



ARROW NEWS



SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO

SEPTEMBER 2024

JOHNSTON CITY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

FREE!

School construction continues on schedule as classes resume

As students returned to school last month, both they and their parents found significant improvements. Three schools—Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln—have new playground equipment, and the high school has a new greenhouse. Ongoing construction at Jefferson, though impacting traffic flow through the newly paved parking lot, will eventually add 7,000 and renovate 8,000 square feet of the building. The addition includes four classrooms, a new library, an expanded kitchen, additional restrooms, and stor-

age space. The school office and main entrance will also be relocated.

The improvements to Jefferson's kitchen include a walk-in cooler and freezer. These refrigeration units will equip kitchen staff to plan menus that include scratch cooking and fresh produce. The school's new food service provider, Opaa!, has introduced new menu options at all schools, and according to Clark, more students are getting breakfast and lunch at school. "That's a really good thing since every student in the district is entitled to free meals," Clark said.



Additional storage space at the school will permit tables and equipment currently crowding the



ABOVE: Volunteers from Laborers' Union Local 773 recently spent a weekend installing new playground equipment at Lincoln School. (Photo: Local 773 VOC).

LOWER: Architectural renderings of addition, renovations at Jefferson Elementary School, 1108 Grand Ave., Johnston City.

Fire destroys historic local home



Fire departments from Johnston City, Williamson County, Herrin, and Lake of Egypt battle house fire at 606 E. 7th St. in Johnston City. (Photo: Ray Browell)

Around 10:30 am, August 22, residents near Barham and 7th heard a loud blast and saw smoke billowing from the roof of the 2-story home at 606 E. 7th St. Local first responders report that the lone occupant of the residence was rescued from the home by a neighbor and transported by United EMS to the

hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation.

The dwelling contained large canisters of oxygen. These likely caused the explosions according to JC Fire Chief Tom Burton. The hospitalized resident has since been released, but the house appears to be a total loss. No other injuries were reported.

Older residents of Johnston City remember the property as the "Briscoe House." According to neighbors, the house was one of the first built in Johnston City. Fire crews from Williamson County, Herrin, and Lake of Egypt assisted the JCFD in fighting the blaze.

Local nonprofits, businesses promote fun fair, vendor market on Broadway

A Fall Family Fun Fair will be held Saturday, September 7, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. The event will take place at the corner of Broadway and Monroe in Johnston City (the parking lot for JC-city Church and JCity Center for Hope and Renewal). Broadway Boulevard will be closed that day to accommodate this event and the Sweet Southern Market sponsored by Down Home Comforts. Local churches and the City are offering parking areas on all sides of

the events.

Sweet Southern Market anticipates up to 40 vendors and four food trucks. Vendors will be selling artwork, crafts, home decor, jewelry, and other locally produced items. Organizers have coordinated efforts so that both the business and nonprofit efforts that day will be successful.

On the free side, fair goers may expect to find a fire truck, inflatable obstacle course, a dunking booth, and yard games including

corn hole. Exhibitors plan to offer children's activities, prizes, drawings for the family, promotional items and information. Those displaying at the event include JCity Center, Take Action Today, JCity Church, Washington Ave. Baptist Church, JC Kids' Lunch Bunch, the JC Rotary Club, Ministerial Alliance, the University of Illinois Nutrition Education division, Caring Counseling Ministries, Banterra Bank, Southern Illinois Bank, and Legence Bank.

As a free family-friendly gathering, the "long-term goal is to revive an annual fall festival that can promote and unite our community," said Keith Fletcher. Unlike other events, this event is organized by volunteers outside City government (but with its cooperation).

school's gym to be stored elsewhere. Plans for a gym addition were put on hold due to the need to limit the amount of debt the district incurs. Clark stated, "We try not to borrow up to the legal limit in order to have options should an emergency arise."

Though the district sold bonds to go toward these improvements, local taxes were not impacted. In fact, the school system's portion of property tax has decreased from 4.6 to 3.6 percent in the last year. Some state money has been applied to the cost of asbestos abatement, which was still needed at Jefferson, the last school in the district to deal with that problem. The area containing asbestos will be totally gutted and rebuilt from the inside out next summer.

During this summer's construction work, contractors discovered drainage issues at both Jefferson and Lincoln. These buildings were built about the same time using basically the same floor plan. The discovery of an old cistern at Jefferson and foundation issues further complicated construction efforts.

Superintendent Clark states that even though the district changed architects in the middle of the project, contractors are on schedule. The deadline for the final phase of the Jefferson project is August 2025.

Enrollment is slightly up this school year. The administration added a third-grade class at Lincoln School to prevent overcrowding. "We like to keep our class size down," says Clark, "so students receive more individual attention."

Individual attention and addressing students' needs outside the classroom is the goal of a new "student success" program that provides "student advocates" at Washington Middle School and JCHS. These advocates meet weekly with students to develop individualized "success plans." The advocates also work with parents and families to provide a support system to help students succeed, no matter what kind of challenges they are facing. This is a two-year program implemented with the assistance of the regional school superintendent's office.

When asked how the community could support our schools, Clark said that there is almost always a need for classroom aids (paraprofessionals) in the lower grades. Though the position requires at least 60 hours of higher education and a relatively simple exam for state certification, it is an obtainable position for many in the community. Job openings for kitchen staff, bus drivers, and monitors are frequently posted on the district website: jcindians.org.



