

# Martin County JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

Seven pages

## Loogootee graduates 70 in COVID-era ceremony



-Photos by Shelley Christmas

In the photo on the left, Loogootee High School Principal Chris Walker gave his remarks to the Class of 2020 at last Friday's graduation ceremony. In the photo above, graduates were scattered throughout Jack Butcher Arena to adhere to social distancing for the ceremony.

## Commissioners discuss bridge inspections, road issues

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners, minus Kevin Boyd, talked mostly about roads and bridges at their meeting Tuesday night, June 30.

Tim Hunt, with HWC Engineers, presented his contract for the bridge inspections. HWC had the highest scoring bid based on the system used by INDOT. The contract from HWC for Martin County's 44 bridges to be inspected takes affect October 2021 and ends September 2025. The cost is \$236,209.80 paid over four years. INDOT covers 80 percent of the contract with the county picking up the other 20 percent.

Commissioner Aaron Summers said he wasn't comfortable approving the contract because he didn't agree with the scoring process and felt it was deceptive. "Nothing personal," Summers said to Hunt. "I feel like I was misled." Summers didn't elaborate on how he felt misled.

Hunt said that the contract cannot be approved by just one commissioner, since Boyd was not present. He expressed concern with June 30 being the deadline to get approval on the contract. It was questioned whether due to COVID, INDOT would allow a grace period. Hunt said he didn't know but if the contract was not approved, it could jeopardize the 80 percent of federal funding. Summers still did not motion to approve the contract.

Later in the meeting, Highway Superintendent Leo Padgett said he had been talking with Commissioner Kevin Boyd and Boyd wanted to know if he could call in to get the contract approved. County Attorney Dave Lett said that he wasn't comfortable with that because Boyd didn't say he would attend remotely prior to the start of the meeting. Lett suggested the commissioners not adjourn the meeting and continue it until Wednesday morning when the commissioners could meet back up to approve the contract. Commissioner Paul George said he could meet at the courthouse at 8 a.m. on Wednesday.

County Attorney Lett told Commissioner Summers that he will still be required to sign the contract, even if he doesn't vote to approve it.

When the meeting continued on Monday morning, Commissioners Kevin Boyd and Paul George voted in favor of the HWC bridge inspection contract. Commissioner Summers voted against.

In other business, John Church, who owns Hoffman Farm on Divine Road, approached the commissioners about getting his road chip and sealed. Church said he lives in Jasper but does have a cabin at the farm that he stays in sometimes and travels to his farm daily. He said he has considered building a house on the farm but doesn't want to spend \$400,000 building a house, pay more taxes and still have a bad road. He added that he understands that a lot of tax dollars go to education, but the road is the only thing that benefits him where he lives. "We feel like they are getting nothing for the taxes we pay," he said.

Church also noted that a sign is needed to alert drivers to a bridge on the road because it is a hazard. He also mentioned issues with stormwater washing away the road.

Highway Superintendent Padgett said many years ago someone paid half of the cost of chip and seal on that portion of the roadway. He asked the commissioners if the county is still offering the 50-50 split if the property owner is willing. Church spoke up saying that he was the one who helped pay for that portion of chip and seal but it wasn't 50-50. He said he only paid \$2,000. Padgett replied that \$2,000 may have gone a long way back then and he isn't sure how much it would cost today.

"Money is tight," said Commissioner George.

Church replied that he sympathizes with the commissioners and the budget constraints. He said he has also considered installing water line down the road for the possibility of building a home in the future. He asked the commissioners if there

are regulations involved with trenching across the county road.

Commissioner George replied that they are pretty lenient when it comes to things like that. He said if it was a brand new road, they may have issue with it, but that's not the case here.

Commissioner George asked if there was a lot of traffic on the road. When the reply was that there is not, George said it wouldn't be a road they would want to add to the Community Crossings grant application then. He said it would be a separate chip and seal project if funds were available.

Church told the commissioners that a wheel tax would be helpful. "You are preaching to the choir," said George, adding that they have been in favor of that for many years.

George told Church that he would send Superintendent Padgett out to look at the road but he wasn't making any guarantees. He said it doesn't look like there will be any money left this year to do any extra chip and seal projects due to the decrease (See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)

## Legion to hold dedication ceremony Saturday

BY PHIL TODD  
Loogootee American Legion

This Saturday, July 4, at noon, the Loogootee American Legion Post 120 will conduct a dedication ceremony for the new flag pole and flags in front of the Post. This program also recognizes the beginning of a new century for the local Post, which was established in October of 1919. Post 120 was chartered by 20 WW1 veterans to provide an organization to continue to serve the country with the ideals of justice, freedom and democracy. These veterans aspired to continue their devoted service to the community, state and nation.

The veterans of Post 120 continue to maintain the high standards the original charter member began: dedication to the faithful service to our country, our citizens, and our national emblem, the flag.

Loogootee High School held graduation a month late due to COVID-19 with social distancing measures in place. Only immediate family was allowed to attend however the ceremony was live streamed. It was held last Friday night, June 26. Sarah Wagler and Elly Wagler were co-valedictorians and Garrett Williams was the salutatorian. The opening of the ceremony was given by Melaina Tippery, class president and speeches were given by the valedictorians, salutatorian and Wyatt Street, class vice president. Jackson Fellers, class secretary, offered the closing remarks.

The Class of 2020 motto is "Seek to be worth knowing rather than to be well-known." The class flower is the white carnation.

The following students graduated with the Loogootee High School Class of 2020: Dannielle Erica Abel, Dustin Michael Alexander, Michael T. Arford, Jarrett Scott Arvin, Chris L. Ashby, Hannah Joy Bailey, Max Hunter Blackwell, Zachary Allan Blevins, Alex Reed Bowling, Alexander Cole Bowling, Alaina Renee Briggeman, Sapphire R. Brown, Kaitlyn Nichole Bruner, Mary Elizabeth Burch, Essie Hope Craig, Emily Ann Crane, Jamie Neil Cronin, Ashley Nichole Dawn Epperson, Cassidy Anne Marie Esch, Jackson Lane Fellers, Tristian J. Forbes, Kayden Jaxon Fuhrman, Ariana Alexis Gomez, Daniel Robert Greene, Luke Ryan Gregory, Maura Laine Gregory, Trevor Steven Guy, Jonathan Robert Hager, Heather Dawn Hall, Tyler Steven Harbison, Landon William Harder, Nathaniel James Hart, Conner Isaac Hedrick, Johnathan Thomas Hollis, Trinity Anne Marie Howell, Logan Arvin Jacobs, Christopher Michael Jones, William Logan Keller, Trevor Austin Knepp, Jayden James Leatherman, Cori Ann Lindy, Alexis Chantel Long, Kendra Jane Lythgoe, Owen Scott McBride, Lawson Lee McCloskey, James Tyler Mesarosh, Sean Curtis Page, Brittany Lynn Potts, Doren Paul Rhea, Rachel Lynette Robinson, Gage Hershel Salmon, Warren J. Salmon, Nathan Michael Seals, Skyler Steven Sims, Jessie Elizabeth Stoll, Wyatt Cody Street, Chelsie Breanne Sutton, Emily Christine Thomas, Melaina A'Lynn Tippery, Sebastian Dell Toy, Emily Nicole Wade, Elly Marlene Wagler, (See 'GRADUATION' on page 2)

The members served the country during war time and peace time and as Legionnaires support active duty service men and women and their families. At all levels, the Legion petitions the federal government for veteran's benefits and health care, educational and occupational opportunities, and supports youth programs in academia and athletics.

