

Hometown Christmas Brings Generations Together

BY TIM HASTINGS

Johnston's City's Hometown Christmas, November 25, brought together younger and older for an afternoon of making Christmas memories and reflecting on memories past.

Dressed as Mrs. Claus and seated on a red plush wing chair outside Andersen's Café, Johnston City native Shirley Cobb Manier remembered the handmade gifts she received as a child during the Great Depression. "There was not much money, but my grandmother made me a rag doll, and she crocheted me a hat. The hat was blue with a yellow stripe; the little doll had a blue dress with yellow fringe around it. I thought that was the most beautiful hat, and I loved that doll," Manier reminisced.

Johnston City Librarian, Cindy Pulsford, remembered the punishment she received as a child for opening a gift before Christmas. "It was a Chatty Cathy doll," Pulsford said. "You pulled a little string to make it talk. I couldn't play with it for a week because I opened it before Christmas."



HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS: (Above) Banterra Bank employee Starla Waters helps Mari Snider pick out a complimentary Christmas ornament craft kit. (Right) Mindy Newbolds, age 8 of Johnston City, has her photo made with Santa. (Tim Hastings photos)

Pulsford and her husband, Joe, were one of several vendors at the event, providing attendees craft/gift options for purchase.

Mindy Newbolds, age 8, of Johnston City, was second in line to share her Christmas wish with Santa and have her photo made with the jolly man at Andersen's Event Center during the festivities. "I told him I wanted Legos," Mindy said. "I've made a house of Legos before." Attorney Meagan Rich sponsored the free photo op, captured by Shooting Star Photogra-

phy. JCity Center for Hope and Renewal offered free decorative mats for framing the pictures. The Center also gave away a Christmas basket featuring gift certificates for two local businesses.

Bryson Huffman, age 8, of Marion, wrote and mailed a letter to Santa at the Johnston City employees' booth. "I asked for a Spiderman 3 and Sonic the Hedgehog 3," Bryson said.

Johnston City Firefighters and Cadets solicited donations for the Angel Tree Christmas gift program



for needy children at their booth. The firefighters gave out free hot dogs in return. Down the street, the Johnston City Lions provided free popcorn with seasoning options for all attendees, while Manna Mission collected items for its food pantry.

Banterra Bank employees distributed complimentary Christmas ornament craft kits and Legence Bank employees served free hot chocolate. Family

Worship Center members sponsored a table at which visitors could decorate and enjoy sugar cookies. JCity Church offered a craft and game activity along with a free drawing for a Winter Soup themed basket.

Live music, an inflatable bounce house and slide, and "snowball drop" door prizes rounded out the entertainment. The event climaxed with the lighting of the city's Christmas tree.

Winter Break Bible School promotes new start for New Year

BY TIM HASTINGS

Need an after-Christmas activity? A Community Vacation Bible School, December 27-29, 2023, offers children and adults an opportunity for hands-on learning and growth. The 3-session event will feature stories, songs, games, crafts, and snacks centered on the theme, "All Things New."

"Jesus makes all things new," says Marta Phillips, Children's Director at JCity Church and coordinator of the event. "He gives you a new heart, a new life, and when He returns, He'll make all things new."

Craft projects will in-

clude caterpillars and butterflies, symbols of new life.

"We welcome all children in grades kindergarten through fifth," Phillips qualifies. "We want to help them start the new year right."

For the past several years, various churches in Johnston City have joined together in VBS efforts both in the summer and during either winter or spring breaks. Leaders invite churches, community groups, and individuals to participate in this community program.

The 2023 winter break Bible School will run



Wednesday through Friday, nightly from 6-8 pm at JCity Church. The event is free, and adults are welcome to attend and assist.

A meeting for interested volunteers is slated for Tuesday, December 5, beginning at 6 pm at the JCity Church, corner of Broadway and Monroe.

Call the church at 618-983-5254 for more information.



Bible School Director Marta Phillips prepares a lesson for the community children's event set for December 27-29. (Tim Hastings Photo)

A New Year's Community Bible School

Dec. 27-29 • 6-8 pm • Grades K-5

JCity Church, 609 Monroe Ave., Johnston City

Call 618-983-5254 for info



Local educator, Carolyn Grant, discusses obedience to parents. (Tim Hastings Photo)

Hikers learn about Creator at Arrowhead Lake

BY TIM HASTINGS

Approximately 75 individuals participated in a Ten Commandments Hike around the Arrowhead Lake Trail, Saturday, November 4.