Coming Next Month: 3rd Anniversary Celebration at JCity Center (Oct. 19)

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Johnston City BOOKS

LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE

MTV award-winning lyricist pens poetry book

BY TIM HASTINGS
A Johnston City great-grandmother who penned a Music Television (MTV) award-winning music video has now published her first book of poetry.

"I love poetry," said Barbara Vatovec, who authored the recently published *Reflections of an Imperfect Woman: Poetry of a Lifetime of Memories*. "I love the rhythm of poetry and the catchy words. My favorite book as a child was Robert Louis Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses*," she reflected.

Vatovec achieved a modest amount of celebrity status several years ago as lyricist for the song and video project, "The Big Muddy Monster." "My brother urged, 'Write something about the Big Muddy Monster,'" Vatovec recounted. "I did and he set it to music."

The song issues a warning to the monster to run "because hunters and hounds and people are coming with a pack of scientists. They're going to bring you back dead or alive just to prove that you exist."

The Por-Kees, a band comprised of Vatovec and several relatives (Porter and Kee families), made the video, featuring Va-

tovec as vocalist. "It won an MTV award," Vatovec shared, "and we sent our two youngest nephews to New York City to accept the award." (To view video, scan the QR code at the end of this article, or search YouTube for "The Big Muddy Monster cozy thunder.")

In their prime, the Por-Kees were popular entertainers at reunions and nursing homes in the region. Vatovec, who played string bass in the band, reflected, "We made a couple of videos, won some prizes, and had a wonderful time."

The author mused that the title of her latest project, *Reflections of an Imperfect Woman*, fits her to a T. "I'm not perfect," Vatovec admitted, then added; "I don't think I want to be perfect, because I would miss a lot of fun."

The great-grandmother shared that her poetry also reflects her ability to take change in stride. "Changes happen continuously," Vatovec concluded. "When you get to be my age, you really are aware of the changes." Her poem, "Mother," contrasts those lifestyle changes—from her grandmother who made her own soap to the present generation of mothers who use dishwashers, frozen foods,

and microwaves. Vatovec contends that, despite technological changes, mothers of all generations share common values. An excerpt declares:

She's there for bedtime and prayer time.
Her kisses still mend skinned knees and broken hearts.
Her family knows her Strength, her Wisdom and her Love.
She is Mom."

Vatovec's humor shines in the short poem, "Mom's Trip to Mars."

Countdown, roar, lift off
Red dusty rock looms afar
Did I lock the house?
Countdown, roar, lift off.
Red dusty ball looms ahead
Did I shut off the stove?

Vatovec wrote this poem for a NASA contest to commemorate landing a spacecraft on the surface of Mars. "Of course, I didn't win anything," Vatovec acknowledged. "But my name is on a plaque that went with the spaceship—probably with the names of a million other people who wrote a poem."

Vatovec collaborated with her great grandson Connor L. Reinert to write the poem, "If You Are Invited to Eat Lunch on a UFO." The poem opens with this advice:



Barbara Vatovec holds her collected poems, *Reflections of an Imperfect Woman*, at her Johnston City home. (Tim Hastings Photo)

"Never eat lunch on a UFO
Maybe it might be a big fat toe.
Or maybe it will be a neck with sauce
Or maybe 30,000 humans
With a salad tossed.

"Connor loves UFOs and dinosaurs," Vatovec said. "One day he said something about having lunch on a UFO, and we started talking and wrote the poem. Most of the words are his." Connor was about six years old when he co-wrote the poem.

Vatovec credits her granddaughters with getting her poems in print. "My granddaughters got me published," she said. "I wouldn't have been able to go through all the procedures. I didn't know what a zip file was. Both of them worked their heads off to get me published."

The collection contains 37 original poems. Down Home Comforts in John-

ston City plans to carry the paperback version. Amazon carries both print and digital versions of the book (scan QR code below).



The Big Muddy Monster video link



Buy *Reflections of an Imperfect Woman* on Amazon



Tim Hastings, volunteer reporter for the *Arrow*, works part-time for the U.S. Census Bureau and is janitor

at First Baptist Church of West Frankfort. He has written for the *Daily American* and *Franklin County Weekly Gazette* and contributes a monthly column to the *Senior Views* newspaper.

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"I love having a group of people who care about the community and help get information out! Covering large stories, updates to the town, upcoming events, sharing history of the town, and even funny little bits are just what JC needed in a newspaper. Keep it up!"
—Anonymous

"Really enjoy and look forward to it."
—Jimmy Dean

"I think *Arrow News* is a necessary outlet to let everyone know what's happening in the community, and it does a good job of that."
—Rachel Hermetz

"We feel like you are doing a very nice job sharing information about our community."
—Joe Frick

"Long overdue for our town. Wish it could be a weekly paper."
—Anonymous

"I love it; wish it got delivered to our door. Sometimes you just have to be lucky and find one."
—K.J. Crowder

"I believe that the *Arrow News* is great for Johnston City, IL, because not only do you publish news, there is activity, announcements, ads for local businesses, and charities, clubs, schools, police, fire department. I just believe it's a very good positive for the community to share and enjoy."
—Robert Miller

"Great news about local happenings and local news."
—Roger Legendre

"*Arrow News* is a great way to keep in touch with my hometown. Living in Texas. I enjoy hearing the latest news."
—Paul Burrell

"I really enjoy reading about the hometown news!"
—JoAnn James

Suggestions
"You might see if the high school has a journalism program like they used to, and potentially coordinate with them on having students get some first-hand experience with writing, editing, interviewing, and all the other processing that go into making an article."