Along with the Legion Auxiliary conducting a yard sale at the Post building on July 3 and 4, the Post will be open to the public. Everyone is welcome to come in, and all veterans not already members are encouraged to discover the purpose of the Legion, and how your membership and participation can assist the local, state and national Legion purpose.

The Legion is always seeking additional manpower for their ceremonial detail engaged in public activities and especially for the military graveside services.



# Loogootee, Shoals working on back-to-school plans

Loogootee Community Schools is working toward a "Back to School" plan. Input has been received from many stakeholders during the process.

Parents and Loogootee Schools staff members were surveyed and provided strong input on many key aspects of how they would like the return to school to look. Building administrators have been collaborating and working on a plan based on feedback from parents and school staff members.

The Loogootee Community Schools "Return to School Task Force" met June 24 to review and discuss their developing plan for safely reopening the Loogootee Schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The Task Force consists of representatives from Loogootee teaching staff, administrators, food service, nursing, transportation, custodial and maintenance departments.

Next steps include:

- Submitting the plan to the Martin County Health Department for review and guidance
- Submitting the plan to school attorneys for review and guidance
- Representatives of the Loogootee Education Association (LEA) will meet with school leaders for discussion
- The Loogootee Community Schools Board of Trustees will participate in an executive session on July 6 to discuss the implementation of school safety measures in regard to the framework of the plan.
- Members of the Loogootee Community Schools Board of Trustees will meet to consider approval of the "Back to School Plan" on July 13 in their regular monthly board meeting.

- A press release will go out on July 13 after the board meeting that describes the "Back to School Plan" in detail.

- Online Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will begin on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. In-person registration information will be distributed in the near future.

Shoals School had parents fill out a back-to-school survey. According to the administration, an overwhelming majority of parents want their kids back in the school. They are currently working on a plan to do so while also respecting those parents that wish to keep their children at home a little longer. The back-to-school task force met yesterday and will present a plan to the school board on Thursday, July 9.

The administration said they do foresee a plan where school will start on time while they continue to monitor COVID-19 with the local health department. They will also be making a decision about registration in the next couple of weeks. It could be an online registration this year or registration by appointments for those who do not have internet access.

If you would like to register a new preschool student or kindergarten student, please call the elementary office or visit our website to sign up. They will call you back with an appointment time to register.

The school's summer lunch program will continue through the month of July. Pickups will still be at the school but located around the backside of the school by the cafeteria which is beside the tall chimney. They also have pickups available at the Dover Hill Church.

# COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)  
in gas tax. "It's rough right now," he said. "The whole virus thing has thrown everybody," added Commissioner Summers.

Highway Superintendent Padgett said that the railroad notified them they will be tearing up crossings for repair from July 27-August 3. Crossings on Tank Springs Road, Deep Cut Lake Road, Weisbach Road, and US Highway 150 will be closed. Padgett said they expressed concern about interfering with the Catfish Festival. Highway Secretary Terri Alcorn said she reached out to the Town of Shoals and they were going to try to get the schedule changed around to not affect the festival. They will let the commissioners know what they find out.

Padgett asked the commissioners if they could draft an ordinance regarding companies installing fiber optic lines on county roads without notifying the highway department. Padgett said he found one company installing the lines and asked them why they didn't notify anyone. The reply was that since the county didn't have an ordinance, they didn't know they had to.

Padgett told the commissioners that if issues come up later with the highway workers hitting a line, they will request the county pay for repair. "They can't just come in our county and do what they want," said Padgett. "We need something."

Commissioner George said they need to get an ordinance together to go along with farm equipment damaging county roads, that was discussed at the last meeting.

Padgett also asked the commissioners if they wanted to repaint Brooks Bridge again. He said the graffiti is so bad again, there is not a clean spot on the bridge. The commissioners suggested Padgett talk to Community Corrections Director Kathy Collins and see if the road crew could do the painting. Padgett asked if anything could be done to prevent the graffiti from happening again because the paint used

on the bridge is expensive. Commissioner George said they could ask the sheriff's department to monitor the area however the vandals would be tough to catch.

The county attorney opened bids for bridge repairs. Both bids were from CLR. For bridge 66, on Mt. Pleasant Road, the bid was \$169,715 and for bridge 45, over Beaver Creek on Buckley Road, the bid was \$209,440. Tim Hunt, with HWC, said the prices were a little high however they will only end up being around \$27,000 short on funds. The two bridges were 80 percent funded by the Community Crossings grant. Hunt said they could choose to drop one bridge however he doesn't want to have to do that. He said that bridge 45 is on a road they are planning to pave and bridge 66 is in bad shape.

Hunt told the commissioners that at the last meeting, when road paving bids were opened, the commissioners thought that the bids were way over what money was received from Community Crossings. Hunt said this isn't the case and there will actually be an extra \$40,000 which can be used for other projects.

The commissioners approved the low bid from E&B Paving for \$841,772, for the paving projects, presented at the last meeting. The other bid was for \$855,204. Hunt said that E&B Paving is ready to start the work in this area.

Andy Ringwald, with Civil Defense, reported they have passed out protective gowns to various departments and are picking up face masks for the school on Wednesday.

The courthouse will be closed Friday, July 3 for Independence Day.

# GRADUATION

(Continued from page one)

Sarah Ann Wagler, Madison Jade Wagoner, Makenzie Jane Wagoner, Bethany Marie Welker, Noah James Wells, Garrett Andrew Williams, and Blake J. Wright.

# Martin County Health Department offering clinics for school shots

Kindergarten students, students in grade 6 and 12, and college students may need immunizations before they can begin classes this fall.

Students in Grades 9-11 need to get the Hepatitis A vaccine if they have not already received it. The Martin County Health Department clinic is open on the following dates with extended summer hours:

- Wednesday, July 1
- Wednesday, July 8
- Wednesday, July 15
- Wednesday, July 22
- Wednesday, July 29
- Wednesday, August 5

Clinic hours are from 8:30 a.m.-noon and 12:30-6 p.m. by appointment only. Please note these are the only dates a nurse will be available for immuniza-

tions.

