report of spam calls and text in Loogootee. Loogootee Police were notified.

1:25 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:30 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Shoals. Sheriff Roush, Major Keller, Sergeant Gibson, Conservation Officer Fuhrman and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to IU Health Bedford.

1:37 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance southwest of Shoals. Chief Greene, Major Keller, Sergeant Gibson, Shoals Fire Department and Daviess County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

1:55 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

2:22 p.m. - Received notification of a controlled burn northwest of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department was notified.

7:18 p.m. - Received a report of a spam call. Loogootee Police were notified.

8:10 p.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm north of Loogootee. The property owner was notified.

9:34 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims and Corporal Wells responded.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

6:40 a.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

7:31 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident north of Shoals. Major Keller responded.

10:27 a.m. - Received notification of a controlled burn north of Loogootee. Loogootee Police were notified.

11:25 a.m. - Deputy Shaw took one inmate to court.

11:37 a.m. - Sergeant Gibson assisted a motorist in Shoals with a vehicle identification check.

11:43 a.m. - Received a request from Queen-Lee Funeral Home for traffic control. Town Marshal Eckert and Major Keller responded.

11:49 a.m. - Received a request for a welfare check west of Shoals. Major Keller and Deputy Shaw responded.

12:46 p.m. - Received a cat complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

12:57 p.m. - Received a report of a scam call. Sergeant Gibson was notified.

1:02 p.m. - Jail Commander Pressley took one inmate to court.

1:30 p.m. - Sergeant Gibson assisted a motorist southwest of Shoals with a vehicle identification check.

1:45 p.m. - Jail Commander Pressley took two inmates to court.

2:05 p.m. - Received a report of fire west of Shoals. Major Keller, Chief Greene, Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Civil Defense responded.

2:31 p.m. - Received notification of a repossession southeast of Shoals.

2:34 p.m. - Received a dog complaint east of Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

4:26 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett responded.

4:45 p.m. - Received a complaint of someone cutting trees illegally on their property south of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

5:22 p.m. - Received a test 911 call from Good Samaritan Center in Loogootee.

5:46 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief McBeth and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

6:07 p.m. - Received a report of a scam call in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson was notified.

6:39 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver east of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson responded.

7:05 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver north of Loogootee. Corporal Wells and Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

7:32 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

8:18 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check south of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

8:20 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver east of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

8:45 p.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

11:36 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

1:03 a.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Loogootee. Deputy Long was notified.

9:17 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver east of Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded.

1:58 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down southwest of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department was notified.

2:12 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down northwest of Shoals. Martin County Highway Department responded.

4:06 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down east of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

4:20 p.m. - Received a complaint of logs being removed from property south of Loogootee. Corporal Wells was notified.

4:29 p.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm north of Loogootee. Property owner was notified.

4:39 p.m. - Received a 911 call in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson responded.

5:10 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

6:33 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Corporal Wells responded.

10:19 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

10:22 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down east of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Deputy Long responded.

11:32 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

1:14 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins and Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

7:49 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

8:28 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Shoals. Chief Greene responded.

12:21 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver west of Shoals. Sheriff Roush, Deputy Flanagan and Town Marshal Eckert responded.

1:26 p.m. - Received a report of reckless driver in Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

1:31 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person east of Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

2:49 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver south of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan and Town Marshal Eckert responded.

3:08 p.m. - Received a request for a deputy at Shoals Community School. Deputy Flanagan responded.

4:35 p.m. - Received a report of a car fire south of Shoals. Haysville Fire Department, Loogootee Chief Means, Loogootee Assistant Chief McBeth, and Deputy Flanagan responded.

4:46 p.m. - Received a dog complaint west of Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert and Sheriff Roush responded.

7:43 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:33 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person southeast of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

11:27 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Seymour responded.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

5:10 a.m. - Received a report of an accident south of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

7:54 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Shoals. Sheriff Roush responded.

9:26 a.m. - Received a report of a burglar alarm in Shoals. Town Marshal Eckert responded.

11:58 a.m. - Received a report of articles related to an investigation north of Loogootee. ISP was notified.

1:47 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle east of Shoals. Sheriff Roush was notified.

1:49 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee.

5:43 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

6:52 p.m. - Received a dog complaint southeast of Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims responded.

7:24 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims and Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

8:25 p.m. - Received a cat complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

8:46 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

9:17 p.m. - Received a report of a traffic hazard east of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

2:11 a.m. - Received a report of a theft northeast of Shoals. Deputy Hawkins responded.

6:13 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. Deputy Hawkins responded.

