



Longtime volunteer Roy Rogers recognized

BY BROOKE SCHLYER,
JOHNSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Arrowhead Classic is all about basketball; but if you look a little closer, there's something more important than the numbers on the scoreboard. Community.

Coaches, players, cheerleaders, the band, parents, and spectators all come out to show their support. Those people are easy to spot, but volunteers who help behind the scenes can be a little harder to find.

For 38 years, Roy Rogers gave his time as one of those volunteers. The Johnston City High School alumnus videotaped basketball games, football games, and homecoming activities out of the kindness of his heart.

On January 21, in between games at this year's Arrowhead Classic, the

Johnston City School District recognized Rogers for a major accomplishment. In the spring, the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association will award Rogers the Friend of Basketball accolade, inducting him into the organization's 2025 Hall of Fame.

Former Johnston City Mayor Jimmy Dean, who also referees basketball games, nominated Rogers after noticing his dedication to the Johnston City schools year after year.

"He's got a service heart," Dean explains. "Roy did all of this just because he wanted to help the school. People don't realize all the long bus rides and being away from your family. People like (Roy) don't always get recognition."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



From Left to Right: High School Basketball Coach Scott Burzynski, Roy Rogers, Athletic Director Lindsey Bush, and Jimmy Dean who nominated Rogers. (JC School District photo)

Pre-K students step into new shoes

BY BROOKE SCHLYER,
JOHNSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Kicks for Kids program is off and running at Jefferson Elementary School. On January 17, 57 Pre-K students each went home with a brand-new pair of shoes.

The program is a group effort initiated by the Johnston City office of Edward Jones and includes Financial Advisors Ashton and Sidney Stephens, Senior Branch Office Administrator Tonia Johnson, and Branch Office Administrator Laura Wilkerson, in cooperation with Hibbett Sports and the school. While this is the first time students went home with new shoes, this plan has been in the works for some time.

"Our branch has been trying to think about what our give back can be to the community," Ashton Stephens explains. "About a

year ago, I was talking to my friend and she gave me this shoe project idea. I love shoes, so it seemed like the perfect fit."

The team at Edward Jones then paired up with Chrissy Stewart, District Sales Manager for Hibbett Sports. Together, they spearheaded the Kicks for Kids program. Ashton adds that her company encourages giving and matched their local office's donation, allowing for the purchase of additional shoes.

With a goal to eventually give every student in the Johnston City School District a new pair of shoes, the group began with Pre-K. A first step was getting into the school and measuring Pre-K students for their shoe size. The Stephenses, Wilkerson, Johnson, and Hibbett Sports employees accomplished this task a few months ago, then



Jefferson School Pre-K students try on new shoes provided by JC Edward Jones (School District Photo)

worked to find appropriate sizes.

"We carry a variety of shoes, so we were able to pick and choose between laces or no laces," Stewart says. "We were able to do

slip-on shoes, tie shoes, name brand shoes."

The group returned to the school, January 17, surprising students with shoeboxes individually labeled with the child's name. Pre-K students then opened the boxes, revealing brand-new pairs of kicks.

"Getting to see how excited students were to open their shoes and their reactions was absolutely amazing," Ashton adds. "It made all the hard work worth it."

Andria Murrah, Principal at Jefferson Elementary, supports the Kicks for Kids program. She says students need tennis shoes for P.E. and recess, and it also gives parents a helping hand.

Murrah explains that many students live in single-parent homes or in homes where both parents must work to support multiple children. Murrah adds, "Buying a new pair of tennis shoes can be very expensive these days."

During the giveaway, Kindergarten and first grade students also had their feet measured. Those students will be next to receive new shoes. Tentative timeframe for this Kicks for Kids presentation is late February or early March.

