

# Martin County JOURNAL

Year 15, Issue 1

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

Seven pages

## *Gone but not forgotten* DEATHS OF 2023

*The following individuals, who passed away in 2023, had obituaries published in the Martin County Journal. All have ties to Martin County.*

David R. Stone 7/22/44-1/3/23  
Robert Lawrance Pendleton 4/19/58-1/4/23  
Colleen M. Sims 7/2/51-1/4/23  
Ada Delores Stewart 10/18/33-1/4/23  
Emma Sue York Hamby 12/5/42-1/10/23  
Doris Lynn Pottorff 7/10/56-1/12/23  
Violet Dolores Cannon 8/4/21-1/13/23  
Loren Delmont Hall 8/31/41-1/16/23  
Paul R. Bruner 4/7/29-1/17/23  
Becky A. Strange 6/26/53-1/18/23  
Penny Jo Pridemore 12/3/55-1/20/23  
Larry Edmund Howell 10/25/47-1/22/23  
Katie Anne Sanders 12/21/78-1/24/23  
John Jennings Hopkins 4/11/46-1/25/23  
Lorna Joyce Mundy 3/3/37-1/29/23  
Corey Dwayne Ivey 5/29/73-1/31/23  
Margaret Esther Walton 4/25/27-1/31/23  
Brian Drew Hawkins 3/14/66-2/1/23  
Camilla A. Summers 2/5/31-2/1/23  
Dale Austin Smith 4/14/41-2/2/23  
Marilyn Joy Gee 1/16/43-2/3/23  
Steven Dean Ragsdale 8/11/52-2/6/23  
Donna S. Kelso 5/20/39-2/10/23  
Deborah S. Schwartz 5/16/54-2/14/23  
Karlie J. Holt 8/27/80-2/15/23  
Martha Joyce (Jones) Douglas 12/6/38-2/16/23  
Carolyn E. (Jones) Sorrells 7/17/44-2/16/23  
Norma Sue Bailey 10/14/46-2/17/23  
Donna J. (Taylor) Dunn Kirkley 3/6/73-2/17/23  
Lawrence E. "Gene" French 3/22/33-2/18/23  
Michael D. Elliott Jr. 5/7/72-2/21/23  
Donald G. Waggoner 1/31/40-2/21/23  
Mary "Joyce" (Mangin) Brochin 5/9/43-2/23/23  
David L. Gaither 2/8/67-2/24/23  
Roy E. Pannell 10/21/43-2/24/23  
Brian Lee Wittmer 6/16/63-2/26/23  
Alma Aileen Wagoner 3/19/37-3/2/23  
Timothy Adam Chattin 6/25/71-3/3/23  
Arzelia Helen Cochran 5/3/32-3/6/23  
Joseph D. Phillips 9/14/40-3/6/23  
Judith A. Stuffle 7/7/51-3/6/23  
Wendell Lee Wease 4/3/31-3/6/23  
Robert Curtis Jones 8/31/58-3/7/23  
Hazel Marion Lewis 5/9/1922-3/11/2023  
Regina Ilene (Taylor) Cortes 12/2/76-3/13/23  
Stanley Dean Montgomery 6/19/35-3/14/23  
Gene B. Sherfick 3/6/27-3/15/23  
Betty Lucille (Huey) Smith 9/27/26-3/15/23  
Kathy D. Burks 9/28/53-3/17/23  
Mary Rose (Pennington) Kidwell 4/3/66-3/19/23  
Carla Sue Reinhart Williams 2/3/49-3/21/23  
Diane Baxter 6/15/54-3/23/23  
Anna Marie Graber 10/28/27-3/23/23  
Delmar Lee Graber 12/30/86-3/23/23  
Jeffrey Michael Wildman 4/24/59-3/24/23  
Sandra Qualkenbush 7/16/60-3/29/23  
Penelope Rae "Penny" (Sipes) Toy

2/5/61-4/3/23  
Jack Marley 2/14/35-4/5/23  
Sara Jane (Harding) Marshall 5/4/39-4/5/23  
Ruth Mills 4/27/31-4/10/23  
Doris Louise Peek 7/21/46-4/10/23  
Mary Jean Davis 6/20/49-4/13/23  
William L. Waggoner 10/13/68-4/16/23  
Tony Edward Bledsoe 8/20/45-4/18/23  
Joyce Conlon 5/19/52-4/23/23  
Donald Mark Hudson 3/24/58-4/25/23  
Wilma June Sanders 11/16/28-4/25/23  
Albert F. Brown, Jr. 6/11/52-4/26/23  
Dennis J. Seals 1/19/59-4/26/23  
Ricky G. "Rick" Brassine 5/6/58-4/27/23  
Dorothy Jean Wilcher 5/2/35-4/29/23  
Pauline Hotz 7/11/27-5/1/23  
Maud Faye Rush 11/21/38-5/1/23  
Gary F. Tharp 11/4/44-5/2/23  
Joe Thomas (JT) Farthing III 7/31/81-5/3/23  
Judith I. Burch 6/20/38-5/4/23  
James "Jim" E. Pankey 3/8/42-5/8/23  
Wanda Lee Aldred 3/1/36-5/9/23  
Thomas W. Gerkin 3/14/42-5/18/23  
Kenneth James Walls 12/22/48-5/18/23  
Jonathan Arlie Payne 2/15/06-5/19/23  
Anita K Terrell 9/23/44-5/19/23  
Barbara Lucille (Wade) Morris 8/22/35-5/20/23  
Patricia Baxter 3/6/57-5/22/23  
Orin Henry Bennett 9/9/29-5/22/23  
Gary Fox 10/3/43-5/23/23  
Kenneth Les "Kenny" Sanders 2/2/45-5/23/23  
Raymond L. Woodsmall, Jr. 3/16/48-5/24/23  
Denise "Dude" Johnson 7/14/58-5/25/23  
Mary F. Craft 5/22/45-5/29/23  
Kathy Gail Kuebler 4/3/53-6/1/23  
Stephen A. "Steve" Albaugh 9/11/46-6/3/23  
Mary Darlene Ayers 4/30/51-6/5/23  
Raymond C. Kieffner 5/19/31-6/6/23  
Mary Lou Swartzentruber 12/4/30-6/10/23  
Marilyn Yvonne Tow 1/23/37-6/12/23  
Constance JoAnn (Connie) McAtee 9/7/37-6/13/23  
Michelle Moffatt 12/18/67-6/13/23  
Patricia Anne Collins 6/12/55-6/14/23  
Tammy Faith Bledsoe 12/13/66-6/17/23  
Mark A. Christmas 7/28/55-6/18/23  
Alice Alene Robbins 2/14/47-6/19/23  
Francie Louise Leonard 3/5/46-6/22/23  
Pansy Jean Walls 4/4/31-6/22/23  
Virgil Gene Harper 12/5/43-6/23/23  
Olen Jay Schrock 1/15/59-6/24/23  
Donald Edward "Don" Burgan 2/2/51-6/25/23  
Sheryl Hellums 3/5/55-6/25/23  
Mary L. Henry 10/20/32-6/25/23  
Donald Lee Bridges 6/21/35-6/28/23  
Russell "Tick" Pankey 7/14/43-6/28/23  
George S. Sherfick Sr. 1/18/28-7/1/23  
Harry Ollis "Bub" Freeman Jr. 10/13/62-7/7/23  
Terry Ann Fitch 5/27/69-7/10/23  
Glendora A. (Harker) Wilmoth 6/5/1918-7/12/2023  
Janice Kay Bell 2/27/49-7/14/23  
Robert "Bob" Haines 12/25/44-7/14/23  
Hannah Lee Davis 7/5/02-7/18/23  
(See 'NOT FORGOTTEN' on page 2)

