

One in five Martin County residents struggle with literacy



- 61% struggle with basic computer skills
- Another 34% at middle school level (6-8th grade)
- 30% with basic numerical information
- 22% struggle with basic written materials

Martin County Adults
Ages 24-64
5,408

Out of 23 developed nations, the US ranked:

- 16th in reading
- 21st in math
- 17th in problem solving

No high school diploma or equivalent:

- Martin County 17.9%
- Indiana 10%

This is the first of a four-part series of articles in celebration of Literacy Month in Martin County.

A question for you: how do you find out what you need to know? How to get wherever it is you are going, where to park when you get there, how to make a new recipe, how to hook up a sound bar to your flat screen, how to know which sound bar to buy in the first place, how to get the Kindle app on your tablet, stay in touch with family and friends, and every other thing you do each and every day? The list is almost endless. And for most of these activities, you are probably relying, to some degree, on some form of written material to help you decide what to do.

Now imagine this: you don't read well or read at all. You never learned like others. How would you cope? Our ability to read, comprehend, and remember is the foundation for most of our modern lives. One in five adults in our community struggle, cope, and hide, and these adults are not strangers. They are your neighbors, your friends, your coworkers, and your family.

Literacy matters and is more than just reading. Our skills affect our health, finances, jobs, homes, and families. Literacy affects everyone and everything.

Martin County SOAR is a free tutoring program to help adults improve their skills. Beverly McIntosh, program director, explained how the program works. "Anyone wanting to improve skills can call or text us at 812-709-1618. We will discuss what

they want to accomplish. Some people want to work on comprehension and memory or brush up their skills. Someone else may want to prepare to join the high school equivalency (formerly GED) classes at WorkOne or pass the exam. Another person may want to study for a workplace certification or pass the written driving test at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Family members of a Crane employee from a different country may want to improve their English skills."

SOAR offers one-on-one tutoring in reading, writing, math, work and life skills, English, and HSE (formerly GED prep). The tutoring is free and confidential.

"Just as every person is an individual, the learning needs and goals are also personal and individual. What makes SOAR unique is our ability to offer customized tutoring to meet those needs and achieve those goals, as opposed to a one-size-fits-all approach," McIntosh noted.

Each learner is matched with a trained volunteer tutor and receives one-on-one tutoring. "We have an extensive library of materials ranging from math in everyday life to improving reading and writing to work & life skills," McIntosh said. "We can help adults improve their skills in virtually all areas of life. Our entire program is completely learner-directed. The learner identifies what to accomplish and when it is accomplished."

Ruth used SOAR tutors to achieve her (See 'LITERACY' cont. on page 2)

Double homicide in Martin County ends with arrest

The Indiana State Police and Martin County Sheriff's Department investigated a double homicide last Tuesday in Dover Hill, north of Shoals.

During the evening of Tuesday, August 25 and into the morning hours of Wednesday, August 26, law enforcement officers in Martin County had been searching for Tom Tharp, 52, of Shoals, who had been reported missing by his family.

At approximately 9:53 a.m., Martin County Deputy Kevin McBeth arrived at 8030 Fred Sims Road, Shoals, to attempt to locate Tharp. Deputy McBeth, while checking a detached garage, located Alan Sims, 82, of Shoals, lying in the garage deceased. Investigators believe that Sims had suffered a single gunshot wound in what appeared to be a homicide.

Through the course of the investigation, deputies, with troopers and investigators from the Indiana State Police, began attempting to locate Nathan Baker, 33, of Shoals. Investigators were informed that Baker had previously lived on Sims's property and had been asked to leave. Additionally, investigators learned that Baker had been seen on the property multiple times within the last several days.

Investigators had previously dispatched a request for officers to observe for a green 1997 Pontiac Sunfire, belonging to Tharp. Around 2:17 p.m., Lawrence County



NATHAN BAKER

deputies located the Pontiac traveling northbound on State Road 450. After attempting to initiate a traffic stop on the Pontiac, the driver failed to stop and led deputies on a pursuit to State Road 158, where he crashed. Officers immediately found that Baker was the driver; he was taken into custody without further incident at 2:32 p.m. Additionally, a shotgun that investigators believe to be the alleged murder weapon was located inside the Pontiac.

While officers were again searching the Sims' property, officers located Tharp lying in a garden, deceased, approximately 30 yards south of the detached garage in which (See 'HOMICIDE' cont. on page 2)



-Photo by Josh Hughett

The Martin County Commissioners proclaimed September Literacy Month in Martin County. Shown above from left to right are Karen Whorrall and Beverly McIntosh, of Martin County SOAR; the three county commissioners Kevin Boyd, Paul George and Dan Gregory; and Mark Ellis, with Martin County SOAR.

Foresters want Natchez Road closed

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Chris Zimmer with the National Forestry spoke to the Martin County Commissioners at their meeting Tuesday night, September 1, about issues with Natchez Road and the area around Union Cemetery.

Zimmer said there has been a lot of ATV activity on Natchez Road and it is affecting National Forest land by way of sediment going into waterways, the ATVs veering off into the property, and invasive species of

grass invading the property. Natchez Road is no longer maintained by the county. Zimmer said that it is illegal for ATVs to be used on National Forest property.

The commissioners and foresters spent quite a bit of time discussing the problem and what to do to correct it. Zimmer said that unfortunately, there are two agents that patrol the area but they have to catch ATV riders in the act to issue citations.

They requested that the commissioners close the road and allow them to put up a (See 'NATCHEZ' cont. on page 2)

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Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Dept.

WEST BOGGS PARK

GLENDALE SFWA CAMPGROUND

LITERACY

(Continued from page one)

goals and says, "SOAR is a great service to the community. Without their help I would not have my Associate's Degree today. They gave me encouragement and kept me motivated to continue on with my studies. Thank you!!"

Martin County is celebrating Literacy Month during September and encourages you, your family, and your friends to Take 10 Every Day - read for ten minutes every day. Any time, any place. Just for fun or to learn something new. By yourself, with a friend, or with your family.

Improve your Skills, Improve your Life. Call or text Martin County SOAR at 812-709-1618 to find a tutor or to become a

tutor.

HOMICIDE

(Continued from page one)

Sims was located. Investigators believe Tharp had also suffered a single gunshot wound. After continuing their investigation, investigators believe that they had sufficient probable cause to charge Baker with two counts of murder, Level 1 Felonies. He is currently being held in the Martin County Jail.

Investigating Agencies: Indiana State Police; Assisting Agencies: Martin, Lawrence, and Daviess County Sheriff's Departments, Washington Police Department, and Indiana Conservation Officers

NATCHEZ

(Continued from page one)

gate blocking access.

Commissioner Dan Gregory said he is in favor of closing the road but he is only one commissioner and it's not his district. Commissioner Kevin Boyd said he is not in favor of closing the road and stated that Commissioner George is against it also. Boyd said that it is one of the only locations for legitimate ATV riders to use.

The commissioners and highway superintendent discussed working on the two-mile stretch of road to get it back to somewhat decent shape, although none know the cost that would be associated with that.

The foresters present said that if the commissioners could fix the road well enough to keep the ATV riders off the National Forest, they would have no issue. They noted that it would be very difficult to keep people off the National Forest ground.

There are no residences affected on Natchez Road.

Commissioner George said that he will let residents know, via media, that the road

will remain open for now as long as riders stay off the National Forest. If not, the commissioners will close it.

Commissioner Dan Gregory read a proclamation honoring Jessie Hall for her 100th birthday on September 3. Lt. Jessie Hall Day is September 4th in Martin County.

Commissioner Paul George read a proclamation declaring September as Literacy Month in Martin County.

The jail currently has 45 male and eight female inmates and two of those are department of corrections inmates.

Veteran Service Officer Linda Dillon asked about getting a panic button for her office. She said that a veteran came in her office last week, shut her door and locked it. She said her office is very small and if someone came in that didn't like her, she would have no way out.

Auditor January Roush said she would have to check with the judge on the panic button because she is the one that handles getting those installed.

WestGate College Fair to be held September 29

All high school students are invited to the 2015 WestGate@Crane College Fair. The third annual fair will be at WestGate Academy from 9 to 11 a.m. September 29. Homeschool students are encouraged to attend as well.

Last year, over 800 students and 25 colleges and universities attended the fair. This year, the number of colleges and universities represented has increased, and includes schools from Illinois and Kentucky. Indiana state schools such as Purdue University, Indiana University, and Ball State University have registered as well as private schools like Rose-Hulman, Franklin College, and Hanover College. More colleges and universities are signing up every week.

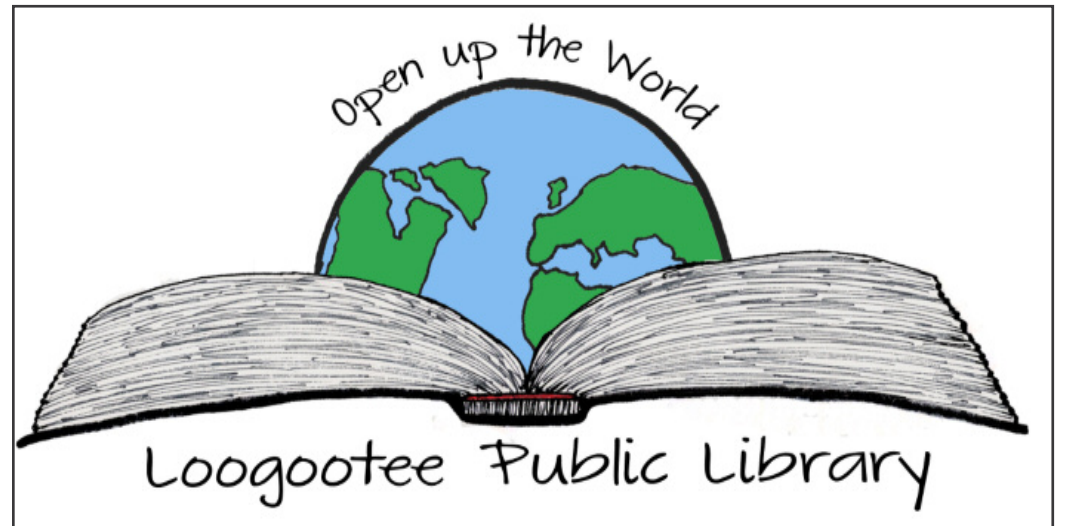
The WestGate@Crane College Fair scholarships, in honor of Chuck LaSota,

will be awarded at 10 a.m. to winning students. Students who apply must be present in order to receive their scholarship funds.