7:27 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:46 a.m. - Received a request for an

ambulance east of Loogootee. Deputy Long and Martin County Ambulance responded.

1:35 p.m. - Received notification of a controlled burn northeast of Loogootee. Loogootee Police were notified.

1:59 p.m. - Received a request for a deputy to assist a repossession of vehicles in Shoals. Deputy Long and Deputy Flanagan responded.

2:28 p.m. - Received notification of a controlled burn north of Loogootee. Loogootee Police were notified.

3:01 p.m. - Received a dog complaint north of Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett responded.

4:16 p.m. - Received a report of a stranded vehicle southeast of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

4:44 p.m. - Received a report of a broken telephone poll southeast of Shoals. Deputy Flanagan responded.

10:20 p.m. - Received an accidental 911 call.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

2:47 a.m. - Received a report of suspicious person in Crane. Deputy Hawkins responded.

8:58 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The patient was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:57 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver north of Loogootee. Corporal Wells and Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

1:49 p.m. - Received notification of a controlled burn northwest of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department was notified.

3:02 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

3:37 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Erwin responded.

4:46 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Sergeant Gibson, Animal Control Officer Hughett and Martin County Ambulance responded.

5:25 p.m. - Received notification of a controlled burn southwest of Shoals.

5:50 p.m. - Received notification of a controlled burn south of Shoals.

6:29 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Sims, Sergeant Gibson and Deputy Long responded.

ARRESTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

1:56 p.m. - Christopher Bearden, 42, of Shoals, was arrested by Deputy Shaw on a petition to revoke. He is being held without bond.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

1:32 p.m. - Charles Cox, 49, of Bailey, Texas, was arrested by Town Marshal Eckert and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated- refusal, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of paraphernalia. He is being held on a \$15,000 10 % bond.

6:00 p.m. - William Maryon, 51, of Terre Haute, was arrested by Sheriff Roush on a Martin County Warrant. He is being held without bond.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

2:56 p.m. - Mark Parker, 59, of Odon, was arrested by Corporal Wells and charged with failure to ID as a sex offender or violent predator. He is being held without bond.

3:00 p.m. - Trisel Davis, 30, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Officer Erwin and charged with possession of marijuana. She is being held on a \$5,000 10% bond.

COMMUNITY & EVENTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



TOTALLY GOOD ADVICE:

Will Rogers, who died in a 1935 plane crash in Alaska with bush pilot Wiley Post, was one of the greatest political country/cowboy sages this country has ever known. Some of his sayings:

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
3. There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
7. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back into your pocket.
8. There are three kinds of men;
 - a. The ones that learn by reading;
 - b. The few who learn by observation.
 - c. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
9. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

10. If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

11. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.

12. After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

THOUGHTS:

*We live in times where smart people are silenced so that stupid people won't be offended.

*Egg salad is still chicken salad when you think about it.

*Some of my friends exercise every day. Meanwhile, I'm watching the show I don't like because the remote fell on the floor.

*Peezing: sneezing and peeing at the same time.

*I thought I was a good person but the way I react when people drive slowly in the left lane would suggest otherwise.

SERIOUSISMS:

*I wish that prescription drug prices got as much attention as gas prices.

*Dog is such a small word for something that takes up so much room in your heart.

*"All due respect," is a wonderful expression because it doesn't actually specify how much respect is actually due. Could be none.

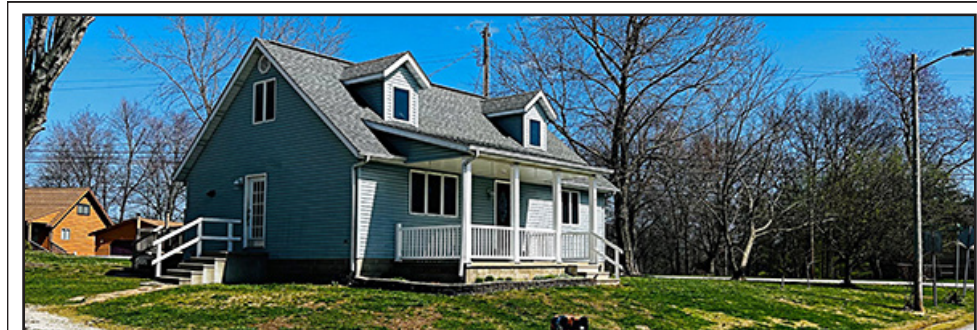
Roses are red,
Tacos are delicious.
I use paper plates,
Because I hate doing dishes.

Make someone smile today!