## Headlines of the past year

### JANUARY

New playground at the Shoals Ballpark is now complete  
Superintendent Wilson requests city council prepare for staff changes  
County council again approves FSG contract, okays overtime for jailers  
Commissioners approve grant road paving list and policy for overtime pay  
Drainage Board sends issue back to the City of Loogootee  
Martin County Child Support Division to receive award  
Shoals Council makes appointments, discusses town clean up, drainage issues  
Loogootee Schools looking to do another bond project  
Breast cancer awareness grants to benefit Martin County residents  
New cancer support group formed

### FEBRUARY

Study indicates chip plant will have huge impact  
One wanted after resisting and battery on deputy  
County council approves salary change request, continued overtime  
Commissioners discuss maintenance payment for community building  
Forest Service seeks comments on U.S. Gypsum proposal  
Recycling center will close without funding intervention  
Commissioners hold special meeting to decide on funds for solid waste district  
Lents named 2022 Trooper of the District  
Veronica Delaney joins Loogootee Family Medicine  
Rox Robotics compete in tournament  
Commissioners open paving bids, hire new veteran service officer  
Loogootee School proposed projects will cost an estimated \$17 million including interest  
Friends of Waggoner's Chapel working to save 1862 building

### MARCH

Shoals Town Council approves sewer adjustment, discusses town clean up  
Shoals Robotix advance to World

### Championship

Recycling center will stay open  
County council discusses ambulance service, corridor, part-time positions  
Mid-States Corridor project adds three variations in Loogootee  
Resident upset over State Road 450 closure  
Jack Butcher receives Wooden Legacy Award  
Townships hold more than \$1.2 million in surplus funds  
Mid-States Corridor topic of Loogootee City Council meeting  
Martin County Alliance, Chamber co-host first annual dinner  
Martin County's jobless rate stood at 2.8 percent in January  
Loogootee School Board makes staff, calendar changes  
Commissioners discuss grant, highway closure, jail software issue  
Martin County's unemployment rate at 2.9 percent for February  
Martin County Family honored with Hoosier Homestead Award (Brown Family)  
Martin County Community Foundation and Martin County Alliance explore lack of childcare and impact on the workforce

### APRIL

Shoals High School earns Early College Endorsement  
County council tasked with paying for ambulance service  
Commissioners get updates on veteran service office, State Road 450 closure  
Crews took down the former Greenwell's Hardware on Church Street in Loogootee last week  
Martin County man arrested on child pornography charges  
Loogootee Council to decide on TIF district, tax abatement request  
Shoals Town Council discusses upcoming events, beautification plans  
LHS Seniors Parker Arvin and Lindsey Nolan were chosen as king and queen at the Loogootee Prom last weekend  
Shoals held their annual "Jug Rox Make (See 'HEADLINES' on page 2)

## Martin County's jobless rate at 3.1 percent for November

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT  
*Martin County Journal Publisher*

Martin County's unemployment rate rose slightly to 3.1 percent in November, up from 2.8 percent the month before. The county had the 32<sup>nd</sup> lowest jobless rate in the state for November, tied with Tipton, Huntington and Warrick counties. In November, the county had 5,265 residents in the workforce and 164 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 5,293 residents able to work and 147 of them were without jobs. In November of 2022, Martin County's jobless rate was 2.8 percent with 5,399 residents able to work and 151 of them were without jobs. Daviess County's jobless rate moved from 2.4 percent in October to 2.5 percent in November. The county had the lowest jobless rate in the state for November, tied with Gibson County. In November, the county had 16,777 residents in the workforce and 421 of them were unemployed. In October, there

were 16,853 residents able to work and 406 of them were without jobs. In November of 2022, Daviess County's jobless rate was 2.2 percent with 16,466 residents able to work and 360 of them without employment.

Dubois County's jobless rate when unchanged from October to November, standing at 2.6 percent. The county had the third lowest jobless rate in the state for November.

In November, the county had 21,614 residents in the workforce and 572 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 21,702 residents able to work and 555 of them were without jobs. In November of 2022, Dubois County's unemployment rate was 2.3 percent with 21,684 residents in the workforce and 501 of them unemployed.

Greene County's unemployment rate moved just slightly from 3.8 percent in October to 3.9 percent in November. The county had the 10<sup>th</sup> highest jobless rate in (See 'RATE' on page 2)



NOT FORGOTTEN

HEADLINES

**(Continued from page one)**  
Andrew Aiman 5/18/77-7/19/23  
Mary Kay Cline 7/17/53-7/19/23  
Sandra Lou “Sandy” Crosby 12/31/47-7/23/23  
Thelma Julia Smith 4/25/39-7/25/23  
Leo Neal Searl 11/19/56-7/28/23  
Marlo Dale Chilman 11/16/37-7/29/23  
Catherine Louise “Katie” Patterson 4/24/25-7/30/23  
Pamela “Pam” Ann Waggnier Fellers 12/11/48-8/1/23  
Delores Ann Spriggs 2/15/47-8/2/23  
Sharon Garrett 5/3/40-8/5/23  
Ema Lou Line 12/20/34-8/11/23  
Cary David Williams 7/1/46-8/12/23  
Louise Helen Wininger 5/31/39-8/12/23  
Marsha Elaine (Reed) Hughett 5/14/52-8/13/23  
Henry “Hank” Taylor 12/8/34-8/15/23  
Kevin Lindsey 6/2/62-8/16/23  
Dennis Wayne Martin 4/24/52-8/19/23  
Richard Dean Hellums 7/27/52-8/20/23  
Walton “Wally” Woodrow Jones 3/10/48-8/22/23  
Donald Richard Norris 11/1/56-8/24/23  
Edward Gerald Potts 2/23/40-8/27/23  
Dianna Marie Jones 9/5/43-8/28/23  
Jerry W. Shadle 10/28/45-8/28/23  
Ruth Elaine Tow 11/23/48-8/29/23  
John E. Gaither 10/3/30-8/30/23  
Delbert W. Fields 10/12/40-8/31/23  
Brenda Jean Burch 5/18/49-9/1/23  
Vladimir Kent Drummond 12/15/96-9/4/23  
Donald “Donnie” Gee 10/2/59-9/10/23  
Martha Wagler 3/11/44-9/13/23  
Kenneth H. Clark 1/21/40-9/23/23  
Carlton James “Jim” Courtright 9/15/42-9/24/23  
Barbara Jean Payne 7/28/52-9/24/23  
Joseph Patrick Sponn 3/17-40-9/24/23  
Kathleen Marie Blanton 7/3/50-10/3/23  
Ralph Patrick Tanksley 3/17/36-10/4/23  
Richard T. Baugh 3/8/47-10/6/23  
Judith Ellen Sheetz 7/9/43-10/9/23  
Max Kelly Riggins 6/13/28-10/12/23  
Mary Jane Carrico 11/1/43-10/13/23  
Phyllis Jean Kidwell 8/1/39-10/17/23  
Harold Lee Dant Sr. 2/25/42-10/18/23  
Karen Sue Dye 3/25/60-10/19/23  
Timmy “Tim” Joe Hill 6/21/68-10/19/23  
Richard Roberts 10/31/57-10/22/23  
Beverly Joan (Ritchey) Shadle 2/19/38-10/23/23  
Dorothea Divine 2/4/30-10/24/23  
Mary A. Johnson 7/1/38-10/25/23  
Brett Alan Humerickhouse 3/12/64-10/29/23  
Patsy S. Estell 5/26/49-10/31/23  
Carroll Dee Terry 1/22/43-10/31/23  
Bonnie Allene Jones 1/11/33-11/1/23  
Sylvia D. Rush 12/1/36-11/8/23  
Robert L. “Bob” Kidwell 10/14/41-11/10/23  
Brenda Sue Rincker 2/18/48-11/10/23  
Everett D. “Dale” Belcher, Jr. 5/23/34-11/12/23  
Maxine V. Clark 5/17/29-11/12/23  
Lucille S. Fuhrman 11/6/1919-11/16/2023  
Joan L. Adams 7/18/32-11/17/23  
Mary “Sue” Showalter 8/9/36-11/18/23  
James Ronald Stewart 6/3/44-11/18/23  
John “Papa John” Hudson 12/1/40-11/20/23  
Elnora (Gibson) Diamond 6/24/38-11/21/23  
Edward Lee Wininger 3/18/33-11/25/23  
James “Jimmy” Koontz 6/20/68-11/26/23  
Christine Rahman 11/17/79-11/26/23  
Clara Ann Harder 7/30/34-11/28/23  
Avis Imogene Hitt 4/7/22-12/9/23  
Carl R. Walker 9/13/51-12/9/23  
Kyndale Jane Qualkenbush 4/3/13-12/11/23  
Kevin J. Matthews 10/23/53-12/13/23  
Rodney L. Jones 6/28/63-12/15/23