Ice, snow enhance Arrowhead Lake's beauty



Arrowhead Lake in early January 2025 (photo by Debbie Chapman, used with written permission)



SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DAY FEATURE — page 3

"Not hard taking beautiful pics of our lake in any season!" —Debbie Chapman

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



February Events

FEB. 3
JC Little League Registration, Scout Cabin, 5-7 pm

FEB. 4
Business Leaders Meet-N-Greet, Andresen's, 9 am

FEB. 5
Dental Safari, Jefferson School

Rotary Club - Lunch @ Andresen's, Noon

Rotary Blood Drive, Scout Cabin, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

FEB. 10
JC Little League Registration, Scout Cabin, 5-7 pm

FEB. 11
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5:00 pm

FEB. 14 - VALENTINE'S DAY
Half day of school

FEB. 16
Little League Registration, Washington School, 3-5 pm

FEB. 17
NO SCHOOL- PRESIDENT'S DAY

JC Planning Commission Meeting, Scout Cabin, 5 pm

FEB. 18
U of I Ext. free nutrition education, JCity Center, 6:00-7:30 pm

FEB. 19
Rotary Meeting, Indigo Realty Office, 4 pm

FEB. 20
Commodity Distribution/Food Pantry, First United Methodist, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (emergency food available every Thu.)

School Board Mtg., Unit Office, 6:00 pm

FEB. 22
Fire Dept. Chili Supper

FEB. 23
Little League Registration, Washington School, 3-5 pm

FEB. 24
Good News Club, Jefferson School (see p. 3)

FEB. 25
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5:00 pm

U of I Ext. free nutrition education, JCity Center, 6:00-7:30 pm

FEB. 26
Prime-Timers, JCity Church, 1:00 pm

FEB. 28
4th Friday Fun, JCity Church, 6:30-8:00 pm

March Events

MARCH 4
Business Leaders Meet-N-Greet, Andresen's, 9 am

MARCH 5
Rotary Club - Lunch @ Andresen's, Noon

MARCH 6
U of I Ext. free nutrition education, JCity Center, 6:00-7:30 pm

MARCH 7
School early dismissal

MARCH 10-14
Spring Break

MARCH 11
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5:00 pm

MARCH 15
Arrowhead Campground reopens

MARCH 17
JC Planning Commission Meeting, Scout Cabin, 5 pm

MARCH 18
Kids' Art Class, JCity Center

MARCH 19
Rotary Meeting, Indigo Realty Office, 4 pm

MARCH 20
Commodity Dist./Food Pantry, First United Methodist, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

School Board Mtg., Unit Office, 6:00 pm

MARCH 21
School half day

MARCH 25
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5:00 pm

MARCH 28
4th Friday Fun, JCity Church, 6:30-8:00 pm

Weekly Events

THURSDAYS
Food pantry/clothes closet First Christian 3:30-5:30 pm

SATURDAYS
Community Meal (drive-thru), JCity Church, 5:30-6:00

Roy Rogers honored

CONT. FROM P. 1

Many see Rogers as a humble man who shies away from the spotlight. When asked what it means to receive this accolade, Rogers' answer fit his reputation.

"Well, just thank you," he says. "When I started, my boys were playing football, so I started filming them and never quit until last year."

During his years of service, Rogers made some lasting memories and can recall his favorite.

"The fun part was going on the long rides for the playoffs," he remembers. "I always got the front, right seat of the bus."

High School Basketball Coach Scott Burzynski is one of many people to share a bus ride with Rogers. Burzynski appreciates all the hard work Rogers has put in over the years.

"Roy has been a tremendous blessing to Johnston City athletics," Burzynski adds. "The decades of service are second to none."

The Johnston City basketball program would simply say thank you and congratulations on your Hall of Fame honor. We would like to wish Roy and his family many more years of happiness."

Coaches, players, cheerleaders, the band, parents, and spectators filled the high school gymnasium on the second night of the Arrowhead classic. For the people of Johnston City, the evening held more meaning than just basketball games in an annual tournament. It provided the community an opportunity to show appreciation for Rogers and everything he has done to give back.

In May, Rogers will also attend the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame Banquet in Bloomington. He'll receive his award then with other recipients from across the state, including coaches, players, teams and media personalities.



Teachers

The Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1 is accepting applications for the following position: 2ND GRADE TEACHERS (2). Please send a letter of interest, resume with references, and proof of certification to Mrs. Kathy Clark, Superintendent, Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, 1113 Grand Ave., Johnston City, IL 62951.