"I would like to see an article about Scouting and other youth groups in the community."

"Have you written a story of beginnings of Johnston City and history?"

"I enjoy personal interest stories."

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5 Generations

Virginia Burton (left) became a very proud great, great grandmother on March 29, 2024. Pictured are: her daughter, Denise Ramirez; grandson, Jason Ramirez; great granddaughter, Kayla Westcott. Virginia is holding her great, great granddaughter—Willow Westcott.

REFLECTIONS OF A PASTOR

Celebrating Seasons, Anniversaries, Steps to Recovery

BY RANDY CARNEY
"Wow! I forgot how tall and beautiful these trees are." That's what my wife and I exclaimed when we pulled into our driveway after moving back to southern Illinois from Texas.

We spent nine years in Georgia, where our four "Georgia Peaches" were born, and then three years in Texas. But Illinois called us home. My father passed away while we were in Texas, and my mother suggested we return. With a 48-acre farm waiting, it made perfect sense.

Rhonda grew up in McLeansboro, and I was raised on that very farm just south of Thompsonville. We tried city life in Texas for a bit, and later even lived in a small town 26 miles from

my work. But you know what they say, "You can take a married couple out of the country, but you can't take the country out of them."

Concerning our comment about trees—in the area of Texas where we lived, trees didn't grow nearly as tall as they did back home. I worked on the pastoral staff of a church in which a large number of attendees had moved there from many states across the USA and even Canada.

One day our pastor, a native of Canada, made a comment about a tree. He then paused, looked at us, and, with a mirthful glint in his eye, said, "You know, a tree. It grows up out of the ground and it is *tall*." The congregation roared with laughter, with the possible



DR. RANDY CARNEY, pastor of JCity Church

exception of some Texas natives who hadn't seen trees like ours.

One of the things we anticipated about moving back was experiencing all four seasons again. Down south, it felt like we had a few days of winter, a short spring, and then a long stretch of "really hot." But here, September brings a welcome change, transitioning into Rhonda's favorite time of year.

September is special for another reason—it marks the anniversary of *Arrow News* in its "real newspaper format." And let's not forget the Family Fun Fair, highlighted in this issue, that brings us all together.

This month is also "Recovery Month," a time to celebrate those making strides in their journeys of recovery. Whether you're celebrating an anniversary, a new season, or steps in your spiritual growth, I pray this time brings you joy and renewal.

OPINION

Say Something Nice

BY JIMMY DEAN

For as long as I can remember, politics has fascinated me and has been a part of my adult life.

During this time, I have been a part of a lot of wins and a few losses, but there's been one constant throughout each race: negative comments.

Local elections rarely generate a lot of mudslinging, and even at the county level, it is more behind the back deviations with the real dirty stuff saved for state and national elections.

Through all of this, one thing has piqued my interest. Why can't people focus on the good?

Several years ago, prior to a debate, I was asked by one of the panelists to submit a couple of questions.

One of my questions simply asked candidates to say something nice about their opponents (and not just generic comments like "a nice person" or "dresses well"). My question may have seemed lame, but it threw all three of the debaters off, as they had not anticipated this question and did not have a rehearsed answer.

Wouldn't the debates be a lot better if names like "Lying Ted," "Little Marco," and



Jimmy Dean is a freelance writer and former Mayor of Johnston City. He can be reached at jrdean@mchsi.com.

attacks on the candidates' spouses were replaced with good questions?

My request may not be as hard hitting or delve into why one candidate is better than the others, but that leads to the second part.

Every candidate—whether Democrat, Republican, Green Party, man, or woman—has some good ideas.

I have yet to hear any candidate in any debate, news article, or campaign piece say, "You know what? Candidate so and so has a good idea. I think we should do that."

One person's ideas are not always right, nor are they always wrong. So why not take a mixture of all the candidates' suggestions and come up with a solution to the problems facing the office they are seeking?

The answer seems simple, but getting a candidate to agree with or say something nice in these days and times is almost impossible.



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from Addict to ADVOCATE A STORY OF GRACE

BY CRIS CORZINE-McCLOSKEY
Director of Caring Counseling Ministries

“Sin didn’t and doesn’t have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call grace” (Romans 5:20 MSG).

Addiction problems painted the backdrop of my life. Dad was an alcoholic, and my earliest memories are of him drunk. Yet, as a little girl, I loved and idolized my daddy right up to the moment he began molesting me when he was intoxicated. By age 12, I had started sniffing inhalants and smoking pot, and by age 16, I had a drinking habit. My parents were divorced by then, and I kept silent about what my father had done. Mom had become a Christian, married a godly man, but I decided to go live with my natural father, and by the time I left his home, my problems with drugs, alcohol, and promiscuity were carved in stone.