The health department office is located at 127 Water Street, Shoals (next to the Shoals Fire Station).

The Martin County Health Department is contracted with VaxCare and can bill most insurance companies that pay for vaccines. The patient must bring their insurance card or no vaccines can be given on that day.

The health department can vaccinate children on Medicaid, the uninsured and those who have insurance that does not pay for vaccines through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. They also provide TB testing for a fee.

If you have questions about immunizations, you can contact your child's doctor or call the health department at 812-247-3303.



**Who We Are**

We are a caring place that offers emotional and spiritual support for women whose lives feel broken. They come needing comfort and encouragement. They find a trusted confidante who will listen and offer hope as they find their way through brokenness to emotional healing.

**How We Provide**

We are fully faith funded. This is only possible through the generosity of financial donors and the dedication of trained volunteers.

**Services We Offer**

Free Peer Counseling	Prayer Support
Support Groups	Training Classes
Community Programs	Bible Studies
Ministry Presentations	And More!

**Ways You Can Help**

Prayer Partner, Center Volunteer, Financial Partner

**Contact Us:**

**Redeeming Grace CWM**  
300 Williams Street (physical location)  
P.O. Box 37 (mailing address)  
Loogootee, IN 47553  
812-709-2397



Redeeming Grace CWM  
has found our new home!

## OPEN HOUSE

July 11th 2020 - 10:00 to 2:00  
300 Williams Street; Loogootee, IN 47553

Enjoy some refreshments and tour our new facility. Meet our Christian volunteers, including the trained Peer Counselors and learn more about the services we provide to Martin, Daviess, and surrounding counties.

## DOOR BUSTERS

## GREENWELL HARDWARE

July 2020

**Quantities are limited. While supplies last.**



**\$99<sup>99</sup>**

**14-In. CHEATER Adaptable Pipe Wrench**  
Features 3 length design - 10" for tight spaces, 18" for general purpose, 24" for maximum leverage and reach. Ergonomic hook jaw design. Includes (2) interchangeable threaded fit handles.  
1384346



**\$19<sup>99</sup>**

**1-Gal. WD-40® Spray**  
Stops squeaks, loosens rusted parts, frees sticky mechanisms.  
2076131



**\$4<sup>99</sup>**

**6-In. Retractable Utility Knife**  
Front loading with retractable blade and automatic blade storage magazine.  
6479760



**\$24<sup>99</sup>**

**5/8-In. x 50-Ft. Soft & Supple® Garden Hose**  
Soft and flexible outer jacket. Abrasion and kink resistant cover. 400+ PSI.  
6539886

## GREENWELL HARDWARE

**102 CHURCH STREET  
LOOGOOTE, IN 47553  
(812) 295-3597**



# OBITUARIES

## ALISON RYAN

Alison Ryan passed away June 29, 2020 in Evansville. A resident of Shoals, she was 55.

She was born December 7, 1964 in New York; the daughter of Francis Robson.

Alison is survived by one daughter, Taylor Ryan of Shoals.

She was preceded in death by her mother, and lifelong companion, Roscoe Petty.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m.

Sunday, July 5 at the Queen-Lee Chapel in Shoals with Pastor Matt Sullivan officiating. Burial will be at a later date in the Hickory Ridge Cemetery. Visitation is from noon until the time of service Sunday.

Memorial contributions may be made to assist the family with burial expenses.

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

## VIOLET ROBERTS

Violet Marie Roberts, 93, of French Lick passed away June 24, 2020, at Springs Valley Meadows. A resident of French Lick, she was 93.

She was born in Martin County on March 29, 1927; the daughter of Ernest and Ellie (Gilbert) Holt.

Through the years she worked several jobs including running a truck stop in Salem, working at Crane, and she was a nurse's aide at Loogootee Nursing Center. She was also a homemaker. Violet married Harry Jones at the age of sixteen. During their marriage, Violet and Harry had eight children. Five of their children preceded her in death, William Eugene, Kenneth Ray, Donna Lee, Sandra Sue, and Connie Lou. Surviving children are Judy Reynolds of Liberty, Kentucky; Ronnie Jones of French Lick, and Debbie Smith of Shoals.

Violet and Harry were married for nearly 20 years. Violet remarried on May 29, 1965, to Clinton A. Roberts, they were married 55 years until Clint's death. Violet had 27 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

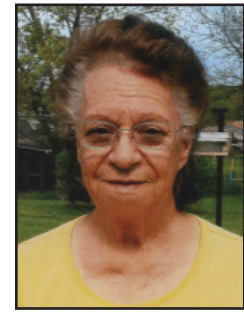
Violet touched many lives and she will truly be missed.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 29 at Cresthaven Funeral Home. Burial followed in Cresthaven Memory Gardens.

## MARY LOU ECKERT

Mary Lou Eckert, formerly of Huntingburg, passed away at 10:45 a.m., Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at home. A resident of Birdseye, she was 76.

She was born July 5, 1943, in Huntingburg, to John Edward and Pauline (Abell) Steffen; and married Eddie Dale Eckert on June 29, 1963, at the First Pentecostal Church in Birdseye where she was a lifelong member. She graduated from Birdseye High School in 1962 and enjoyed crafting and attending flea markets.



MARY LOU ECKERT

She was preceded in death by her husband on October 17, 2013; her father; and daughter, Carla Michelle "Missy" Eckert.

She is survived by three sons, Todd Eckert of Shoals, Brian Eckert of Evansville and

Pastor Bret (Erica) Eckert of Birdseye; her mother, Pauline Steffen of Birdseye; one brother, Carl (Frances) Steffen of Birdseye; five grandchildren, Dustin, Caden, Danielle, Austin and Felecia; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 27 at the First Pentecostal Church in Birdseye with Brother Jerry Cottrell officiating. Burial followed at Mentor Cemetery.

Condolences can be made online at [www.nassandson.com](http://www.nassandson.com).

**Making A Difference**  
MARTIN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
By Curt Johnson  
MCCF Executive Director

### -- INDEPENDENCE DAY --

Independence Day. Such a great day in our history. Over 240 years ago, 13 American colonies, as a new nation, declared independence from the British Empire. We all celebrate this very important day on July 4<sup>th</sup>. But did you know that we actually (and legally) became separated from Great Britain on July 2<sup>nd</sup> when Congress voted to approve the resolution of independence? Two days later they then approved and adopted the Declaration of Independence, which was an explanation of the decision to separate from Great Britain.

### -- OUR INDEPENDENCE --

The actions by those people so long ago set the stage for our great county to grow and prosper as it has. Each of us are very fortunate to live here. Just ask anyone who has traveled abroad. Here we can voice our opinions and make our own decisions. We are free and independent to make our own choices, hopefully within the laws established by this great county.