Paraprofessional

The Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1 is accepting applications for the following position: LINCOLN SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL. Please click on the link at www.jcindians.org/page/departments (Employment tab) for an application for this position and return the application and proof of certification to Mrs. Kathy Clark, Superintendent, Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, 1113 Grand Ave., Johnston City, IL 62951.

Transportation

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

MONITOR, SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVER, SUBSTITUTE BUS MONITOR. Please click on the link (see above) for an application for these positions and return the application to Mrs. Rebecca Vancil, Director of Transportation, Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, 1113 Grand Ave., Johnston City, IL 62951.

Food Services

OPAA! is now hiring SUBSTITUTE KITCHEN STAFF. See website for information and to apply for these positions.

Coach

The Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1 is accepting applications for the following position: High School Assistant Baseball Coach. Please send a letter of interest to Mrs. Lindsey Bush, IHSA Athletic Director, Johnston City High School, 1500 Jefferson Avenue, Johnston City, IL 62951

WMS art teacher invests in students' lives

BY MARGIE SANDERS

Students from Washington Middle School are welcomed each day with a big smile from teacher Chelsy Yates. Mrs. Yates grew up in Johnston City and was very happy to be offered a teaching position here. Currently, she teaches sixth grade reading and language and art for grades 6-8. She is best known for the after-school art club she sponsors.

Chelsy's all-time favorite book is *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt, and she uses this book in her classes. See a sample of Yates' own writing on page 3.

Mrs. Yates truly enjoys seeing the changes in her students from the first day of school to the last. "I want to be remembered that I took time to care and to see each one as a person and not a child," she said. She wants each one of her students to be cared for. When asked if she looks forward to retirement, she said no. She plans to teach as long as possible.

When not teaching, Chelsy enjoys crocheting and painting. She is especially thrilled to find an antique statue she can paint and add to her classroom display. Presently she has a knight, a wolf, and of course, an Indian in her room.

Fun Evening
for Kids

4th
FRIDAY

Jan. 31, Feb. 28, March 28, April 25

Grades K-5 6:30-8:00 pm

Bible Stories Games Crafts Snacks

Johnston City
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Broadway & Monroe
Johnston City
618-983-5254

Johnston City IL
Rotary
Club

BLOOD DRIVE

Wed., Feb. 5
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Johnston City
Scout Cabin

Coulson's

HEATING & COOLING

Since 1961

983-8133

Heating & Air Conditioning
Amana



I'll See You

BY CHELSY YATES

I'll see you in the hummingbirds
And in old hymns from my childhood,
Bittersweet memories that bring tears to my eyes
Of "In the Garden" and "The Sweet By and By".

From front porch rocking
Or simply swinging side by side
In the quiet tender moments of days gone by.

I'll see you in the lilies
That my mother grows each spring.
In the melody of the windchimes
And the peacefulness they bring.

From the stories shared 'round your table
Of farming, life, and love,
And prayers with hands held together
Thanking God above.

I'll see you in my son's smile
And how you held him close.
Another visit with Granny Fosse
Is what he longs for most.

I'll see you in my memories
I have a suitcase full of them,
And they will help me visit you
Until we meet again.

Mrs. Yates, this poem's author, is ELA and Art Teacher at Washington Middle School.

Love

When you think of love, you probably think of one or two things: saying something along the lines of, "I love pancakes!" or the kind of love you feel. If you say, "I love pancakes!" you most likely are not referring to having strong feelings for them, you just enjoy them. This form of the word love can be substituted for other words: "I enjoy pancakes!" or "I like pancakes!" But the feeling of love cannot. Chances are you do not walk toward your mom and say: "I enjoy you!" or "I like you!" You most likely only say one thing, "I love you."

One person I frequently express-and feel-love for is my dad. He worked in the restaurant industry for so long, that I often forget how long he worked there. This means that he spends much time with me in the kitchen teaching me principles of cooking. He knows that I need to have the ability to comprehend concepts like effort and reward, responsibility, and wise decision-making. He is passionate and can get a smile out of practically anybody.

He holds a special place in my heart because of his excellent supportiveness and empathy. He cooks some of the greatest food I eat on a daily basis. He allows me to succeed and

supports me through my running races. He sets limits for me to let me have a better life. My dad is truly one of the greatest people I know and is someone I will say, "I love you" to.