Organizer Alexandria Jackson believes in the positive impact the WestGate@Crane College Fair has on regional students. "These students deserve to know about the opportunities that are available to them after high school. The participating colleges and universities have a lot to offer, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact this fair will have on area students."

The 'Running for Our Future' 5K Race in June funded the scholarships. This year, there will be three scholarships awarded in the amounts of \$1,500, \$1,000, and \$500.

For questions about the WestGate@Crane College Fair or scholarship opportunities, please contact Sarah Miller.



BY DARLA WAGLER
Librarian, Loogootee Public Library

The Woman's Club donated a copy of "Alaska By Cruise Ship" by Anne Vipond in memory of Virginia "Sue" Strange. The book is a guide to cruising Alaska and contains a color pull-out map. This eighth edition includes Alaska cruise options, advice for preparing for the cruise, the history of Alaska as well as whale watching information. The book will be a nice addition to our travel guide collection.

There will be crafts available for kids to make on the round table. This is a fun and creative way to learn for all ages.

The library will open at noon instead of 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 10. The staff will be participating in online training.

New Books
Mystery Fiction: "The Last Time I Saw Her" by Karen Robards, "The Murder's Daughter" by Jonathan Kellerman, "X" Sue Grafton, "Keeper's Reach" by Karla Neggers, "The Solomon Curse" by Clive Cussler.

Fiction: "Starlight on Willow Lake" by Susan Wiggs, "The Darling Dahlias and The Eleven O'Clock Lady" by Susan Wittig Albert "The Taming of The Queen" by Philippa Gregory, "Undercover" by Danielle Steel, "The Memory Weaver" by

Jane Kirkpatrick, and "Point Blank" by Fern Michaels.

Inspirational Fiction: "The Christmas Joy Ride" by Melody Carlson, "The Married Years: One More Wish" by Robin Jones Gunn, "A Lesson in Hope" By Philip Gulley, and "Hidden Places" by Lynn Austin.

Non Fiction: "American Sniper" by Chris Kyle, "Hitler's Last Days" by Bill O'Reilly, "Alaska By Cruise Ship" by Anne Vipond", and "The Mind Connection" by Joyce Meyer.

Children's Books: "Magic Animal Friends" by Daisy Meadows, "The Day The Crayons Came Home" by Drew Daywalt, "Kiss The Cow" by Phyllis Root, "Shadow Chasers" by Elly Mackay, "Mouse's First Fall" by Lauren Thompson, "Scarecrow Pete" by Mark Kimball Moulton, and "A Snicker of Magic" by Natalie Lloyd.

DVD: "Dora and Friends: Doggie Day, "Blaze and The Monster Machines High Speed Adventure", "Nickelodeon: Puppy-Palooza", and " Nickelodeon: Celebrate Fall".

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

Calendar of Events

Free lunch for kids

New Beginnings Community Church will be offering a free lunch to all school-age children every Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. at the fellowship hall of the church, located at 200 West Main Street next to the post office. For more info, call 812-709-2525.

Strange-O'Maley Reunion

The Strange-O'Maley Reunion will be held Sunday, September 6 at St. Joseph Annex in Bramble (formerly Bramble Conservation Club). Food will be served at 12:30 p.m. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish. Table service will be provided.

Talk to a lawyer clinic

The next talk to lawyer telephone clinic is scheduled for Thursday, September 3 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. CST. For individuals in the eastern time zone, the time is 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Anyone with a general legal question concerning Indiana law can speak to a volunteer attorney and receive general legal answers, advice and guidance. While we're enjoying the end of summer and looking to fall, it's not too early to start planning for the holidays when legal questions and concerns seem to pop up at the last minute. To contact the clinic, the telephone numbers are: (812) 618-4845 and 888-594-3449. Talk to a lawyer is co-sponsored by Volunteer Lawyer Program of Southwestern Indiana, Indiana Bar Foundation and the Evansville Bar Foundation.

Loogootee Stormwater Board

The Loogootee Stormwater Board will meet Friday September 11th at 4 p.m. in the council room at city hall. The public is invited to attend.

Grief support group

If you have lost a loved one recently or decades ago you are invited to GriefShare Support Group at Loogootee United Methodist Church Multi-Purpose room Mondays at 6 p.m. This multi-week group

will run August 3 through November 16 but each session deals with an individual issue of grief - attend when you can. Tell a friend who needs this group!

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts

Boys interested in Boy Scouts or Cub Scouts, call 295-6652 or 854-7837 for information on joining.

SOAR Tutoring

Need Skills? SOAR tutors can help! Free and confidential. Call or text Beverly 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.

Humane society meetings

The Martin County Humane Society meets on the third Friday of the month at the animal shelter at 507 N Oak Street in Loogootee, at 7 p.m. Members of the humane society are invited to attend. To find out how to become a member, email mchs@frontier.com.

Tourism meetings

The MCCC Tourism Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Shoals Public Library. The public 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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FRIDAY NIGHT IS RIB NIGHT!

THE SMOKER WILL BE FIRED UP AND WE WILL BE SERVING OUR SMOKED BABY BACK RIBS FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL THEY ARE GONE!

Hours: Mon.-Closed • Tues., Wed., Thurs.-7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat.-7 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m.-11 a.m. for breakfast and serving lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Wednesday, September 2, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

3

ALLAN SIMS

Allan A. Sims passed away August 25, 2015 at his home. A resident of Trinity Springs, he was 82.



He was born October 16, 1932; the son of Fred and Mary Frances (Wildman) Sims.

He was a beloved member of the community and will be remembered for his willingness to help anyone in need and his friendly smile. He attended Trinity Springs Schools, graduated from Williams High School, and proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He was a member of the Shoals American Legion Post #61, White River Masonic Lodge F. & A.M., and currently served on and was treasurer of the East Fork Water Board. He attended the

Trinity Springs Church of Christ and loved watching NASCAR.

He was formerly employed at National Gypsum, and retired after 33 years from NAD Crane. He also read the meter for REMC and worked for the East Fork Water, Martin County Highway Department, and recently retired as custodian from Old National Bank.

Survivors include his son, Gary L. and wife, Carla Sims, of Shoals; grandchildren, Chris Sims, David Sims, Travis Souerdike, Wendy Banks and A.J. Banks; eight great-grandchildren, former wife, Rita Warren; brothers, Merrill and Barbara Sims of Avon and John and Deanni Sims of Brownsburg; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

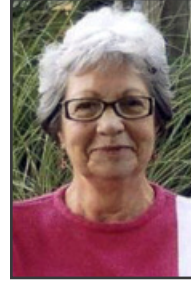
He is preceded in death by his first wife, Doris Shaw; a daughter, Beth Ellen (Sims) Souerdike; son, Jon A. Sims; brothers,

Loran Sims and Frank Sims in infancy; and sisters, Mary Alice Franklin and Joyce Tuttle.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, August 30 at Queen Lee Funeral Home. Burial followed in Trinity Springs Cemetery. Shoals American Legion Post #61 accorded military graveside rites.

BETTY CROUSE

Betty L. Crouse passed away at 4:40 a.m. Saturday, August 29, 2015 at Memorial



Hospital and Healthcare Center in Jasper. A resident of Loogootee, she was 71.

She was born September 7, 1943 in Marlette, Michigan; daughter of the late Ralph and Emma (Titus) Salsbury.

She is survived by her husband, Richard Crouse of Loogootee; daughter, Roxanne (Long) Wesch of Marine City, Michigan; son, Rodney Long of Marlette Michigan; four grandchildren and four great grandchildren; sisters, Carol Pries of Knoxville, Tennessee; Janet Harland of Crosswell, Michigan; Glenda Dawson of Lexington, Michigan and Delore Hurley of Lapeer, Michigan.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Emma Salsbury.

To honor Betty's wishes, no funeral service will be held.

Condolences may be made online at brocksmithblakefuneralhomes.com.

RAYMOND "TOM" THARP

Raymond T. "Tom" Tharp passed away August 25, 2015. A resident of Trinity Springs, he was 52.

He was born May 12, 1963 in Bedford; son of the late Henry and Nannie (Spicer) Tharp.

He was retired and greatly enjoyed wheeling and dealing on anything he could make an honest trade on. He attended Shoals Schools and was of the Christian faith.

He is survived by his siblings, Viola Cundiff of Alabama; Jean Mc Carty of Shoals; Peggy Fisher of Linton; Bonnie Pottorff of

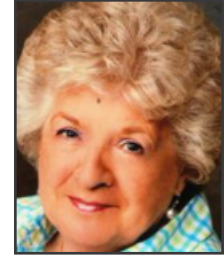
Shoals; Connie Pottorff of Shoals; Millie Billiot of Arkansas; Jackie Bates of Tennessee; Clara Strange of Mitchell; Ollie Tharp of Linton; Jim Tharp of Shoals; William Tharp of Shoals, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents and an infant brother, Johnny Tharp.

Burial will be made in Mt. Olive Cemetery in Williams at a later date. Condolences may be made on line to the family at www.queenlee.com.

SALLY LUNSFORD

Sally Lunsford passed away at 4:09 a.m. August 26, 2015 at 4:09 a.m. at her home.



A resident of Huntingburg, she was 73.

She was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas on January 8, 1942; daughter of Mary Catherine (Siedel) and Homer Rayhill Jr.

She retired from the USDA after 32 years of service. She was a member of St. Mary's Church in Huntingburg. She enjoyed Nascar races and casinos and watching her grandchildren in whatever they were doing.

Surviving are son, Kevin (Phyllis) Ramsey of Huntingburg; grandchildren, Megan (Clint) Kelley of Evansville, Chad Ramsey, Houston Ramsey and Dillion Ramsey, all of Huntingburg; four great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren, a brother, Steve (Lynn) Garner of Georgia; sisters, Jackie Purdue of Washington, Sherry (Dean) Kaiser of Valparaiso, Christy Craig of Florida, Debby Clements and late husband, Greg, of Coal City; Donna (Pat) Voges of Shoals, Joan (Mike) Straight of Montana; brother-in-law, Steve Gray of Washington; and two special nieces, Peggy Sue (Dennis) Smith of Indianapolis and Elizabeth Briner and Todd Woodrich of Robinson, Illinois.