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



BRONX is a male tabby cat, around a year old. He is very sweet and playful, once he gets to know you. Adoption fee is \$45. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.



1 1/2 STORY: Beautiful 4 BR, 3 full bath home on a cul-de-sac w/backyard deck great for entertaining & enjoying a morning cup of coffee. Basement offers possibilities for additional living space or perfect area for the kid's play room. \$179,900. Call Billy. MLS#202210635

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ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 16 at Noon
at the American Legion Country Club

Photos w/The Easter Bunny 11 a.m.-noon

Group #1 - Ages 2-4
Group #2 - Ages 5-7
Group #3 - Ages 8-10

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #732 Ladies Auxiliary, Father Gerdon Jones Council, American Legion Post 120 Ladies Auxiliary & Sons of the Legion, and VFW Post 9395 Ladies & Men's Auxiliary.

Free community meal

The Loogootee Christian Church, at 206 Sherman Street, is having their monthly free meal for the community on Thursday, April 7 from 6-8 p.m. at the church. This month they will be having fried chicken, hot and cold sides, desserts and drinks. All members of the community are invited to attend.

Cemetery cleanup

In preparation for mowing season, spring cleanup of St. John Catholic, St. Joseph, and St. Martin Cemeteries will take place on Saturday, April 9. All grave blankets and other ground decorations as well as obviously outdated gravestone decorations (e.g. Christmas) must be removed prior to that time. Any ground or outdated decorations remaining will be removed by the cleanup crew. If rain on the 9th the backup date is April 16.

St. Vincent Food Pantry

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

LUMC Food Pantry

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

Mental Health Task Force

The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets via Zoom. If interested in being a part of the tax force, email echristmas@youthfirst.org or todamy@iu.edu.

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. Lo-

cated 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 second Wednesday of each month at noon 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.

Legion donations needed to help the community

For over 100 years, the local American Legion Post 120 has provided services to veterans of all branches of the military, but also have stayed focused on service to the community. Thanks to all the local citizens who support the Legion funding events, such as the chicken barbecues, fish dinners, and the booth at the Summerfest, the Legion is able to support many local charities and youth events. Some of these events include:

- Graveside military funeral rites - 27
 - Memorial Day cemetery visits - 10
 - Ceremonial Presentation of Colors - 5
 - Assist veterans in need by funding for transient veterans, assistance with documentation medical/financial claims, assistance for funeral reimbursable burial expenses, transportation for medical appointments, and nursing home visits and holiday gifts
 - Support school functions including Loogootee Boys'/Girls' Athletics, Loogootee Little League, and Loogootee Post Prom
 - Donations to civic charities including Hoosier Wish for Children, Cops and Kids (Shop with a Cop), Four Rivers Development, and American Red Cross Disaster Relief
 - Support County 4-H-
 - Sponsorship for Loogootee Summerfest
 - Purchase cemetery flags for 10 cemeteries, including small graveside flags and flagpole flags. Post 120 purchases 1,300 grave flags and at least 14 large flags for local cemeteries.
- The current veteran members of Post 120 take pride in what has been accomplished in the past, and are determined to continue "service to our veterans" and "service to the community". With the assistance of everyone, whether a veteran or not, Post 120 members will continue to "serve their country and community".

MARTIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE
HOSTS THE
2022 LINCOLN DAY DINNER

Featured Speaker: Indiana 8th District U.S. Representative Dr. Larry D. Bucshon
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022 at 5 P.M.
ST. JOHN'S CENTER, LOWER LEVEL, LOOGOOTE, INDIANA
409 Church Street

COME MEET YOUR COUNTY REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES & STATE CANDIDATES
Door Prizes • Silent Auction • Food • Photographs
Purchase your ticket from any County Republican Candidate - \$20 per person.
Deadline for purchase is April 15.
Call 812-639-7733 for more info.



While the threat of freezing weather is still around for another month or so, each week the soil temperature is climbing. That means some hardy vegetables may be safely planted in the garden.

If you have not already done so, you may sow seeds for most lettuces and salad greens. These plants thrive in the cool spring weather and will bolt and set seed when the weather gets too hot. The flavor is also at its peak during cool weather. Most salad greens turn bitter with heat.

Brassicas also enjoy the cool weather. Brassicas include all types of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and Brussels sprouts. Although the brassicas do not bolt as quickly as the salad greens, the milder, sweeter taste comes when they are grown in cool weather. Transplants are now available at most nurseries and garden centers, but there is still time to start your own from seed if you cannot find transplants for your preferred varieties. Save back some seed to start in late July for fall brassica crops.