Sponsored by the Johnston City Ministerial Alliance the hike, a first in this community, drew local Scout troops, parents and children, and interested adults.

With crunchy leaves underfoot and a blue sky overhead, 57 hikers walked from station to station listening to 10 different speakers explain a commandment.

After visiting all 10 learning stations on the 2 1/2-mile trail, Luke Davis, 14, a member of Scout Troop 7140 of Herrin, said he learned God helps us keep the commandments. "Even if you break some of the commandments, just put your trust in God and He'll lead you down the right path," Davis said.

A Cub Scout named Levi, age 7, of Troop 140 of Mar-

ion, commented, "I learned that God is our only Lord." Another member of Troop 140 reflected on similar truths. "God is everything," he said. "Don't put anything before God."

Carolyn Grant, youth leader at Washington Avenue Baptist Church in Johnston City and a speaker at Station 5 (honor your parents), mentioned doing chores as one way to honor parents. When asked if they had any chores, youngsters' responses included: "Clean my room;" "Walk the dog;" and "Feed my turtle."

Mrs. Grant motivated hikers to obey the commandments because they're the words of the Creator

of heaven and earth. "God created you and He loves you," she said. Even Jesus obeyed the fifth commandment, Grant shared after the hike. "When He was on the cross He asked the disciple John to care for His mother," Grant added. "That's love."

Grant told hikers that honoring parents leads to a better relationship with God. "By obeying your parents, grandparents, and all people in authority," Mrs. Grant emphasized, "you're learning how to respect your Father in Heaven. That's so important in life."

Organizers say they plan to make this an annual event.

Have Yourself a Furry Little Christmas!



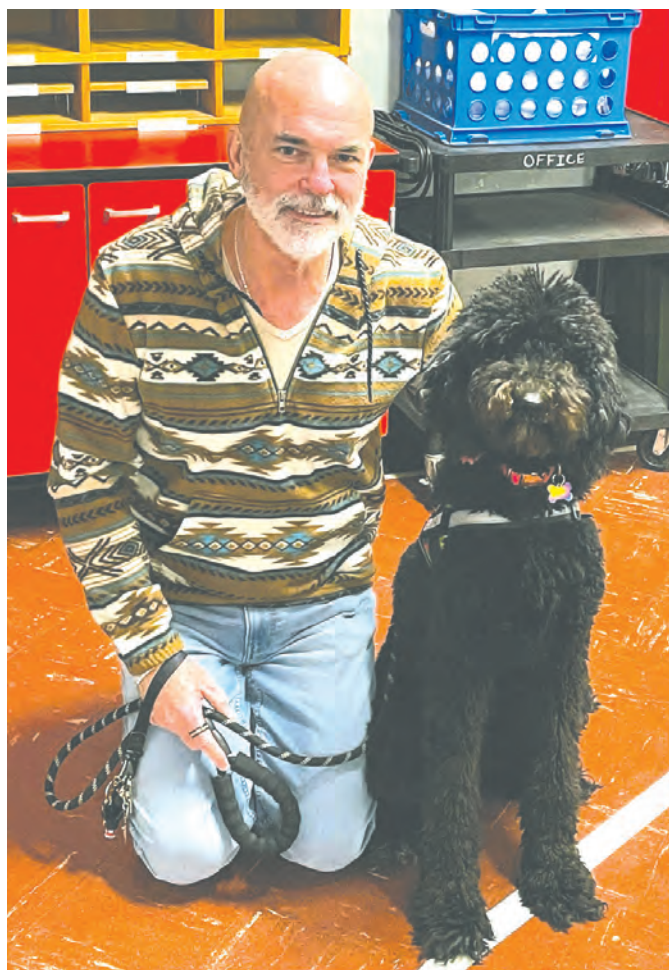
Jefferson School introduces River, the therapy dog

BY KATHY CLARK

Johnston City Community Unit School District #1 Board of Education has approved the introduction of a therapy dog, River, and his handler, Tim Kee, a dedicated 2nd-grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary School. This decision marks the second time our district has welcomed a therapy dog into our schools. Our first therapy dog, George, and his handler, Lisa Moore, worked together in 2019 to foster a positive and supportive learning environment for our students. We are excited to see this happen again with River and Mr. Kee.