### -- OUR CHOICES --

When we make our choices and decisions, we typically do it to better ourselves, help someone else, or in some way improve something. Even though we do occasionally see that some people sometimes make decisions and choices that cause harm or don't do good. Our country's laws, set in motion over 240 years ago, deal with those instances.

### -- DOING GOOD --

So, when you decide to do something good, you can choose your time, your talent, or your treasure to meet your goals. If you choose your treasure (your money) to improve the quality of life in your community, the Martin County Community Foundation is always here to provide a way to do that. There are other ways and organizations to donate to a charity or to help a good cause, but with the MCCF, your choice will have an impact and make a difference for many, many years to come, for another 240 years and more.

### -- BECAUSE WE CAN --

So, with our independence, we can choose what or who we can help, decide why we do it, choose how we do it, and choose when we do it. You can do it now, do it later, or do it with a will or bequest when you're gone. Remember the MCCF when making your decisions and your choices. We offer some unique alternatives to help you help others. You are free to help others any way you can because of some actions by a few men those many years ago.

### -- CELEBRATE --

Celebrate that freedom every day, not just once a year on July 4<sup>th</sup>. There is no reason not to be thankful for living in these United States of America. Each of us is fortunate to live here. Be thankful for what you have been given. Not just for an opportunity to do good, but the ability and freedom to actually take some actions and

improve the quality of life around you and in your community. Give back for what you have been given. So many years ago...

### -- WITH MORE NOW --

And if you want your giving to have even more impact, the MCCF has a matching grant opportunity in place at this time. With this grant, the MCCF can match \$2 for every \$1 donated to an unrestricted fund and 50¢ for each \$1 donated to any other fund type. The matching grant is available on a first-come, first-served basis while the grant funds are available.

### -- MORE INFORMATION --

For more information about the MCCF, the matching grant, or how we can help you accomplish your charitable goals, please contact the MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or [mccf@cf-partner.org](mailto:mccf@cf-partner.org).

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

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## YARD SALES

**MAN'S GARAGE SALE:** Fri. July 3rd, 8-4, Sat. July 4th, 8-12. LOTS of misc. tools, weed eater, hedge trimmer and chainsaw, all electric. Garden tools, metal cabinets and shelf, fishing rods, reels and tackle. 12685 Chicken Farm Rd., Shoals.

**GARAGE SALE** Rain or shine, July 2, 3 & 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Lots of clothes, shoes, household items and antiques. 453 N 1300 E (County Line Road), Loogootee. No early sales.

## Loogootee Community-Wide YARD SALES!

**Friday & Saturday, July 3 and 4 • 8:00 a.m. to ?**

-Bo Wilson, 806 Park St.	-Trisha Dant, 1425 St Rd 550	-Teresa Stuffle, 203 Country Court
-Helen Acton, 202 North St & 303 E. Main St.	-Alice Jones, 453 N. 1300 E.	-Debbie Bratton, 110 High St.
-Trenton Scott, 106 Sycamore St.	-Ray/ Barnett, 1199 Bellgrade	-Nancy Sterling, 231 N. by Biggins Pizza
-Amanda Dorsey, 411 John C. Strange St.	-Wayne Gingerich, 110 Mulberry St.	-Desiree Lewis, 12118 E 550 N.
-Scott Hupp, 201 N. Oak St.	-Savannah Aiman, 1372 Bellbrook	-Spears/ Riley, 921 North Line St.
-Dorothy Nelson, 1314 Bellbrook	-Sonja Hupp, 1 mile south on Hwy 231	-Angie Green, Corner of Clark and Green St.
-American Legion, Inside Legion hall	-County Line Rental, Hwy 50 & County Line Rd.	-George Mathies, 1547 N. 1200 E.
-Aaron & Tonya Beck, 207 Nobles Ct.	-Nancy Jones, 110 Belair Dr.	-Don Greene, dead end North Kentucky Ave.

# YARD SALE



## Martin County Sheriff's Department log

### MONDAY, JUNE 22

2:06 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded.

2:13 a.m. - Received a report of a car vs. deer accident near Shoals. Sergeant Reed responded.

4:34 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded.

9:20 a.m. - Received a report of a car vs deer accident in Mitcheltree Township. Major Keller responded.

11:25 a.m. - Received a report of debris in the roadway east of Shoals. Major Keller responded.

11:36 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver south of Loogootee. ISP Trooper Beaver and Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

12:03 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Haysville Fire responded.

12:54 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle east of Shoals. Major Keller responded.

3:02 p.m. - Received an animal complaint. Animal Control Officer Hughett was advised.

3:25 p.m. - Received a report of a disturbance in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

3:30 p.m. - Received a request to speak to animal control. Animal Control Officer Hughett was advised.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 23

4:23 a.m. - Received a report of a dog theft east of Loogootee. Sergeant Reed and Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

7:42 a.m. - Received a report of a burglary alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

8:20 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Deputy Lents responded.

9:52 a.m. - Received an animal complaint. Advised Animal Control Officer Hughett.

11:46 a.m. - Loogootee Chief Rayhill performed a vin check.

12:21 p.m. - Received a report of a water leak in Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Municipal Utilities.

12:48 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in near Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was advised.

1:15 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle accident in Shoals. Major Keller responded.

2:38 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Loogootee Fire and Deputy Wells responded.

3:47 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire responded.

4:18 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Loogootee. Loogootee Dispatch was advised.

8:15 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

9:28 p.m. - Received a report of a wild animal. South Region Dispatch was advised.

9:36 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

10:20 p.m. - Received a report of protestors blocking the Haysville Bridge. Deputy Gibson responded.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

1:25 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Sergeant Reed and Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

4:51 a.m. - Received a report of a burglary alarm in Loogootee. Sergeant Reed

responded.

10:21 a.m. - Loogootee Chief Rayhill performed a vin check.

12:18 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

1:37 p.m. - Loogootee Chief Rayhill performed a vin check.

1:44 p.m. - Received a request for an officer near Loogootee. ISP Trooper Beaver responded.

1:46 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

4:35 p.m. - Received a report of a dispute near Shoals. Deputy Seymour responded.

4:55 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Loogootee Fire, and Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded.

7:10 p.m. - Received a request for a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Deputy Seymour responded.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 24

6:38 a.m. - Received a report of a fire in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill and Loogootee Fire responded.

7:26 a.m. - Received a report of a burglary alarm. Major Keller responded.

8:00 a.m. - Received a report of a disturbance in Burn City. Major Keller responded.

8:02 a.m. - Received a report of a second disturbance in Burn City Major Keller responded.

10:27 a.m. - Received a noise complaint near Shoals. Deputy Lents responded.

11:31 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle near Shoals.

11:45 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Lost River. Martin County EMS and Deputy Lents responded.

12:31 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County EMS responded.

5:07 p.m. - Loogootee Police requested back up for a fight in Loogootee. Deputy Gibson responded.