Funeral services were held Saturday, August 29 at Ed Lee Mortuary with burial following at St. John Cemetery in Washington.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Gentiva Hospice, 3745 N. Newton St., 150, Jasper, IN 47546.

National childhood vaccination rates remain high, but children still at risk for disease

Knowing the vaccination rates in your community is important. Unvaccinated people tend to cluster and put communities at risk for outbreaks of diseases like measles.

Many states are making vaccination data available online so you can see local vaccine coverage and vaccine exemption data.

To find out if your state makes this information available, check with your state health department or visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schoolvaxview-states

Know the rates in your community and protect your child by vaccinating according to the recommended schedule.

Published August 27, 2015
Source: CDC, Vaccination Coverage Among Children in Kindergarten — United States, 2014–15 School Year. MMWR, 2015;64:897–904
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6433a2.htm

State exemption levels low, national vaccination rates high

Vaccine exemption levels for kindergarten are low for most states and infant vaccination rates are high nationally, according to data from two reports published in last week's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). The first report looked at vaccination coverage and exemption levels among children entering kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year. Nationally, exemption levels remain low with a median level of 1.7 percent. However, state exemption levels ranged from a low of less than 0.1 percent in Mississippi to a high of 6.5 percent in Idaho. Additionally, five states did not meet the reporting standards for providing exemption data. The second report examined vaccination rates among children ages 19 months through 35 months for 2014. Vaccination coverage remained high: over 90 percent for measles-mumps-rubella (MMR); polio; hepatitis B; and varicella vaccines. The percentage of children who do not receive vaccinations also remained low, at less than 1 percent.

"Collaborative efforts are the reason our nation has been able to achieve such high coverage nationally, but much work is still needed to shield our schools and communities from future outbreaks," said Anne Schuchat, MD (RADM, USPHS), director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases.

One important change from 2013 to 2014 was the number of states that provided local

coverage and exemption data online. There was an increase from 18 states providing such data in 2013 to 21 states providing these data in 2014. Making this information available publicly keeps parents informed, guides vaccination policies, and strengthens immunization programs.

When a disease like measles reaches a community with large numbers of unvaccinated people, it can spread very quickly. Therefore, local pockets of people who are missing vaccinations can leave communities vulnerable to outbreaks.

Consistent, high coverage rates are needed to provide community immunity (herd immunity) and protect children from disease outbreaks like measles.

The CDC recommends that all children be vaccinated according to the recommended schedule. Parents with questions or concerns should talk with their child's doctor or visit CDC's vaccine website for parents at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents.

For more information on the National Immunization Survey (NIS), please visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/nis/index.html

CDC's vaccine website for parents: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents

Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/conversations

Measles www.cdc.gov/measles

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To see Bill's website for books and art go to www.billwhorral.com

Bill Whorral's photos and text go beyond the surface, he has spent the time and energy to produce in-depth documentations of Indiana life.

**Available by mail (add \$5 S/H)
Bill Whorral 13669 Rama Dye Rd.
Shoals IN 47581.**
Also, G&R Variety and the Martin County Historical Society Museum in Shoals

COPS & COURT

Wednesday, September 2, 2015 ~ Martin County Journal

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

6:54 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:15 a.m. - Sheriff Roush took one inmate to court.

9:56 a.m. - Chief Deputy Greene took one inmate to court.

10:12 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Orange County EMS was dispatched.

12:26 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle west of Shoals. Indiana State Police Trooper Ross-Johnson assisted the driver.

2:41 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:39 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic disturbance south of Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette was notified.

4:27 p.m. - Received a report of a theft in Shoals. Sgt. Keller responded.

5:11 p.m. - Received a report of vandalism in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette was notified.

5:34 p.m. - Received a request for lift assistance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance were dispatched.

6:25 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver north of Shoals. Sheriff Roush was dispatched.

11:23 p.m. - Received a report of a tree across Hwy. 450 North of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department removed the tree.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

10:20 a.m. - Received a report of a break-in at a residence in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

10:32 a.m. - Captain Dant transported one subject from another county for court.

10:50 a.m. - Sheriff Roush took two inmates to court.

12:50 p.m. - Sheriff Roush and Chief Deputy Greene recovered a stolen vehicle near Shoals.

12:55 p.m. - Captain Dant took three inmates to court.

2:00 p.m. - Captain Dant took two inmates to court.

2:17 p.m. - Sgt. Keller took one inmate to the doctor.

4:30 p.m. - Received a report of a stranded motorist near Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

4:48 p.m. - Received a report of a theft north of Shoals. Sgt. Keller responded.

5:36 p.m. - Received a report of a fire alarm near Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

2:46 a.m. - Received a report of a missing person north of Shoals. Corporal Baker, Indiana State Police, and Lawrence County Sheriff's Departments were notified.

7:40 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231. Loogootee Chief Rayhill was notified.

9:25 a.m. - Captain Dant took two inmates to the department of corrections.

9:30 a.m. - Sheriff Roush took three inmates to court.

12:54 p.m. - Received a report of an alarm north of Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill was dispatched.

1:25 p.m. - Received a report of a two-vehicle accident on SR 450, north of Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Indiana State Police were dispatched. No one was transported.

2:15 p.m. - Received a report of a possible break-in in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

3:17 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:40 p.m. - Received a report of a car

smoking north of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

3:55 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic situation in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette was dispatched.

5:17 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Crane. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

2:25 a.m. - Received a report of possible drug activity in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Nolan and Corporal Baker responded.

7:27 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Chief Rayhill responded.

7:50 a.m. - Received a report of a fire south of Loogootee. Haysville Fire Department was dispatched and it was reported to be a controlled burn.

9:20 a.m. - Captain Dant took three inmates to court.

11:00 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

12:55 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check north of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene and Major Burkhardt responded.

1:20 p.m. - Received a report of a semi that tore down lines in Loogootee. Captain Hennette responded.

1:30 p.m. - Sheriff Roush took two inmates to court

3:10 p.m. - Received a request for motorist assistance in Loogootee. Major Burkhardt took the call.

3:37 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

4:55 p.m. - Received a report of damage done to new blacktop near Shoals. Major Burkhardt took the call.

5:30 p.m. - Received a report of a pig out south of Loogootee. Major Burkhardt responded.

6:18 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance, Shoals Fire Department, Chief Deputy Greene, and Major Burkhardt responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:05 p.m. - Received a complaint of cows out near Shoals. Major Burkhardt responded.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

5:11 a.m. - Received a report of someone walking near Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Nolan assisted the subject.

10:23 a.m. - Major Burkhardt assisted the department of child services with a welfare check in Shoals.

11:00 a.m. - Sheriff Roush assisted with a funeral detail in Loogootee.

11:45 a.m. - Received a report of a dead animal near Loogootee. Indiana Conservation Officer Mann responded.

1:12 p.m. - Chief Deputy Greene assisted a motorist near Shoals.

1:15 p.m. - Major Burkhardt assisted the department of child services with a welfare check north of Shoals.

4:25 p.m. - Received a report of suspicious activity in Loogootee. Captain Akles responded.

6:25 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

8:21 p.m. - Received a report of a possible drunk driver east of Shoals. Orange County Sheriff's Department was contacted.

10:35 p.m. - Received a report of a theft near Shoals. Corporal Baker responded.

11:27 p.m. - Received a report of a road rage incident near Shoals. Corporal Baker responded.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

2:37 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Haysville Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance were dispatched. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:26 a.m. - Received a request for an am-

bulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:07 a.m. - Received a complaint on dogs in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Akles responded.

9:36 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:38 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic situation near Shoals. Major Burkhardt responded.

12:12 p.m. - Major Burkhardt assisted a motorist north of Shoals.

2:06 p.m. - Received a report of a fight in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Akles and Corporal Baker responded.

2:36 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:23 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231, south of Loogootee. Loogootee Police Department Captain Akles responded.

JAIL BOOKINGS

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

3:13 p.m. - Paul Salmon, 54, of Shoals, was arrested by Sheriff Roush for cultivating marijuana and maintaining a common nuisance. He was assisted in the investigation by Chief Deputy Greene, and Indiana State Police Troopers Lents and Ross-Johnson. His bond has been set at \$25,000 10%.

3:13 p.m. - Janet Tredway, 55, of Shoals, was arrested by Sheriff Roush and charged with cultivating marijuana and maintaining a common nuisance. The sheriff was assisted by Chief Deputy Greene and Indiana SP Troopers Lents and Ross-Johnson. Her bond has been set at \$25000 10%.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

2:28 p.m. - Edward Haste, 35, of Mitchell, was arrested by Sheriff Roush on a Martin County warrant, and is being held without bond.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

3:35 p.m. - Nathan Baker, 32, of Shoals, was arrested by Sgt. Keith Hinderlighter, of the Daviess County's Sheriff's Department, and charged with two counts of murder. He has no bond.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

5:05 p.m. - Christina Lytton, 41, was arrested by Captain Dant on a Martin County warrant. She is being held without bond.

6:52 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

10:58 p.m. - Received a report of kids driving a golf cart in Loogootee. Loogootee Sgt. Norris responded.

11:11 p.m. - Received a report of a dog running loose in Loogootee. Loogootee Sgt. Norris responded.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

5:55 a.m. - Received a report of a car/deer accident east of Shoals. Deputy McBeth responded.

12:25 p.m. - Received a report of an alarm north of Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Akles responded.

1:30 p.m. - Received a report of a theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Akles responded.

1:37 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

5:11 p.m. - Received a report of a break-in near Shoals. Sgt. Keller responded.

9:28 p.m. - Received a report of a car fire in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

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Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

3:39 p.m. - Captain Hennette assisted the Martin County Sheriff's Department with a suicidal subject on US 231.

4:21 p.m. - Caller reported property damage.

4:45 p.m. - Caller reported property damage at McDonalds.

5:34 p.m. - First responders were requested for lift assist on Bridgewater Street.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

1:00 p.m. - Martin Co Sheriff's Department contacted Loogootee Police Department and advised a stolen vehicle from Loogootee was located on Mill Road. ATM Towing was contacted.

7:43 p.m. - Caller reported a possible intoxicated driver.

11:00 p.m. - Female subject requested transient assistance.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

1:23 a.m. - Caller reported a possible domestic dispute on Walnut Street.

7:40 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on US 231.