Therapy dogs have been shown to have numerous benefits for students, including reducing stress, anxiety, and creating a calming environment conducive to learning. Canine-assisted learning has been associated with improved social skills, increased motivation, and enhanced focus. River will be available to provide comfort and companionship, particularly during challenging or stressful times, offering a unique form of support that goes beyond the traditional classroom setting.

River, a lovable therapy dog, in his first month of service at Jefferson, is al-



Jefferson Elementary teacher Tim Kee and River, the school's therapy dog.

ready becoming an essential part of the educational landscape. Mr. Kee is not only a seasoned educator but also a compassionate individual who recognizes the importance of the well-being of his students. With River by his side, Mr. Kee aims to create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere where students feel comfortable and supported in their educational journey.

The decision to wel-

come River into Jefferson Elementary School has garnered support from parents, teachers, and community members alike. The Board's recognition of the positive impact that therapy animals can have on the learning environment reflects a commitment to exploring innovative approaches to education that prioritize the well-being of students.

As Johnston City CUSD #1 embraces this new chap-

'Freelance support pets' recognized

Local rescue featured on counseling agency website

According to Caring Counseling Ministries, pets provide unconditional love, help lower blood pressure, manage stress, reduce loneliness, improve mood, and often prompt us to exercise. This agency, a nonprofit partner with JCity Center for Hope and Renewal, is featuring "free-lance emotional-support animals" on its website: CCMrocks.com. The Center's very own "freelance emotional support dog," Padre is the first "star" to be featured. Padre, whose formal name is "Father Brown," often greets guests and staff

members at the Center.

The Fletchers adopted Padre from the Williamson County Animal Shelter in November 2020. The dog was rescued off the streets of Johnston City by Police Chief J.D. Barter.

Though Padre weighs almost 30 pounds, DNA indicates he's more than 50% Chihuahua mixed with 7-8 larger breeds—a true mutt, if there ever was one.

Readers may submit pet photos and stories to alittle@ccmrocks.com for future inclusion on the site.

ter with River and Mr. Kee, the District emphasizes its dedication to preparing students not only academically but also emotionally. The presence of a therapy dog adds an extra layer of warmth and care to the educational experience, reinforcing the idea that learning is not just about textbooks and exams but also about creating a sup-

portive community. We look forward to the positive impact that River and Mr. Kee will undoubtedly bring to Jefferson School.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Mrs. Kathy Clark is superintendent of the Johnston City Community School District #1.



BY PASTOR SHERRI CISNEROS
Johnston City First United Methodist Church
Stirtz United Methodist Church

Scripture Reading Luke 2:6-20

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day

in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad

the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

This past year, my husband and I have become first time grandparents—a grandson in October 2022, a granddaughter in July 2023, and now we are expecting our third grandbaby, a boy in January 2024. The feeling of hope for a

beautiful and bright future floods our hearts. When we hold our grandbabies, we feel so much love and joy that cannot be contained. My favorite time is nap time when I rock and sing them to sleep. The room is filled with peace and wonder, as I contemplate such a precious little miracle wrapped up in my arms.

Maybe you can relate to how we feel about what a little baby can bring.

As we enter Advent Season, we remember the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; the song of hope sung by the young and faithful servant, Mary; the cry of joy from Cousin Elizabeth's mouth; the leap

of joy from the baby within her womb; and the announcement of peace on earth by the heavenly host of angels, declaring the love of God for all of creation, has come down to earth, wrapped up in swaddling cloths and lying in a lowly manger.

Let us celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this holiday season as if it were the very first time, remembering that his arrival into our world brings salvation and deliverance. Despair, conflict, hate, and sorrow have been replaced with Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Food Boxes*

First United Methodist Church
400 E. Broadway, Johnston City

SAT., DEC. 16, 9:00-10:30 AM
PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED

Sign up Nov. 27-Dec. 8
M-F 10:00-11:00 am

distributed by
Johnston City Churches

*Fresh food, non-perishables, and canned goods (enough for your family's Christmas dinner)
All recipients must reside within the Johnston City School District.

Call 618-952-1272 for more information. You may also sign up at JCity Center, Nov. 28-Dec. 7, 9:00-5:00 (Tue.-Thu.)

Andresen's Café presents
BREAKFAST with Santa
 Saturday, December 9th, from 8 to 10:30 am
 215 E. Broadway, Johnston City
Pancakes, Bacon, & a Drink
 Kids 12 & Under - \$8 Adults - \$10
 Call 618.983.8497 to make your reservation!