5:30 p.m. - Received a request for a vin check. Deputy Gibson responded.

7:06 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Deputy Gibson, Deputy Dorsey, and Loogootee Fire responded.

7:45 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver north of Shoals. Deputy Gibson responded.

9:40 p.m. - Received a report of a burglary alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth, Deputy Gibson, and Reserve Deputy Dorsey responded.

11:06 p.m. - Received multiple noise complaints in Shoals. Deputy Gibson and Reserve Deputy Dorsey responded.

11:39 p.m. - Received a report of a burglary alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 25

1:06 a.m. - Received a report of an accident in Crane. Deputy Gibson, Deputy Seymour, Martin County EMS, Crane EMS/Fire Department, Air Evac 17, and Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded.

7:23 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire responded.

8:37 a.m. - Received a request to speak to animal control. Advised Animal Control Officer Hughett.

9:08 a.m. - Received a request for an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

9:24 p.m. - Received a report of a theft. Deputy Barnett responded.

9:32 a.m. - Received a request for a vin check. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

9:43 a.m. - Received a request for to

speak to a Loogootee officer. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

10:50 a.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle near Shoals. Deputy Barnett responded.

2:46 p.m. - Received a report of missing animals. Advised Animal Control Officer Hughett.

3:12 p.m. - Received a report of an accident north of Loogootee. Deputy Gibson, Martin County EMS, and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

5:00 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

5:21 p.m. - Received a request for a vin check. Deputy Gibson responded.

5:24 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle accident in Shoals. Deputy Gibson responded.

5:26 p.m. - Received a report of a disturbance. Deputy Gibson responded.

6:05 p.m. - Received a report of an abandoned vehicle. Deputy Gibson responded.

6:46 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check. Deputy Gibson, Reserve Deputy Ochs, and Martin County EMS responded.

8:07 p.m. - Received a request to speak to an officer. Advised Loogootee Police.

8:16 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Shoals Fire Department responded.

9:47 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Haysville Fire Department responded.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 26

1:15 p.m. - Received a request for a vin check. Deputy Barnett responded.

1:45 p.m. - Received a report of a break-in, in Shoals. Deputy Barnett responded.

2:25 p.m. - Received a noise complaint in Crane. Deputy Barnett responded.

3:09 p.m. - Received a report a reckless driver east of Shoals. Deputy Barnett responded.

3:22 p.m. - Received a travel hazard and advised the state highway department.

6:55 p.m. - Received a request for an officer. Deputy Seymour responded.

7:06 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County EMS, Loogootee Fire Department, Deputy Seymour, and Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 27

3:00 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

6:02 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver near Shoals. Deputy Seymour and Deputy Barnett responded.

11:15 a.m. - Received a report of a dis-

turbance. Deputy Barnett responded.

12:43 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County EMS, Shoals Fire Department, Deputy Wells, and Deputy Barnett responded.

1:13 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County EMS responded.

4:12 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County EMS, Shoals Fire Department, and Deputy Wells responded.

5:22 p.m. - Received a request in Shoals. Deputy Barnett, Shoals Fire Department, and Martin County EMS responded.

5:49 p.m. - Received a report of missing dogs. Animal Control Officer Hughett was advised.

6:05 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County EMS and Loogootee Fire Department responded.

7:50 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Martin County EMS, Shoals Fire Department, and Deputy Wells responded.

9:20 p.m. - Received a report of a burglary alarm. ISP Trooper Nolan responded.

### Real estate transfers

**Melinda S. Hunter**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Steven L. Emmons**, real estate commonly known as 8463 US Hwy. 231, Loogootee, Indiana, containing 4 acres.

**Lois K. Baxter**, of Clark County, Indiana to **Mark A. West and Kimberley A. West**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the northeast quarter of Section 13, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, of the second principal meridian, containing 17.49 acres, more or less.

**Brent D. Courter and Melissa J. Courter**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Belcourt Properties, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the south half of the northwest quarter of Section 7, Township 1 North, Range 4 West, in Martin County, Indiana, containing 9.33 acres, more or less.

### ARRESTS

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 24

10:25 a.m. - Joshua Arthur, 28, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Lents on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

2:28 p.m. - Odvsldo Alanis, 22, Frankfort, was arrested by Deputy Wells and charged with driving while suspended prior. He was released on bond of \$10,000 10% bond.

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# Loogootee Police Department log

## MONDAY, JUNE 22

4:34 a.m. - First responders were requested on Walker Street for a medical call.

11:36 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless semi on US 231.

2:50 p.m. - Caller reported some juveniles playing in the fountain on the square.

3:25 p.m. - Male reporting someone outside of his residence that he didn't want there.

4:10 p.m. - Caller report a broken-down vehicle on Broadway Street.

4:25p.m. Sgt. Floyd cited a male into court for driving while suspended.

6:10 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd warned a motorist about a golf cart violation.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 23

4:23 a.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted the county with a theft call.

8:00 a.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a business alarm.

11:15 a.m. - Male requested a vehicle identification check.

2:45 p.m. - First responders were requested on US 231 for a medical call.

3:00 p.m. - Male came on station to re-

port a personal injury.

4:23 p.m. - Caller reported a female going to doors looking to clean houses. Female was located.

4:32 p.m. - Caller requested an officer present while personal property is gathered at a residence.

5:13 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident on Butcher Boulevard.

9:32 p.m. - Caller requested a welfare check on a female.

9:34 p.m. - Received a report of a property damage accident in the Dairy Queen parking lot.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

1:25 a.m. - Caller reported a possible domestic dispute on East Broadway Street.

10:21 a.m. - Male requested a vehicle identification check.

1:37 p.m. - Female requested a vehicle identification check.

1:20 p.m. - Female requested a vehicle identification check.

5:03 p.m. - First responders were requested on Brickyard Road for a medical call.

## Unclaimed Property Division continues returning more than \$1 million per week

Attorney General Curtis Hill's Unclaimed Property Division has returned approximately \$27 million to rightful owners during the first half of 2020.

"Overseeing this particular function of government makes us unique from other attorneys general around the country," Attorney General Hill said. "We work hard to give this important work the priority it deserves."

To reach owners of unclaimed property, the Office of the Attorney General uses mailings; social media; online and print advertisements; and local media coverage. Staff members crisscrossing the state in the Attorney General's Mobile Operations Center also help constituents search for unclaimed money.

"On a daily basis, our team proves its dedication to all Hoosiers," Attorney General Hill said. "The COVID-19 pandemic might have disrupted some of the ways we do business, but it has not touched the

spirit of public service that pervades our work for the people of Indiana."