12:10 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a residential alarm on US 231.

2:10 p.m. - Female caller reported her garage door was open. Captain Hennette responded and everything was fine.

4:00 p.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on Park Street.

4:05 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle on Walker Street.

6:15 p.m. - Daviess Community Hospital advised a male was in the ER and the male reported he had been in a fight in Loogootee. Captain Hennette spoke with the male.

6:39 p.m. - Male reported a phone scam.

6:52 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless vehicle on US 231.

8:00 p.m. - Female caller reported a theft from her residence.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

2:25 a.m. - Caller reported possible drug activity.

7:30 a.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

5:05 p.m. - Caller reported a phone scam involving the IRS.

6:50 p.m. - Caller advised his trailer was struck while parked on West Main Street.

7:08 p.m. - Officer Nolan responded to a business alarm.

7:55 p.m. - Caller reported an abandoned vehicle parked at Dairy Queen. Officer Nolan contacted the owner.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

5:11 a.m. - Caller reported a male walking on US 231. Officer Nolan gave the person a ride to Loogootee.

11:00 a.m. - Captain Akles assisted with a prisoner exchange.

4:09 p.m. - Caller reported a possible suicidal subject.

4:25 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious vehicle on SE 1st Street. Captain Akles located the vehicle and spoke with the driver.

6:33 p.m. - Female caller reported possible stolen property at her residence.

10:12 p.m. - Caller reported someone letting off fireworks.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

4:27 a.m. - Caller reported a domestic dispute on Cedar Street.

8:07 a.m. - Received calls regarding a loose dog on SE 1st Street. Captain Akles recommended to the owner to euthanize the animal due to prior complaints and public safety.

10:21 a.m. - Caller reported a male forced a female into a vehicle on North Line Street. Driver was located and the passenger advised everything was fine.

12:34 p.m. - Female caller requested to speak with an officer.

2:06 p.m. - Caller reported a fight on North Line Street.

9:58 p.m. - Caller reported a vehicle without tail lights.

11:11 p.m. - Caller reported a dog complaint.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

12:02 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on US 50.

11:05 a.m. - Caller requested transient assistance.

12:10 p.m. - Caller reported possible drug activity.

12:25 p.m. - Captain Akles responded to a business alarm.

1:30 p.m. - Caller reported a dispute on Cedar Street.

5:00 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on US 231.

Two arrested for growing marijuana on Sherfick School Road

The Martin County Sheriff's Department, Indiana State Police, National Forest Service, and Indiana Conservation Officers, investigated a complaint of illegal drugs being grown east of Shoals on Monday.

On Monday, August 24, at approximately 1:50 p.m., the Martin County Sheriff's Department received an anonymous tip that there were marijuana plants being grown at 11250 Sherfick School Road. At 2 p.m., Sheriff Travis Roush, Chief Deputy Josh Greene, and Indiana State Trooper Jarrod Lents went to the residence and discovered two marijuana plants and several "starter" plants.

While Chief Deputy Greene was obtaining a search warrant, Paul G. Salmon, 54, of Shoals, arrived at the residence. Salmon was placed under arrest and transported to the Martin County Security Center without incident.

Officers were at the residence for an hour before the search warrant was obtained. Officers attempted to get any occupants of the residence to come to the door by knocking, but no one acknowl-

edged their presence. As officers were about to execute the search warrant, Janet L. Tredway, 55, of Shoals, presented herself in the garage of the residence. Tredway was placed under arrest and transported to the Martin County Security Center without incident.

At 3:18 p.m., the search warrant was executed. Corporal Damon Baker and K9 "Virka" were called in to aid in the search. A small amount of marijuana was found in the residence. A helicopter from the Indiana State Police located two marijuana plants were over two feet tall. Additional plants were found approximately 650 feet east of the residence. The marijuana, in total, is expected to weigh well beyond 30 grams when dried.

Arrested and Charges:

Paul G. Salmon was charged with cultivating marijuana, a Level 5 Felony and maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 5 Felony

Janet L. Tredway was charged with cultivating marijuana, a Level 5 Felony and maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 5 Felony



-Photo provided

Shown above are some of the marijuana plans cultivated during the summer marijuana eradication blitz by the ISP and the Indiana National Guard.

ISP, Indiana National Guard conclude summer marijuana eradication blitz

From August 17 through the 28th, the Indiana State Police, along with the Indiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, US Drug Enforcement Administration, US Forest Service, Civil Air Patrol, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and local law enforcement agencies partnered to concentrate their efforts on illegal marijuana grow operations across southern Indiana. This effort was a proactive response to criminal intelligence of illegal drug trafficking operations growing marijuana on public property such as the Hoosier National Forest and other remote state and federally owned property.

Through federal grant programs funded through the Domestic Cannabis Eradication and Suppression Program, the Indiana State Police and Indiana National Guard were able to combine efforts with personnel, intelligence, and aircraft support to make this year's effort, named "Operation Smoke Out", a success.

Within the combined efforts and resource sharing, a large portion of southern Indiana was scoured by aircraft surveillance and supported by mobile ground teams. In making daily discoveries of illegal marijuana grow operations, 146 marijuana plots were found to contain a total of 4,898 marijuana plants. Investigators believe that the street value of the marijuana seized could be as

much as \$7,500,000. Sixteen people were arrested throughout the course of the operation, and officers seized over four pounds of processed marijuana, six weapons, \$3,000, and a methamphetamine lab. Officers hope that information obtained throughout the two weeks will result in future additional arrests.

The Indiana State Police Marijuana Eradication Section needs your help to combat illegal drug activity in Indiana. Anyone with drug information can anonymously call the Indiana Marijuana Tip Line at 888-873-1694.

The success of the marijuana eradication program is due to excellent teamwork amongst law enforcement, government agencies and good information shared from the public.

Martin County real estate transfers

James P. Poirier, of Martin County, Indiana to **James P. Poirier and Margaret M. Lyon**, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.44 acre, more or less. Being Lot Number 13 in Country Court Tract III.

Charles E. Jones and Shirley M. Jones, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jordan S. Seger**, of Marion County, Indiana. Tract I: A part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 7, Township 1 North, Range 3 West, Lost River Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 34.351 acres. Tract II: Beginning 65 east of the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 7, Township 1 North, Range 3 West, containing 3.5 acres, more or less.

Connie S. Sanders, of Martin County, Indiana to **Christopher J. Wadsworth**, of Martin County, Indiana, a tract of land in the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, containing 1.05 acres, more or less.

The Loogootee Community School Corporation to Hoosier Uplands Holdings, LLC. Tract A: A portion of the southeast quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in the City of Loogootee, Indiana, containing 0.962 acres. Tract B: A portion of the southeast quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in the City of Loogootee, Indiana, containing 0.764 acres, more or less.

Georgeann Pomatto, of Knox County, Indiana to **Jevon S. and Rose E. Schrock**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 4 North, Range 5 West,

Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.081 acres, more or less.

Alice A. Horsting and Jill M. Albright a/k/a Jill M. Hoffman, of Martin County, Indiana to **Carl E. Wiscaver, Sr.**, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northwest quarter of Section 30, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Center Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.38 acres, more or less.

Catch the Latest Edition of "The Indiana State Police Road Show"

Catch the latest edition of the "Indiana State Police Road Show" radio program every Monday morning at your convenience.

This week's show features Indiana State Police Trooper Kyle Mitchell and Junior Achievement Intern Sam Didion. Trooper Mitchell and Mr. Didion discuss the upcoming Muddy Trail Run on September 12 at the Anthony Wayne Scout Reservation, 2282 W. 800 South, Pleasant Lake, IN. The Parkview Muddy Trail Run is a partnership of Junior Achievement and Anthony Wayne Area Council Boy Scouts of America. Proceeds will benefit both local organizations and participants can direct their support.

Download the program from the Network Indiana public websites at www.networkindiana.com. Look for the state police logo on the main page and follow the download instructions. The ISP Road Show can also be viewed via YouTube.

Go to www.youtube.com/channel/UCu5Bg1KjBd7H1GxgkuV3YJA or visit the Indiana State Police website at www.in.gov/isp/ and click on the YouTube link. This 15-minute talk show concentrates on public safety and informational topics with state wide interest.

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Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton

NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

Quite a bit of August weather felt like mid-September and I certainly hope that September doesn't feel like October. I'm definitely not ready for that kind of weather yet, I have way too much to get done. The days are getting shorter and the nights a little bit cooler, which means I've got to move faster to get the same amount of work done, but maybe in slightly better conditions.

I've left a small amount of pasture untouched since spring. It originally wasn't done intentionally, but I found myself needing more animals this year and just didn't get them. It wasn't just the price of purchasing more, it really was just a time thing; lack of sufficient time that is.

I am actually surprised by the quality of that stand and the abundance of native forbs and legumes. Lots of desmodium, better known as tickfool, tick-trefoil, beggars tick or stick-tights...you know, those things that stick to your pant leg and are bean-shaped. There has always been a few around, but they have multiplied rapidly the last couple years. When vegetative, they have good nutritional value and are readily consumed by both cattle and sheep. The mature seed, although a nuisance to pick off your clothes, are a good high-energy food source for quail and other upland birds.

I like diversity in the pasture and when native plants, especially legumes, thrive you know the whole system is thriving and improving. Some might call it a weed (a weed is any plant out of place or where not wanted), but in this case, it is where it should be growing and so a good thing. Now, cocklebur, jimsonweed or horse nettle are just weeds and best not found in the pasture, though I'm sure they have their place. I'm just not sure where that is.

Where was I? Oh, my procrastinated portion of pasture. I know I will have potential gain in more soil organic matter; dense, deep roots formed by maturing plants. Though a large amount of forage on the surface can add to the duff or cover and eventually be broken down for other organisms to use, what is going on below ground is where you really make the biggest differences in carbon. The more plant growth you have, the bigger and more mature it reaches, the more roots it is going to grow. If the plant has lots of fibrous roots, you will add carbon to the soil. The organic matter on this site has increased almost 2% in the last 5 years. There was a time when I would have said that that was impossible. I've been convinced for several years now that plant height has a major impact on soil quality, plant regrowth and yield over time. What surprises me now is how far we can possibly take it.

