

Martin County JOURNAL

Year 10, Issue 49

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019

Seven pages

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Commissioners discuss ending Indian Creek Quarry's tax abatement

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Commissioners, at their meeting Tuesday, December 3, discussed terminating Indian Creek Quarry's tax abatement. The quarry received a 10-year tax abatement in 2013 on personal property totaling \$250,000. Commissioner Paul George expressed disappointment in the quarry for not submitting a bid to provide stone to the county. Auditor Bobbie Abel said they also didn't turn in the required CF-1 documentation for the tax abatement this year and the county is within legal rights to terminate the abatement. Discussion ensued on whether the quarry is under new ownership. Auditor Abel said it is her understanding that Rogers Group has purchased the quarry and it is expected to be finalized on December 11. The commissioners noted that the county council approved the tax abatement and would have to be the ones to remove it.

In other business, Chan Cornett followed up with the commissioners about the issue of trash covered properties he brought to them at their last meeting. Cornett wanted to know if the commissioners were able to get anything accomplished at the solid waste board meeting, held the evening after the last

commissioners meeting. Commissioner George said that Solid Waste Director Laura Albertson not being able to attend the meeting, they didn't really get into it. Cornett replied that it is not Albertson's job to appoint a sanitation officer or fund the position or enforce laws.

Commissioner Dan Gregory said they had a sanitation officer at one point in the past and it didn't work out well. Cornett asked why. Gregory said it was a few years ago so he doesn't remember why the position dissolved.

Cornett said he has spoken to the prosecutor who is in favor of prosecuting those residents who violate the law when it comes to illegal dumping however he has been told that when citations have been issued, they "die with the county attorney".

Commissioner Gregory said they would have to wait until they are able to involve Laura Albertson and then find a qualified candidate for the sanitation officer position, if there is money to fund the position.

"Hopefully we can see something happen," said Cornett, adding that he has been contacted by several county residents who are in favor of what he is trying to get accomplished with cleaning up the county.

(See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)

Tri Kappa scholarship applications available to college students

The state organization of Tri Kappa will award a variety of scholarships to college students throughout Indiana this spring. Each state academic scholarship awarded is in the amount of \$1,500. Key/vocational scholarships are given in the amount of \$1,000. Tri Kappa has provided scholarship awards since 1914 acknowledging students on the local, province and state levels. Chapters, provinces and the state organization combined, currently give nearly \$500,000 annually honoring academic achievement.

The state scholarship chair is currently seeking applicants for the following:

Twelve \$1,500 Academic Scholarships will be awarded throughout the state. Students that apply must currently be enrolled in a baccalaureate or graduate program, having completed at least one academic year. Criteria used by the Tri Kappa selection committee will be academic achievement, strong goals, extracurricular activities, work experience and volunteer service.

Two \$1,000 Key/Vocational Scholarships will be awarded to students throughout the state. These are directed to post high school students enrolled in an accredited vocational, technical or trade certification program. Criteria used by the Tri Kappa selection committee will be strong goals, work experience and volunteer service since high

school.

Two \$1,000 Fine Arts Scholarships will be awarded statewide to students majoring in art, dance, drama or music. Students that apply need to be currently enrolled in an accredited baccalaureate or graduate degree program, having completed at least one academic year.

The \$1,000 Twanette Nutter Fleming Music Award stipulates that the applicant must be enrolled in a fully accredited course of study leading to a degree to teach music in a private, public or parochial school, having completed at least one academic year.

Students wishing to apply for any of these scholarships are encouraged to contact Pam Loughmiller at (812)486-7863 or ploughmiller@gmail.com

Local deadline to submit scholarship applications to Delta Tau Chapter of Tri Kappa is Friday, January 17, 2020.

In addition to the state scholarships, The Loogootee - Shoals, Delta Tau Chapter of Tri Kappa will provide two local scholarships in the amount of \$500 each: one to a graduating Loogootee High School student and one to a graduating Shoals High School student with proof of college enrollment for the 2020-21 fall semester. Applications for those high school scholarships can be obtained from your high school counselor or by contacting Pam Loughmiller 812-486-7863 or ploughmiller@gmail.com.



Historical society gifted Allbright house

The Martin County Historical Society has been given the Allbright House in Shoals by the family of Mary Lou Allbright Doty. The historical society board is honored that the family has made this generous donation and placed their trust in their ability to preserve the historical value of the home. They plan to use the house for various events and tours. The grand opening will be on Saturday, December 7 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The theme is a 1945 Christmas, with a focus on World War II veterans returning from war to be with their families for Christmas. If anyone is willing to make cookies or candies for the event, please contact 812-247-1133. Also, if anyone has Christmas decor, particularly vintage 1940's style Christmas items they would like to donate, please contact the historical society. They are looking for lights, tinsel, ornaments, garland, tree skirts, wreaths, etc. to keep it in the era of the house and the theme which is in the late 30's - 40's.

Martin County Council holds last meeting of the year

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Martin County Council met for the last time this year Monday night, December 2, in a nine-minute meeting. Council Members Sheri Bowling and Warren Albright were not present.

Auditor Bobbie Abel reported that they received the initial approval for the 2020 budget and will receive final approval by December 31. The council approved the salary and wage ordinance for next year which included a 50-cent raise for full-time employees.

The council approved two transfer requests from the prosecutor's office. One from postage for \$450 to office supplies for \$420 and office cleaning for \$30.

The second was from the child support fund, \$50 from equipment maintenance, \$160 from conference/training and \$160 from office cleaning to be moved to office supplies for a total of \$370.

50th Anniversary celebration of the 1970 Loogootee Lions this Friday

Loogootee High School will be honoring the 50th anniversary of the 1970 Loogootee Lions team that went to the Final Four at the home game for the Lions against Wood Memorial on Friday, December 6.