Fern Leona Harder 9/20/36-12/16/23  
Melissa Koontz 10/11/71-12/18/23  
Terry “Teddy” Michael Shaw 9/16/54-12/20/23  
Lydia K. Rasche-Buechlein 3/28/83-12/23/23  
Terry G. Quinn 12/3/53-12/23/23  
June M. Gregory 9/23/40-12/27/23  
Norma Jean Farrell 2/19/41/12/28/23  
Elleen C. Sutton 4/13/32-12/30/23  
Virginia S. “Jenny” Witt 10/31/52-12/30/23

**RATE**  
**(Continued from page one)**  
the state for November, tied with St. Joseph and Vermillion counties.

In November, the county had 13,773 residents in the workforce and 542 of them were unemployed. In October, there were 13,740 residents able to work and 518 of them were without jobs. In November of 2022, Greene County’s unemployment rate was 3.5 percent with 13,653 residents in the workforce and 473 of them without jobs.

The top ten spots in the state for lowest jobless rate for November were Gibson and Daviess counties at 2.5 percent, Dubois County at 2.6 percent, White, Pulas-ki, Hamilton, Clinton and Boone counties at 2.7 percent; and Whitley, Wells, Steu-ben, Johnson, Hendricks and Decatur counties at 2.8 percent.

The top ten spots in the state for highest jobless rate for November were Howard County at 6.6 percent, Lake County at 5 percent, Fayette County at 4.6 percent, Miami County at 4.5 percent, Cass Coun-ty at 4.1 percent, Blackford, Delaware, LaPorte and Starke counties at 4 percent; and Greene, St. Joseph and Vermillion counties at 3.9 percent.

Indiana’s unemployment rate in No- vember stands at 3.7 percent, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. By comparison, the na- tional unemployment rate for November stands at 3.7 percent.

In addition, Indiana’s labor force par- ticipation rate stands at 63.3 percent for November, remaining above the nation- al rate of 62.8 percent. This rate is the percentage of Hoosiers 16 and older that are either working or actively looking for work. Those not in the labor force include, primarily, students, retirees and other non-working populations, such as individuals unable to work due to a dis- ability or illness, or adults responsible for their family’s childcare needs.

Indiana’s total labor force stands at 3,423,256 - an increase of 1,613 from the previous month.

“Indiana’s employment data for No- vember shows the state remains in a strong position,” said DWD Commis- sioner Richard Paulk. “Private employ- ment has set state records for two con- secutive months which shows employers still have hiring needs and more individ- uals are landing new jobs. Whether it’s job creation, talent acquisition or upskilling the labor force, Indiana is home to un- precedented opportunity for workers and employers.”

Private sector employment in Indiana increased by 500 jobs over the last month, resulting in a gain of 40,800 jobs from this time last year. Indiana’s November private employment stands at 2,859,100, which is a new private employment peak.

Industries that experienced job increas- es in November included Private Educa- tional and Health Services, which grew by 2,300 jobs, and Trade, Transportation and Utilities, which increased by 1,200 jobs.

As of December 18, 2023, there were 103,265 open job postings throughout the state. In November, 15,164 unem- ployment insurance claims were filed in Indiana.

Individuals looking for work, training or career information are encouraged to visit in.gov/dwd/job-seekers.

**(Continued from page one)**  
A Difference Day” last Thursday  
Recycling center out of money again, board approves 90k loan  
Loogootee School projects to increase property taxes, public hearing Thursday  
Shoals Council making plans for Nu- Tap building on Main Street  
Martin County jobless rate at 3 percent in March  
Wininger Construction awarded REA- DI grant to advance housing opportunities near WestGate@Crane

**MAY**  
Harty, Gilbert move on to General Elec- tion  
Loogootee School moves forward with improvements, property tax increase  
Jug Rox Robotix compete in World Championship in Houston  
County council hears about pickleball, approves highway employee raises  
Commissioners discuss shelter house at Hindostan, road issues  
Loogootee Council hit with funding re- quests, says no to chickens  
Commissioners agree to sell remaining land in tech park  
Shoals Council hears about speeding traffic, wastewater improvements  
Commissioners buy dump truck for highway department  
City of Loogootee receives \$250k grant from community foundation  
Loogootee to graduate 66 this Friday, Shoals graduated 38 last Saturday  
Loogootee School Board hears patron input, hires new high school principal  
Solid waste board working on Rumpke contract; debates interim director leaving  
Martin County jobless rate at 2.4 per- cent for April  
Commissioners open paving bid, ap- prove ARPA money spending

**JUNE**  
County council approves expanding TIF district funds  
Martin County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at The Lazy Cricket Bait Company  
Bodies of two missing juveniles recov- ered from White River in Martin County  
Loogootee Council discusses police uniforms, budget  
First Annual Loogootee Pride Fest held this past Saturday  
Summerfest starts tomorrow in down- town Loogootee  
Martin County jobless rate at 3.1 per- cent for May  
38th Annual Shoals Catfish Festival starts this Friday  
Recycling Center taking on new busi- nesses to help with income

**JULY**  
Martin County 4-H Fair starts this Fri- day  
Commissioners discuss tornado dam- age, cleanup  
Loogootee Council, attendees spar over multiple topics  
A rodeo was held this past Monday evening at the Martin County 4-H Fair  
County council tables clerk stipend, one abatement renewal  
Financial advisors offer up three-year plan for the county’s budgets, sustain- ability  
Republicans to hold caucus for Crane Clerk-Treasurer position  
Commissioners open bids for office re- models, approve phone for extension

County council approves 20 percent raise for sheriff’s staff  
Robin Hauk resigns as solid waste in- terim director, Freeman promoted  
Shoals Council discuss ordinance en- forcement, wastewater improvements  
Loogootee Superintendent defends be- ing closed campus  
Commissioners discuss Samaritan Cen- ter change, eclipse  
Martin County’s jobless rate stays at 3.1 percent for June

**AUGUST**  
Trinity Springs Group holds annual car show  
Council approves wage increases, other additional money requests  
The Slusser building on the square in downtown Loogootee is getting a make- over  
Commissioners discuss ambulance chase vehicle, 231 road closure  
Residents, council member question vote, new policy  
Loogootee School takes next step in \$17M project  
Solid Waste Board approves new direc- tor  
Martin County’s jobless rate at 3.3 per- cent for July  
Shoals Council discusses stormwater issues  
County budget hearing brings several new funding requests  
Commissioners to solve old records issue, approve recording equipment for judge  
HDMG LLC relocates to Shoals; pur- chases building on Main Street