You may plant peas at any time now. They will make it through some frost, but keep some cover available should temperatures drop to the low 20's. All peas have a vining tendency, so plant them where they will have a structure on which to climb. The trellis does not need to be fancy—just something to support the vines. It not only makes them easier to pick, but it also helps keep the plants out of the mud, protecting them from rot.

You may also plant potatoes whenever your soil is dry enough to work. Like the peas, the potato foliage will survive frost, but will need protection if we get a hard freeze. If the wet soil is delaying your planting, you may grow potatoes in large containers or on top of the ground, surrounded by some type of sleeve. Simply place the seed potato on the ground and cover it with some compost. As the potato sprouts and grows leaves, add more compost or organic matter, such as straw or shredded leaves. When the plant reaches the top of the container and blooms, the vines will start to die. You may then remove the container and rake back the compost. You will find nice, clean potatoes lying on the ground.

While you may find transplants for tomatoes, peppers, squash and other summer vegetables in some garden centers, it is far too early to put them in the garden. Even if you use protective cloches, the soil temperatures are not warm enough to promote good root establishment. Keep

those plants growing inside until May 10, when the danger for frost is past and the soil has warmed.

You may begin planting corn and beans in late April but be careful not to put them out too early. The seeds need warm temperatures to sprout and may actually rot if planted too early. The same is true of sweet potatoes, which want the soil to be even warmer. Rushing things can be counter-productive.

You will also find some spring flower transplants in the garden centers. Add some pansies or violas to your garden beds. You can even add the flowers to your spring salads. They will give your salad some nice color and a peppery taste.

You will also find some potted tulips, daffodils and other spring bulbs. These are fine for filling in some pots for a while, but they are not likely to return next year. These bulbs have been forced and that process takes a lot out of the bulb. Even if the bulb produces foliage next year, it will not likely produce flowers for a couple of years. I, personally, go ahead and plant them if I receive some as gifts, but I rarely buy the forced bulbs. Most experts will tell you to just throw them on the compost pile when they have finished blooming.

The flowers have been spectacular at Sandhill Gardens this spring and I am sure your garden has been pretty also. Take time to sit out there and enjoy it.

Patoka Lake to host kayak lesson for beginners

Patoka Lake is hosting a kayak lesson for beginners on Saturday, April 30 at 12:30 p.m. at the Patoka Lake Nature Center. The talk will cover the basics of operating a kayak, what gear is needed, and the best places to paddle on the lake. Several different styles of kayaks and paddles will be available to try.

The event is open to kayakers aged 12 and older. The cost is \$5 per person. All equipment including life jackets will be provided. Advance registration is required.

The entrance fee of \$7 per vehicle for Indiana residents or \$9 for out-of-state visitors applies. To register, or for more information regarding this program or other interpretive events please call the Nature Center at 812-685-2447.

Patoka Lake (on.IN.gov/patokalake) is at 3084 N. Dillard Road, Birdseye, IN 47513.

Ag Economy Barometer slides lower, producers concerned about war's impact on input prices

BY KAMI GOODWIN
Purdue University News Service

The Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer dipped to a reading of 113 in March, down 12 points from February and 36% lower than March 2021, marking the weakest farmer sentiment reading since May 2020, the early days of the pandemic. The decline was driven by producers' weaker perceptions of both current conditions in the agricultural economy and expectations for the future. The Index of Current Conditions declined 19 points to 113, down 44 percent from March 2021, and the Index of Future Expectations declined 9 points to 113, down 31 percent from the same time last year. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted March 14-18.

"Concern about the war's impact on input prices and input availability on their farming operations was paramount in the minds of producers responding to the March survey and was a major factor in this month's decline in sentiment," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

The March survey provided the first opportunity to ask producers how they expect the war in Ukraine to affect U.S. agriculture. Producers overwhelmingly said they expect input prices to be most affected (63 percent of respondents), followed by crop prices (33 percent of respondents), and livestock prices (3 percent of respondents). Responding to a related question, 19 percent of respondents chose "availability of inputs" as their biggest concern in their farming operation this year, which was equal to the percentage of producers who chose "lower crop and/or livestock prices" as their biggest concern.

Diving deeper into producers' expectations for farm input prices in the upcoming year, 57 percent expect farm input prices to rise by 20 percent or more, and 36 percent think input prices will rise by 30 percent or more. And, just over one-fourth (27 percent) of producers say they've had difficulty purchasing crop inputs for the 2022 crop season. Producers report that supply chain problems persist across a wide range of inputs, with herbicides, fertilizer and farm machinery parts posing the most problems.