For years, I bounced from drug to drug, but alcohol was my constant. I bartended, so I had easy access to money, booze, and men. With those men came more drugs. Then one of the men in my life introduced me to meth, and that nearly destroyed me. I fell in love with meth quickly; only after I was hooked came the reality of my addiction—I couldn’t go a day without it. When I tried to quit, it felt like a fingernail was scratching on my brain, and before long, meth consumed my life. I managed to maintain a façade of normalcy, but isolated myself from anyone who might get close enough to recognize I wasn’t all I seemed. I was locked in that cycle with meth for 11 years.

Unbeknownst to me, my mother and stepfather were praying for me. They didn’t know about the drugs, but they knew I wasn’t living right. As a child, my mom had done her best to teach me the gospel, but eventually, I scoffed at the name Jesus, and declared if there was a god, he certainly wasn’t the one Christians believed him to be. Funny thing was, it didn’t matter that I no longer believed in Him, because He never stopped believing in me.

Eventually, in an attempt to support my addiction, I offered my dealer \$2,000 to invest into his drug business. About that time, mom finally handed me completely over to the Lord, and told Him, “Whatever it takes, save my daughter.” Almost immediately, the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency arrested me for Conspiracy to Traffic and Distribute over 500 grams of methamphetamine. I, a lowly drug addict, was arrested and charged with the same crime as my dealer and the local drug kingpin. The DEA had tapped my dealer’s phone, so when I called and offered him that \$2,000, I had sealed my fate. As far as the DEA was concerned, I was as guilty

as the kingpin, and I was facing 10 years in prison.

As I was fingerprinted, put in a jumpsuit, and thrown in jail, I knew I was in trouble. At my first hearing, they denied my bond. Rumor was that federal cases never got out on bond; people just sat in jail and waited to go to prison. To say I was scared is such an understatement that it’s laughable. To make matters worse, I was going through withdrawal. Some of my fellow inmates told me about Jesus, and by

“I got on the floor in my cell, called out to Jesus, and begged Him to forgive and help me.”

my second night in jail, I was broken and desperate enough to turn my life over to him. I got on the floor in my cell, called out to Jesus, and begged Him to forgive and help me. Afterward, I didn’t feel different, except I suddenly stopped craving drugs.

I called my mom and told her everything. She and my stepfather stunned me with their forgiveness and understanding, and they called upon friends to pray. Two days later, I was released on bond, a miracle in and of itself. I was still facing 10 years in prison; however, the prosecutor agreed to let me relocate to await sentencing. My stepfather (whom I now know was the true earthly daddy my Heavenly Father always intended for me) moved me to Illinois to live with the Christian family I had spent a lifetime avoiding. I started attending church, and the Lord was working with me. By the time I got sentenced to prison, He had his hooks in me deep.

Nevertheless, I was devastated when the judge sentenced me to one year in prison. I thought the Lord had failed me, or wasn’t even there. Worst of all, was my fear. I was afraid of going to prison, and afraid that my new relationship with Jesus couldn’t withstand it.

“All things work out for the good for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

I had one month to turn myself in, and during that month, people kept quoting Romans 8:28. My response? I would get mad and say “blah, blah,” in reply. After all, at that point, I was too mad at God to feel I qualified; and besides, I was going to prison. I didn’t believe there was any way prison could work out for my good. At the end of that month, I self-surrendered at Atwood in Lexington,

Kentucky, reputed as the worst of the federal camps for women. But I did not go in alone.

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze, for I am the Lord, your God, your Savior” (Isaiah 43:1-3).

I did not go alone, because He was with me, every step of the way. He held me up during the day, and covered me at night. I learned that he truly is Emmanuel, God with us. After my release, I realized that going there had changed me in ways that couldn’t have been accomplished otherwise—not because prison rehabilitation works, but rather because I learned firsthand this principle: “You’ll never know God is all you need until God is all you’ve got.” I’d lost everything that I thought mattered, including my bodily freedom, but I gained the greatest treasure of all—freedom in Christ.

“I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

If my story ended there, I’d be just another ex-con, trying to make it in a world that despises meth felons. The first job I got after my release was cleaning hotel rooms—backbreaking, nasty work for little pay and less appreciation. I spent a year doing that. I call that my wilderness period, because that is where I began to learn the most important lesson of all: we must walk by faith, and not by feelings.

One day at the hotel, I met a guest who told me about a Christian counseling agency in Marion called Caring Counseling Ministries, and I suddenly knew I wanted to be a counselor there. However, to make that dream a reality, I would need a Master’s Degree as a counselor, and I didn’t even know if I could gain admission to graduate school with my criminal record.

I was accepted. When the program required an internship, I headed straight to that agency to apply. Thinking it would take a miracle for the director, Kent Mattox, to hire me with my past, I told him I had been a meth addict



Cris and Gracie (one of Caring Counseling’s “Dog Pack”)

and had been in prison. That miracle happened; he didn’t hire me *in spite of* my past, he hired me *because of* it.

Upon graduation, I landed my dream job when Kent chose to keep me on as a full-time counselor. A couple of years after that, and with a full disclosure of my felony, the State of Illinois granted me professional licensure—the cherry on top of the ice cream in my field. (God truly has a sense of humor. Now lawyers and judges listen to my advice.) In 2014, Kent handed the position of Agency Director to me. That same year, I met and married the man God has chosen for me.