It will all start in the high school cafeteria. There will be a reception honoring the team members, student managers, cheerleaders, and coaches from 5-6:30 p.m. Please come visit with our "idols" from 50 years ago, take photos, and relive one of the greatest years in Loogootee Basketball History.

The honored guest will be introduced

The council also approved moving the Community Crossings matching grant funds of \$234,500 from Rainy Day to the highway department's account to pay invoices. Council Member Buck Stiles asked if all of the work will be completed this year. Highway Secretary Terri Alcorn replied that the work has already been completed however some invoices are just now coming in.

Auditor Abel entered the annual CF-1 documentation from tax abatements for approval. CF-1 documents were submitted by Westgate 5&6, Martin County 1&2 LLC, Wagbaugh and US Gypsum. Council Member Stiles said he thought there were 10 companies who had tax abatements. Auditor Abel replied that she only received documents from seven and did not receive anything from Indian Creek Quarries. The council approved all documents with no further discussion.

The council will hold their reorganizational meeting on Monday, January 6 at 6 p.m.

later in the evening during the games. The evening will finish after the games at the VFW. The VFW has been rented and everyone is invited to come visit and party like it's 1970 again. and snacks will be provided.

Organizers have confirmation that every player will be represented. Nine of them in person. Three of the four student managers plan to attend along with all five cheerleaders and their coach, Linda Mehringer. Of course, the leaders of this merry band, Coach Butcher and Coach Nonte will be in attendance.



'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING!

It seems like the Christmas season is a time when people become more aware of the needs of others. If you want to help but aren't sure where or how to donate, the Martin County Community Foundation is a good place to start. By donating to the MCCF, you are creating a positive impact that makes Martin County better, and your gift will keep giving forever. Now is a great time for giving for another reason too - when you make a donation by December 31st to the MCCF, you are also creating a tax break for yourself. Here are some ways to make the most of your year-end giving.

GIVE EARLY

A gift by check is complete when mailed (postmarked) by December 31st. If you plan to hand-deliver a check or cash to the MCCF, do it plenty early to be sure we're available to accept the donation by the end of the year. The MCCF also has the option of donating online at www.cfpartner.org. Unless a specific fund is requested in a note (Paypal has this option), online credit card gifts go toward our general unrestricted fund. Online gifts can be donated up until 11:59 p.m. on December 31st.

REVIEW YOUR STOCKS

Consider a year-end gift of appreciated stock. If you donate stock, you will receive a charitable deduction for the current market value of the stock, which can provide significant savings in capital gains tax. Contact the MCCF for more information about how you can maximize your tax savings with gifts of stock.

YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

If you're receiving taxable income from an IRA, the Charitable IRA Rollover Act allows donors age 70 1/2 or older to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA without counting the distribution as income. Learn more about using your Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) to support the causes you care about most. The MCCF can provide

some information about IRA charitable rollovers. If you are interested in an IRA rollover gift for the current tax year, you should contact your financial advisor soon to take advantage of this benefit by December 31st.

GIVE NOW, DECIDE LATER

If you need a charitable tax deduction this year but are undecided about which nonprofits to support, consider opening a donor-advised fund at the MCCF. You can claim a deduction for contributions to your fund now even though distributions from the fund would be made in future years. Contact the MCCF for details.

LET US DO THE LEGWORK

Working with us gives you access to our knowledge of the local nonprofit community and the needs of our county. We're here to help you achieve your charitable goals. Contact the MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or mccf@cfpartner.org to get started.

-- WITH MORE NOW --

And as you consider your giving options, please know that if you want to help others deal with the changing and emerging needs in our county, your donation to an MCCF "unrestricted" fund will do that for you. And the MCCF has a matching grant opportunity where we will match \$2 for every \$1 donated to any of these unrestricted funds.

We will also match 50¢ for each \$1 donated to any other fund type such as designated, donor advised, scholarship or field of interest funds. The matching grant is available through December 2020, but on a first-come, first-served basis while the grant funds are available.

Make your giving count before 2019 ends!

-- MORE INFORMATION --

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

COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

Highway Superintendent Leo Padgett reported that all the blacktopping has been completed for the year however they had issues with County Road 800 North. A representative with Milestone Contractors was present at the meeting and told the commissioners that they are not sure why the blacktop failed on the road. He didn't know if it was an issue with the product they received. He told the commissioners that repairs have been made to the road however it cost them \$20,000. He asked the commissioners if they would be willing to help pay for some of the cost they incurred. Superintendent Padgett said his issue is that he knew the blacktop was not quality when it was put down and the highway department doesn't have any extra money to put toward the repairs. The representative said that it was fine if the county didn't have the money and they just wanted to fix the issue quickly to prevent the county from not choosing them for paving work in the future.

The commissioners voted to approve all highway department supply bids opened at the last meeting. The highway department will choose from each company based on the current project.

Community Corrections Director Kathy Collins requested the commissioners approve a contract with TRECS Debt Service, through the Association of Indiana Counties, to start garnishing state tax returns from clients who haven't paid their fees. The commissioners approved contingent on the county attorney reviewing the contract.

Bridget Redman, with ISU Insurance and Ky Yarling, with Colonial Insurance, talked to the commissioners about the county employees' health insurance for next year. Keeping the same insurance from last year will come with a 9.25 percent increase in premiums. Redman provided the commissioners with new options for insurance that would raise deductibles and co-payments but would be lower cost premiums than the 9.25 percent increase. The commissioners voted to stay with the current plan with the increase. Redman reported that the employees' vision insurance had no rate increase and the dental had a minimal increase.