Producers continue to say that they expect their farm's financial performance to decline in 2022 compared to 2021. The March Farm Financial Performance Index, which asks producers whether they expect their farm's financial performance in 2022 to be better than, worse than or about the same as in 2021, was up slightly (4 points) at a reading of 87 but remains 30 percent lower than a year earlier.

"When producers think about how their farm will fare financially in 2022, it's clear they do not expect commodity price strength to offset the dramatic rise in farm production costs they are experiencing," Mintert said.

Producers do not view this as a good time to make large investments in their farming operations as the Farm Capital Investment Index fell again in March. The index was 6 points lower than a month earlier and 59 percent lower than in March 2021 when it was near its all-time peak. In a pair of follow-up questions, 62 percent of respondents said their plans for farm

machinery purchases in the upcoming year are lower than a year earlier, which is the most negative response to that question since May 2020. When asked a similar question about their plans for farm building and grain bin construction, 68 percent of respondents chose "lower," which was the most negative response received to that question since its first inclusion in a barometer survey in May 2021.

Supply chain problems continue to haunt both the farm machinery and construction sectors and are one of the reasons producers don't view this as a good time for large investments. For example, 42 percent of producers this month said their machinery purchase plans were impacted by low farm machinery inventories, consistent with industry reports that major machinery manufacturers are experiencing order backlogs.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report. The site also offers additional resources — such as past reports, charts and survey methodology — and a form to sign up for monthly barometer email updates and webinars.

Each month, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture provides a short video analysis of the barometer results. For even more information, check out the Purdue Commercial AgCast podcast. It includes a detailed breakdown of each month's barometer, in addition to a discussion of recent agricultural news that affects farmers.

The Ag Economy Barometer, Index of Current Conditions and Index of Future Expectations are available on the Bloomberg Terminal under the following ticker symbols: AGEGBARO, AGEBCURC and AGEBCFTEX.

Keep wildlife wild this spring

The emergence of spring means young wildlife will begin appearing throughout Indiana, from our state's forests to your own backyard. If you encounter a young wild animal that appears to have been left alone, keep calm. Adult wild animals rarely abandon their young and will likely return after gathering food for the family. Check back periodically on the young animal and look for signs that an adult has been attending to them, but don't hover. If the found animal is in a nest, you can pour a ring of flour around it to help you determine if an adult animal has returned while you were away.

If the animal you find is injured or in distress (bleeding, weak, covered in flies, has broken bones), contact a wildlife rehabilitator instead of trying to care for the animal yourself. Wild animals require different care than domesticated pets. Wildlife rehabilitators are trained and permitted to care for many different wild species. They will be equipped to care for the animal while allowing it to retain its natural fear of humans so it can return to and survive in the wild. It is unlawful for an individual to possess a wild animal without a proper permit.

The DNR does not provide services for orphaned or injured wildlife. For more information, contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 317-232-4200 or dfw@dnr.IN.gov. If you need a wild animal control permit, please contact the DNR Permit Coordinator at 317-232-4102. You can find a list of permitted rehabilitators at www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/orphaned-and-injured-animals/wildlife-rehabilitators/.

CLASSIFIED ADS

REAL ESTATE

For Sale \$35,000

Loogootee Building Lot on the Corner of North Line and Queen Streets

Great Location for Single Home or Duplex

All Utilities and High Speed Internet Available

It is the North Half of two City Lots

Interested: Send email to krgreenwell@frontier.com

YARD SALE

YARD SALE Saturday, April 9, 8:30 a.m.-? 15621 & 15634 N St. Rd. 450 Dover Hill, Shoals, IN. Women's clothes, size 10 to 18W; men's S-L, Avon, S-S-S Oil, books, dvds, craft and crochet books, toys, games, puzzles, baseball cards, embroidery machine, tools, DR battery-powered pole saw & chainsaw, bookcase, king-size headboard, nightstand, desk, household items and lots of miscellaneous.

Advertise in the Martin County Journal

Email courtney@martincountyjournal.com

Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton

NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

I'm glad that warmer weather is finally here – at least most days it is. What I really don't like this time of year is major rainstorms, mud and the increasingly finicky palates of some livestock. I would compare the last to a nice, delicious meal on the table for the family to eat while knowing there is fresh pie for dessert. The momentary stables that are fine most any day are suddenly just not good enough and the desire to skip to dessert is almost more than some can endure.