Unclaimed property refers to any financial asset with no activity by its owner for an extended period of time. This includes unclaimed wages or commissions; savings and checking accounts; stock dividends; insurance proceeds; underlying shares; customer deposits or overpayments; certificates of deposit; credit balances; refunds; money orders; and safe deposit box contents. Organizations holding potential unclaimed property are expected to make every possible effort to contact owners before reporting the assets to the state in which the owner was last known to reside.

From 2017 to 2019, the Unclaimed Property Division returned more than \$188 million in unclaimed property to Hoosiers. For more information on unclaimed property — and to search by name for assets waiting to be claimed — log onto [indianaunclaimed.gov](http://indianaunclaimed.gov).

8:37 p.m. - Female reported a possible violation of a protective order.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 25

5:33 a.m. - Caller reported possible drug activity.

6:38 a.m. - Caller reported a possible small fire on North Line Street.

8:40 a.m. - Male requested a title check.

5:02 p.m. - Caller reported a possible battery complaint on Park Street.

5:42 p.m. - Male reported an animal complaint.

5:48 p.m. - Male requested a vehicle identification check.

9:25 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious person on South Kentucky Avenue.

9:41 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a business alarm.

11:39 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to a business alarm.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 26

1:06 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth assisted the county with a traffic accident.

8:37 a.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident on Bloomfield Road.

8:45 a.m. - Male reported an animal complaint.

3:12 p.m. - First responders were requested on US 231 for a traffic accident.

4:59 a.m. - Captain Hennette assisted

with a medical alarm.

5:21 p.m. - Male requested a vehicle identification check.

8:05 p.m. - Caller requested to speak with an officer regarding a protective order.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 27

9:15 a.m. - Report of a reckless driver on US 231.

1:41 p.m. - Captain Hennette assisted with a traffic detail.

5:35 p.m. - Male reported lost vehicle keys.

7:10 p.m. - First responders were requested on Mt. Calvary Road for a medical call.

8:30 p.m. - Female reported a suspicious vehicle on US 231.

10:15 p.m. - Caller reported a possible intoxicated driver on Hwy 50.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 28

12:55 p.m. - Captain Hennette filed drug charges on a male.

3:45 p.m. - Caller reported a speeding vehicle on Hwy 50.

6:05 p.m. - First responders were requested on US 231 for a medical call.

6:32 p.m. - Female reported harassment.

7:25 p.m. - Female came on station to report a theft.

## 'Operation Dry Water' to target boating under the influence

Boaters preparing for the Independence Day holiday should be aware that Indiana Conservation Officers will be on high alert for violations of boating-under-the-influence laws as part of national Operation Dry Water. Operation Dry Water ([operationdrywater.org](http://operationdrywater.org)), a year-round program, will be in heightened effect July 3-5.

Indiana Conservation Officers, in partnership with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the U.S. Coast Guard, will focus on educating boaters about safe boating practices, including keeping alcohol off the boat, for both operators and passengers.

Officers will be on the lookout for impaired boaters. Boaters will notice an overall increase in patrols, both on the water and at recreational boating check-

points, to remove dangerous and impaired boaters from the waterways.

"Alcohol use can impair a boater's judgment, balance, vision and reaction time," said Lt. Kenton Turner, Indiana boating law administrator. "Every year, we see boating accidents and tragedies that could have been avoided, had alcohol or drug use not been a factor."

Operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal on all bodies of water and can lead to serious injuries and consequences. In Indiana it is illegal to operate a vessel with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 or higher, the same BOC for land vehicles.

Indiana Conservation Officers remind boaters to always boat sober and to wear a life jacket when on the water.

# At Your Service

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## More Neat Stuff

By Ann Ackerman



A state trooper pulled a 77-year-old woman over for no fenders on her Jeep. As he looked at her driver's license, he was surprised to notice that attached to it was a conceal weapon permit. Taken aback, he couldn't help but ask if she had a gun in her possession.

She replied in her crackly voice that she indeed did have a 45 automatic in her glove compartment.

The trooper then asked if she had any other weapons, to which she replied that she also had a 9mm Glock in her center console.

The shocked trooper asked if that was all and the little old lady held up her purse and replied, "Well, I do keep a 38 special in my purse."

Finally, the astonished trooper asked with a smirk, "What are you afraid of???" and the little old lady smiled and replied

The old lady said, "Not a damn thing!"

### THOUGHTS

\*I don't want to adult today. I don't even want to human today. Today I want to goat. Gonna eat all day and head-butt anyone who tries to stop me.

\*This week is Diarrhea Awareness Week and it will run until Sunday.

\*I always knock on the fridge door before I open it just in case there's a salad dressing.

\*I may not have lost all of my marbles just yet, but there is definitely a small hole in the bag somewhere.

\*Will Rogers said: There are 3 kinds of men:

1. The one that learns by reading.
2. The few who learn by observation.
3. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves.

\*My fear of moving stairs is escalating.

\*I got fired from my job at the bank today. A woman asked me to check her balance...so I pushed her over.

\*From 2014-2019, didn't jog. 2020, still haven't jogged. This is a running joke.

\*Got a new job at the guillotine factory. I'll beheading there shortly.

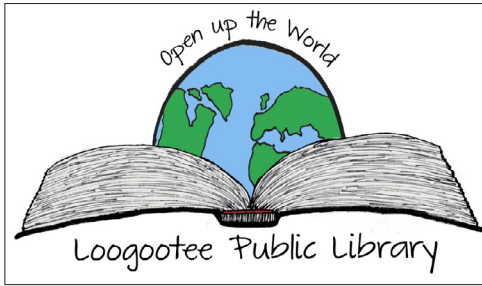
\*Accidentally rubbed ketchup in my eye. Now I have Heinzsight.

\*Life humbles you as you age. You realize how much time you wasted on nonsense.

### LIES MY MOTHER TOLD ME

1. "It's illegal to drive with the overhead light on."
2. "If you swallow your gum, it will stay in your stomach for 7 years."
3. "Keep making that face and it'll freeze like that."
4. "I have eyes in the back of my head."
5. "You can't swim for 30 minutes after eating."
6. "Don't sit so close to the TV, you'll go blind."
7. "I don't have a favorite child."
8. "I'm just running into the store for one thing."
9. "A watermelon will grow in your stomach if you swallow the seeds."
10. "Maybe...I'll think about it."

Make someone smile today!



BY DARLA WAGLER  
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

The library continues to provide services during this uncertain time. The library is open regular hours but will limit the amount of people to 20 at a time under 16 years of age must be with parent at all times. Computer usage will be limited to essential business at this time. Face-masks must be worn in the building.

The library receives fiction genre books on a standing order plan from Baker & Taylor. As soon as the book is released, it is automatically sent to the library. Recently, I added paperback westerns and Love Inspired Large Print Romance to the standing order plan. I am in the process of expanding the Large Print section adding more titles.