Last month, I celebrated 19 years of sobriety, and I am now 19 years a believer. I have not experienced a drug craving since I reached out to him that night in my cell. I am amazed by this, because no one knows better than I do who I was, and the things I have done. I marvel at the miracle He has made out of my life. I still feel some survivor guilt over this, and I ask Him on a regular basis, “Why me?”

Why would he choose a burned-out, sin-enraged, wrecking-ball of a human being like me, to shower with so much mercy and grace, changing my life through the magnitude of His love? Ah, but

“...[Kent] didn’t hire me in spite of my past, he hired me because of it.”

then I look at the Gospels, and I see my story written across the pages of history. From the woman caught in adultery to the woman at the well, these women tell my story: Shattered lives looking for things to fill the emptiness in their soul, only to find themselves in a deeper pit. Then they meet a man who looks past the sin to the wounded soul inside, and he rescues them. Grace is Jesus Christ, and grace is absolutely scandalous. It’s a strange feeling as the recipient of mercy—like being the survivor of a plane crash.

Maybe the Apostle Paul wrestled with this, because he called himself the chief of sinners. Paul reasoned that Christ had saved Him to show off God’s unlimited grace and mercy. Here’s how I apply this to my life: I was just the kind of jacked-up mess He was looking for; when people hear about my

life, they know it had to be the power of God at work in me.

What kind of God is this who seeks me out and then ravages me with His love and heals me from my secret hurts? His love has brought me to a place of forgiveness for my father and all others who used me. It has even brought me to a place where I have forgiven myself for all the people I used and destroyed. The words of St. Augustine resonate, “In loving me you made me lovable.”

And while this thing we call life is all about Him and His goodness, He is all about us—consumed with us. It’s not because He is mad and counting our sins against us; rather, He is instead counting the numbers of hairs on our head, because we are that precious to Him. Dying was preferable to life without us, then His love was so strong that death could not hold Him. His love is the only thing we can truly count on in this life and the next. Whether in grace or disgrace, we are radically loved by a God who is tender and merciful. It is His love that changes us.

These truths have formed my core beliefs as a Christian, as a therapist, and as director of Caring Counseling Ministries. Since I was what society would have deemed a hopeless case, I

no longer believe in hopeless cases.

Brennan Manning, author of the *Ragamuffin Gospel*, wrote, “We should be astonished at the goodness of God, stunned that He should bother to call us by name, our mouths wide open at His love, bewildered that at this very moment we are standing on holy ground.”

Our mission at Caring Counseling is to help individuals experience that astonishment. We believe this kind of love, acceptance, and awe can change your life.

Caring Counseling Ministries partners with JCity Center for Hope and Renewal to offer mental health and family counseling at its satellite office in Johnston City. Call 618-997-2129 or 618-952-1272 for information or appointments. Cris has served on the board of JCity Center since its incorporation.



Community Calendar

September Events

SEPT. 3
JC Business Meet-N-Greet, Andresen's, 9:00 am

Lions Club Meeting, JCity Church, 6:00 pm

SEPT. 4
Rotary Meeting, Indigo Realty, 4:00 pm

SEPT. 6
SI Bank 25th Anniversary Celebration, 11 am - 2 pm.

SEPT. 7
Sweet Southern Market, 411 E. Broadway, 10 am-6 pm (Rain date 9/14/24)

JCity Center Fall Family Fun Fair, Broadway & Monroe

SEPT. 9
Library Board Meeting, Public Library, 6:30 pm

SEPT. 10
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5:00 pm

SEPT. 16
JC Planning Meeting, JCity Church, 4:00 pm

Library Puzzle Race, Masonic Hall, 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:00)

SEPT. 17
Lions Club Meeting, Andresen's, 9:00 am

SEPT. 18
Rotary Social Gathering, Andresen's, 12 pm

School Board Meeting, Unit Office, 6:00 pm

SEPT. 19
Commodity Distribution/Food Pantry, First United

Methodist, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (emergency food available every Thu.)

SEPT. 21
City of Johnston City Car Show, downtown, Noon-4:00 pm

SEPT. 24
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5:00 pm

SEPT. 27
JCHS Homecoming, Parade-3 pm, Game-7 pm

SEPT. 28
Sports Hall of Fame Induction/Banquet, JCHS, 11:00 am

Craft Fair, First Christian Church, 10 am - 3 pm

Homecoming Dance

October Events

OCT. 1
JC Business Meet-N-Greet, Andresen's, 9:00 am

Lions Club Meeting, JCity Church, 6:00 pm

OCT. 2
Rotary Meeting, Indigo Realty, 4:00 pm

OCT. 5-6
RC Boat Races on Arrowhead Lake

OCT. 7
Library Board Meeting, Public Library, 6:30 pm

OCT. 8
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5:00 pm

OCT. 15
Lions Club Meeting, Andresen's, 9:00 am

OCT. 16
Rotary Social Gathering, Andresen's, 12 pm oct. 19

OCT. 17
Commodity Distribution/Food Pantry, First United Methodist, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

School Board Meeting, Unit Office, 6:00 pm

OCT. 19
Lions Club Fish Fry, Masonic Hall, 11:00 am-2:00 pm

JCity Center/Take Action Today 3rd Anniversary-Recovery Celebration, JCity Church parking lot, Broadway & Monroe, 3:00-5:00 pm

OCT. 21
JC Planning Meeting, JCity Church, 4:00 pm

OCT. 22
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5:00 pm

OCT. 25-26
Haunted Hayride, Arrowhead Lake Campground

OCT. 31
Trail of Treats, Downtown

Weekly Events

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

THURSDAYS
Food pantry/clothes closet open, First Christian Church, 505 E. Broadway, 3:30-5:30 pm

two professional references to Mrs. Kathy Clark, Superintendent, Johnston City CUSD #1, P.O. Box 147, 1113 Grand Ave., Johnston City, IL 62951.