For the ruminant there are some good reasons for this. They have the ability to get fairly quick biological feedback from what they are consuming. This allows them to seek what may have the highest energy or nutrient that they need. The cows even know "washy" grass usually only "appears" better than the hay and will balance their diet if needed.

It also can provide some feedback to items that might be harmful so they recognize that it shouldn't be consumed. This is particularly true when there are plenty of choices to be made on the pasture salad bar. Perhaps we humans have something to learn from this.

Smaller ruminants are better grazers or browsers than larger livestock. Sheep and goats cannot only select specific plants to eat, but also very specific plant parts. Larger livestock such as cattle and horses are not as selective and do tend to consume more variety per bite if presented and especially so if there is any competition for that bite. So, the more you concentrate livestock, especially cattle, the less selective they become, and the more undesirable plants are consumed.

Smaller ruminants out graze larger livestock quality wise. This has been shown in fecal analysis studies and also in fistulated animals. They consistently harvest the highest nutritional plant parts available.

I prefer for the allocation of forage to be grazed down fairly evenly during the grazing event. By doing so, intermediate and undesirable species are also consumed and are less likely to get a stronger foothold in the pasture and out compete the desirable species that we, or rather the livestock, like.

To get a fairly even grazing and yet not allow overgrazing, ideally, the grazing event should be very short, and the livestock moved before enough time has passed for there to be much regrowth to prevent grazing of that new growth. That new growth is needed to help restore the solar panel that was just removed and also the energy reserves of the plant. If they are grazing new regrowth since the last move, they have been there too long. In an ideal situation, where livestock is moved prior to starting to graze new regrowth and forage is allowed to rest and recover, the grazing event is generally never over three days with shorter periods being better. The smaller the ruminant livestock, the truer this is.

I still raise some sheep. I would much rather have the sheep out on stockpiled forages or annuals this time of year than waiting and feeding hay. As soon as the first blade of grass appears in the overwintering area, hay is no longer the choice feed, no matter how good it is. Cattle are a bit more patient as long as they are not provided too many minute samples of the upcoming morsels. Once they get a good taste of new growth, they also balk, but are also more content on sufficient hay.

If you haven't figured it out yet, there is an order in which hay should be or should have been fed. Hay leftover from the previous year(s) should be the first to be utilized going into winter or whenever you first need it. The last of the winter feeding should be the best hay. This is especially true if you are spring calving. Nothing will stir up ruminant uproars more than feeding the least quality stuff at the end of winter. They will quickly complain about being fed broccoli leftovers while waiting for the ice cream to get ready.

As we discussed last month, it is best to wait for the forages to have some substance

before grazing begins. Preferably, you will wait to start grazing until the plants are at least 8 to 10 inches tall (tall cool-season forages such as fescues and orchardgrass) and sufficient growth that includes enough fiber for the livestock. The forage plant early in the spring is also pulling reserves from the roots and starting photosynthesis. Being consumed too early and immature slows the process and reduces resilience and long-term growth potential for the season. I'm counting the days.

Once you do transition to pasture for the season, it is still a good idea to have a little hay available for them to start with and ensure you make sure they have consumed some hay prior to the first gate opening. It will provide some stable fiber to help balance out new forage that is still lush and often higher in water content than what they have been consuming. Generally, if they need it, they will eat it. Ruminant livestock have never failed to support that theory.

It is probably a wise decision to make sure you are feeding a mineral mix with sufficient magnesium. Normal rates for mineral mixes contain about 2 percent magnesium. When we have cooler temperatures and lush forage in front of the cows, a high-magnesium mineral supplement should be used. High-magnesium mineral mixes usually have about 16.5 percent magnesium. You should probably continue with this supplement until we get past the early fast flush of new grass growth. Fields that have been supplemented with extra nitrogen and potassium tend to have more issues because more magnesium can be tied up. It's a balancing of cations. Keeping sufficient salt and other minerals that are needed available all the time is always a good place to start and lowers concerns. Check with your local veterinarian or extension agent for more information.

It does seem we are having more rain and wetter springs than in the past or my patience grows thinner the older I get. Thankfully, the wind helps to dry things out between them some. New forage growth stabilizes the soil and builds increasing amounts of resilience with an abundance of new roots and additional cover mixed with last season's leftovers.

I dread the transition period from fed forages to pasture almost every year. That might sound a bit odd to say. I'm glad to have livestock grazing again, I just wish that there had been enough forage of some type available, perennial or annual, that grazing was more of a perpetual event than seasonal. That is the ultimate goal for some. For most, the goal is to just reduce the amount of winter feed needed as much as possible. Some hay or winter fodder is almost always needed, even in the most ultimate systems and purely for insurance purposes if nothing else. The weather can and has thrown some major curve balls.