Family Worship Center
 400 W. 13th St.
 Johnston City, IL,
 (618) 952-1280
 Pastors Brad & Kelly Dexter

First Baptist Church
 401 E. 7th St.
 Johnston City, IL 62951
 (618) 983-6455
 Larry Stevens, pastor

***First Christian Church**
 505 E. Broadway Blvd.
 Johnston City, IL 62951
 618-983-6474
 Adam King, pastor

***First United Methodist Church**
 400 W. Broadway
 Johnston City, IL 62951
 618-983-5150
 Sherry Cisneros, pastor

Gospel Mission Church
 1100 Peterson Ave.
 Johnston City, IL 62951

***Heritage Fellowship**
 (Church of God of Prophecy)
 308 W. 12th St.
 Johnston City, IL 62951
 Pastors Gaylon &
 Dawn Stewart

***JCity Church**
 (Free Will Baptist)
 609 Monroe
 Johnston City, IL 62951
 618-983-5254
 Dr. Randy Carney, pastor

Johnston City United Pentecostal Church
 1101 W. 10th
 Johnston City, IL 62951
 618-983-5938
 Brandon Abernathy, pastor

***St. Paul's Catholic Church**
 1103 Washington Ave.
 Johnston City, IL 62951
 618-983-5073
 Father Brian Barker

***Stiritz United Methodist Church**
 Sherry Cisneros, pastor

***Washington Ave. Baptist Church**
 9th and Washington
 Johnston City, IL 62951
 Barry Robertson, pastor
 618-694-2995

Other Ministries
***JC Kids' Lunch Bunch**
 c/o JCity Church (see above)

***JCity Center for Hope and Renewal**
 504 E. Broadway Blvd.
 Johnston City, IL 62951
 618-952-1272

***Manna Mission**
 306 E Broadway Blvd.
 Johnston City, IL 62951
 618-983-6262

**active members of Johnston City Ministerial Alliance*

Tails to Nails presents
Santa Paws
 *Sunday December 3rd
 *10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 *Arrowhead Campground Johnston City, IL
 *Receive a 5x7 printed image by Shooting Star Photography
 *Cost \$10.00 per print, digital copy available \$20.00
 *Chili, hotdogs and treats will be available

Proceeds to benefit Johnston City Baseball/Softball Little League

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Seasonal & Special Events

NOV. 27-DEC.8
 JCMA Christmas Box sign ups, FUMC, 10-11 am (M-F)

DEC. 3
 Santa Paws, Arrowhead Campground, 10am- 2pm

DEC. 8
 School dismisses early

DEC. 9
 Breakfast with Santa, Andresen's, 8-10:30 am

DEC. 16
 Christmas Box distribution, FUMC, 9-10:30 am

DEC. 19
 District Band Concert, JCHS, 7pm

DEC. 20
 School dismisses early

DEC. 21-JAN. 3
 School's out

DEC. 21
 Blue Christmas Service (for those experiencing grief during the holidays), Stiritz UMC, 6:00 pm

DEC. 24
 Christmas Eve Service, JCity Church, 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service, First United Methodist, 7pm

DEC. 27-29
 Winter Break Community Bible School, JCity Church, 6-8 pm

Weekly Events

MONDAYS
 SIMI (Southern Illinois Men of Integrity), 7 pm, Call 618-952-1272 for details.



THURSDAYS
 Food pantry open, First Christian Church, 505 E. Broadway, 3-5 pm

Celebrate Recovery, J.C. United Pentecostal Church, 6:30 pm

SATURDAYS
 Free drive-thru meal for the community, JCity Church, 609 Monroe, 5:30-6:00 pm

Monthly Events

1ST TUESDAY
 Business Leaders Mtg. 9:00 am, Andresen's, 618-534-0303 or 618-922-8089

1ST THURSDAY
 Ministerial Alliance Mtg., 6:00 pm, JCity Center, 504 E. Broadway, 618-952-1272

2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS
 City Council Mtg., 5:00 pm, Scout Cabin, 618-983-6651

3RD MONDAY
 Planning Commission Mtg., 4:00 pm, JCity Church, 618-983-6651

3RD THURSDAY
 Commodity Distribution/ Food Pantry, First United Methodist Church, 400 W. Broadway, 10am - 1 pm

School Board Mtg., 7:00 pm, Unit Office, 1113 Grand Ave., 618-983-8021

For more details and calendar updates, see Facebook.com/JCityCenter



Education

The Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1 is accepting applications for the following positions:

PARAPROFESSIONAL Washington Middle School. Please send a Letter of Application, resume, proof of paraprofessional certification, and two professional references to Mrs. Kathy Clark, Superintendent, Johnston City CUSD #1, P.O.Box 147, 1113 Grand Ave., Johnston City, IL 62951.