—Connor Koontz
(Mrs. Colson, 1st Period)

What is Love?

Love for an object and love for a person are different from each other. You can't love an object like you would a person, because objects don't have feelings, and most of the time don't last very long, either. Loving someone takes effort and is (usually) a two-way feeling. You can't just walk up to a random person that you've just met and say that you love them. When you say that you love an object you are saying that you like everything about that object—its size, colors, capabilities, etc. But when you say that about a person, it shows that you have a very strong and important bond with them, that they mean something to you—more than just how they look or act. So, the difference is, one is just a liking to a thing or object that is incapable of sharing the same likeness back; while the other is a strong bond with a person, shared between both and cherished.

A person that I love is my

sister. She is a goofy 11-year-old named Kendalyn who loves nothing better than to mess with me while I'm trying to do something. She is smart (sometimes) and actually enjoys studying some schoolwork with me. She gets very, very annoying sometimes but it wouldn't be her without it. She's always trying to be positive and tries surrounding herself with positive people. But I love her because she cares for me and loves me as well. She's an amazing sibling for someone like me.

My little sister is a special person to me. She has always been there for me, even if she was forced to be there. She knows me well and has taken the time to do so. I know some people don't have the best relationships with their siblings, so it makes me even more appreciative that she tries. I can say that I love my sister, and it would be true, even when she becomes a little smartie. She has always been kind to random strangers since she was a little, little kid, going out of her way to make someone smile—even if it's in a supermarket. She is, and will always be, my little sister that I love dearly; and she is very special to me because she's my little sister.

—Kaedance Imhoff
(Mrs. Colson, 3rd Period)



FROM OUR READERS

What do you love about Johnston City?

I love the community...the people. We moved here about 25 years ago and I fell in love with it.... It's a great place to raise your kids. You know what they're doing...a lot of eyes and ears out there that help you.

—Starla Waters

I love the school system. I love how everybody gets together and supports each other, and I love the churches. We have great churches.

—Beth Roberts

I love the teachers...the math department. Our math team was pretty great (Second place in the state two years in a row... led by the amazing Mr. Stanley).

—Logan Smith

The people. They come together in time of need and are there to support each other.... We have generations that stay here... People I went to school with—I know their parents and grandparents and now they have kids, so I could know four generations in this town. All hold stories of their own.

—Anthony Spiller

I love the way that our community pulls together.

—Jane Kelton

I love the beautiful, hometown pride.

—Kelly Dexter

I love most how we all take care of each other like we're one big family. Neighbors helping neighbors.

—Grant Mitchell

The people....I grew up with all kinds of stories about our

town and the folks who made a difference, whether that be in sports, politics, education, or fame. But the most important ones to time were those who lived all their lives in Johnston City and worked to make our town a better place.

—Doug Hancock

One thing almost always sticks out to me: Any time an emergency arises, our people always seem to rise up to help out. No matter what personal opinions are involved, we tend to be more like family than most.

—Doug Dobbins

Our schools care about their students.

—Margie Sanders

The camaraderie between coworkers, peers, and students. The overall upbeat atmosphere in the classroom and extracurricular activities.

—Sydney Billington

I love that when there is a person or a family who is in need our community really comes together and helps the best they can. Not everyone has to like each other or get along, but they all manage to work together for a good cause.

—Jade West

When push comes to shove, we take care of our own and rally around one another.

—Dustin Hill



Office: (618) 983-8000 Fax: (618) 983-8001
1109 Grand Ave.
Johnston City, IL 62951
arkinsurance@ark4me.com



PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES SINCE 1975
908 GRAND AVE. | JOHNSTON CITY | 618-983-6925
BANTERRA.BANK | 866-226-8377 | MEMBER FDIC



Providing High Speed Internet Service
Futiva.biz 618-736-2901

Arrow Distribution Points

Each month, volunteers distribute 1,500 copies of Arrow News to more than 30 local establishments. Here is a partial listing of places to pick up your copy:

Andresen's	Food Shop
Ark Insurance	Gibbons & Kiel
Arrowhead Store	JC Community
Bandy Drugs	Health Clinic
Banterra Bank	JC Public Library
Blondie's Bakery	JCity Church
Blush Salon	JCUSD Office
Casey's	Legence Bank
City Hall	Manna Mission
Dollar General	McDonald's
Down Home	ROC
Comforts	SI Bank
DQ	St. Paul's
Easy Coin	State Farm
Laundry	Steal the Show
Edward Jones	Subway
El Jalisco	T-Moe's
First Christian	Washington Ave.
First United	Baptist
Methodist	ZX

We love our sponsors!