Sheriff Travis Roush reported that they are currently 75 inmates in the jail with 25 of them being from Vigo County. Roush also told the commissioners that Area One Protection will be installing the new video surveillance equipment in the jail before the end of the year.

Auditor Abel presented a quote from Advantage Fire and Safety, of Jasper, to replace sprinkler heads in the upstairs of the courthouse for \$4,015 and a quote from Wagler & Sons to replace ceiling tiles in the upstairs of the courthouse for \$7,878.75. The commissioners approved both quotes.



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December 2019

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Obituaries

MARTIN COUNTY JOURNAL

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Page 3

LISA NEELEY

Peggy "Lisa" Neeley passed away Monday, November 25, 2019 at her home, surrounded by her family. A resident of Loogootee, she was 50.



She was born March 22, 1969 in Terre Haute; daughter of Stanley "Butch" Paton and Sharon (Morin) Pierce.

Lisa married Alan Neeley on April 15, 1995.

She was a retired pet groomer, avid hobbyist in growing unique succulent plants with a group of friends nationwide. She loved to spend time with her family, her grandchildren, and her dog Leroy.

Lisa was preceded in death by her father, Stanley "Butch" Paton, father-in-law, Robert Neeley, mother-in-law, Freda Neeley, and her brother, Danny Hamilton.

She is survived by her loving husband of 24 years, Alan Neeley, her mother; Sharon (Jimmy) Pierce, her sons, Michael Decker and Dustin (Erin) Decker; her siblings, Bobby (Tammy) Hamilton, Angela Allbright, Valerie (Zeplyn) Keller, and Bobby Craven; her in-laws, Michael (Kim) Neeley and Doug (Becky) Neeley, seven grandkids, and ten nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Saturday, November 30 at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee. Burial followed in Scotland Cemetery.

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

KENNETH PANSELL

Kenneth Earl Pannell, loving husband and father of three children, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, No-

vember 28, 2019, after battling brain cancer. He went peacefully, surrounded by the love of close family members. A resident of Bloomington, he was 79. Ken was born on February 2, 1940 in Bedford; son of the late Earl and Louise (Colburn) Pannell. After graduating high school from Loogootee, he married his high school sweetheart, I. Jewell (Livingston) on May 16, 1959 and began his 22 years of honorable service in the US Air Force. Ken and Jewell raised their children, Victoria Land-Rodda (Donald), K. Scott Pannell (Teresa) and Robyn Ackermann (James), all who survive. Additional survivors include two brothers, Don Pannell of Evansville and Roy Pannell of Loogootee; six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one brother, Thomas Pannell.

Ken retired from a career in Satellite Communications with the Air Force as a Chief Master Sergeant. His military career took him abroad to Germany and the Philippines, with a daughter born at each of these two locations, and he served from coast to coast of the continental United States, in Washington, DC during our bicentennial year, at Cheyenne Mountain NORAD in Colorado, and completing his career in California, near NASA. Their son, Scott, was born at Scott AFB in Illinois, and now Ken is being honored at the end of his life by Air Force officials from Scott AFB, who will present the flag as part of the military honors during his funeral service.

Following his military career, Ken subsequently retired from his civilian career with the National Education Association in Washington, DC where he oversaw computer operations. Ken was always interested in mathematics and would have made an engaging teacher, so it was only fitting that he chose NEA as his second career. Ken and Jewell came back home to Indiana after his two wonderful careers,



KENNETH PANSELL

to retire and enjoy family and life-long friends. Having retired young, Ken & Jewell were able to enjoy many years of traveling that included several cruises, a destination vacation to Hawaii and bus tours throughout the United States. Ken & Jewell recently celebrated 60 years of glorious marriage with family and close friends at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, where they have been active members since they returned to Bloomington 24 years ago.

Ken's past time was his family, and was actively engaged with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was an avid reader, loved bowling, working crossword puzzles, playing hours of Scrabble, and loved his enduring friendships with his church family. He embodied a man of the highest character and of all of life's accomplishments, our family would be remiss if we didn't highlight his patriotism and how much his Air Force career meant to him, and the honor it was for him to serve his country.

Funeral services were held Monday, December 2 at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church in Bloomington, with Tom Ellsworth officiating. Burial followed at Valhalla Memory Gardens in Bloomington.

Contributions to the American Cancer Society may be made in memory of Kenneth E. Pannell.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

2:35 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

6:26 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

7:00 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

8:43 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to IU Health in Bedford.

9:50 a.m. - Received a dog complaint near Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

2:00 p.m. - Deputy Wright took two inmates to court.

3:48 p.m. - Received a report of a theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Police Department responded.

5:20 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231, south of Loogootee. Deputy Wells responded.

10:02 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

10:15 p.m. - Received a report of suspicious noises north of Shoals. Deputy Seymour responded.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

12:40 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Floyd responded.

5:49 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident south of Loogootee on US 231. Deputy Seymour responded.

9:30 a.m. - Deputy Wright took two inmates to court.

10:14 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

10:32 a.m. - Received a report of debris on a county road. Corporal Reed responded.

11:30 a.m. - Received a report of a reckless driver near Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded.

2:00 p.m. - Deputy Wright took two inmates to court.

2:40 p.m. - Received a report of a disabled vehicle on US 50. Deputy Wright responded.

4:07 p.m. - Deputy Wells assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock in Loogootee.

4:10 p.m. - Deputy Wells assisted a motorist with a vehicle identification check south of Loogootee.

5:13 p.m. - Received a dog complaint near Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

5:37 p.m. - Received a dog complaint east of Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

6:11 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Deputy Wells, Deputy Barnett, and Loogootee Officer Cummings responded.