DISTRICT CROSSING GUARD Submit letter of interest, resume, and two professional references to Mrs. Kathy Clark, Superintendent, Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, 1113 Grand Avenue, Johnston City, IL 62951.

HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR Send Letter of Application, resume, proof of teaching certificate with appropriate certifications, 4 references and university transcripts/credentials to Mrs. Kathy Clark, Superintendent, Johnston City CUSD #1, 1113 Grand Ave., Johnston City, IL 62951.

KITCHEN HELP Chartwells is now hiring. Please call 618-983-6404 for more information or to apply.

SCHOOL BUS MONITORS AND DRIVERS Illinois Central School Bus is hiring school bus monitors and drivers. Contact the Illinois Central Bus Garage at 618-800-6402.

Volunteer Positions

RENOVATIONS & YARD WORK. Volunteer help needed for basic carpentry, flooring installation, painting (interior & exterior), outside clean-up. JCity Center, 618-952-1272.

NEWSPAPER/PODCAST PRODUCTION Adult volunteers with writing, photography, layout or graphic design, video production or video editing interest/experience. Also assist with distribution, marketing (securing local sponsorships), and maintaining an on-line presence. JCity Center, 618-952-1272.

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
 (Luke 2:14)

SERVING RESIDENTS OF THE JOHNSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 618-769-9971 • 504 W. BROADWAY

JCity Arrow News, Published monthly by JCity Center for Hope and Renewal, Inc.
 504 E. Broadway Blvd., Johnston City, IL 62951, 618-952-1272, jcitycenter@gmail.com, www.jcity.center

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To submit news items, story ideas, events, employment/volunteer opportunities, donations, please call 618-952-1272 or email jcitycenter@gmail.com. All items for publication must pertain to events, individuals, or jobs located within Johnston City, Illinois.

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Christ & Community First

JCity Church
 FREE WILL BAPTIST

Randy Carney, pastor
 randy@jcitychurch.com

609 Monroe Ave. (Broadway & Monroe)
 PO Box 55 | Johnston City, IL 62951
 jcitychurchfwb@gmail.com | www.jcity.church | 618-983-5254

Sunday School 9:30 | Morning Worship 10:30 | Wed. Night 7:00



More sports news later

Our sports reporter was unavailable this month so we are printing copies of the game schedules for winter sports in December. Please consult jcindians.bigteams.com for more info.



Wife of Former JCity Pastor Confronts Grief in Gutsy Memoir

BY TIM HASTINGS

The late Normagene Warner, whose husband Bill served as pastor of First United Methodist Church of Johnston City toward the end of the 1950s, provided candid insights into a mother's grief in her memoir *Standing on Tiptoe*.

Warner contrasted her euphoria as a young mother with the suffering and second guessing she endured when her teenage son, Steven, was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

Johnston City readers will identify with the author's descriptions of the beauties of Southern Illinois sights such as Crab Orchard Lake and the bluffs along the Mississippi River. Warner wrote eloquently about the joy she experienced one fall day on the shores of Crab Orchard when she was expecting Steven about 1956. Like an ecstatic child straining on tiptoe to catch every bit of life's parade, Warner said she could barely take in the beauty of the lake, the gossamer butterflies, her toddler son David exploring the lake shore for sticks, plants, and flowers, and the peaceful presence of her husband lost in the pleasure of a good book. Warner wondered if the child in her womb was absorbing these joys.

Fast forward some 18 years and Warner, faced with the prospect of losing Steven, questioned whether she had remained on tiptoes as her son grew. She understandably upbraided herself for missing events in Steven's life such as the day he almost drum majored the Carbondale High School Marching Band down the wrong street in the Murphysboro Apple Festival Parade. "What more important thing was I doing that day?" Warner asked herself. "Was I ironing clothes; buying groceries? Did I take the time to really see Steven?"



Warner painted a believable picture of a remarkably well-rounded, young man. Readers learn that, as a child, Steven was routinely overcome with insatiable desires to hug others. In addition to band, Steven's high school activities included pickup football, scuba diving, exploring the out-of-doors, travel, drama, and presiding over the youth group at First Methodist, Carbondale. He helped his father build the family home, and had plans to hike the Appalachian Trail and climb Clingman's Dome.