JC Manna Mission
THRIFT STORE

306 E. Broadway Blvd., Johnston City, IL 62951

618-983-6262

Mon. & Wed.: 9:30-4:00 • Tues.: 9:30-5:30
& First Sat. Monthly: 9:30-12:30

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

CREATIVE DIRECTOR Keith Fletcher
MANAGING EDITOR Sarah Fletcher
REPORTERS Tim Hastings, Doug Hancock, Margie Sanders
PODCAST CO-HOST Doug Hancock
SPONSOR RELATIONS Margie Sanders
DISTRIBUTION TEAM Phil Crosby, Doug Hancock
Don & Brenda McChesney
STUDENT REPORTER/VIDEO EDITOR Ben Johnson

BOARD MEMBERS
Keith Fletcher, chairman
Mike Tyson, secretary
Brenda McChesney, treasurer
Cris Corzine-McCloskey
Randy McIntosh
Marta Phillips

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.

Unless otherwise noted, all content in JCity Arrow News (podcast & print edition) is Copyright © 2024 of JCity Center for Hope and Renewal, Inc. All rights reserved.

Winter, Power, and Faith

BY RANDY CARNEY
Winter—snow, fun, snowballs. Winter—cold, ice, danger.

Winter can be tough, especially when it disrupts our daily lives by causing power outages. We often don't think twice about the electricity that lights our homes, powers our appliances, and keeps us warm—until it's gone. It's in those moments, sitting in the dark with no Wi-Fi or hot coffee, that we realize just how much we rely on it.

Recently, our household experienced a 40-hour power outage. That's an entire workweek! Some of our neighbors endured 52 hours without power, and one family reported an astonishing 105 hours in the dark. Talk about resilience. These moments remind us not only of our dependence on electricity, but also of the need to find strength and power beyond what any electrical grid can provide.

As Christians, we are blessed to know a power that never flickers or fails—



DR. RANDY CARNEY, pastor of JCity Church

the awesome power of God. From the very beginning, God demonstrated His unmatched power when He spoke the universe into existence. Just by His word, light appeared, the earth took shape, and the sun, moon, and stars filled the sky. That's creation at its finest, and it shows us just how limitless God's power truly is.

Jesus, too, displayed His incredible power. According to the Gospel of John, nothing in Creation came into being without Him. He was right there at the start, bringing life and order into existence. Later, during His time on earth, Jesus revealed His authority over nature when He calmed a raging storm with the words, "Peace, be still." Imagine the wind and waves obeying His voice.

The Holy Spirit's power was evident from the first moments of Creation. Scripture tells us that the Spirit of God moved over the waters, bringing life and form to the chaos. This divine power wasn't just for the beginning of time—it's still at work in our lives today.

What's truly amazing is that God shares His power with us. In John 1:12, we're reminded that those who receive Christ are given the power to become children of God. This isn't just a title; it's a transformation.

And it doesn't stop there. Jesus empowers us for daily life. The Apostle Paul captures this truth in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." No matter the challenges we face—whether it's a power outage or life's storms—God's power sustains us.

So, the next time you're in the dark, remember the light and strength that comes from the ultimate power source: our almighty God.

After-school club shares the Good News

Good News Club, an after-school club for Kindergarten through 5th grade, will meet Mondays at Jefferson School beginning February 24. Sessions run through April 14, except during spring break.

According to the club's parent organization CEF®, "[T]eachers who are screened, trained, and equipped, lead action-packed Good News Clubs every week, delivering the timeless truths of

the Bible in exciting, engaging ways." (cefonline.com). The interdenominational organization was founded in 1937 and reaches 4.2 million children worldwide in 140 countries each year.