9:58 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett and Loogootee was notified.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

1:11 a.m. - Received a report of two trees down on SR 150, east of Shoals. Shoals Fire removed the trees.

2:29 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down east of Shoals on US 50. Shoals

Fire removed the tree.

3:12 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down on SR 150, east of Shoals. Shoals Fire removed the tree.

3:40 a.m. - Received a report of tree down on SR 450, north of Shoals. Shoals Fire removed the tree.

4:51 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down on US 50, east of Shoals. Shoals Fire removed the tree.

5:38 a.m. - Received a report of tree limbs blocking SR 450, north of Shoals. Shoals Fire removed the limbs.

7:30 a.m. - Received an alarm call in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Rayhill responded and all was secure.

7:54 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down on SR 450, north of Shoals. Shoals Fire removed the tree.

7:53 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down near Shoals. County Highway removed the tree.

8:10 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down on SR 150, east of Shoals. State highway removed the tree.

8:25 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:09 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down south of Loogootee. County highway removed the tree.

9:15 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down on US 50, east of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene and Shoals Fire removed the tree.

9:30 a.m. - Deputy Wright took two inmates to court.

10:00 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down near Shoals. County highway removed the tree.

10:10 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down near Shoals. County highway removed the tree.

10:45 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down near Shoals. County highway removed the tree.

11:05 a.m. - Received a report of a fire near Loogootee. Loogootee Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded.

11:42 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

12:05 p.m. - Deputy Wright assisted a motorist in Loogootee with a vehicle unlock.

12:23 p.m. - Received a report of trespassing in Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene responded.

3:32 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic south of Loogootee Deputy Wright responded.

4:19 p.m. - Received a report of cows out west of Shoals. Chief Deputy Greene, Corporal Reed, and Deputy Lents responded.

6:02 p.m. - Received a report of road rage near Loogootee. Deputy Lents responded.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

12:13 a.m. - Received an alarm call in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth and Deputy Seymour responded. All was secure.

1:05 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Allen responded, and all was okay.

1:40 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer Allen responded.

2:18 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Haysville Fire

responded. No one was transported.

4:58 p.m. - Deputy Barnett assisted a motorist with a vehicle unlock near Shoals.

6:10 p.m. - Received a report of an accident west of Shoals. Deputy Barnett responded.

10:28 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

1:46 a.m. - Received a medical alarm in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

6:28 a.m. - Received a report of a car-deer accident north of Loogootee on US 231. Deputy Seymour responded.

1:20 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

3:12 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

3:39 p.m. - Received a report of an altercation in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

4:45 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

5:34 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Loogootee. Loogootee Captain Hennette responded.

10:10 p.m. - Received a report of an accident north of Shoals. Deputy Seymour responded.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

4:51 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down on US 50, west of Shoals. Shoals Fire, Deputy Seymour, and Loogootee Officer Allen responded.

6:52 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance, Deputy Seymour, and Loogootee Officer McBeth responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:00 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Daviess Community Hospital.

8:20 a.m. - Received a report of theft in Loogootee. Loogootee Officer McBeth responded.

12:20 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious vehicle near Loogootee. Deputy Barnett responded.

1:05 p.m. - Loogootee Officer McBeth assisted with a funeral detail in Loogootee.

3:13 p.m. - Received a report of a tree down southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire removed the tree.

3:49 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

5:26 p.m. - Received an alarm call in Loogootee. Deputy Wells and Loogootee Officer Allen responded.

8:31 p.m. - Received a report of a

tree down east of Shoals on SR 150. Deputy Wells and Shoals Fire responded.

8:48 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

11:06 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

11:36 p.m. - Received a report of prowlers south of Loogootee. Deputy Seymour responded.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:50 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

12:50 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Shoals. Deputy Wright, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

4:46 p.m. - Received a medical alarm call south of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

6:30 p.m. - Received a report of a break-in near Shoals. Deputy Wright and Loogootee Officer Allen responded.

7:22 p.m. - Received a report of an accident west of Shoals on US 50. Deputy Wells responded.

10:33 p.m. - Received a report of debris in the on US 50, west of Shoals. Deputy Wells and INDOT responded.

ARRESTS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

3:19 p.m. - Devon Payne, 28, of Plainville, was arrested by ISP Trooper Lents and charged with possession of methamphetamine. He is being held without bond.

3:20 p.m. - Ashten Carnegie, 30, of Shoals, was arrested by Major Keller and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia. She is being held without bond.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

1:40 a.m. - Darin Jones, 24, of Terre Haute, was arrested by Deputy Barnett and charged with driving while never being licensed, possession of marijuana, and possession of paraphernalia. His bond has been set at \$10,000 10%. Deputy Seymour assisted with the arrest.

1:44 a.m. - Candace Jones, 21, of Terre Haute, was arrested by Deputy Barnett and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of marijuana. She is being held on a \$25,000 10% bond.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

2:25 p.m. - James Honeycutt, 37, of Loogootee, was arrested by Deputy Wright on a Knox County warrant and is being held without bond.

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COURT NEWS

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

CRIMINAL COURT New Charges Filed

October 31

Robin A. (Rush) Salmon, theft, a Level 6 Felony.

November 1

Melissa D. Gibson-Wininger, dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 2 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 Felony; unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 5 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance – controlled substances, a Level 6 Felony; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 6

Misty Bowles, check deception, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Michael Edward Bakerian, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 Felony.

Melissa Dawn Wininger, unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 5 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 7

Lauren M. Barrett, two counts of check deception, a Class A Misdemeanors.

Adam S. Salmon, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Joseph L. Campbell, unlawful taking of a deer or wild turkey, a Class B Misdemeanor.