Winter feed has always been a major cost of ruminant livestock production. The more it can be reduced, generally, the better it is on the bottom line. It takes more acres per animal unit to be able to graze more days per year. It generally takes both perennial and annual forages, but not always. The livestock is for the most part, going to be consuming the same amount of dry matter each year whether it is harvested by the livestock themselves or harvested by you or someone else and fed to it.

The amount of forage that is "fed" to the livestock is quite often just personal choice. The more hay made, the more hay that is fed. Could some of that fodder have been grazed in place or at least more of it? This season is going to have some challenges, especially with fuel prices. Reducing the turning of wheels should be a goal with a focus on growing more forage per acre and harvesting more of it directly with livestock instead of mechanically. Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!

~LETTER TO THE EDITOR~

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*:

Monday night, I had the unfortunate pleasure to attend yet another Martin County Council meeting and see the circus in action. The sheriff was in attendance to submit the "Donation Fund" raises to the council. First, let me say I have been blessed to know Jason and Pam for as long as I can remember. The fact that they are wonderful people and a blessing to our community is undeniable. That being said, they pay county taxes just as you and I do, so why does it take a private donation to effect change in this county? Why does it take private citizens to step up and give yet more of their hard-earned money in order to get our county council to get off their collective derrieres and do their jobs? There were only two on the council who voted to approve raises for the deputy sheriffs prior to any talk of a donation. Of those two, one is a lifelong Democrat, and the other is a Republican, therefore obviously political affiliation doesn't play into their decision. These two representatives are the only ones who I see time and again trying to represent the citizens of Martin County and trying to be financially responsible with our tax dollars.

It is my understanding that the sheriff's department is one of the main, if not the largest sole contributor of generated income that Martin County relies on to make budget. For anyone that disagrees, pull those funds from the budget and show us all how that money is not vital to our county. The very people you and I would call on for help at all hours of the day and night are the least taken care of. If memory serves me right, a deputy's starting wage has been reported to be less than \$15.50 per hour. Just last year Ruler foods was advertising positions for \$15.00 an hour without having to go stand along the highway at night when it's 20 degrees out because someone hit a deer.

This means you can get a position working as Martin County Deputy making less than \$32,240 per year and be the one that the county calls on when anything goes wrong. If you go to work for Loogootee Police Department, you will start out at over \$41,000 per year. Yes, you just read that correctly, Loogootee Police Department would pay you approximately \$9,000 dollars MORE per year to protect their community with less roadways, less citizens, no jail, and no courthouse to worry about. AND, let us not forget that Loogootee lies in Martin County so the deputies also serve the citizens of Loogootee just as they do the rest of the county.

Last I checked, Dubois County Dep-

uties start at over \$47,000 per year and after working there for two years, one's salary would be over \$51,000 per year. As of last year, Jasper City Police were starting at over \$52,000 per year and then after your one-year probation and making 1st class patrolman you are at \$65,000 per year.

At one time there was discussion of using some of the ARPA funds to give the deputies a raise. It was said by the auditor that those funds were not allowed to be used for that purpose, however once the donation was given by a citizen to cover the raises the narrative quickly changed. Now the council (most of them) are trying to give ARPA funds as bonuses to county employees. Bonuses to employees who had less work during 2020 when the courthouse was not allowing free public access.

So, let's get back to Monday night. Apparently, agendas don't matter anymore. One of the councilmen asked the question as to why something that was known a month ago wasn't on the agenda if it was to be discussed Monday night. Seems like a reasonable question, after all isn't that precisely what an agenda is for? He was informed, and the audience by default, that the agenda is a fluid document that can change up to the moment of the meeting. Is this why the agenda is no longer posted in the paper or anywhere for the public? I will admit I don't get to a lot of the meetings (which may change), but the vast majority, if not all, of the county council meetings I have attended have seen things being snuck into the agenda, or better yet never on the agenda but yet presented to the council. Perhaps the auditor should try to complete her tasks as the auditor and stop trying to run the county council meetings. When she was questioned by the councilman at the county council meeting, she became very defensive and completely unprofessional to the point of childlike for the remainder of the meeting. On yet another issue (which wasn't on the agenda), the auditor got snarky and said she "forgot" to include it. How about if it's not on the agenda it doesn't get addressed unless it's an emergency? After all, our neighboring county council meetings are ran that way.

How about we start acting like adults instead of children throwing temper tantrums? Or, how about if you can't do your job adequately, professionally, and responsibly, the community finds someone who can?