**SEPTEMBER**  
17 communities, including Shoals, awarded over \$11 million in federal grants  
Commissioners meet new NSA Com- mander, approve funds for school CEO program  
Urgent Care to open again in Martin County  
Commissioners remove property from tax sale  
Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth, IU partner on Shoals community planning  
No budget cuts needed by county as in- come tax rate higher than projected  
Salary increases top discussion at Loo- gootee Council meeting  
Behind the Wire Ministries trying for \$697,000 grant  
Dollar General wants rezoning for po- tential new store  
County council weighs cuts versus add- ing new positions  
Loogootee agrees to eight percent raise for employees  
Shoals Council discusses Nu-Tap build- ing grant  
Forest Service proposes to harvest tor- nado-damaged trees, unblock streams in Martin County  
Loogootee School Board approves staff, goes over teacher contract changes  
Shoals Council holds special meeting to discuss Spring Hill Cemetery  
Commissioners contribute to Hindos- tan shelter house, discuss courthouse re- cords  
Martin County’s jobless rate at 2.9 per- cent for August  
Hoosier Uplands to cease WIC services in Martin County; Indiana Health Centers to take over  
(See 'HEADLINES' on page 5)

Daviess-Martin Joint Park Board

2024 Meeting Schedule

Each meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the West Boggs Park Activity Center unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, January 9

Tuesday, February 13

Tuesday, March 12

Tuesday, April 9

Tuesday, May 14

Tuesday, June 11

Tuesday, July 9

Tuesday, August 13

Tuesday, September 10

Tuesday, October 8

Tuesday, November 12

Tuesday, December 10



# OBITUARIES

Page 3

MARTIN COUNTY JOURNAL

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

## VIRGINIA WITT

Virginia S. "Jenny" Witt, formerly of Loogootee, was called home to our Lord on Saturday December 30, 2023, at Select Specialty Hospital in Evansville. A resident of Jasper, she was 71.

She was born October 31, 1952, in Shoals; daughter of Earl and Doris (Hopkins) Witt. Jenny was a caring individual who touched the lives of all that knew her.

Jenny enjoyed spending time with her family. She loved to read her bible and color in her coloring books.

Jenny was preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Doris Witt; four sisters, Linda Hill, Marsha Witt, Thelma Witt, and Wilma Watters; and her two brothers, William Witt and Johnny Raymond Witt.

She is survived by one daughter, Melissa Pierce of Jasper; one sister, Peggy Carrico of Jasper; two brothers, David Witt of Triangle, Virginia and Donald (Phyllis) Witt of Shoals; one grandson, Micah Pierce of Jasper; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday January 5 at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee with Pastor Martin Evans to officiate. Burial will follow at Spring Hill Cemetery in Shoals.

Friends may visit from 11 a.m. until the time of service at 1 p.m. Friday January 5, at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee.

Online condolences can be made at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com).

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jenny Witt.

## NORMA FARRELL

Norma Jean Farrell passed away at 11:20 p.m. Thursday, December 28, 2023, at I.U. Health Bedford Hospital. A resident of Bedford, she was 82.

She was born February 19, 1941, in Lawrence County; daughter of Walter



**NORMA FARRELL**

and Dorothy (McDonald) Seidle. She married Paul Farrell on February 14, 1982 and he survives.

She had been employed as a factory worker at Visteon.

Survivors include her husband, Paul, of Bedford; children, Tracy Holtsclaw and husband, Scott, of Bedford; Darren Godsey and wife, Peggy, of Williams; Mark Godsey and wife, Vickie, of Loogootee; Cheri Farrell and partner, Christine Atchison, of Illinois; and Paula Farrell, of Bloomington; grandchildren, Courtney Blackwell and husband, Evan; Kennedy LaFree and husband, Jacob; Lynnsie Greenan and husband, Pat; Terry Godsey and wife, Bethany; Danae Godsey, Cori Hall and husband, Kyle; Casi Bower, Samantha Bogard and husband, Josh; Leah Wykoff, and Kyle Wykoff and wife, Kelsey; great grandchildren, Emrie and Emmitt Blackwell, Adeline Riggs, Willow Godsey, Ava, Marcus and Khloee Wykoff, Violet and Malachi Bogard, Palmer LaFree; and a brother, David Seidle and wife, Bonnie, of Colorado.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband, James Godsey; a sister and four brothers.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, January 2 in the Elmwood Chapel of the Day & Carter Mortuary with Millard Jones officiating. Burial followed in the Dive Cemetery.

Family and friends may express condolences at [www.daycarter.com](http://www.daycarter.com).

## JUNE GREGORY

June M. Gregory passed away Wednesday December 27, 2023, at Daviess Community Hospital. A resident of Washington, she was 83.

She was born September 23, 1940, in Washington; daughter of Monte and Mary (Wilson) Summers.

June was a member of the All Saints



**JUNE GREGORY**

Catholic Church in Cannelburg. She held various jobs throughout her life but worked at the Montgomery Package Store for many years. June loved to read. She married Robert Gregory, and they had four children together. She loved her family and will be deeply missed by all that knew her.

June is preceded in death by her parents, Monte and Mary Summers; her husband, Robert Gregory; two of her children, James Gregory and infant Mary Gregory, and her siblings.

She is survived by her son, Monty (Brooke) Gregory and her daughter, Valerie Guy; her grandchildren, Kristi, Michael, Sarah, Andrew, MKaden, Luke, Maura, and Mkenna; several great grandchildren, and her longtime companion and friend, Gary Gray.

Cremation was chosen according to her wishes. A private memorial will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Martin County Humane Society in memory of June.

Online condolences can be made at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com).

Blake and Wagler Funeral home in Montgomery, IN is honored to serve the family of June M. Gregory.

## ELLEEN SUTTON

Elleen C. Sutton passed away surrounded by family at 8:58 a.m. Saturday, December 30, 2023, at home. A resident of Jasper, she was 91.

Elleen was born in Jasper on April 13, 1932; daughter of Roman and Mary (Scheurich) Schmitt. She married Eugene Dale Sutton on April 8, 1952, in Seattle, Washington. He preceded her in death on March 17, 1993.

She was a 1950 graduate of Jasper High School. She was a homemaker, worked at Jasper Seating, and then re-



**ELLEEN SUTTON**

tired from Kimball Electronics. She was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Jasper.

Elleen enjoyed sewing, cooking, reading, working puzzles, gardening, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Surviving are 10 children, Steve (Kathy) Sutton of Evansville; Mark (Georgette) Sutton of Loogootee; Tim (Terry) Sutton of Brooks, Georgia; John (Rachel) Sutton of Shoals; Terese (Von) Chavis of Evansville, Patty Sutton of Mitchell, Mary Ann Sutton of Jasper, Martha (Everett) Yoder of Mentone, David (April) Sutton of Loogootee, and Joan (Brent) Jones of Troy, Texas; 21 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, one sister, Sr. Therese of the Holy Family Carmelite Monastery, Denmark, Wisconsin; three sisters-in-law, Mary Lou Schmitt of Jasper, Catherine Sutton of Loogootee, and Patricia Sutton of Evansville; and numerous nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

Preceding her in death besides her husband, are two infant children, Joseph and Glenn Sutton and two brothers, Roman (Eleanor) Schmitt Jr. and Donald Schmitt.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Elleen C. Sutton will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 6 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Jasper, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper. A visitation will be held from 3-7 p.m. Friday, January 5, at the Becher-Kluesner North Chapel in Jasper and one hour before services from 9-10 a.m. at the church on Saturday.

Memorial contributions may be made to Sister Therese of the Holy Family, Carmelite Monastery, 6100 Pepper Road, Denmark, WI, 54208.

Online condolences may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com).