David E. Steckel, Jr., stalking, a Level 5 Felony.

Angela M. Cissell, maintaining a common nuisance – controlled substances, a Level 6 Felony.

November 12

Miranda L. Mitchell, false informing, a Class A Misdemeanor; criminal recklessness, a Class B Misdemeanor; following too closely, a Class I Infraction.

Lucas R. Hildenbrand, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance – controlled substances, a Level 6 Felony.

Joshua A. Phillips, dealing in a schedule III controlled substance, a Level 6 Felony.

Joselyn R. Souerdike, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 Felony; possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor.

John D. Wagler, domestic battery, a Level 6 Felony.

November 13

Jonathan Shane Roush, theft, a Level 5 Felony.

Amber M. Ridener, domestic battery resulting in moderate bodily injury, a Level 6 Felony; domestic battery, a Level 6 Felony.

November 15

Robert Jon Hooper, false statement on criminal history information form, a Level 6 Felony.

November 18

Adam Shane Gibson, attempted murder, a Level 1 Felony; auto theft, a Level 5 Felony; operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic violator, a Level 6 Felony; resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 Felony; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 19

David Kennedy, check deception, a

Level 6 Felony.

Daniel E. Lane, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Ashley Luegers, operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Level 6 Felony; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 21

Robert J. Alspaugh, domestic battery, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Johnathan W. Dant, domestic battery resulting in moderate bodily injury, a Level 6 Felony.

November 22

Tony Lee Trusty, hunting deer with the aid of bait, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Charles D. Gilmore, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Debra G. Bottorff, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor.

November 25

Jesse Martinez, intimidation, a Class A Misdemeanor.

November 26

Angela Ray Crawford, check deception, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Cynthia Kay Short, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Marc A. Sandy, two counts of check deception, Class A Misdemeanors.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING

November 19

Matthew C. Shoultz, convicted of operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 357 days suspended and credit for 4 actual days previously served plus 4 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

November 20

Arvin W. Cruite, convicted of driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 355 days suspended and credit for 5 actual days previously served plus 5 Class A credit days. Defendant received 9 months of probation.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

November 19

Matthew C. Shoultz, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed.

Rory A. Browder, two counts of invasion of privacy, Class A Misdemeanors, dismissed.

November 20

Arvin B. Cruite, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

November 25

Vanessa Lynn Pursell, battery resulting in bodily injury, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; interference with the reporting of a crime, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT New Suits Filed

November 22

Rick J. Lind vs. Lori B. Lind, petition for dissolution of marriage.

November 25

Lyndsey K. Inman vs. Brandon D. Inman, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:23 a.m. - Caller requested a welfare check on a male.

11:01 a.m. - Male came on station to report a civil complaint.

2:56 p.m. - Chief Rayhill responded to a business alarm.

4:02 p.m. - Female caller reported a theft.

4:57 p.m. - Caller reported a slow-moving vehicle on Hwy 50.

10:40 p.m. - Sgt. Floyd assisted the county with a welfare check.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

12:40 a.m. - Caller reported a barking dog near Butcher Boulevard.

11:30 a.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on US 231.

2:02 p.m. - Female came on station to report a scam.

6:08 p.m. - Officer Cummings assisted the county with a 911 call on US 231.

9:30 p.m. - Officer Cummings assisted with a traffic detail.

9:56 p.m. - Caller reported a dog harming other dogs on West Williams Street.

11:21 p.m. - Male reported receiving threats.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

7:25 a.m. - Chief Rayhill assisted with removing debris from the road on US 231.

7:30 a.m. - Captain Hennette responded to a business alarm.

11:05 a.m. - Loogootee Fire was paged out to US 231 for a brush fire.

2:30 p.m. - Captain Hennette and K-9 Roxy assisted with a search.

4:10 p.m. - Female reported a possible theft.

6:57 p.m. - Female reported harassment.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

12:13 a.m. - Officer McBeth responded to a business alarm.

7:45 a.m. - Male requested a vehicle identification check.

1:05 p.m. - Female called and requested a welfare check.

1:40 p.m. - Caller reported a proper-

ty damage accident on Byron Street.

4:44 p.m. - Male reported a possible theft of a vehicle.

7:44 p.m. - Caller reported a controlled burn.

10:34 p.m. - Caller reported a speeding vehicle on US 231.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:40 a.m. - Caller reported property damage.

1:20 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident on Church Street.

2:10 p.m. - Caller reported a shoplifter at Family Dollar.

3:05 p.m. - Caller requested a welfare check on a female.

3:12 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident on Church Street.

3:39 p.m. - Caller reported a verbal dispute at a local business.

4:42 p.m. - Caller reported a possible intoxicated driver on Broadway Street.

5:34 p.m. - Caller reported a property damage accident in the Williams Bros. parking lot.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

4:51 a.m. - Male reported a tree over the road on Hwy 50.

6:52 a.m. - Officer McBeth assisted the ambulance service.

8:20 a.m. - Female reported unauthorized control of a vehicle.

1:05 p.m. - Officer McBeth assisted with a funeral procession.

5:11 p.m. - Female reported a domestic dispute.

5:26 p.m. - Officer Allen responded to a business alarm.

9:18 p.m. - Daviess County advised to be on the lookout for two runaway juveniles.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

10:45 a.m. - Caller reported a speeding vehicle on Hwy 50.

2:34 p.m. - Female reported a scam complaint.

6:22 p.m. - Officer Allen assisted the county with a complaint.

7:58 p.m. - Officer Allen assisted a female in getting personal belongings.

9:56 p.m. - Caller reported a reckless driver on US 231.