Education

MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

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

- 5th and 6th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
- Assistant Middle School Girls Basketball Coach

• 5th and 6th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Please send a Letter of Application, resume, and proof of meeting the requirements in the IHSAA by-law 2.070 "Qualifications of Coaches" to Mr. William Brayfield, SIJHSAA Athletic Director, Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, 1113 Grand Ave, Johnston City, IL 62951.

PARAPROFESSIONALS

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

- Lincoln Elementary School Paraprofessional
- Jefferson Elementary School Paraprofessional

Please send a Letter of Application, resume, proof of paraprofessional certification, and

Food Service

KITCHEN HELP

OPAA! is now hiring Kitchen Staff.

Duties: Prepare breakfast and/or lunch offerings and assist with serving lines. Participate in occasional catering functions. Perform all positions within the kitchen.

KITCHEN STAFF SUBSTITUTE: Able to perform the essential function of kitchen staff positions on an as-needed basis.

Please see jcindians.org for links.

School Transportation

The Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1 is accepting applications for the following positions: Bus monitor, substitute bus drivers, and substitute bus monitors. Contact Becky Vancil, JC Transportation Director, at 618-952-2604.

AROUND TOWN

Craft Fair

The First Christian Church congregation will host a Craft Fair, Saturday, September 28, 10:00 am-3:00pm. This outside, weather permitting event welcomes additional vendors. Booths measure 10 x 10 feet. The rental price has been lowered from previously reported. Those interested should contact Dalton Holland, 618-944-0375, (after 5pm). Food will also be sold onsite. The church address is 505 E. Broadway.

SI Bank 25th Anniversary

Southern Illinois Bank will continue celebrating 25 years in business at its area branches in September. The Johnston City branch, 1012 W. Broadway, will host a celebration for customers, September 6, 11:00 am-2:00 pm.

Save the Date! Hometown Christmas, Nov. 30

Library Plans Puzzle Race

The Public Library will host a Puzzle Race Tournament, September 16 at the Masonic Hall, 501 Washington Ave. in Johnston City. Doors will open at 5:00 pm. Food will be served. Games start at 6:00 pm. Teams (up

to five persons) will compete to finish a 500-piece puzzle. Registration is required and limited to 10 teams. Contact the library (618-983-6359) for more information or to register a team.



DEALS - FOOD - MUSIC - FUN!



Pickers Outlet Mall

JUNKFEST

Oct. 19 & 20



9764 Herrin Rd. Johnston City, IL 62951
(618) 983-5151

City of Johnston City


Eighth Annual Car Show

Saturday, Sept. 21st, 2024
Noon - 4 pm - Awards @ 3:30

Downtown Broadway
\$15 Entry Fee

First 100 Receive Dash Plaque • 50/50 Drawing
Unique Specialty Awards • Giveaways

Cars, Trucks, Jeeps & Motorcycles



Proceeds from this event will go to the Johnston City Fireworks Spectacular

Sweet Southern Market

COME & JOIN THE FALL FUN AT
Down Home Comforts

September 7th  **10am-6pm**

411 E. Broadway Blvd. Johnston City, IL

Vendors • Food Trucks • Baked Goods • BYO Bouquet

Rain Date: September 14th



Also, join us down the street (Broadway & Monroe) at the Fall Family Fun Fair, 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

MEET AT THE INDIANS

Swimming

Head Coach: Katie Cully
Junior: Lacey Edwards

Cross Country

Head Coach:
Saeward Mattox
Seniors: Ben Harris,
Jerry Tate
Juniors: Erica Hinkle,
Lucas Hinkle

Golf

Head Coach: Darron
Rushing
Assistant Coach:
Lenny Clark
Seniors: Ty Clark, Randy
Fuqua, Chase McReynolds,
Seth Rice, Aubree
Williford, Taylor Woolard
Juniors: Logan Smith,
Brody Watts, Sophie
Walker, Josie Welch
Sophomores: Luke
Davis, Bella Restivo
Freshmen: Kenni
LaFollette, Dakota
Musgrave

Volleyball

Head Coach: Ashley
Gualdoni
Assistant Coach: Will
Carmickle, Ashley
Carmickle, Megan Hearn
Seniors: Zoe Cullum,
Kylie Duggar, Karleigh
McVey, Sydney Pietrantonio,
Peyton Smith, Erin West
Juniors: Josie Anastasi,
Erica Hinkle, Mariah
Hall, Olivia Mays, Maci
Saylor, Brianna Timmons
Sophomores: Gracelynn
Lenon, Gracelynn



Matthews, Aliyna
McCoy, Amaya Peairs,
Marlie Roland, Anna
Wagley, Kyla Watson
Freshmen: Nadyah
Clark, Kadence Clay,
Sadie Cobb, Alivia
Crespi, Hannah Greeney,
Adrianna Wilkening,
Brentley Williams