Educators from local churches lead sessions that include Bible stories, music, and activities. The J.C. Ministerial Alliance has provided funding for the program. Last semester, the club averaged over 25 students.

In 2001, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that Bible clubs such as the Good News Club must be given the same access to school facilities accorded any other non-school-related outside group.

Parental permission forms are required for all participating students.. Contact Jefferson School for more information.



Johnston City Street Department Superintendent Dustin King and Public Works Director Brett Runyon prepare the city's snow plow for a winter storm last year. An ice storm followed by snow the first week of 2025 produced even more work for the street department (Tim Hastings photo).



EDITORIAL

Make way for the snowplows

BY JIMMY DEAN
It's winter. Our most recent experience with ice and snow serves as a reminder of an ever-present threat. Bad weather can hit at any time.

We take a lot of people and their jobs for granted. This person might be your minister (Who do ministers go to when they have a problem?), the waitress who pours your morning cup of coffee, or the guys who haul off your garbage every week.

Another group of folks are way overlooked in going about their duties. They are the men and women who keep our streets and highways clear during a snowstorm.

A recent advertisement in a newspaper asked for part-time drivers to work during snowstorms. Not much pay was involved for long and dangerous hours.



Jimmy Dean, a freelance writer and former mayor of Johnston City, can be reached at jrdean@mchsi.com.

We watch the weather the night before a snowstorm hits, and when we get up, we automatically expect that streets running in front of our houses and on the way to work will be cleared.

I doubt if anyone really knows how many miles of city, county, and state roads these hard-working people are responsible for; but I can tell you that small towns with one or two plows are stretched thin.

Picture yourself behind the wheel of a big truck with a lot of traffic and an almost complete whiteout of snow surrounding you.

One mistake at the wheel, one crazy driver trying to pass a big truck, or one more "act of God," and you could find yourself in a heap of trouble.

Whether on Interstate 57, a city street, or some dead-end county road, a snowplow driver's job is not for the weak at heart. Most city, county, and state road employees work around the clock when winter weather hits. Even though they drive a big truck with a plow and a load of salt and cinders, this appears more dangerous to me than a guy in a four-wheel-drive truck.

Next time you complain about your streets and highways, remember someone spent all night working to make it safe for you to go to work or wherever you needed to be.

Then again, the weather just might be bad enough to warrant staying home.



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

***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*



The churches of Johnston City working together to serve our community as the "hands and feet of Jesus."

Helping residents of the Johnston City School District
Call 618-952-1272 for information



Paul E Lawrence, Agent

305 E Broadway PO Box 118
Johnston City, IL 62951
Bus: 618-983-6953
paul.lawrence.by9j@statefarm.com



Darren & Shelley Pyle

1008 W. Broadway Blvd.
Johnston City, IL 62951 (618) 983-7777
pylefuneralhome.com

Washington Avenue Baptist Church



9th and Washington
Johnston City, IL 62951

Barry Robertson, pastor
618-694-2995



Johnston City West Frankfort Zeigler Thompsonville Herrin



To become a sponsor of Arrow News, call 618-952-1272 or email jcitycenter@gmail.com. JCity Center for Hope and Renewal is a 501c3 nonprofit. All donations are tax-deductible.

JC athlete recalls local influences

BY TIM HASTINGS

Can a small-town athlete make it in the big city? Nate Adams, age 66 of Springfield, affirmatively answered this through first-hand experience over 50 years ago. A family move from Johnston City to Chicagoland included a transition from an eighth grade Johnston City basketball team to a high school team in northwest suburban Chicago.



Nate Adams

“I thought, ‘What can I do?’ Moving a little kid from Southern Illinois to tryout with kids you’ve never met before—it was one of the scariest times of my life. I figured, just do the best you can with what you have.”

Adams reveals in his book, *Nine Character Traits Separating the Men from the Boys*, that he held nothing back at the tryout. “I was able to stand out,” he said. “I was making passes and layups.” He made the team. “I found that my Southern Illinois basketball talent translated to the Chicago suburbs, and that was a great encouragement,” he reflected. “I had four good years playing freshman, sophomore and then varsity basketball.” He made the all-conference team his senior year.