An old monoculture field of tall fescue would not improve itself without major shifts in management. Overgrazing and multiple cuttings of hay, especially with limited fertility is more likely to take you in the wrong direction and decrease forage and soil quality. Twelve or fifteen years ago if I had skipped an area and not grazed it until this time of year it would have been very disappointing and the livestock would have been glaring at me too. But, because of the increased soil organic matter and below-ground life, we have boosted and invigorated the soil and it really works now. It is just not the same.

I think I may have taken it to extremes this year, but again it is much better than expected. I aim to do some sampling of the forage grazed for quality and probably check the ergovaline (endophyte toxin) levels in the tall fescue present. The big question will be answered when it is grazed and if the livestock give their approval or not.

I do think that we can afford to lose some quality (tongue in cheek) and "harvested" yield to reap the benefits of improving soil quality which will provide long-term com-



This deferred pasture looks worse than it really is.

pounding interest. I also think there are trade-offs to start with. Out of curiosity, I put about 40 units of nitrogen on this field to have something else to compare to. It will be interesting to see any differences in grazing preferences and crude protein values. This deferred forage would be just "fair to middling" for long-term stockpile, but would make decent forage for high density short duration grazing the next 60 days or so. Either way, it would be best utilized in daily or two day allocations to be the most efficient with it.

Longer rest periods between grazing periods allow for deeper roots no matter what system is used. I prefer a 60 to 70 day rest where major soil organic matter building is needed, the rest of the time 14 to 45 days, depending on the time of year and speed of regrowth. Enough with that topic.

We still have time yet to get cover-crop planting done for some nice fall and possibly spring grazing. I really like the combination of cereal rye, oats and a forage-type turnip. The oats and turnips will excel this fall and provide lots of good grazing opportunities while the rye will lay low and then take off strong next spring. With adequate moisture I have seen yields of three or more tons per acre produced in a very short period of time. Ideally, these stands should be strip-grazed with a back fence if you want to try and get multiple grazing periods from them. The weather does play a big part though. We will need to have some moisture and ideally good growing conditions for several weeks and a late freeze. The turnips will tolerate colder conditions than the oats and quite often can be grazed even under snow. The spring oats will normally not survive the winter.

Keep on grazing!

Reminders & Opportunities

National Grazing Conference – Grapevine, TX, December 13-16, 2015. For more information, go to: www.grazinglands.org/grazing-conference/

American Forage & Grassland Council Conference – January 10-13, 2016, Baton Rouge, Louisiana – For more information, go to: www.afgc.org/annual_conference.php

Northern Indiana Grazing Conference – February 5-6, 2016, Michiana Event Center, Howe, IN – Speakers for the conference will include Gary Zimmer, Reggie Destree, David Schlabach, Jim Adkins, and James Landis. For more information, go to: www.la-grangeswcd.org/_mgxroot/page_10791.html

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference – March 2, 2016, Crane, IN – Allan Nation (Stockman Grass Farmer Magazine), Wesley Tucker, and Doug Peterson are the speakers. For more information, contact the Daviess County Soil and Water Conservation office at 812-254-4780, Extension 3, email Toni Allison at dc.swcd@daviess.org, or visit their website at www.daviesscoswcd.org/index.php/sigc or www.facebook.com/SouthernIndianaGrazingConference

Information about white snakeroot and other toxic plants to livestock can be found at www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ws/ws_37_toxicplants08.pdf.

More pasture information and past issues of Grazing Bites are available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/technical/landuse/pasture/

DNR proposes regular-season 2015 waterfowl season dates

The regular-season waterfowl dates, as proposed to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by the Indiana DNR, are listed below.

The dates are not final until approved by the USFWS in mid- to late-September. Look for another announcement around that time that will either confirm or amend these dates. Historically, they have been accepted as proposed.

The DNR's recommended dates for ducks, coots and mergansers are:

North Zone: October 24 to December 13 and December 19-27

Central Zone: October 31 to November 8 and November 21 to January 10

South Zone: October 31 to November 8 and November 28 to January 17

The daily bag limit for ducks in all zones is six, including no more than four mallards (of which no more than two can be hens), three scaup, three wood ducks, two pintails, two redheads, two canvasbacks, one black duck and one mottled duck. The daily bag limit for coots is 15. The daily bag limit for mergansers, separate from ducks, is five, of which no more than two can be hooded mergansers. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates the mallard breeding population at a record-high 11.6 million, 7 percent higher than last year and 51 percent higher than the long-term average. Estimates of most species were similar to last year's record-setting estimates. Total ducks, gadwalls, green- and blue-winged teal, shovelers and redheads remain at or near record levels in 2015.

For Canada geese, white-fronted geese, brant and light geese, the proposed dates are:

North Zone: October 24 to November 22 and December 12 to January 24

Central Zone: October 31 to November 8 and November 21 to January 24

South Zone: October 31 to November 8

Explore history of Monroe Lake on guided paddling trip

Monroe Lake is offering its popular paddling trip, Back-story in the Back-water, at Pine Grove State Recreation Area on Saturday, September 12, at 8 a.m.

The trip focuses on the reservoir's cultural history. Attendees will learn about families that lived in the area and how the land became a reservoir. The trip also will visit some remnants from pre-reservoir days.

The three- to four-hour trip is designed for intermediate or advanced paddlers, ages 15 and older. Beginning paddlers may participate only if they are accompanied in the same boat by a more experienced paddler. No paddling instruction will be provided.

Registration is required by September 9 at bit.ly/backstorysep2015. There is a \$10 program fee, and the trip is limited to 15 people. Participants can bring their own kayak or canoe, or rent a kayak for an additional \$25.

Pine Grove State Recreation Area (stateparks.IN.gov/2954.htm) is at the end of Pine Grove Road off of State Road 446, Bloomington, 47401.

and November 28 to January 31

The bag limit for all dark geese (Canada, white-fronted and brant) has changed this year. The new limit is five, no more than three of which can be Canada geese. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. The daily bag limit for light geese (snow, blue and/or Ross' geese) is 20, with no possession limit for light geese.

The proposed late season for Canada geese is February 1-15. The counties open during the late season are: Adams, Allen, Boone, Clay, DeKalb, Elkhart, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Huntington, Johnson, Kosciusko, LaPorte, LaGrange, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Noble, Parke, St. Joseph, Shelby, Steuben, Starke, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo, Wells and Whitley.

The daily bag limit during this season is three Canada geese, with a possession limit of nine.

The proposed light goose conservation order is February 1 to March 31, statewide, except for those counties that have a late season on Canada geese. For those counties with a late season on Canada geese, the proposed light goose conservation order season is February 16 to March 31.

The light goose conservation order has no bag or possession limit. A free permit is required. Details will be available later in the winter. The DNR's recommended dates for youth waterfowl season are:

North Zone: October 17-18

Central Zone: October 24-25

South Zone: October 24-25

Bag and possession limits are the same as the regular seasons. The youth waterfowl season is open to youths age 15 and younger, accompanied by an adult. DNR's recommended dates for extended falconry season for ducks, coots and mergansers are:

North Zone: September 27-30 and February 15 to March 10

Central Zone: October 24-30 and February 18 to March 10

South Zone: October 24-30 and February 18 to March 10

For more information, contact Adam Phelps, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, at (812) 334-1137, or aphelps@dnr.IN.gov.

Indiana Master Naturalist course begins September 10 at Karst Farm Park

Monroe County Parks & Recreation and Monroe Lake are offering an Indiana Master Naturalist (IMN) course at Karst Farm Park in Bloomington beginning Thursday, September 10. IMN courses bring together natural-resource specialists with adult learners to foster a deeper understanding of Indiana's plants, water, soils and wildlife.

The Bloomington IMN course will meet on Thursdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. through November 12. Course registration is limited to 20 people, and the cost is \$50 per person or \$75 for a couple (same household).

Participants must register with Monroe County Parks & Recreation by September 8 at 4 p.m. by calling (812) 349-2800

More information about the IMN course is available at dnr.IN.gov/parklake/files/sp-Monroe_IMN.pdf.

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USDA adds more eligible commodities for Farm Storage Facility Loans

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini last week announced that the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program, which provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities, will now include dairy, flowers and meats as eligible commodities.

"For 15 years, this program has provided affordable financing, allowing American farmers and ranchers to construct or expand storage on the farm," said Dolcini. "By adding eligible commodities, these low-interest loans will help even more family farmers and ranchers to expand on-site storage."

The new commodities eligible for facility loans include floriculture, hops, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Commodities already eligible for the loans include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, and fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities.

Since 2000, more than 35,000 facility loans have been approved totaling \$2 billion in rural investments. On average, about 1,600 new loans are made each year. Produc-

ers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/price-support or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Shoreline fishing trip down the White River

Follow DNR Go FishIN coordinator Clint Kowalik as he travels down the White River on a fishing adventure, hitting several public access points from Noblesville through Indianapolis from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on September 11. At each spot, he'll do a little fishing, take a few pictures, and talk about the fish and the habitat in that area. Check out pics throughout the day on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/INfishandwildlife>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/infishwildlife>) or meet him at the river. Maybe you'll discover your next favorite fishing spot as you see a little more of the White River through the eyes of an angler.

Late-season irrigation decisions more difficult this year, expert says

BY DARRIN PACK
Purdue University News Service

This year's record rainfall across parts of the Midwest could make it more difficult for grain producers to determine a late-season irrigation strategy, a Purdue and Michigan State Extension irrigation specialist says.

Turning off the tap too early could reduce yield, but applying too much water to flood-damaged corn and soybean fields would be a waste of time, energy and money, said Lyndon Kelley.

"Late-August, early-September conditions in most years alleviate late-season irrigation scheduling questions," Kelley said. "The typical crop water use drops as average rainfall increases."

But in some flooded areas, crop development has been delayed, meaning the plants require more water than they normally would this late in the year.

"Often, the delayed portions of the fields have low yield potential for reasons other than lack of water," Kelley said. "If those areas account for less than a quarter of the irrigated area, producers shouldn't worry about additional applications."

By mid-August, damp soybean fields

could be at greater risk for developing white mold. Producers should spray the crop as few times as possible yet maintain at least 50 percent of the available soil water holding capacity until most pods turn yellow, Kelley says.

He advises applying as much as an inch of water at a time and allowing as much drying time as possible between applications. Limiting the number of applications helps to reduce the risk of a white mold outbreak, he said.

Plants with Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome generally have weaker root systems and a harder time taking in water, Kelley said. Producers should make sure the soil in the top 12 inches of the rooting area has higher moisture content.