Thoughts from your employer.

Jeramey Osborn
Loogootee

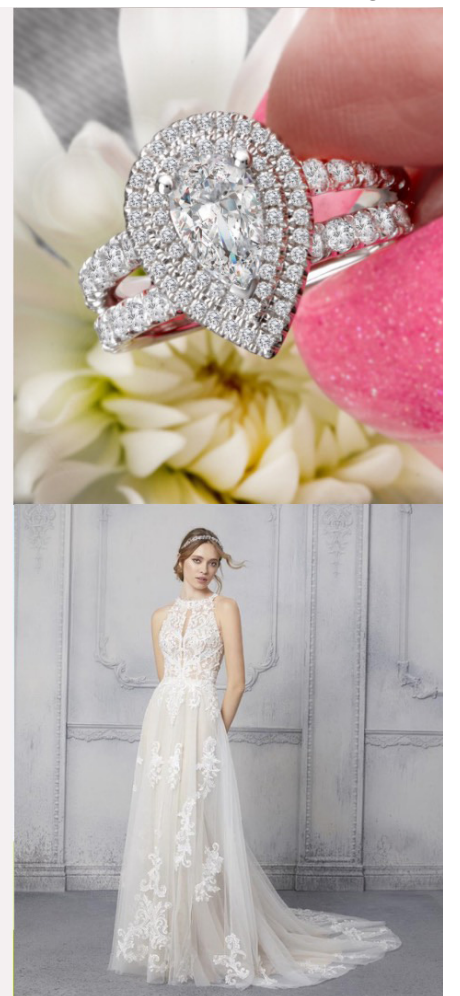
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2022 Seniors



SHOALS HIGH SCHOOL



BAILEE JONES

Bailee Grace Jones is the daughter of Katrina Jones and Benjamin Tuell. Her siblings are Lillian Thacker, Tala Tuell, Ariel Pate, and Ariana Pate. In high school Bailee participated in Spanish Club, Art Club, Film Club, Pep Club, Beta Club, Chess Club, teacher's aid, Spell Bowl, academic team, SADD Club, track and field manager, and Student Council. Her favorite high school memory is "In our sophomore year, me and Ele started a religion in which we worshiped a basketball that was wearing a pair of goggles that I found under the bleachers and a road cone we found in the gym closet." After graduation, Bailee plans to go on some sort of trip to who knows where for the summer (after UBOCU of course) and then go to college for a degree that she will be happy with.



KADEN BERGER

Kaden Lee Berger is the son of Sarah Berger, Christie French, and Eric Berger. His siblings are Jocelyn Davis and Dayson Bauernfiend. In high school Kaden participated in soccer, baseball, Beta Club, SADD Club, Spanish Club, Chess Club, Pep Club, and student media publications. His favorite high school memory is "being the mascot for high school basketball games". After graduation, Kaden plans to major in parks and recreation at Indiana University and to live each day like it's his last.



LHS Dual-Credit Junior English Class presents . . .

Small Businesses, BIG Stories



BY ANA TOY & CLAIRE KEMP
LHS Dual-Credit Junior English Class

The dual-credit junior English class at Loogootee High School is working with the City of Loogootee Recast Team to promote locally-owned small businesses. The class is interviewing business owners in Loogootee and Shoals. Below is their next interview.

White River Marine and Motorsports, Cody Roush

"I got here because I got offered to work for Jimmy Marshall, at Marshall Motors, when I was 15. The only education I have is a high school diploma and I went to a service school. Most of it is self-taught. If I ever have a question I always go to Jimmy Marshall or my friend, Rick.

I contribute my success to Jimmy Marshall, I worked for him from 1991 to 2006. Everything is a responsibility when you're a business owner, but my biggest responsibility is customer satisfaction. We don't want a customer to come in for the same problem twice, that's a lost customer down the road.

I started this business in 2007 but it has been in the family since 1970. We decided to start a business when we moved back to Shoals. We started the laundromat first thing, it's a year-round business that would ensure cash flow during the winter months when the boat business is



slow. I've done boat repair since I was 15, easy cash growing up.

Self-pride is what motivated me. I worked at the coal mine for 20 years and when I finished a big job that is what I enjoyed the most. You want to be proud of the work you do and that should be what drives an individual. Not what other people say or think. There was a time when I wanted to quit when I would work a 13-hour shift at the coal mine and then come to the shop and work until I got tired. There were times I wondered if it was worth it, but I always powered through.

I like that my customers have the same passion about boating and fishing as I do. If I didn't start the boat business, I would still be coal mining."

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