Martin County real estate transfers

Jeffrey L. Teague and Rhea F. Teague, of Martin County, Indiana to David A. Napier and Karrie L. Teague-Napier, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Numbered 9 in Block "E" in Loogootee Land Company's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Joshua P. Shoemaker, of Martin County, Indiana to Donald Ray Buzan, of Martin County, Indiana, 0.25 acres in a strip of even width off of the south side of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 13 in Township 3 North, Range 5 West.

Stewart E. Blake and Mary Ellen Blake, of Martin County, Indiana to Justin M. Seal and Ashley D. Seal, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the New Second Fairway Addition in Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in the City of Loogootee, Indiana, containing 0.20 acre, more or less.

Abydel Farms, LLC, of New Castle County, Delaware to Charles David Milligan and Beth A. Milligan, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of Section 12, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 15.03 acres, more or less.

Tyler E. Bratton and Sarah M. (Allen) Bratton, of Martin County, Indiana to Ross C. Seal, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 35 in Walker's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana. Also, 40 feet off of the south side of Lot Number 34 in Walker's Addition

to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

George L. Street and Rheadawn J. Street, of Martin County, Indiana to James Stoner and Emily Stoner, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 148 in the original plat of Memphis, now Shoals, Indiana.

Dennis W. Willis and Deborah A. Willis and Trent A. Willis, of Martin County, Indiana to Julie R. Beltz and Whitney C. Pendleton, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 3 in Rolling Hills Subdivision to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Cody D. Hert, of Martin County, Indiana to Hannah R. Graber and Curtis Stoll, of Martin County, Indiana, a portion of the south half of the northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, in the City of Loogootee, Indiana, containing 0.09 acre, more or less.

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More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, DECEMBER ARTICLES WILL BE FLASHBACK TO 10 YEARS AGO. ENJOY!

I've accepted the fact that I'm now a senior citizen and I realize that there is a huge gap between the ways things were done when I was a child and the way things are done now. That's to be expected, I suppose, but the following email shows the gap between the youngsters in their 30s and kids who are younger.

YOU KIDS ARE SPOILED!

If you are 30 or older you will think this is hilarious!!!! When I was a kid, adults used to bore me to tears with their tedious diatribes about how hard things were when they were growing up; what with walking twenty-five miles to school every morning ... uphill BOTH ways, yadda, yadda, yadda.

And I remember promising myself that when I grew up, there was no way I was going to lay a line of baloney like that on kids about how hard I had it and how easy they've got it! But now that... I'm over the ripe old age of thirty, I can't help but look around and notice the youth of today.

You've got it so easy! I mean, compared to my childhood, you live in a virtual Utopia! And I hate to say it but you kids today don't know how good you've got it! I mean, when I was a kid, we didn't have The Internet. If we wanted to know something, we had to go to the library and look it up ourselves, in the card catalog!!

There was no email!! We had to actually write somebody a letter with a pen! Then you had to walk all the way across the street and put it in the mailbox and it would take like a week to get there!

There were no MP3s or Napsters! You wanted to have the latest music, you had to hitchhike to the record store and buy it yourself! Or you had to wait around all day to tape it off the radio and the DJ'd usually talk over the beginning and mess it all up!

We didn't have fancy stuff like Call Waiting! If you were on the phone and somebody else called, they got a busy

signal; that's it! And we didn't have fancy Caller ID Boxes either! When the phone rang, you had no idea who it was! It could be your school, your mom, your boss, your girlfriend, your ex-girlfriend, a collections agent, you just didn't know!!! You had to pick it up and take your chances, mister!

We didn't have any fancy Sony Playstation video games with high-resolution 3-D graphics! We had the Atari 2600! With games like 'Space Invaders' and 'Asteroids'. Your guy was a little square! You actually had to use your imagination!! And there were no multiple levels or screens, it was just one screen forever! And you could never win. The game just kept getting harder and harder and faster and faster until you died! Just like LIFE!

When you went to the movie theater there no such thing as stadium seating! All the seats were the same height! If a tall guy or some old broad with a hat sat in front of you and you couldn't see, you were just out of luck!

Sure, we had cable television, but back then that was only like 15 channels and there was no on-screen menu and no remote control! You had to use a little book called a TV Guide to find out what was on! You were lost when it came to channel surfing! You had to get off your butt and walk over to the TV to change the channel and there was no Cartoon Network either! You could only get cartoons on Saturday Morning. Do you hear what I'm saying!?! We had to wait ALL WEEK for cartoons, you spoiled little brats!

And we didn't have microwaves, if we wanted to heat something up we had to use the stove or go build a fire ..imagine that! If we wanted popcorn, we had to use that stupid Jiffy Pop thing and shake it over the stove forever like an idiot.

That's exactly what I'm talking about! You kids today have got it too easy. You're spoiled. You guys wouldn't have lasted five minutes back in 1980!

Regards, The over 30 Crowd

Make someone smile today!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Free soup supper

The Loogootee Christian Church would like to extend an invitation to the entire community for a free soup supper to be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, December 5. All members of the community are invited to attend.

Aluminum can/paper drive

The next Right to Life Paper Drive/ Aluminum Can Drive will be Saturday, December 7. In Daviess County (main location): At the Tractor Supply parking lot in Washington, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. In Martin County: At the Martin County Recycling Center from 9 a.m. to noon. If you could volunteer for just one hour, please contact Louis Kavanaugh Jr. at 486-3658 or in Martin County, Call Van McAtee at 295-4251. Or come out the day of the paper drive.

Celebration Singers concert

The Celebration Singers will present a free, one-hour Christmas concert on Sunday, December 8 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Haysville. The public is invited to attend, and free-will offerings will be collected to help defray the non-profit choir's expenses. A cookie and punch reception will be held in the fellowship hall following the concert. The all-volunteer community choir includes singers and musicians from Dubois, Spencer, Pike and Martin counties. More information about the choir can be found at www.celebrationsingers.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheCelebrationSingers.