Monitoring crop and soil conditions is especially important to ensure that the plants are getting the right amount of water, Kelley said.

Typically, soybean plants showing their first yellow pod need about one-tenth of an inch of water on a day when temperatures are in the mid-80s Fahrenheit, with corn at dent stage requiring slightly more.

Soils that form a tight ball show an even higher level of moisture that could sustain the plant for at least a few days.

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Recycling rewards

-Photo provided

During the Spring of the 2014-2015 school year, Loogootee Elementary students collected plastic bottle lids. The lids were collected to promote recycling and also to create two plastic benches for the school playground. During the first week of August, Loogootee Elementary Instructional Assistant Joni Parker and Martin County Recycling Center Director Laura Albertson took the 400-plus pounds of plastic lids to Evansville. The lids were then made into two plastic benches. Judge Lynne Ellis, The Lodge Restaurant, and Williams Brothers Pharmacy all contributed to pay for the benches to be made! The students are still collecting more lids. The plan is to have enough lids to make two more benches by fall break. Shown above in the front row, from left to right, are students, Gunner Fox, Macey Wathen, and Donna Yang. In the back row, from left to right, are Sarah Greene (The Lodge), Renae Keller (Williams Brothers Pharmacy), and Judge Lynne Ellis.

Lady Lions Varsity Volleyball comes in second at Screen Printing Plus Classic

The Loogootee Varsity Volleyball Team finished second in the Screen Printing Plus Classic last week. They won in the first game against Pike Central in two sets, 25-20 and 25-19.

Lading in points was Breanna Holloway with nine followed by Emily Brookshire with eight and Julianne Bell and Tyanna Graber with four each. Kylie Hall finished with six kills and four digs; Mya Hedrick and Holloway each had five kills. Brookshire finished with nine digs, Callie Winger had five and Hall contributed four.

The ladies also defeated South Spencer at the Classic in three sets, 25-21, 24-26, and 15-5. Breigh LaMar finished with 19 points, 13 assists and two digs; Holloway had seven points and three kills; and Brookshire had six points and 10 digs. Also contributing was Bell with 12 kills, Emily Bateman with six.

Jody Seals added eight assists and two digs. Hall had four digs.

The Lady Lions were defeated by Mount Vernon in three sets, 25-23, 18-25, and 15-8. Hall finished with 17 points and four kills; Holloway had five digs and five points; Tyanna Graber also contributed five points. Mya Hedrick finished with seven kills followed by Bell with six. LaMar had 10 assists and Seals finished with six. Brookshire had 14 digs.

The girls were also defeated by Princeton in two sets, 17-35 and 14-35. Bell and Graber finished with four kills each followed by Holloway with three. LaMar added 11 assists and two points, Seals had six assists, Brookshire had eight digs, Hall had three digs, and Bell also contributed two points.

The varsity and junior varsity teams took on Pike Central last Thursday night. The

varsity won in five sets, 14-25, 25-15, 21-25, 25-22, and 15-10. Hall finished with 17 points, 10 kills and six digs; Brookshire had 11 points and 12 digs and Bell finished with seven points and 14 kills. Also contributing were Hedrick with nine kills, Seals with 21 assists, LaMar with 16 assists, and Winger with 12 digs.

The junior varsity also defeated Pike Central in two sets, 25-22 and 25-20. Katie Sims finished with 10 points followed by Savannah McAtee with six and Sydney Davis with five points, nine assists, and three kills. Kashten Burch had 13 assists, Olivia Winger had six kills and Maelee Hawkins added three kills. Madisyn Wade also contributed one block.

On Tuesday night this week the girls took on Southridge. The varsity was defeated in five sets, 25-21, 25-23, 20-25, 20-25, and 14-16.

LaMar led in points with 10 followed by Graver with nine and Hall with eight. Hall also had eight digs and seven kills. Brookshire contributed 12 digs, Holloway and Bateman each had four. Holloway also had six kills. Bell contributed 10 kills and Hedrick had six. Seals finished with 16 assists and LaMar had 13.

The varsity record moves to 7-3 on the season.

The junior varsity won against Southridge in two sets, 25-14 and 25-20. Burch led in points with 15 (6 aces) and 12 assists. McAtee finished with seven points and six kills; Emily Whitworth had four points, Wade had five kills and Winger and Hawkins each had three. Davis also contributed seven assists.

The junior varsity record moves to 5-1 on the season.

Loogootee Boys' Tennis results

The Loogootee High School Boys' Tennis Teams took on Washington last Thursday, August 27. The varsity team was defeated 1-4 and the junior varsity also lost 0-4.

Head Coach Rick Graves said, "We played a veteran team strong tonight, which I think is a very positive sign. Trysten Booker did a great job, I'm really proud of his effort. He had a game plan in mind and stuck to it throughout the match. He has a tendency to try to be a bit overly aggressive at times but when he plays within himself he can play very well. Wyatt played a good match but had a few too many unforced errors. A couple of points here or there and the outcome might have been different. Max and Bailey lost the momentum early in the third set and couldn't recover, but they played hard throughout. I like what I'm seeing from our doubles in general. They're having to learn quickly but are making progress."

Varsity results
Washington 4, Loogootee 1
#1 Singles - Lucas Miller (W) defeated Landon Bell (L) 6-2, 6-0
#2 Singles - Jacob Overton (W) defeated Wyatt Wade (L) 7-6(3), 7-5
#3 Singles - Trysten Booker (L) defeated Caleb Arthur (W) 7-5, 2-6, 7-6(4)
#1 Doubles - Jayden Barley and Kaden Pfender (W) defeated Sheldan Christmas and Landon Wittmer (L) 6-1, 6-3
#2 Doubles - John Rook and Clay Walker (W) defeated Max Christmas and Bailey Dearwester (L) 6-3, 3-6, 6-0

Junior varsity results
Washington 4, Loogootee 0
#1 Singles - Kaleb Knepp (W) defeated Luc Burch (L) 6-3
#2 Singles - Nate Napier (W) defeated Luc Burch (L) 6-4
#1 Doubles - Christian Andis and Ben Lambert (W) defeated Jake Carrico and Gavin Wittmer (L) 8-0
#2 Singles - Mitch Gray and Zack Walker (W) defeated Jake Carrico and Gavin Wittmer (L) 8-2

On Saturday, the teams took on Heritage Hills. The varsity was defeated 2-3 and the junior varsity tied 2-2.

"This was a really good, competitive match down to the very end. I'm really proud of the way Sheldan and Landon persevered. They made a big comeback in the first set after being down 1-4. They started slowly in the second set and nearly pulled off another comeback. In the third set they got a couple of service breaks early and made them count. They did a really good job of maintaining their composure and won big points when we needed them. Max and Bailey also started slow but once they got the momentum they played really well. We're not very experienced so we have a lot to learn about doubles but both teams are doing a good job for us. I'm equally proud of Trysten Booker. He continues to play well at three singles. He's shown a lot of resiliency and determination this season," said Coach Graves.

Varsity results
Loogootee 3, Heritage Hills 2
#1 Singles - Tyler Waggoner (HH) defeated Landon Bell (L) 6-3, 6-1
#2 Singles - Cameron Van Winkle (HH) defeated Wyatt Wade (L) 6-4, 6-2
#3 Singles - Trysten Booker (L) defeated Sam Martin (HH) 6-2, 6-2
#1 Doubles - Sheldan Christmas and

Landon Wittmer (L) defeated Gavin Fella and Keith Woolems (HH) 6-4, 4-6, 7-5
#2 Doubles - Max Christmas and Bailey Dearwester (L) defeated Pierce Brown and Dalton Gray (HH) 7-5, 6-2

Junior varsity results
Loogootee 2, Heritage Hills 2
#1 Singles - Landon Diamond (L) defeated Tray Hirt (HH) 8-7
#2 Singles - Chandler Smith (HH) defeated Luc Burch (L) 8-4
#1 Doubles - Jacob Lubbehusen and Logan Smallwood (HH) defeated Jake Carrico and Gavin Wittmer (L) 6-2
#2 Singles - Jake Carrico and Gavin Wittmer (L) defeated Kyle Bircher and Luke Peters (HH) 6-4

On Monday, August 31, the boys went up against Vincennes Rivet. The varsity fell 2-3 and the junior varsity tied 1-1.

Coach Graves said after the matches, "This was a tough one to lose. We had opportunities where we could have won the match but you have to give Rivet credit because they found a way to come back and to win. Landon Bell put together a nice match. This is his first season playing number one singles and he's finding everyone has a good number one player. He did a good job of putting the pressure on his opponent and forcing his style of play. I can't say enough good things about Trysten Booker. He just would not give up. He played for nearly four hours and was down 2-5 in the third set before coming back to win. I'm really proud of his effort, his determination and willingness to win. He did a wonderful job tonight."

Varsity results
Vincennes Rivet 3, Loogootee 2
#1 Singles - Landon Bell (L) defeated Trevor Stenger (VR) 6-1, 6-1
#2 Singles - Colton Mouzin (VR) defeated Wyatt Wade (L) 6-4, 6-2
#3 Singles - Trysten Booker (L) defeated Dave Evans (VR) 7-6(2), 5-7, 7-6(5)
#1 Doubles - Ben Templin and Thomas Vieke (VR) defeated Sheldan Christmas and Landon Wittmer (L) 6-0, 6-4
#2 Doubles - James Hancock and Hunter Ingram (VR) defeated Max Christmas and Bailey Dearwester (L) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4

Junior varsity results
Loogootee 1, Vincennes Rivet 1
#1 Singles - Landon Diamond (L) defeated Cane Claycomb (VR) 8-6
#2 Singles - Cane Claycomb (VR) defeated Gavin Wittmer (L) 8-2

LHS Cross Country results

Loogootee High School Cross Country team held a meet at home on August 25 against Shoals, North Knox and South Knox.

Coach Adam Tompkins said, "I'll start off with saying every single runner improved from the previous meet by a lot. Our home course is one of the hardest courses we run all year and was extremely pleased with how they performed. I did have a few runners out to illness and injury."