Adams shares Johnston City memories in the book including an after-dark chatting [throwing rocks at] the front porch of a demanding sixth grade teacher named Mrs. Groves and practicing piano in the unheated Sunday school classroom of First Baptist Church. “You had to blow on your fingers to keep warm,” he mused. Adams’ father, Tom Adams, was pastor of the church. Nate followed in his footsteps and now serves as executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association. Part of his role is being a pastor to pastors.

Adams’ other books include *Energizers*, *Light Devotions to Keep Your Faith Growing*, and the sports inspired, *The Home Team—Spiritual Practices for a Winning Family*. Copies of are available on Amazon.

Adams said he had a chance to set things straight a few years ago with Alvin Cutsinger, who was his seventh and eighth grade basketball coach. “I saw him at an event in Marion not long ago and I told him, ‘I wasn’t sure you liked me in the seventh grade.’ He laughed and said, ‘You boys needed some discipline.’”

Adams admits he was stung in junior high when Cutsinger called him a prima donna—someone who thinks they’re special because they’re good at something. “I didn’t know what it meant and I had to go look it up,” Adams said.

“It really bothered me but it helped me,” he said. “I stopped being like that. I know he was helping me be a better student. He was a positive influence in my life.”

The lesson in humility helped when Adams tried out for the freshman basketball team in the Chicago suburbs. “Four junior high schools fed into our high school,” Adams said. “For tryouts they separated us into four different groups. It was either go big or go home, because they were going to dismiss half the kids that first night.



The Southern Illinois Coaches Association and Officials presented a check for \$700 to High School Principal Kristi Schell for a scholarship. (L-R) Barry Vaughan, Riley Swinford, Jimmy Dean, Christy Schell, and Kristen Anastasi.

JC senior overcomes many trials to gain golf scholarship

BY CHRIS DEXTER

Meet Johnston City Senior Aubree Williford. She is small in stature, but she is mighty. Aubree recently committed to Rend Lake College for golf, but that didn’t come without its challenges. When you look up resilience in the dictionary, Aubree’s picture should be right beside that definition.

Aubree is legally blind in her left eye. At the age of two, she was diagnosed with a vision disability: “strabismus” along with extreme far sightedness. She will have the disability for the rest of her life.

Aubree was diagnosed with Benign Rolandic Epilepsy (BRE) at the age of 8. It is a rare form of child epilepsy and most kids outgrow their seizures by the age of 13. Aubree’s seizures started when she was 8 and ended when she was 13.

While playing travel softball in October 2020, Aubree slipped on a wet spot while sliding into second base. To stop her fall, she put all of her weight on her right hand and arm and suffered a tear of her ulnar collateral ligament (UCL). In December 2020, at the age of 13, Aubree had reconstructive Tommy John Surgery in St. Louis.

This past September, Aubree was in a horrible accident and was electrocuted. Thankfully, Aubree survived; but because of the accident, she is being treated by doctors in St. Louis.

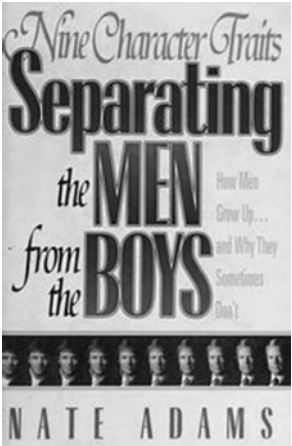
Her success in softball



JCHS Senior Aubree Williford (Photo by Tee Pee Talk)

after the Tommy John surgery is amazing, especially last year’s IHSA post season (2024) when she won three straight games (19 innings pitched) allowing one run, one walk and 13 hits while striking out 14. She led JC in innings pitched (108), strikeouts (104), and shutouts (3), as they reached the IHSA post season Final 16. In 2023, she was the number two pitcher on the Johnston City team that finished fourth at the softball state finals. Her success in golf is equally amazing, especially since she never played golf until her freshman year and still ended up being selected All-Conference twice. She was also an IHSA Sectional qualifier. Due to the

electrocution, she missed several days of school and two golf matches. In her first match back, she shot a personal record score of 42 for 9 holes. Two weeks later, in her final regular season match she shot a new personal record of 40. Aubree received multiple scholarship offers from local junior colleges. She weighed her options between golf and softball and ultimately decided to accept the Rend Lake College golf scholarship. Things have not come easy for Aubree, but she continues to overcome each challenge thrown her way. It goes without saying, Aubree is one strong young lady. Despite all of the setbacks, she continues and will continue to thrive.