Imagine Your Story summer reading program is going well with 110 kids registered. Children's Librarian Jen Zehr is doing a wonderful job with virtual programming. She is reading Harry Potter on Mondays at noon, crafts are bagged up and parents can choose to come in or meet staff at the door for pickup. STEM, Story Times, and Story writing are more activities that she has managed to do on Facebook Live. Kids are encouraged to read and log the books to be entered for prizes.

### New Books:

Fiction: "Witness Protection Unraveled" by Maggie K. Black, "Holding Out to Christmas" by Janet Daily, "Shadows of Foxworth" by V.C. Andrews and "The Black Swan of Paris" by Karen Robards.

Western Fiction: "Lost Banshee Mine" by Ralph Compton.

Library hours: Monday and Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday and Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Closed Wednesdays.

Library board meetings begin at 4 p.m. the 2nd Monday each month unless it is a holiday. Library webpage www.loogootee.lib.in.us.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Loogootee School Board meeting

The Loogootee School Board will meet in executive session on Monday, July 6 at 3 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is for discussion of the assessment, design and implementation of school safety and security measures, plans and systems. The meeting is closed to the public in pursuant of Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-6.1(b).

### Shoals Council meeting

The Shoals Town Council will meet Monday, July 6 at 6 p.m. at the Shoals Town Hall. This is a change from the original scheduled date of Monday, July 13. The meeting is open to the public.

### Gift of Life Banquet

The Pregnancy Care Center in Washington will be having their annual Gift of Life Banquet at the Simon J. Graber community building in Odon on Thursday, July 23. A meal will be provided by Wittmer Catering and the guest speaker will be Angela Minter, who is the President of Sisters for Life in Louisville, Kentucky. Doors will be open at 5:30 p.m. and the banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per single and \$25 for couples. You can purchase tickets by calling the center at 812-257-1041. The center is open Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. They are closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch. If you desire to pay for your tickets at the door, please let the center know when you call. Tickets will be held in your name.

### Food pantry hours

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

### Mental Health Task Force

The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 1-2 p.m. at the Community Learning Center on the Martin

County Fairgrounds.

### Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

### Local recovery meetings

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

### Free lunch for kids

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

### SOAR Tutoring

Need Skills? SOAR tutors can help! Free and confidential. Call or text Karen at 812-709-1618 to learn more. Located in the Martin County Community Learning Center Improve Your Skills, Improve Your Life!

### Solid waste board

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

### Soil and Water meetings

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

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Fax: 1-888-380-2761  
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812-295-4661

## BINGO!

Sunday, July 5

Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

Early bird games at 5:30 p.m.





## In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser,  
Purdue University Master Gardener

With the Independence Day celebration comes a whole new list of gardening chores. This is the time to take soft-wood cuttings from azaleas and other rhododendrons to root for new plants. In most cases, cuttings will be more successful if you use a rooting hormone. Remember that the cuttings will need to be kept moist and have high humidity, so placing them in a plastic tent will increase the success rate.

It is also time for the final cutting of mums, sedums, tall phlox and asters. These cuttings may also be put in soil to root, but they have enough natural rooting hormones in the leaf nodes that the use of artificial hormones is not necessary. Even if you do not plan to root the cuttings, take the time to pinch back these plants to ensure they grow back with stronger stems. This will reduce the chance that they will flop over in the wind and will delay the bloom time a few weeks. That means that blooms will be more likely to last into the autumn when the monarchs and other butterflies will be needing the nectar.

While you are cutting, you may wish to cut back at least some of the goldenrods, Joe Pye weed and ironweed in your prairie plantings. This will make the bloom season last longer, providing plenty of nectar for the pollinators.

If you want them to continue to bloom, deadhead black-eyed Susans, coneflowers and most other summer blossoms. However, you may want to let some go to seed to provide food for finches and other small birds.

In the vegetable garden, it is likely that the spring greens have bolted and gone to seed. If you planted open-pollinated varieties, you may harvest seed for planting again in a few weeks. Otherwise, clean the beds of the dead foliage and get ready for

the late July planting of fall greens, turnips and cole crops.

There is still time to plant most varieties of bush beans, bush squash, including zucchini, and many varieties of cucumbers. You may also still plant carrots, kohlrabi and beets, although many prefer to wait until late July to allow them to mature in the cooler days of autumn. Radishes are best left for planting in August, as they tend to bolt quickly in hot weather and since most radishes mature quickly, they need only a month or so to reach harvest size.

Sandhill Gardens is certainly filled with blooms right now. I do not remember a year when the daylilies were more prolific and the coneflowers and black-eyed Susans are serving to tie the various gardens together. I planted some white coneflowers in the moon garden. The moon garden is really coming along and looks wonderful in the evenings. I am now looking for a used hay ring to use to construct a rustic moon gate entrance. It will also serve as a trellis for the moonflowers, which a reader brought to me last week. (Thank you, Doris.) The mis-labeled lilies, which bloomed yellow instead of white, are now gone and I will dig and replace them. Hopefully, the white lilies I plan to order will actually be white lilies. Now, there is an errant flowering tobacco bloom. While most of the blooms are white, one plant has a white exterior with a pink throat. However, the wonderful scent they release in the evening makes it easy to excuse that spot of pink. A white shrub rose and a sage-leaf willow bought on clearance will add more white blooms and silver foliage to the area. Come by and watch a sunset over the cliff and wait for the moon to light up the moon garden. It is a good way to end a busy day.

## Report turkey hens and young to DNR

Volunteers can help DNR learn more about Indiana's wild turkey populations by reporting turkey broods from July 1 through August 31.

Each summer, wildlife biologists and volunteers conduct brood surveys, counting the number of young wild turkeys observed with turkey hens to estimate how many young turkeys live through the summer. Summer brood survival is one of the primary factors influencing wild turkey population trends in various regions of the state and informs wild turkey management.

This year, DNR aims to collect 3,000 brood observation reports across the state with a goal of at least 25 observations per county. Biologists are especially interested in obtaining more observations in the southeastern portion of the state.

"Some of the better turkey habitat in the

state exists in southeastern Indiana," said Steve Backs, DNR's wild turkey biologist. "Turkey populations appear to have declined in recent years. Above-normal precipitation in June to early July can reduce poult (young turkey) survival and overall population levels. Unfortunately, the low number of brood reports from the southeast prevents us from further exploring the apparent population decline."

Individuals interested in participating can register and report turkeys at [on.IN.gov/turkeybrood](http://on.IN.gov/turkeybrood). Instructions for the survey and an illustrative guide on how to report observations of wild turkey broods and hens is provided on the registration site, as are the results of the previous summers' brood survey.

For more information about wild turkey biology and management, see [on.IN.gov/turkey](http://on.IN.gov/turkey).