Boys placed 2nd
6th Jon Krzesniak 19:06
8th Chris Hager 19:22
9th Jake Simmons 19:33
16th Logan Randolph 21:59
20th Nick Rienhart 22:25
23rd Ethan Farmer 25:50
27th Tristan Jones 34:20
Girls
16th Colie Famer 31:41
17th Kayla Taylor 32:48

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Purdue, IUPUI, State of Indiana part of team on \$171 million flexible hybrid electronics manufacturing initiative

Researchers at Purdue University and Indiana University Purdue University, Indianapolis (IUPUI) are partnering with global industry leaders in the Midwest and the state of Indiana as part of a \$171 million federal initiative to advance research and manufacturing in the field of flexible hybrid electronics.

Researchers at Purdue will lead a \$13 million component of the five-year U.S. Department of Defense effort to launch the Flexible Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing Innovation Institute (FHE MII), which will focus on the design, manufacturing and integration of electronics and sensors. It also will examine assembly and test automation for using complex flexible hybrid electronics on non-traditional conformal, bendable, stretchable and foldable substrates.

"This public-private partnership represents the ideal mix of industry and university researchers working together to create jobs, strengthen the economy and potentially benefit a wide array of markets," said Purdue President Mitch Daniels. "The spin-off benefits to students also will be substantial by providing research opportunities to prepare them for careers in the increasingly competitive global marketplace that demand highly skilled people."

Flexible hybrid electronics, an emerging manufacturing capability, enables the integration of thin silicon electronic devices, sensing elements, communications and power on non-traditional flexible substrates. These could include flexible glass, plastic, paper - even the human skin - and are used in everything from wristwatches, video displays and other communication components to medical prosthetics, robotics and sensors.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced Friday (August 28) the selection of the FlexTech Alliance for Flexible, Hybrid and Printed Electronics team during a ceremony in San Jose, California, where the national institute will be based.

The project, which is receiving \$75 million from the Department of Defense and \$96 million in cost-sharing from private companies, universities and many state economic development agencies, joins five other federal institutes launched through President Barack Obama's National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI).

Joining Purdue on the FHE MII project are 96 companies, 11 laboratories and non-profits, 41 other universities, and 14 state and regional organizations.

The Purdue-IUPUI team, led by Purdue electrical and computer engineering professor Ali Shakouri, will focus on applying flexible hybrid electronics in pharmaceuticals, or smart pills, sensors used in food packaging or agriculture, and smart wound dressings.

Key industry partners include Eli Lilly & Co., Roche Diagnostics USA, Molex Inc., IMA Life, Landauer, Smith & Nephew, Kimball Electronics and Samsung. Another key partner is the Battery Innovation Center, adjacent to the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Indiana.

"As the nation's leader in manufacturing and a life sciences industry that's grown by \$27 billion in just over a decade, Indiana is the ideal place to develop these next generation, advanced flexible electronics manufacturing technologies," said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Victor Smith. "These types of collaborative initiatives between the state, private industry and Indiana's top research universities are key to driving our economy forward. Combined with the state's growing, skilled workforce and resources like the Battery Innovation Center, Hoosiers are leading discovery and innovation that power our world."

Through Purdue's strengths in roll-to-roll nanomanufacturing, the team will examine how to enable low-cost fabrication for those applications. In addition, research will focus on inkjet/pulsed laser processing and printable nano-ink synthesis, flash light curing and sintering systems. It also will study low-frequency RF plasma chemical vapor deposition for graphitic materials such as flexible connectors, super-capacitors and glucose sensors.

The Indiana effort will focus on advancing new nano-inks synthesized at IUPUI that will be used in roll-to-roll manufacturing systems at Purdue.

"While hundreds of commercial products rely on smart sensors, there remains a question of scale and cost," said Shakouri, the Mary Jo and Robert L. Kirk Director at the Birck Nanotechnology Center in Discovery Park. "Nanomanufacturing techniques don't support mass-scale production because of the difficulty in fabricating a large number of smart devices repeatedly and under precisely controlled conditions. Moreover, nanomanufacturing involves several processes and a high level of integration."

Shakouri has established strong ties with industry leaders that see promise in flexible hybrid electronics through Purdue's recently launched Printing SMART Film Initiative.

That initiative, which has tapped 24 faculty members across 10 Purdue schools, is developing economical printing and manufacturing methods for these aware-responsive films, which can record data and provide real-time feedback. Smart films have applications in pharmacy, agriculture, food packaging and functional non-woven materials used for wound dressings and diapers.

Using a new Birck laboratory for roll-to-roll manufacturing completed in early 2015, the SMART film manufacturing techniques also include custom-designed roll-to-roll systems and functional printing.

"This national effort builds on Purdue's engineering strengths as we pursue advances as part of a broader nanomanufacturing initiative at Birck where we focus on roll-to-roll production of smart thin films for applications in pharmacy and agriculture," Shakouri says.

Purdue is already a part of two of the five previously announced NNMI institutes:

* In January, the U.S. Department of Energy selected a team that included Purdue to lead the \$270 million Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI) to develop the next generation of energy-efficient vehicles and wind energy and compressed gas storage technologies. Purdue will serve as home to the Indiana Manufacturing Institute, a \$50 million facility now under construction at the Purdue Research Park for advancing research on composite materials that could have a significant impact in many industries such as aerospace, aviation, automotive, energy and sporting equipment.

* In February 2014, Purdue joined a team led by Chicago's UI Labs for the launch of the \$320 million Digital Lab for Manufacturing, a Department of Defense project focused on digital manufacturing and the application of computing, sensing and data analytics to improve manufacturing machines and factories. Purdue is leading the application of 3-D modeling and enterprise interoperability standards for data exchange among companies within the Department of Defense supply chain. Purdue also is developing best practices for the use of 3-D modeling throughout a product supply chain.

Governor Pence announces Governor's Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment, and Prevention

Governor Mike Pence Monday announced the creation of the Governor's Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment, and Prevention (Task Force), an effort by his Administration to combat drug abuse in Indiana.

"We've created the Governor's Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment, and Prevention because it is time to take a holistic and collaborative approach to addressing substance abuse and its many heartbreaking repercussions in our state," said Governor Pence. "Drug abuse problems are not unique to Indiana, and while multiple entities are doing their part to combat drug abuse, we must work together as a state identify gaps that hinder us from preventing drug abuse, treating drug abuse, and effectively enforcing drug laws. An effort of this magnitude requires the insight and involvement of all three branches of government, multiple state agencies, local municipalities, experts in the fields of drug treatment and youth intervention, community outreach, medical authorities and I welcome the input of all of those who will be involved in this critical undertaking. Together is the best way to reduce, prevent, and treat drug addiction in Indiana."

Established by Executive Order, the Task Force will bring together Indiana experts from a variety of specialties to evaluate the growing national drug problem

here in Indiana. Specifically, the Task Force is charged with:

Statewide assessment: Evaluate the existing resources across all areas, identify gaps in enforcement, treatment and prevention and provide recommendations for improvement.

Enforcement: Identify effective strategies so federal, state, and local law enforcement can partner together to combat drug abuse

Treatment: Analyze available resources for treatment and identify best practices for treating drug addiction

Prevention: Identify programs and/or policies which are effective in preventing drug abuse, including early youth intervention programs

The Task Force will meet monthly for the next three months - on September 16, October 15, and November 19. The meetings will take place in the north, south, and central regions and will include testimony from local experts and families impacted by the epidemic. The Task Force will provide recommendations to the Governor throughout the process of meetings, and will prepare a final report of all findings and recommendations.

From 1999 to 2009, Indiana saw a 500 percent increase in the rate of drug overdose deaths, and in 2013, Indiana ranked 16th in highest overdose rate in the nation.

Indiana Department of Health investigates additional HIV cases tied to southeastern Indiana outbreak

The Indiana State Department of Health is investigating additional cases of HIV in southeastern Indiana. The cases were identified through testing performed through community outreach in response to an HIV outbreak fueled by injection drug abuse.

State health officials announced that the number of HIV cases in the outbreak is now 181 (177 confirmed cases and four preliminary positive). The most recent cases involve individuals linked to cases previously identified in the outbreak.

"Every case of HIV that's diagnosed in the state is troubling, but this disease isn't the death sentence it once was. It is a chronic disease that can be effectively managed," said Indiana State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams, M.D., M.P.H. "We are encouraged to know that the tools put in place to address the HIV epidemic are working to identify illnesses so we can connect people with treatment and other services that help them live healthier lives."

State health officials have been working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, local health departments, health care providers and others to contain the spread of HIV in southeastern Indiana. Disease Intervention Specialists continue to interview each newly identified HIV positive individual to obtain information about needle sharing and sex partners, as well as recommending care coordination services, medical care and HIV prevention information.

State health officials recommend that all Hoosiers know their HIV status. The best way for an individual to learn their HIV status is by getting tested by a health care professional. Hoosiers in the southeastern portion of the state, especially individuals who have engaged in high-risk behavior such as needle sharing and unprotected sex, are advised to get tested and then re-tested every two to three months as long as they are engaging in high-risk behaviors because HIV can take up to three months to appear in a person's system.

"Ideally, everyone would know their HIV status and take steps to prevent transmission of the virus," Dr. Adams said. "As we have found in the southeastern Indiana outbreak,

not everyone knows their status. Our local health partners continue to perform testing on a regular basis as part of our efforts to halt the spread of disease. We should expect to see additional cases of HIV as a result of those efforts."

To help reduce risk of HIV infection, avoid:

- injection drug use;
- sharing or re-using needles or works;
- engaging in unprotected sex; and,
- engaging in sex with commercial sex workers.

For HIV testing locations and information about HIV Care Coordination, individuals are encouraged to call the HIV Services Hotline at (866) 588-4948.

Individuals seeking help with substance abuse should call the national 24-hour addiction hotline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357). This hotline provides confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year information service, in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental health and/or substance use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups and community-based organizations. Callers can also order free publications and other information.

To learn more about the link between HIV infection and drug abuse, visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse at <http://hiv.drugabuse.gov/index.html>.

Visit the Indiana State Department of Health at www.StateHealth.in.gov. Follow the Indiana State Department of Health on Twitter at @StateHealthIN and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/isdh1.

Hoosiers who do not have health care coverage or access to a doctor are encouraged to check availability for the new Healthy Indiana Plan—HIP 2.0—by visiting www.HIP.IN.gov or calling 1-877-GET-HIP-9.

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IDHS survey to assess Hoosiers' emergency preparedness

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is gauging Indiana citizens' readiness for emergencies and disasters through a brief online survey. The outcomes of the survey will help the public safety community gain a greater understanding of how prepared Indiana residents are and how to help increase that preparedness.