Band

Band Director: Lexi
Ligons, Michael Smith
Seniors: Hunter
Oliver, Zakkary Ray,
Kaitlin Russell
Juniors: Raylynn
Alexander, Joseph
Hercules, Cooper
Melvin, Nya Pugh
Sophomores: Brylee Bailey,
Kaden Corey, Emersan
Gibbs, Alexandria Ingram,
Nicholas Morton, Braden
Taylor, Ariyanna White
Freshmen: Elijah Abbott,
Zion Arnold, Dakota
Musgrave, Makayla
Tennant, Cash Tolbert

Dance

Head Coach: Hannah
Cutsinger
Seniors: Kaitlin Russell
Juniors: Ailicec
Jackson, Julia Jones
Freshmen: Sophia Altier,
Kali Johnson, Jetlin
Kellermeier, Shyan Pulliam

Flag

Head Coach: Tiffany
Dobraski
High School: Kali Johnson,
Kohana Morgret

Cheerleaders

Head Coach: Jinna Glasco
Seniors: Jacie Pinkston
Juniors: Lilli Armes,
Olivia Mays, Josie Welch
Sophomores: Reese
Cargal, Azlynn Gower,
Aliyna McCoy, Bella
Restivo, Rylei Smiley
Freshmen: Alivia
Crespi, Bentley
Williams, Sadie Cobb

2024-25 INDIAN FOOTBALL

2024-25 INDIAN FOOTBALL					
Head Coach: Todd Thomas Assistant Coaches: Marshall Mummert, Lex Glasco, Travis Brown, Riley Hearn, Monty Norment, Devan Miner, Jason Swann, Caleb Newell					
Ashmore, Cannon	2	5'9"	185	RB/LB	SR
Cargal, Brennan	5	5'10"	205	TE/LB	SR
Causey, Nolan	3	5"11"	160	RB/DB	SR
Cullum, Nick	58	5"8"	180	FB/LB	SR
Giron, Carlos	57	5"9"	195	OL/DL	SR
Maxwell, Issac	71	6'3"	205	OL/DL	SR
Peters, Blake	9	5'11"	210	TE/DL	SR
Sanders, Evan	0	6'1"	245	RB/DL	SR
Sanders, Roper	76	6'1"	310	OL/DL	SR
Smith, Marcus	63	6'2"	205	OL/DL	SR
Wingo, Alec	7	6'1"	165	RB/LB	SR
Henderson, Wyatt	10	6'2"	175	TE/DB	JR
Johnson, Trey	11	5'10"	145	RB/DB	JR
Koenig, Kaden	6	5'9"	170	QB/DB	JR
Moore, Landon	60	5'9"	215	OL/DL	JR
Moore, Logan	66	6'1"	225	OL/DL	JR
Pugh, Jessie	59	5'10"	195	OL/DL	JR
Tanner, Casey	65	5'10"	215	OL/DL	JR
Weaver, Jace	22	5'4"	145	RB/DB	JR
Boatright, Hunter	50	5'9"	155	OL/DL	SO
Burton, Hayden	35	5'9"	190	RB/LB	SO
Cutsinger, Wyatt	62	5'10"	175	OL/DL	SO
Davis, Levi	15	6'1"	185	TE/DL	SO
Deason, Keegan	52	5'7"	150	OL/LB	SO
Hammontree, Gabe	16	5'8"	145	RB/DB	SO
Hermetz, Colin	55	5'9"	190	OL/DL	SO
Keith, Andrew	13	6'1"	160	RB/DB	SO