## Comment card invites public feedback on state parks

Indiana State Parks have created a new comment card that lets users share thoughts about service, hospitality and facilities. State Parks staff know memories are made at properties in a number of ways – on hikes, around campfires, at family dinners, and through the DNR staff, from those you see and meet when you visit to those who work behind the scenes.

Because of this, the Indiana State Parks team has a renewed focus on service and hospitality using an internally developed program called "Service State Park Style" that focuses on hospitality as you camp, stay at an inn or spend a day outdoors in a state park. "Service State Park Style is, for us, at the heart of providing memorable experiences for our guests," said Karen Hinton, the deputy director of

Indiana State Parks who has coordinated this initiative. "We want to hear how we are doing with welcoming you, looking for ways to assist you, giving you great ideas for enjoying our parks and then saying thank you for visiting with an invitation to come back again."

New printed comment cards are available in park offices, nature centers and other public buildings to share your thoughts about state park service, hospitality and facilities. The comment card is now also available for easy completion online at [stateparks.IN.gov](http://stateparks.IN.gov).

Anyone who completes and submits a printed or online comment card along with contact information will be entered in a drawing for a 2021 annual pass later this year.



## Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton

NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

My dear mother always said that the older you get, the faster time goes, she was right. Time gets away from me.

This issue marks the one hundred and fiftieth time that I have sat down to write the article I call "Grazing Bites." I started this twelve and half years ago in 2008 to help producers that I was working with think about what they needed to be looking at and how they needed to prepare for the upcoming weeks. It was an attempt or way to do follow-up with a lot of producers and landowners and provide helpful reminders for whatever situation or season was upon them. I never dreamed that it would continue this long or be picked up, reprinted, and read by so many people. That is scary and humbling at the same time.

Almost every issue has initiated an email or phone call from someone, occasionally a whole bunch. I appreciate those responses because it lets me know that my effort and time were not completely in vain and it ignited a thought or change that hopefully benefited them. I've gotten some constructive criticism over the years, but mainly because they thought I was being a bit too bias on grass-based systems, which is probably true. I have also enjoyed some very interesting questions along the way. I've had to stop and scratch my head wondering about a question coming from not only faraway states, but also a few from outside the country. I try and provide good sound advice, based on personal experiences, in a way that anyone can understand and utilize it, and I hope that everyone finds a bit of useful information in it, at least occasionally. Let's talk about a few of those questions that are applicable right now.

"I read on the internet that..." Okay, stop right there. Just because you read it on the internet doesn't mean that it's valid. I truly believe that we need to look at most things in a site-specific way. Rainfall, growing season, winter temperatures (hardiness zones) and even elevation must be considered. Just because someone says that something will work where they are at doesn't mean it will work here. Even soils that are mapped the same side by side can be very different depending on the history of the site.

"Can I broadcast or inter-seed grass seed to improve the stand?" That depends. In most cases, seeding grasses into existing stands of perennial grasses is usually not a successful endeavor because the existing forage provides too much competition for the new seedlings. There are a few exceptions. Drilling something like orchardgrass into a failing alfalfa field is almost always successful if soil conditions are good, especially in late summer. Annual ryegrass can often be seeded into thin pastures during late winter and do quite well while providing some extra forage and ground cover. Oftentimes timothy can be successful being seeded during the winter dormant period, especially into thin pastures due to it being a small slick seed with a lot of cold tolerance. Sadly, in most cases, the effort is in vain and you would have been better off completely starting over with the stand. But always start with a soil test and fertility; you might be surprised what is lying dormant in the seed bank.

"What can I plant that the livestock won't eat into the ground?" You may laugh, but I've been asked this question several times. I would like to respond, "have your considered green outdoor carpeting?" This question usually comes from cases of severe overgrazing. If more soil is showing than grass, there is certainly a problem. That problem is most likely due to either not enough pasture for the number of livestock, long term continuous grazing with too many livestock, or it's being treated more like a dry lot than a pasture. Forages require rest. They also can only provide so much which is why we seriously need to constantly evaluate our animal-to-forage balance and understand that what the pas-

ture doesn't provide, we will have to carry to them one way or another.

"How many cows per acre can I graze?" If you are talking about stock density, then you are talking about pounds of animal live weight per grazing event for an acre allotment. That number can be very high, I've seen it over 500,000 pounds per acre, but that was also for only a twelve-hour time frame and should have been a bit shorter than that. If what you really want to know is how many acres do you need to support one cow for the grazing season or the year (hay included from), then on average, you need about 2.5 acres per animal unit. An animal unit is 1,000 pounds live weight, so a 1,200-pound cow is 1.2 animal units and will need about three acres on average to meet her dry matter needs.

"What is the number one pasture management practice?" The answer to this question somewhat depends on where you are coming from; is it purely about pasture management or is it more of a fertility question? As far as I'm concerned management-wise, one of the best things that you can do is to be very diligent about maintaining stop grazing heights. Like I said before, stop grazing heights are the shortest vegetation present, not the tallest, so the average height is probably more! By maintaining this residual growth, you maintain good soil cover, keeping the soil cooler and reducing runoff and evaporation. It also supports good rest and recovery and thus regrowth, yield, and animal intake. It is also beneficial for root growth, maintaining and improving soil organic matter, nutrient recycling, and overall soil health. With increasing dry conditions in the region right now, maintaining green residual and cover is even more important. If the question is really about fertility. I still believe in starting with a soil test for baseline information with pH being the first thing to look. If the pH is off too much, nutrients will often be deficient or misinterpreted. Adjust the pH to shoot towards neutral. Give it time to adjust and then resample for nutrients.

"Why are my pastures so weedy?" I've heard several versions of this question. Without seeing the site and management, it is a hard question to answer. Minimizing soil disturbance and maintaining good soil cover is always a good place to start to prevent or keep weeds in check. When there is good vegetative cover and the soil surface is protected, there is less opportunity for weed seeds to germinate and get started. It happens to everyone; if you leave the cows in a spot too long, especially combined with a heavy rain event, you open up the sod for opportunist weeds. The threshold of how many weeds are too many weeds is certainly different from person to person. My threshold is hit quickly at 30% canopy. When weeds start occupying 30% of the canopy, intervention is needed because it is robbing sunlight from desirable forages. Weeds that are noxious or very invasive should also be kept from going to seed.

I want to take a moment and thank my wife for putting up with me while I write these articles. She may have thought I should be doing something else during those times, yet she has been very supportive in my effort to educate about pasture management. I'd like to thank Rebecca Fletcher, Jerry Perkins, Don Ryan, and Kris Vance for being my sounding board, editing my southern Indiana grammar, dealing with sometimes very short turn arounds, and helping me stay focused on the topic.

Lastly, I believe I've only done this once before, but I'm going to ask that if you have found any of these articles beneficial, interesting, or just entertaining, send me a quick short email at [victor.shelton@usda.gov](mailto:victor.shelton@usda.gov) to give me some incentive to continue. Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!