Chamber meeting

The Martin County Chamber of Commerce will meet Wednesday, December 18 at noon at Los Bravos in Loogootee. Anyone interested in Chamber activities is invited to attend.

Food pantry hours

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

Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

Local recovery meetings

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

Free lunch for kids

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

SOAR Tutoring

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

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 5:30 p.m.

Solid waste board

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

Soil and Water meetings

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



On The Home Front

By Linda Evans-Dillon
Martin County Veteran Service Officer

The Martin County Veteran Service Officer has an office in the Martin County Courthouse. An appointment is necessary. For assistance, call 812-247-2210; transportation needs, call 812-247-2450 and leave a message or e-mail martincountyvso2013@yahoo.com. Calls are returned on Tuesday and Thursday.

During the month of November, the veteran service officer assisted 13 veterans and had two meetings. The veterans' van took two trips transporting two veterans to VA medical centers and clinics.

The veterans' van only transports to appointments at VA hospitals and clinics. You must contact me for transportation needs. Do NOT contact the driver's directly, they do not have the van schedule. The veterans' van is not a part of the DAV program, it is funded by Martin County taxpayers so we only transport Martin County residents.

The veterans' van will only transport to Indianapolis and Northern clinics on Tuesday and Thursday, Louisville and

New Albany on Wednesday and Friday and Southern clinics on Monday's. The veterans' van will NOT leave earlier than 7 a.m. Please schedule your appointments accordingly.

If you have hearing issues and would be interested in a CapTel captioned telephone, please call the office at 812-247-2210. You DO NOT have to be a veteran to receive this phone.

The Veterans Crisis Line provides confidential help for veterans and their families. Call at 1-800-273-8255 (PRESS 1) for help.

Applications being accepted for Section 8 Housing help

Hoosier Uplands is accepting applications for Section 8 Housing at the Shoals Hoosier Uplands Office today, Wednesday, December 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Applicants should bring birth certificates, social security cards, photo ids and proof of income for the entire household. The Shoals Hoosier Uplands office is located at 127 Water Street, next to the Shoals Fire Station.

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Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton
NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

I walked across some pastures on the last day of November and shook my head as water splashed up from my gum boots and splattered my pants. I was honestly hoping that this winter wouldn't be anything like last year, but so far it is. Ugh, I'm afraid that mud is coming.

Fall forage growth was delayed due to dry weather in most of Indiana. That dry spell didn't last too long, but long enough to reduce fall regrowth and stockpiled forage. So, quite a bit of the area started the fall out with a little less forage than average. I estimate that my six-week dry spell cost me at least one third of my stockpile yield.

Now, with slightly less forage present and grazing of stockpiled forages already in motion, it's going to be even more important to be careful how we graze it.

I don't care if you are strip-grazing stockpile or turning livestock into one

paddock at a time; it's going to be critical this year to not overgraze. I state this for a good reason. Lots of fields were grazed down tight last fall and early winter. When spring came with the unceasing rains, not only were forages impeded from overgrazing the previous season, but there was little residual cover or dry matter to soften the impact of grazing livestock, thus really delaying grazing. This delay in production and grazing increased the amount of hay that was needed, and hay was a premium in most areas.

For most forages, it is ideal to leave at least three inches of residual in the last grazing event of the season; four is better. Not only does this provide some extra protection in the spring, it also provides some dry matter to go with that watery, early forage, especially if we are running out of hay. It can get us back on pasture a little quicker. Even though it's not always possible or easy

to do, leaving at least one paddock or area with six to eight inches of forage makes for a great place to start grazing in the spring and usually a nice place to calve.

Wet weather throws a wrench in a lot of plans. There are thousands of acres of cover crops in the state that could possibly be grazed if infrastructure is present. I started to walk out into a field close to me that had been planted to cereal rye and turnips with the plan to graze it. That dry period in September kept it from growing for weeks after being planted, and once rains came, shortened days slowed growth and again reduced potential yield. But that wasn't the biggest problem. By the time it was ready to graze, rain, untimely rain I suppose, had saturated the soil and prevented grazing, at least for the time being. I weigh about 180 pounds and I was making depressions about two inches deep where I walked. Can you imagine what a 1,200-pound cow might do? She would certainly plow it.

It's best to stay off these fields until they are at least frozen. Once frozen, there will still be some grazing potential, but with less damage to the soil structure and less mud for livestock to deal with. Mud, especially during the winter, increases energy needs. I'm sure that you burn more energy walking through heavy mud in comparison to dry or frozen ground; livestock are certainly not different.

Back to the tightness of grazing. If you plan to frost-seed clover later this winter, taking these fields down a little tighter than the prescribed is understandable. The earlier it is grazed tight, especially pre-dormancy, the more you typically reduce energy reserves in the grasses. This can be advantageous if you really want to boost clover the next spring because it retards spring grass growth, especially of new seedlings. You certainly don't want to do this on all your fields because you will potentially eliminate sufficient early spring growth and have no fields in ideal condition for the first grazing. It's probably best to never do more than two-thirds of the pastures in a system at a time. This is also important because you don't want to graze those newly legume-supplemented fields too early either. Timing is important. Top grazing to keep grasses under control until the legumes have taken off is best.

Some are still predicting another long, wet winter. I guess it is always best to plan for the worst and then be happy when it doesn't happen. Depending on pasture condition, continue grazing pastures until they have been grazed to a good overwintering height like mentioned earlier. Some forages need taller overwintering heights to help them maintain the stand. Most cool season grasses and clover will fall in the three to four-inch category. If you are grazing warm-season forages, they are ideally six to eight inches.