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## COURT NEWS

### CRIMINAL COURT New Charges Filed November 29

Christopher Leon Richardson, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor.

#### December 4

Jeremiah L. Zimmerman, fraud, a Level 6 Felony.

#### December 5

Jose Acosta Manueles, knowingly or intentionally operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor.

#### December 6

Marisa Lynnette Small, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor.

John D. Bruner, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Jatelin Marie Nicholson, neglect of a dependent, a Level 5 Felony; neglect of a dependent, a Level 6 Felony.

#### December 8

Samantha Johnson, dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 2 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 Felony; four counts of neglect of a dependent, Level 5 Felonies; unlawful possession or use of a legend drug, a Level 6 Felony; unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance- legend drugs, a Level 6 Felony; disorderly conduct, a Class B Misdemeanor; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Joseph Daniel Watson, dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 2 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 Felony; four counts of neglect of a dependent, Level 5 Felonies; unlawful possession or use of a legend drug, a Level 6 Felony; unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 Felony; maintaining a common nuisance- legend drugs, a Level 6 Felony; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

#### December 11

Amber Cissell, disorderly conduct, a Class B Misdemeanor; resisting law enforcement, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Matthew R. Flynn, violation of driving conditions, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Hayley J. Price, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor.

Arnold R. Heshelman, domestic battery by means of a deadly weapon, a Level 5 Felony; domestic battery resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 Felony; domestic battery committed in the presence of a child less than 16 years old, a Level 6 Felony.

Charles T. E. Bish, failure to register as a sex or violent offender, a Level 6 Felony; failure to register as a sex or violent offender, a Level 5 Felony.

#### December 14

Brianna Stonecipher, neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 Felony.

Tanner D. Earl, neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 Felony.

#### December 15

Jose Lopez, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C Misdemeanor.

#### December 18

Andrea F. Brinkworth, theft, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Andrew P. Benton, domestic battery by means of a deadly weapon, a Level 5 Felony; domestic battery resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 Felony; domestic battery resulting in moderate bodily injury, a Level 6 Felony.

Glendon C. Dixon, III, domestic battery, a Level 6 Felony.

Jeremiah E. Jackson, two counts of domestic battery committed in the presence of a child less than 16 years old, Level 6 Felonies; disorderly conduct, a Class B Misdemeanor.

#### December 20

Henry Garza, resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 Felony; leaving the scene of an accident, a Class B Misdemeanor.

#### December 21

Jeremiah E. Jackson, criminal mischief, a Class A Misdemeanor.

#### December 26

Ernest Raber, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor; refusal to submit to breath or chemical test, a Class C Infraction.

Joseph E. Kindley, residential entry, a Level 6 Felony.

### CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING December 20

Jessica R. Asher, convicted of operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 60 days with 52 days suspended and credit for 4 actual days previously served plus 4 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

Betty Sue Fields, convicted of battery, a Class B Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 180 days with 88 days suspended and credit for 46 actual days previously served plus 46 Class A credit days. Defendant received 88 days of probation.

#### December 21

Brian L. McKibben, convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 184 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 2 actual days previously served plus 2 Class A credit days. The defendant shall serve the remainder of the sentence of 180 days on Martin County Community Corrections Home Detention Electronically Monitored Program which includes

paying for and completing 64 hours of community service restitution, as long as the defendant remains eligible.

Jason Jones, convicted of operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 361 days suspended and credit for 2 actual days previously served plus 2 Class A credit days. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

Robert Vincent Oferosky, convicted of knowingly or intentionally operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 16 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 8 actual days previously served plus 8 Class A credit days.

Amy M. Guy, convicted of possession of marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 365 days suspended. Defendant received 12 months of probation.

#### December 26

Nicholas H. Dosch, convicted of invasion of privacy, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 365 days with 365 days suspended.

Sandra D. Marshall, convicted of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony. Sentenced to serve 730 days with 710 days suspended and credit for 10 actual days previously served plus 10 Class A credit days. Defendant received 23 months of probation.

Deborah A. Gruber, convicted of driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 60 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 30 actual days previously served plus 30 Class A credit days.

### CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED December 20

Jessica R. Asher, neglect of a dependent, a Level 6 Felony, dismissed; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

#### December 21

Brian L. McKibben, refusal to submit to breath or chemical test, a Class C Infraction, dismissed.

Jason Jones, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed; reckless driving, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Amy M. Guy, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

#### December 26

Deborah A. Gruber, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

Sandra D. Marshall, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor, dismissed; possession of paraphernalia, a Class C Misdemeanor, dismissed.

### CIVIL COURT New Suits Filed December 21

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Janet Warner, civil collection.

Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC vs. Peggy Stoll, civil collection.

#### December 22

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Christopher Horn, civil collection.

### CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS December 26

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Discover Bank and against the defendant Mark Cain in the amount of \$12,956.06.

The Martin County Sheriff's Department did not submit an activity log this week.

## Martin County real estate transfers

Leta K. Taylor, Randall J. Freeman and Robert R. Freeman, of Martin County, Indiana to Glen E. Wagler and Lynetta E. Wagler, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 12, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Halbert Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 4.565 acres, more or less.

Jordan Clark, of Martin County, Indiana to Austin Burton and Makayla Burton, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 19 and 17 ½ feet off of the west

side of Lot Number 18 in Oliver and Taylor's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Martin County, Indiana.

Jeff D. Smith and Angela B. Smith, of Martin County, Indiana to DGO-GLOOGOOTEEN07122023, LLC, of Greene County, Missouri, that portion of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, of the Second Principal Meridian, City of Loogootee, Martin County, Indiana, containing 0.816 acre, more or less.

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**-Admiral Grace Hopper**

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# HEADLINES

(Continued from page 2)  
**OCTOBER**

Council votes 5-2 not to reduce surveyor's salary  
Martin County Manufacturing Day held last week with eighth graders  
Commissioners forgive taxes on Eastfork Lounge building  
H&H Hometown Hardware announces store opening on Main Street in Shoals  
Alliance trying to raise \$40,000 to build Hindostan shelter house  
Commissioners approve 4-H week, get department updates  
Shoals awarded grant for 2024 solar eclipse  
Shoals Town Council discusses pickleball, resident complaints  
The 3rd Annual Hindostan Days event was held this past Saturday, October 7  
Loogootee Council changes public comment rules for meetings  
Board approves Dollar General rezoning  
Commissioners get road crew update, approve ambulance billing resolutions  
Lady Lions win sectional title  
Casa Sevilla, a Mexican restaurant, opened in Shoals  
Martin County Historical Society to dedicate shelter house next to the museum in memory of Jim and Jane Marshall  
INDOT initiating Tier 2 environmental study on Mid-States Corridor  
Loogootee School Board approves resolutions advancing construction projects  
Martin County's jobless rate goes unchanged for September  
NSA Crane and surrounding communities to benefit from DoD resilience grant  
**NOVEMBER**  
County insurance increasing by 8 percent, half of what was expected  
Martin County man sentenced to 5 years in federal prison  
Election changes six of seven Loogootee elected officials  
County council discusses Matrix, insurance, investing  
Martin County CEO program looking for sponsors  
Event on downtown square tops Loogootee's Council meeting  
H&H Hometown Hardware grand opening Saturday  
Martin County jobless rate at 2.8 percent for October  
Loogootee School Board approves grant, personnel changes  
Martin County Solid Waste District received a \$50,000 grant from the Daviess County Community Foundation  
Shoals Robotix move on to semi-state  
Deep Waters: The Story of the Micah 6:8 Project  
Shoals Town Council discuss trailers, drainage issues, projects  
Republicans to hold caucus to replace county treasurer  
Commissioners approve new excavator purchase, replacing toilets in courthouse  
The City of Loogootee and the Martin County Community Foundation held a ribbon cutting ceremony to announce the opening of the walking path at the Loogootee City Park  
**DECEMBER**  
State approves county 2024 budget, new investments initiated with cash balance  
Carson Shaw chosen as 2024 Lilly Scholar  
NSA Crane Firefighters respond to fire in Town of Crane  
Commissioners hold special meeting to approve claims  
Martin County Urgent Care Opening December 11  
County offices moving, bridge work discussed  
Caucus to be held to appoint new Martin County Recorder  
Republicans looking for a new party chairman  
Loogootee Council opens bids, ap-