SEPTEMBER 2024 SCHOOL SPORTS CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
02 JV Football v. Christopher (H) 6:00 PM	03 Middle School Boys Baseball/Girls Softball v. Hamilton Co. (A) 4:30 PM Girls Varsity Volleyball v. Zeigler-Royalton (H) 6:00 PM	04 Coed Varsity Golf Lady Cat Invite Marion HS (A) 1:00 PM Coed MS Cross Country v. Benton (A) 4:00 PM	05 Varsity Golf (Girls Only) v. Anna-Jonesboro (A) 3 PM Varsity Golf (Boys Only) v. West Frankfort (A) 4 PM MS Boys Baseball/Girls Softball v. Hamilton Co. (H) 4:30 PM Varsity Volleyball v. Herrin (H) 5:00 PM Freshman Football v. Marion (A) 6:00 PM	06 Varsity Football v. Edwards Co. (H) 7:00 PM	07 Varsity Volleyball v. Mult. Opponents Carbondale Tourney (A) 8:00 AM Coed MS Cross Country v. Mult. Opponents 204 (Pinckneyville) Invt. (A) 10:00 AM
09 Coed Varsity Golf v. Hamilton Co. (A) 4 PM MS Boys Baseball/Girls Softball v. WF Central Jr. High (A) 4:30 PM JV Football v. Edwards Co. (A) 6:00 PM	10 Coed Varsity Golf v. Eldorado (A) 4:00 PM Coed Varsity Cross Country v. Herrin (A) 4:30 PM	11 Varsity Volleyball v. Zeigler-Royalton (A) 6:00 PM MS Boys Baseball/Girls Softball v. WF Central Jr. High (H) 4:30 PM	12 Varsity Golf (Girls Only) v. Herrin (A) 4:00 PM Varsity Volleyball v. Christopher (H) 5:00 PM Freshman Football v. Eldorado (H) 6:00 PM	13 MS Boys Baseball/Girls Softball v. Goreville (A) 4:30 PM Varsity Football v. Eldorado (A) 7:00 PM	14 Boys MS Baseball v. Mult. Opponents ZR Invt. (A) 9:00 AM
16 Coed MS Cross Country, Marion CC Relays (Marion Jr. High) (A) TBA Coed Varsity Golf v. Goreville (A) 4:00 PM MS Boys Baseball/ Girls Softball v. Goreville (H) 4:30 PM	17 Varsity Volleyball v. Trico (H) 5:00 PM	18 MS Boys Baseball/Girls Softball v. Sesser-Valier Jr/Sr High (H) 4:30 PM	19 Varsity Volleyball v. Vienna (A) 5 PM Freshman Football v. Fairfield (H) 6:00 PM	20 MS Boys Baseball/Girls Softball v. Sesser-Valier Jr/Sr High (A) 4:30 PM Varsity Football v. Fairfield (A) 7:00 PM	21
23 Coed MS Cross Country v. Benton (A) 4:00 PM JV Football v. Fairfield (H) 6:00 PM	24 Coed Varsity Cross Country v. Goreville (A) 4:00 PM Coed Varsity Golf v. Hardin Co. Jr/Sr High School *Senior Day (H) 4:00 PM	25 Coed Varsity Golf v. Mult. Opponents, BDC Conf. GIRLS Meet ZR (A) 9 AM	26 Coed Varsity Golf v. Mult. Opponents, BDC Conf. BOYS Meet ZR (A) 9 AM Varsity Volleyball v. Galatia (H) 6:00 PM Freshman Football v. Chester (H) 6:00 PM	27 Varsity Football v. Flora (H) 7:00 PM	28 Homecoming Dance
30 Coed Varsity Cross Country v. Vienna (A) 4:00 PM JV Football v. Flora (A) 6:00 PM	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2>2024</h2> <h1>Homecoming</h1> <h2>Theme</h2> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> </div>				

JCity SPORTS NEWS

Football Indians make good showing in scrimmage with WF

Parents and fans of JCHS gathered Friday, August 24, at Ralph Davison Field, for a procession of student athletes, cheerleaders, dancers, and band members. The annual event, "Meet the Indians," introduced members of the high school's three football teams. After introductions, players warmed up on the field as the announcer read the names of 78 students participating in other activities (see complete list on page 7).

Following introductions, the JCHS band opened with the National Anthem and the school's traditional "Fight Song." Then the scrimmage between players from Johnston City and West Frankfort began. As it was a controlled scrimmage, scores were not kept, but the Indians crossed the goal twice and the WF Redbirds once. According to Dustin Hill of Tee Pee Talk, "All three teams at each level looked good. With it being a scrimmage, you obviously limit the playbook, so you don't give much away heading into the regular season."



Junior Jace Weaver (RB/DB) runs the ball during the Meet the Indians scrimmage with West Frankfort (Shawna Hill photo)

Due to unforeseen delays at Christopher's football field, the Bearcats were unable to host what would have been the Indians' season opener as an away game. At press time, the Varsity Football Indians

and the CZR Bearcats were scheduled to play at JCHS August 30, with kickoff at 7:00 pm.

Community Outreach Night

The second home game, September 6, has been designated Community Outreach Night. Local and area-wide community organizations will set up displays near the main entrance of the sports complex. Gates will open at 6:00 and the game begins at 7:00.

The theme for the event is "Lights! Camera! Action!" The Homecoming parade will begin at 3:00 pm Friday with the football game against Flora at 7:00 that evening. The Homecoming Dance will follow on Saturday. The JCHS Class of '84 will hold its 40th year reunion at Andresen's Event Center that evening as well.

Sports Hall of Fame

The Class of 2024 Johnston City Sports Hall of Fame inductees are Daniel Farmer, Darron Rushing, and the 1976 Spring Golf Team.

This year's Hall of Fame inductees, as well as any previous inductees in attendance, will be recognized at the Homecoming game.

The induction ceremony and banquet will be held September 28, 11:30 am, in the high school gym. Tickets are \$15 each and available at the Unit Office and the high school office.

Middle school girls softball enters mid-season

BY DOUG HANCOCK
As the Arrow goes to press, only one sport has more than a half dozen games under its belt. Washington Middle School girls softball is currently sporting a modest 3-4 record, after losing a nailbiter to Crab Orchard. Coach P.J. Johnson is relying heavily upon younger players to carry the load and gain much needed experience as the season progresses.

One of the bright stars in this early season is Meliah Phillips, sporting a 2-0 record as starting pitcher. During her last outing, Meliah struck out nine batters while giving up only two hits and one walk. She helped her own cause by going two for two at the plate.

Home games for Washington Middle School are played at nearby JCHS on perhaps the finest ball diamond in southern Illinois.



Homecoming

JCHS will celebrate Homecoming 2024 the weekend of September 27-28.

Meliah Phillips, starting pitcher for Washington Middle School girls softball (Photo by Shooting Star Photography).

ALYSA BUNTING

CHRISTY TRAYLOR

TJ MARTIN

ALLISON HASLER

KARI HERNANDEZ

Unlock the door to your dream home while finding hidden treasures in this exciting real estate word search!

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