The 10-minute online survey can be found on the IDHS website at www.in.gov/dhs under the "Featured Topics" section and clicking on "IDHS Citizen Preparedness Survey 2015." All who participate can enter a contest to win a free all hazards/weather radio. The survey is open today and will stay open until September 15.

The online survey is designed to emphasize the need for preparedness. September, which is National Preparedness Month, is a time when emergency management and other related partners specially emphasize being ready for an emergency or disaster. Messages during the month will seek to encourage all Hoosiers to take the necessary steps to ensure that their homes, workplaces and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds.

"Being ready for a major disaster is very important and the basics of a kit can be put together without a lot of effort or money," said IDHS Director of Public Information John Erickson. "Having a preparedness kit

can make the aftermath of an emergency or disaster easier for individuals and emergency responders. We hope that this survey will remind Hoosiers of the importance of being prepared and what they can do to improve their level of preparedness."

The survey was last conducted in 2013. One of the most compelling findings then was that almost half of the households surveyed did not have three days' worth of provisions on hand, even basic things like food and water, should a widespread emergency occur. Also concerning was that fifty-one percent of respondents unrealistically believed emergency personnel would be able to arrive at their residence within six hours of a widespread disaster. About 20 percent of those same respondents indicated they expected help at their residence within the first hour.

Erickson said asking Indiana residents how prepared they are for such a disaster is the key to understanding the needs of the population. This survey will help the IDHS gain a greater understanding of how to help educate Hoosiers about some simple, inexpensive actions they can take now that could make a significant difference should an emergency occur.

For more information on how to be ready for all type of emergencies, visit www.get-prepared.in.gov.

New Skill UP grants to impact regional workforce collaborations

With an estimated one million jobs to fill by 2025, the Hoosier workforce must continue to develop and enhance the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to excel in the jobs of the future. In an effort to meet this challenge, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is launching a new grant program to leverage partnerships and encourage regional collaboration for implementation of initiatives leading to increased skill attainment and career exposure opportunities for Indiana youth and adult students.

Skill UP Indiana, with up to \$11 million in total funding, is designed to support implementation of regional partnerships in developing career pathway systems, creating work and learn experiences, and integrating employability and technical skills development using a more sector-focused strategy aligned with the regional business environment.

"We continue to hear from employers with available high-wage, high-demand positions that aren't able to find candidates with the right skills and training," said Steven J. Braun, commissioner of DWD. "The goal of Skill UP Indiana is to cultivate regional partnerships that encourage implementation of those initiatives aligned with growing sectors and regional business needs."

Eligible applicants include industry-led partnerships involving all sizes of business, K-12 and post-secondary education entities, CTE centers, adult education programs, workforce training providers, economic development partners and local government units. A private match of 25% is required, which may include in-kind contributions or services of up to 10% of total project cost. These broad partnerships and cross-sector collaborations are intended to focus on innovative implementation strategies and local outcomes.

"These regional collaborations will work to identify skill sets and sector pathways in demand locally that will prepare individuals for existing positions and jobs of the future," said Braun. "We need to encourage earlier conversations, additional explorations, and provide career path tools that enable student and parents the opportunity to make informed decisions regarding high school classes and post-secondary options."

Providing access to the right training, at the right time, and taught in the right way is critical to meeting the state's future jobs demand, Braun added, noting that research

continues to show that work and learn opportunities result in greater exposure to career options, more engaged employees, higher job satisfaction and a beneficial experience for both student and employer.

The Skill UP Indiana program is designed to build on the Indiana Career Council's call for improved alignment of education and business needs. Created by the 2013 General Assembly, Career Council members include public and private sector leaders in areas of K-12 and higher education, business, economic development and workforce development. Chaired by Governor Mike Pence, the Career Council's strategic plan strives to align, engage and advance Indiana's efforts in education and workforce training.

"We want Hoosier students and adults to receive wider exposure to the broad range of career opportunities and perhaps not just those they're exposed to via family and friends," said Braun. "This program enhances educational options for all and will promote educational pathways that result in an immediate job as well as career growth opportunities."

Deadlines for applications for the new round of funding are December 31, with initial letters of interest due in late September. Additional information may be found at www.in.gov/dwd/skillup.htm. Technical assistance and an upcoming webinar will be available for those interested in applying for the grant program.

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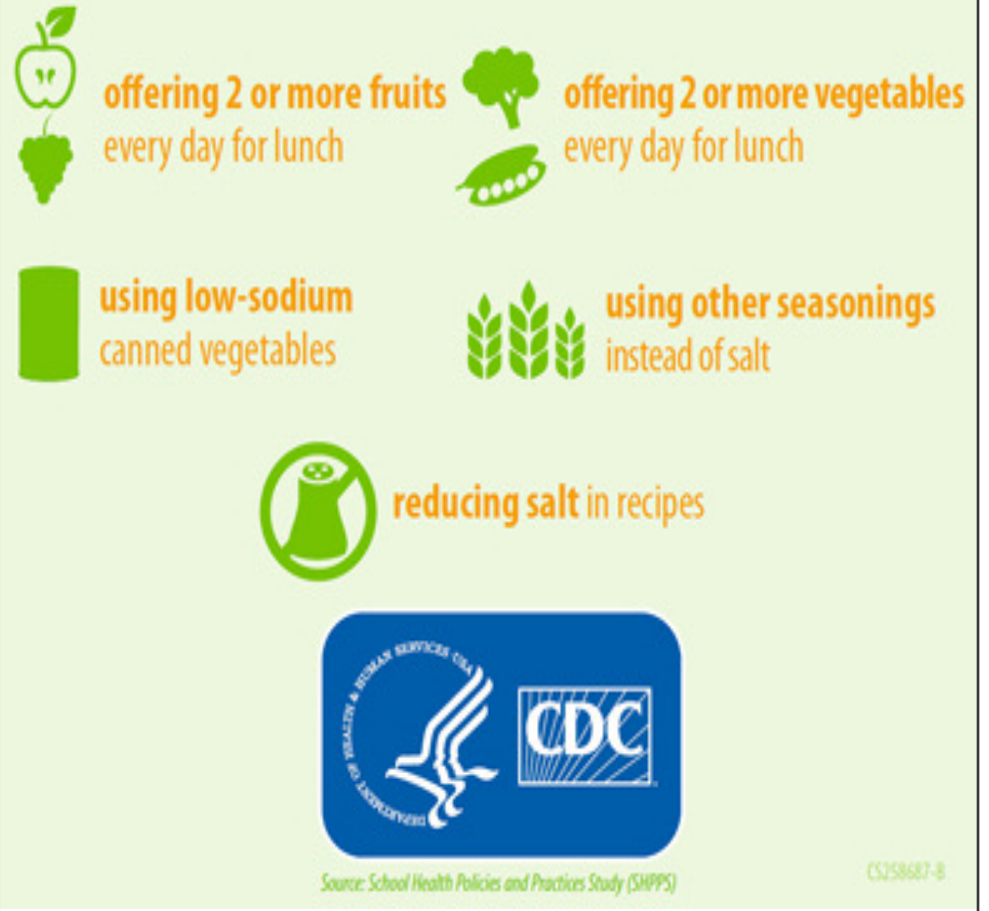


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Between 2000 and 2014 there was a significant increase in the percentage of U.S. schools:



America's schools make positive changes to create healthier school meals

Most schools in the U.S. are implementing healthy practices to help meet federal school meal standards by offering whole grains, more fruits and vegetables, and reducing sodium content, according to data published today in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. School meal programs are an important source of nutrition as students consume almost half of their daily calories at school.

CDC researchers analyzed school-level data from the School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS) for 2000, 2006, and 2014 to see how well schools are implementing practices related to the nutrition standards for school meals published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2012. The standards require serving more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains and gradually reducing sodium over 10 years. Previous studies have shown that students who eat school meals consume more milk, fruits, and vegetables during school meal times and have better intake of some key nutrients (such as calcium and fiber) than those who do not participate in the meal programs.

"School meals are healthier now than ever before. We've made real progress, but there is much more to do to help American children make food choices that will keep them healthy throughout their lives," said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.

Between 2000 and 2014, the percentage of schools implementing five of the nine school nutrition services practices examined has increased significantly.

Key Findings from 2014:

Almost all schools offered whole grains each day for breakfast (97.2 percent) and lunch (94.4 percent).

Most schools offered two or more vegetables (79.4 percent, up from 61.7 percent in 2000) and two or more fruits (78.0 percent, up from 68.1 percent in 2000) each day for lunch.

Nearly one-third (30.5 percent) of schools offered self-serve salad bars.

More than half of schools that prepared their meals at the school used fresh or frozen vegetables instead of canned (54.1 percent), used low-sodium canned vegetables instead of regular canned vegetables (51.8 percent, up from 10.3 percent

in 2000), used other seasonings instead of salt (65.1 percent up from 32.8 percent in 2000), and reduced the amount of sodium called for in recipes or used low-sodium recipes (68.0 percent up from 34.1 percent in 2000).

"We are encouraged that more schools are offering a variety of fruits and vegetables and finding ways to reduce the sodium content of school meals," said Caitlin Merlo, M.P.H., lead author of the study and health scientist in CDC's School Health Branch. "Schools play a critical role in demonstrating and reinforcing healthy eating behaviors by making sure that nutritious and appealing foods and beverages are available and promoted to students. This is particularly important because children's eating patterns carry into adulthood."

Improvement still needed

Although schools are moving in the right direction, there are many ways to further increase fruit and vegetable availability and reduce sodium in school foods.

Strategies to improve school nutrition services practices:

Schools can assess their nutrition policies and practices by completing CDC's School Health Index and implement strategies found in CDC's School Health Guidelines to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity.

School officials can ensure schools have appropriate equipment to prepare and serve fruits and vegetables (for example, food processors, knife sets with cutting boards, and refrigerators).

Schools can participate in partnerships like Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools.

Districts and schools can work with CDC-funded staff in state health departments (State Public Health Actions) to offer ongoing training for school-nutrition professionals, and to provide resource materials to school administrators, teachers, and parents to further improve school nutrition practices and support the meal programs.

U.S. schools have significantly improved school nutrition practices and should continue striving to provide a quality nutrition environment for students. For more information about CDC's Healthy Schools activities, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/>.