proves spending  
New provider chosen for county employees' health insurance  
Martin County Recycling Center was awarded another grant to help pay for the cardboard baler, this time from the Dubois County Community Foundation  
Sanders new county treasurer  
Cancer support group names student ambassador  
Candidacy filing for 2024 election starts January 10  
Shoals Town Council discusses resident issues, grants  
Over \$100,000 awarded in most recent MCCF grant cycle  
Crandall chosen as recorder  
Loogootee Ministry awarded \$697,000 for recovery housing facility  
Christmas Toy Store helps 413 children  
Commissioners approve road work bid, sublease in short meeting  
Loogootee School ready to request bids for new projects

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*'We must stop the corridor'*

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,  
Is the road in front of your home in need of repair? I know mine is. I'm not sure when the last time it was paved, if ever. Yet, our government representatives know that we need and want a new highway through our homes.  
These are the kind of things that really demonstrate how bad their thinking is. We all need to drive on our crumbling local roads every day for the most mundane of things, like shopping, church, work or heaven forbid an emergency. Yet, we "need" a new billion-dollar highway.  
We, the residents of Martin, Daviess and Dubois counties, need to stay awake and not be lulled into apathy. The Mid-States Corridor is not our friend nor are any of its supporters.  
Keep talking to your neighbors, friends, family and anyone who will listen. We must protect our communities. We must protect our homes. We must stop the corridor.

Jim Arvin  
Rutherford Township  
Martin County

*'Taxpayers deserve better'*  
To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,  
Recently I read an interview article with Governor Holcomb in the Indy Star. In the interview he was asked about social influence and its impact on politics. As part of his answer and an accomplishment, he referenced the 2017 infrastructure bill and how he and the legislators that carried the bill took heat for it, but stated it was not done in a vacuum and that it has relationships to other issues whether we think it or not. While he did not specifically state it, this bill was the one initiated by Senator Mark Messmer and then Representative Mike Braun to form the Regional Development Authority to try to push forward the proposed Mid-States Corridor project.

Here is my issue with this. Our legislators and political leaders continue to publicly state they work for us, the taxpayers. Yet here is just another example, and I am sure there are plenty of others, where us taxpayers had no say on whether we wanted this or not. I hate to disagree, but this entire process was done in a vacuum. It would also be interesting to know the answer to the Governor's statement, "and it has relationships to other issues, whether you think it does or not," but I guess he assumes us taxpayers aren't smart enough to understand it.  
Mark Nowotarski  
Dubois County taxpayer



Back when no-till farming was fairly new, one familiar catch phrase was "Farm Ugly." Managing pastures in a more regenerative fashion sometimes appears a bit ugly too.  
Right or wrong, I finally finished clipping the last few paddocks at the end of November. It wasn't because they really needed to be clipped, but more because they were aesthetically more pleasing afterwards. It also puts most of them in the same starting phase for next less places for coyotes to hide.  
I didn't really procrastinate the task. With the dry conditions and slowed fall growth, I certainly didn't want to remove or deter any grazable forage, so I waited until after the last grazing of those paddocks to clean it up by clipping them. Other pastures that were stockpiled didn't need to be trimmed but a couple were done anyways because the wife insisted.  
It has been a dry fall. I've had 4.95 inches of total rain since August 15 to the time I'm writing this article. That is about one third of the normal average. As one of my late uncles would say, "It will balance out eventually." Unfortunately, it doesn't always balance out in a timely manner.  
The soil, as I've noted while hand digging a few post holes, is not particularly dry or at least not as dry as it was earlier this fall. That could be somewhat dependent on the site conditions where I was digging. Digging along side a fairly deep revine in October, the soil was very dry and almost not workable for any hand tools. As deep as the ditch bottom was, the drainage dried out the site excessively. If you went out into the pasture with good cover – yes, it was dry, but there was still some moisture even as dry as it was. That was due to good cover - we've noted that several times.  
I think that we need to be as proactive as possible about managing moisture year around. I probably start sounding like a broken record – but you can't under emphasize maintaining cover (year around), building organic matter, improving infiltration, and maintaining good quality forages (grasses, legumes, and forbs). We need to be prepared and proactive with such fecundity. There are no cheap alternatives.  
Most producers will begin feeding hay this month if they haven't already started. Hay supplies are low in many areas so getting the most out of what you have available becomes very important.  
First of all, and something nobody ever likes to hear is that cows that are poor producers, didn't get bred back in a timely manner or didn't get bred back at all should grow some wheels. When winter feed is of a premium, slackers need to go.  
You want to be as efficient as possible feeding hay. It might be easier to put out enough hay for several days or even a week, but doing so usually increases waste. Having a little competition between cows when feeding hay is actually a good thing. They are much more likely to clean it up and waste less when they think the other cows are after the same bite.  
Unless you have certain nutritional needs for a particular bunch of livestock, it is generally better to feed poorer quality

hay first. That poorer quality hay can also be supplemented as needed and hopefully you have tested some of the hay in advance in order to know its limitations. It's much easier to move from poor quality to good quality than the reverse, especially when the supply is limited. Nobody wants to eat broccoli after having ice cream.  
Hay fed in rings or feeding wagons slows down picking and sorting of the hay by the livestock and increases efficiency.  
Hay fed on pasture while the soil is dry, in dry lots that have enough structure, or in winter feeding buildings all help to keep hay out of the mud with less waste.  
Probably one of the most efficient ways to feed hay is sadly one of the least used today – small square bales. Small bales were allocated to the livestock on a daily and as needed basis and usually inside the barn in the manger. There was very little waste feeding hay this way. Labor is the most limiting factor for small bales today.  
I admit that I'm not a fan of winter. However, winter does allow us to change our daily pace just a little bit with hopefully a little less work outside and a little bit more time inside with family or a good book. Before we know it, the gray, brown and white days of winter will start turning multiple shades of green again.  
A good time to start sourcing clover seed for frost-seeding is in the near future!  
May your roots grow deep, and your soil be rich – Happy New Year!  
Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!  
Reminders & Opportunities  
Purdue Beef Basics - <https://extension.purdue.edu/events/county/morgan/2024/02/purdue-beef-basics-in-the-eastern-cornbelt.html>  
Indiana Forage Council Tour, Annual Meeting and Seminar - February 5, 2024 - Tour of Freshly Dairy <https://www.freshly-dairy.com/> mid-afternoon followed by the annual meeting, meal and seminar at a nearby community. - Details will be posted at the Indiana Forage Council website ([www.indianaforage.org](http://www.indianaforage.org)) when known.  
Northern Indiana Grazing Conference – February 2-3, 2024 - Michiana Event Center, Shipshewana, IN – Call (260)463-3166 Ext.3 for more information.  
Southern Indiana Grazing Conference – March 27, 2024 – Shiloh Community Building, Odon, IN – For more information call (812)254-4780 Ext 3 or <https://sigc2024.eventbrite.com>  
Grazing cover crops is a topic included at this year's Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC) Annual Meeting – February 13-14, 2024 - [www.midwestcovercrops.org/meetings/](http://www.midwestcovercrops.org/meetings/)  
The revised "Purdue Forage Field Guide" is now available.  
[www.edustore.purdue.edu/item.asp?Item\\_Number=ID-31](http://www.edustore.purdue.edu/item.asp?Item_Number=ID-31)  
For a Free Sample Copy of The Stockman Grass Farmer call 1-800-748-9808 or visit [www.stockmangrassfarmer.com](http://www.stockmangrassfarmer.com) – You'll find articles from me there also – tell them I sent you!  
Please send comments or questions to [grazingbites@gmail.com](mailto:grazingbites@gmail.com).