If the fields are too wet and you are getting some pugging while grazing, then you would be better off taking livestock off the pasture or crop land until the ground either dries up or freezes. In this instance, you would feed hay until conditions are suitable again to graze. I doubt the cows will mind at all going back to grazing something green if giv-

en the opportunity.

Corn stalks, mainly the leaves and shucks, make decent feed and I am still seeing some use of them. The real value of feed quality tends to go down with the passing of time starting right after harvest. Generally, the first 60 days post-harvest is the best quality, but if harvest is prolonged due to wet conditions, those stalks may have lost some of their crude protein value as nitrogen breaks down. October and November are typically the best months for their use. If annuals such as cereal rye, oats, and or brassicas such as turnips or radish have been seeded into these corn fields, then the quality of that collective mix of green and stalk can be very good.

Whether you are grazing crop residue, cover crops, winter annuals, or a combination, crop fields that are highly erodible (HEL) and used for grazing must comply with Farm Bill requirements after grazing. Grazing them under wet conditions, especially muddy conditions, usually means that some tillage will be needed come planting time to smooth fields. If severe, deeper tillage may be needed to help to alleviate accumulated compaction. Sadly, we rarely have dry enough conditions in the spring to break up compacton.

Cover crops, especially over-wintering cover crops, will help to reduce minor compaction in combination with normal freezing and thawing. It is just best to refrain from feeding any supplements or hay in crop fields or leave livestock in the field over extended time frames, especially under wet conditions, to prevent compaction issues the next crop year.

When grazing is not practical or you have run out of stockpile and/or pasture, then move to hay for the rest of the winter. The efficiency of hay is dependent on how you feed it and how it is stored. The worst-case scenario is hay-fed, free choice without any feeder structure and hay stored outside on the ground, which sadly means you quite often wasted about 45 percent of the offered hay.

Feeding enough hay for only two to three days at a time, creating some competition between cows, in-ring or fence line feeders, and storing bales inside is reasonably efficient with a lot less waste; that is of course if the hay is good quality too. Hay fed on pasture is a good option if you rotate feeding locations and it's dry enough or frozen. This method puts nutrients, organic matter, and seed back on the pasture and is a great way to build up soil in poor or thin areas.

I have talked about taking inventory of winter feed before and that is something that is not too late to do. Sometimes when forages and hay are short, we are better off to reduce the number of animals. This is especially true when livestock prices are lower and feed costs and inputs are harder to justify. Input costs are something that we can somewhat control.

Merry Christmas and keep on grazing!

Reminders & Opportunities

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

In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser
Purdue University Master Gardener

Dear Santa,

I have tried really hard to be good this year and I have quite a list for you. If I did not make the grade to get all of this loot, perhaps it will give you some ideas for my gardening friends.

As usual, I want rocks. I actually did get the retaining wall out back completed this year and also built a raised bed from fieldstones, but I still need flat paving stones to complete the patio out by the fire pit. I would really love to get an old millstone for the center of the patio. You do not even need to bring it down the chimney. Just leave it out by the fire pit, near the gazebo.

The next items I want may be outside the skill level of your elves, but you can find them at the Concrete Lady in Otisco, Indiana. I would love to have both the left and right hand chairs. These concrete chairs look like giant hands. The pair would look really nice sitting at the top of the rock cliff at Sandhill Gardens. You may set them down out there for convenience.

While you are at the Concrete Lady, you could pile some other things on your sleigh. They have a lot of benches and seats and I love seats in the garden. When my dear mother was living, she liked to be in the garden with me. She needed to sit frequently, so I began working seating options into virtually every bed, so she could be near wherever I was working. Now, I find that I sometimes need to take a break and appreciate the seats. I would love to have some seats to place along that azalea walk down to the cave.

I also like garden statuary. I love wildlife, and realistic statuary placed in various locations would be a great addition to the garden. I would like to place several different poses of deer near the edge of the woods. Other critters could be worked in throughout the many beds. I have used a piece that portrays a lion lying down with a lamb in many gardens I have designed for churches. I would love to have one here at Sandhill Gardens.

I would love some other decorative

items as well. I have wanted a bottle tree for quite a while. Various colored bottles could be added to the display. I also have wanted a large double spinner for a long time. You could just leave a picture in my stocking. I love wind chimes, especially the large ones with great bass sounds. I would love to dangle one off the edge of the cliff, so the sound of the chimes would echo through the hollow below.

I always like trying new things in the garden. I have seen several different types of kits to grow mushrooms. I also would like to try one of the tabletop hydroponics systems. I saw one that doubles as a fish aquarium. That would be fun two ways.

In the vegetable garden, I could use some new raised beds or at least some cedar lumber to fix some of the old beds. I love the bed made from an old stock watering tank, so if you spot some old tanks that have rusted through on your flight, you might ask if you could get them for me.

One of my favorite wintertime garden activities is watching the birds. I love to feed them and to photograph them. I recently saw a gadget that combines these activities. You have probably seen the trail cams used by hunters and others for watching wildlife. I recently saw a bird cam, designed especially for photographing birds. It has a feeder built right on the camera, allowing super close-ups of the dining birds. Of course, bird feeders, seed, suet cakes and birdhouses always make wonderful Christmas gifts.

And a partridge in a pear tree. Just be sure it is not an invasive ornamental pear tree!

If all of this would overload your sleigh, I would settle for the use of a few of your elves as garden helpers for a few days in the spring. Perhaps you and Mrs. Claus would like to come and make use of one of my garden benches or the gazebo to spend a little time watching the beauty of the garden in the spring. I'd love to have you come.

Ralph