"You don't understand; this is Steven!" Warner pleaded with one doctor treating Steven's tumor. The doctor told her every mother thinks her child is special.

Warner wondered if life would ever again make sense following Steven's death. A providential letter from another former First Methodist Johnston City member, the late Naomi Rodden, became a turning point for Warner in facing her grief.

Standing on Tiptoe, like the ancient classic Job, the medieval work, *The Pearl*, and the twentieth century work, *Death Be Not Proud*, offers comfort and insight for all who grieve.

Warner self-published the book in 2000. Used copies are available for purchase online. The book can also be reserved at the Johnston City Public Library through the Illinois Heartland Library System.

JCHS Boys Varsity Basketball

A 12/1 - 5pm	Hardin Co. (Goreville Inv.)
A 12/2 - 1pm	Harrisburg (Goreville Inv.)
H 12/8 - 5pm	Trico (F, JV, Var)
A 12/9 - 6pm	Sparta (JV, Var)
A 12/12 - 6pm	Sesser-Valier (JV, Var)
H 12/15 - 6pm	Zeigler-Royalton (JV, Var)
H 12/16 - 5pm	Vienna (F, JV, Var)
A 12/25 TBA	Multiple opponents (Cobden Holiday Tourn.)

WMS Boys Basketball

A 12/4 - 6pm	Ewing-Northern
A 12/6 - 6pm	Desoto
H 12/7 - 6pm	Hamilton Co.
A 12/9-12 TBA	Multi. Opp. (WF Tourn.)
A 12/14 - 6pm	Unity Point
A 12/16 - 6pm	Pickneyville

JCHS Girls Varsity Basketball

H 12/4 - 6pm	Sesser-Valier (JV, Var)
H 12/7 - 6pm	Trico (Var only)
A 12/11 - 6pm	Hardin Co. (Var only)
H 12/14 - 6pm	Goreville (JV, Var)
A 12/18 - 6pm	Anna-Jonesboro (JV, Var)
A 12/26 TBA	Multi. Opp. (CORLHS, Centralia)

WMS Girls Basketball

H 12/4 - 6pm	Ziegler Royalton
A 12/5 - 6pm	Unity Point
A 12/7 - 6pm	Eldorado
A 12/9-12 TBA	OPEN (WF Tourn.)
A 12/14 - 6pm	Duquoin
A 12/16 - 3pm	Vienna Shootout
A 12/18 - 6pm	Central (WF)

JCHS Coed Wrestling

A 12/2 TBA	Multi. Opp. (Lawrenceville Tourn.)
A 12/7-6:30pm	Multi. Opp. (WF Triangular)
A 12/9 TBA	Multi. Opp. (Marion Duels)
H 12/13 TBA	OPEN (JC Triangular)
A 12/16 TBA	OPEN (Cumberland Tourn.)

Guest Editorial

A Different Perspective on Winning and Losing

BY JIMMY DEAN

Today, there is a lot of debate about whether "participation trophies" should be handed out or trophies only be given to the winners.

No matter which side of the fence you are on, the fact remains that in this life, we will and do experience victories and defeats, accomplishments and disappointments.

How we react to the disappointments can later mean more disappointment, or it can mean future success.

It's easy to accept victory, or accomplishment, but the real test comes when the game or season didn't go quite like we'd hoped.

There will be times when our children do not earn that trophy or ribbon; and to give them one just to make them not feel sad, means missing a tremen-

dous teaching opportunity. Sit down with your child and explain that sometimes things just don't go our way. Teach them to be respectful when losing.



I consider myself a very competitive person. I try to use losing as motivation to not let it happen again.

Sometimes victory doesn't come easy. We need to let our children know that life can be like this as well.

Our kids and grandkids need to know that we love them above all else. One way to show this love is to teach them godly lessons in defeat.

We get back up, dust ourselves off, and go after

the challenge harder than before.

We miss out on showing children our love and pouring our lives into them if we just hand them a material item.

Those who win get trophies. But those who win and lose with respect—and still appreciate the God given abilities that He alone gives—really understand what's going on. They are winners in life. That's what I want my kids to know. How about you?



Jimmy Dean is a former mayor of Johnston City and currently serves on the school board. He is a freelance writer for several area papers and has agreed to share some of his favorite columns with *Arrow News*.



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Johnston City, IL 62951
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Home Auto Life Health
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Johnston City, IL 62951
arkinsurance@ark4me.com