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<b>Jasonville</b> (812) 665-3969	<b>Bicknell</b> (812) 735-3545	<b>Bloomfield</b> (812) 384-4453	



## Memorial Hospital Foundation scholarship opportunities

The Memorial Hospital Foundation is offering over \$77,000 in scholarship opportunities for current high school seniors or students currently enrolled in post-secondary education. A Scholarship Application must be completed by applicants and submitted online by March 15, 2024. For additional scholarship information or to apply, visit [www.mhhcc.org/giving](http://www.mhhcc.org/giving) and click on "Scholarship Opportunities."

For more information regarding these scholarship opportunities, please contact Deidra Church: [dchurch@mhhcc.org](mailto:dchurch@mhhcc.org) or call 812-996-8426.

**Bethany Volz Medical Staff Scholarship**

This scholarship, created in memory of Bethany Volz, daughter of former Memorial Hospital Medical Staff member Kim Alan Volz, M.D., will be awarded to a high school senior who lives in the Memorial Hospital service area who plans to enter a two- to four-year educational program in a health-related field. (2023 Amount: \$1,500)

**The Kathleen M. Tempel Nursing Scholarship**

Scholarships will be awarded to residents of the Memorial Hospital service area or Southern Indiana area who are enrolled, or plan to enroll, in post-high school programs leading to an ASN or BSN registered nurse designation. The desired outcome is that the recipient returns to the Southern Indiana area to practice subsequent to graduation. Past recipients may apply annually if they wish. (2023 Amount: \$1,500 each scholarship)

**Lou Jerger Memorial Healthcare Scholarship**

This scholarship is for current high school seniors or currently enrolled post-secondary students who attended high school in Memorial Hospital's service area pursuing a degree in a health-care field (M.D., pharmacist, anesthesia, radiology, nursing, etc.). Priority consideration will be given to those interested in the field of Anesthesia. The desired outcome is that the recipients return to the Dubois County area to practice subsequent to graduation. Past recipients may apply annually if they wish. (2023 Amount: \$2,000)

**Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Magy Clark Volunteer Scholarship**

This scholarship is presented to a current and active volunteer for Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center. To qualify, applicants must volunteer a minimum of 80 hours (prior to March 15, 2023) at a Memorial Hospital location and be pursuing a post-secondary degree or certificate. This scholarship is not limited to health-care fields and is presented directly to the recipient. (2023 Amount: \$1,000)

**Memorial Hospital Foundation Nursing Scholarship**

This scholarship is a unique opportunity for nursing students going into their final year of nursing education. The scholarship is intended to support future nursing professionals as they achieve their educational objectives, nursing licensure and career goals in nursing at

Memorial Hospital. The funds are payable to the individual recipient. As a part of the scholarship, the future nursing professional must sign an agreement to remain employed at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center as a Registered Nurse in a direct patient care area full time for a period of two (2) years. This scholarship has its own separate application, which can be found linked on the website. (2023 Amount: \$5,000 - 10 available)

**Memorial Hospital Foundation Scholarships**

Eight scholarships will be awarded to residents of the Memorial Hospital service area, one each specifically in Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Martin, Pike, Perry, Orange and Spencer counties. These are for students who attended high school in these respective counties and are enrolled, or plan to enroll, in post-high school programs leading to a degree in any health career field (M.D., pharmacist, radiology technologist, rehabilitation therapist, etc.). The desired outcome is that the recipients return to the Dubois County area to practice subsequent to graduation. Past recipients may apply annually. (2023 Amount: \$1,000 each scholarship)

**Memorial Hospital Foundation HOSA Scholarship**

Awarded to a 2023 Health Occupations Students of America participant who is assigned to Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center pursuing a degree in a healthcare field. (2023 Amount: \$1,000)

**Tom and Sue Strange and Amy and Patrick Todd Family Healthcare Scholarship\***

Non-traditional student (as defined by FAFSA guidelines) residing in Martin County or Dubois County, Indiana. Priority consideration for Martin County residents; secondary consideration to employees or volunteers of Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana. Must have a high school diploma or GED and pursuing a major in a healthcare field. Priority consideration given to nursing or social work majors. Students awarded a two-year scholarship will receive the award for two years or the attainment of first associate degree, whichever comes first. Students awarded a four-year scholarship will receive the award for four years or the attainment of a first bachelor's degree, whichever comes first. Recipients will not need to reapply each year and will be provided with the information to renew the award for subsequent years provided all criteria continues to be met. Prior recipients are eligible to reapply once the initial scholarship term is complete. (2023 Amount: \$2,000)

**Tonya Heim Nursing Scholarship**

The Tonya Heim Nursing Scholarship is for current Memorial Hospital and Health Care employees. It is intended to remove barriers to degree advancement for RN employees of Memorial Hospital and provide them with financial assistance to advance their degrees to BSNs, MSNs, DNs or PH.Ds. in Nursing. (2023 Amount: \$1,500)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Free community meal

The Loogootee Christian Church, at 206 Sherman Street, is having their monthly free meal for the community to be held Thursday, January 4 from 6-8 p.m. This month they have soup, veggies, bread/rolls, desserts and drinks. All members of the community are invited to attend.

### Coats wanted

Alex Adams, Eagle Scout candidate from Loogootee, is conducting a "cold weather gear" drive. He's collecting coats, gloves, and other items that will help people in need stay warm. There is a bin at IGA in Loogootee. Contact 812-295-8138 for more information and additional locations. Final pick-up is January 5.

### Coat giveaway

Need a coat, hat, gloves, or warm clothing? As an Eagle Scout project, Alex Adams of Loogootee has collected donations and will be distributing them this week, Wednesday January 3, 1:30-3 p.m., at The River church in Shoals and Saturday January 6, 12-2 p.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church in Loogootee (across from the post office).

### Celebrate Recovery meetings

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

### Dog/cat Wellness Clinic

The Martin County Humane Society hosts a wellness clinic on the third Friday of each month from 5-6 p.m. The clinic offers low-cost vaccines, testing, nail trims, etc. No appointment needed.

### St. Vincent Food Pantry

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

### 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!

### LUMC Food Pantry

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

### Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.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 Fridays when it is closed. Visit [www.martinswcd.com](http://www.martinswcd.com) or call at 295-3149.

## ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



**DECEMBER** is a female tabby and white cat, 2+ years old. She is very sweet, talkative, loving and fine with other cats. She is spayed, up to date on shots and litter box trained. Adoption fee is \$0. For more info or to apply to adopt, visit [www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org](http://www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org).

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## HELP WANTED



RESUMES ARE WELCOME!

We will be offering breakfast to all in attendance.

**Saturday, January 6  
8 a.m. to noon**

**Positions needing filled are as follows:**

CNC Operators  
CNC Programmers  
Manual Lathe Operators  
Manual Mill Operators  
Quality Assurance  
General Laborers

**Please come and see us at 12851 E 150 N Loogootee, on January 6th and start off the new year with a new career at Loughmiller Machine, Tool & Design.**



## Corner Cafe

201 N JFK Avenue, Loogootee  
812-295-4243

Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Saturday (Breakfast Only!) 6:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday (Breakfast Only!) 7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.





## In the Garden

By Ralph Purkhiser  
Purdue University Master Gardener

Happy New Year! The Perennial Plant Association has announced the 2024 Perennial Plant of the year is Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'. The plant of the year is not a new cultivar, but rather a plant that has been around long enough to have been tested and successfully grown in a large area of North America. Since it is not a new cultivar, the supply should be significant. Being named as the Perennial Plant of the Year means that most garden centers will try to carry it in stock, so it should not be hard to find it at your favorite plant outlet this spring.

'Jeana' is a garden phlox, so it is a cultivar of a native plant. It was discovered growing in the wild along the banks of the Harpeth River near Nashville, Tennessee. Jeana Prewitt, the head gardener at Bed-side Manor in Brentwood, Tennessee, noticed an unusual phlox growing in a large phlox grouping. She collected cuttings and began propagating those cuttings. Eventually, the cultivar was declared a new cultivar, and has since been offered through some national plant companies. The new cultivar is likely a chance cross of some native plants. The new plant was named in honor of the woman who made the initial discovery.

'Jeana' differs from other panicle phlox varieties in the size of the florets that make up the panicles. The flowers are only about half the size of those of other phlox varieties, but this plant proves that bigger is not always better. The tiny florets are very fragrant, rivaling the noted phlox 'David' for its pleasant scent. It also produces a lot of nectar. In test gardens, gardeners have noted that many more butterflies seem to be attracted to 'Jeana' than to other nearby phlox varieties. They say the Eastern swallowtail butterfly seems to be especially attracted to the flowers.

'Jeana' grows to about five feet tall and, in time, will form a clump about four feet

wide. Pinching it back in spring will result in better branching and stronger stems. The plant has bright green leaves that are resistant to powdery mildew, which is the bane of many phloxes.

'Jeana' is hardy in zones 3 through 8, so our zone 6 climate is right in its range. That zone 3 rating also has some implications for uses here in zone 6. The roots will survive much colder winters, so they are fine left growing in containers in southern Indiana. With their strong upright growth habit, they are perfect for containers placed on either side of a gate or entryway. As long as the containers themselves are weatherproof, they may be left. Companion plants may be added each spring, but the phlox will come back, saving a lot of time and effort in the spring. The plants need to be divided about every three to five years to ensure good growth.

The florets are a pinkish-lavender, with a wine-colored eye. The clusters are cone-shaped, containing many individual florets. They are a great addition to pollinator gardens and combine well with other tall perennials. They flower come in late summer and fall, and if dead-headed, they will flower again. They will be right at home among coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, amsonias, Joe Pye weed and other summer flowers. They like moist but well-draining soil, with good fertility. They will need extra water during droughts but will stand some dry periods once established. They do best in full sun in the north, but in southern Indiana, they will benefit from some shade in the afternoon.

It is hard not to like phloxes of all types, and with the promise of great perfume, disease resistance and butterfly attraction, I would have to endorse 'Jeana' for any garden. Look for it in the nursery catalogues and place your order early to ensure you get them. With this prestigious award, they will be popular this spring.

## Cover Crop Premium Discount Program available to Hoosier Farmers

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy and the United State Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency have joined forces to implement the Cover Crop Premium Discount Program for the fourth year in a row.

This program will reward farmers who plant cover crops by providing a reduced premium on their crop insurance. The discount program was designed to promote planting additional acres of cover crops that are not covered by other state or federal incentives. This program is eligible for 26 out of the 92 counties in Indiana.

"Cover crops are unmatched in the benefits they provide to soil structure, providing nutrients and needed ground cover to ensure vitality," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Implementing cover crops, however, can be expensive. So, I am excited this program will once again give farmers an opportunity to increase their cover cropped acreage, which will improve water quality and enhance the fertile soil in our state."

Over the last year, this program has had great success with 117 farmers participating, translating to more than 35,000 acres of cover crops on Indiana farmland in the watershed.

This program will provide farmers with a unique opportunity to receive financial incentives for implementing cover crops on their operation. Farmers

who plant cover crops on owned or rented acres will receive a \$5 per acre crop insurance premium discount. Farmers who planted cover crops in the fall of 2023 are eligible to apply.

Qualifying counties in the project area include Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Floyd, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Orange, Randolph, Ripley, Scott, Shelby, Switzerland and Washington

Cover cropping has many benefits including increased organic matter, improved soil biology as well as better water infiltration and water-holding capacity. This practice also prevents nutrients and sediment from running off the farm, keeping them out of nearby waterbodies and streams. Hoosier farmers planted 1.6 million acres of living covers in 2022 and, apart from corn and soybeans, are planted on more acres than any other commodity crop in Indiana.

Larry Clemens, the Indiana State Director of The Nature Conservancy shared, "the continuation of this program for a fourth year is a direct result of the Indiana Legislature's increased investment in the Clean Water Indiana program, which supports conservation efforts across the state." Clemens continued, "in partnership with ISDA, USDA, members of the Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance, and Washington County Soil and Water Conserva-

## U.S. farmer sentiment stable as inflation expectations subside

BY ERIN ROBINSON  
Purdue University News Service

The latest report from the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer indicates that U.S. farmers' inflation expectations have subsided while overall producer sentiment changed little.

The December barometer recorded a reading of 114, just one point lower than in November. Both subindices of the barometer, the Index of Current Conditions and the Index of Future Expectations, mirrored this slight decline, settling one point below their respective November figures at 112 and 115. Notably, farmers' inflation expectations for the upcoming year were markedly lower than those reported a year ago for 2023. This month's Ag Economy Barometer survey was conducted from December 4-8.

Farmers reported another improvement in their farms' financial performance during the month of December. The Farm Financial Performance Index saw a 2-point increase compared to the previous month, marking a continued positive trend. Since late summer, the index has climbed 11 points, and at year-end, it was 21 points above the low point for 2023, which occurred in May.

"The shift in farmers' perception of financial performance during the fall quarter corresponds with USDA's (U.S. Department of Agriculture's) more optimistic 2023 farm income outlook released in late November, which was \$10 billion higher than their previous forecast," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

The Farm Capital Investment Index reading of 43 was only one point above November's, but it marked a 13-point increase compared to the same period last year. Respondents endorsing the notion that now is a favorable time for substan-

tial investments in their farm operation cited "higher dealer inventories" and "strong cash flows" as key factors supporting this perspective. While the percentage of respondents selecting "strong cash flows" as a rationale for investment rebounded from the previous month, it remained less popular than in July and August. Conversely, in December, the percentage of producers citing "higher dealer inventories" as a primary motivation for investment was more than double the proportion who expressed a similar sentiment in July.

"High input costs continue to be concerning for U.S. farmers, although a notable shift in concerns took place as 2023 unfolded," Mintert said.

Farmers concerned about the risk of lower prices for crops and livestock increased from 16 percent of respondents in January to over one-fourth (26 percent) by December. Number three on the list of concerns for the upcoming year was "rising interest rates," chosen by 24 percent of farmers in December's survey.

Producers' inflation expectations moderated, with 70 percent expecting inflation in 2024 to be less than 4 percent. By comparison, 50 percent of the producers anticipated an inflation rate of 6 percent or higher a year ago. When asked about interest rates, about one-third (34 percent) of respondents said they anticipate rates declining in 2024 while 22 percent expect no change in interest rates in the upcoming year.

Perspectives on farmland values weakened slightly in December compared to November. The Short-Term Farmland Value Index fell 4 points to a reading of 121, while the long-term index decreased by 2 points to 149. Compared to a year ago, the short-term index was down 3 points, while the long-term index was 9 points higher.

"The improvement in farmers' interest rate expectations since late 2022 could help explain the year-to-year rise in farmers' long-term farmland value expectations," Mintert stated.

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