Adams’ book, *Nine Character Traits Separating the Men from the Boys*, shares memories from his childhood in Johnston City.

Christ & Community First



Broadway & Monroe (609 Monroe)
618-983-5254 | jcitychurch.com
Randy Carney, pastor



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

Edward Jones



Ashton Stephens
Financial Advisor
504 West Broadway
Johnston City, IL 62951
Bus. 618-983-6317
ashton.stephens@edwardjones.com

Down Home Comforts

All Things Home with a Southern Flair
Florist, Home Decor, & Gifts

411 E. Broadway Blvd. Johnston City, IL 62951
(618) 923-1124

 Join us on social media!

ARROW NEWS

Never miss an issue, subscribe to the online edition of the Arrow here.





Banterra Sponsors 5th annual Arrowhead Classic

Johnston City High School hosted the 5th annual Arrowhead Classic, January 20-25. For the past five years, this annual basketball tournament has been sponsored by Banterra Bank. Teams from Du Quoin, Eldorado, Anna-Jonesboro, Christopher, and, of course, our beloved Johnston City Indians played each other during the course of the tournament with two games daily except Wednesday.

The tournament included three special presentations. In addition to the check presentation from Banterra (photo above), the Southern Illinois Coaches Association and Officials presented a check for \$700 to High School Principal Kristi Schell to be given as a scholarship to a JCHS student (see photo on p. 5).

On Tuesday evening, the District recognized long-time volunteer Roy Rogers for a major accomplishment. In the spring, the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association will award Rogers the Friend of Basketball accolade, inducting him into the organization's 2025 Hall of Fame. For 38 years, Rogers dedicated his time to videotaping basketball games, football games, and Homecoming activities.

Tournament play opened Monday night with the closest game of the conference. In the last two minutes of the game, Du Quoin overcame AJ by a two-point margin. In the second game, JC lost to conference rival Eldorado (57-43) break-

ing the Eagles 5-game losing streak and an 11-game drought on the road.

Tuesday, the Du Quoin Indians narrowly beat the JC Indians, 48-52.

Our team was off Thursday night, and then Christopher won Friday's neutral tournament game against JC by a score of 49-41. Johnston City lost again Saturday against Anna-Jonesboro, 57-47.

The undefeated Du Quoin Indians won this year's Arrowhead Classic. Du Quoin's Jayden Davis, Jeremiah Jones, and Johnathan Brown also took All Tournament Selections.



Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Lindsey Bush receives a \$3500 check for sponsorship of the Arrowhead Classic from Starla Waters, branch manager of the Johnston City Banterra Bank. (Arrow News Photo)

Basketball, volleyball, bowling fill February schedule, wrestlers start regionals

Winter sports continue this month at both high school and middle school levels. Varsity boys basketball and varsity girls volleyball have home games against Wayne City, Saturday, February 1. Varsity girls basketball play Webber at home February 3. Middle school girls have an away volleyball game at Elverado the next day (Feb. 4). At the same time, Frosh, JV, and Varsity boys basket-

ball will take on Goreville at home. The HS boys will play Christopher in a rescheduled home game on the 5th.

Coed Varsity Bowling takes the lanes for the last match of the season on February 6, against Massac County.

The JC Triangular, January 27, was the last match of the regular season for coed varsity wrestling. Senior wrestlers were honored

that evening. Opponents included Sparta and Goreville. Varsity wrestlers will advance to the IHSA regionals February 8.

Scan this QR code below for a calendar with details from all school sports or go to—<https://jcindians.bigteams.com/main/calendar>





900 W BROADWAY BLVD
JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951
618-952-5200
CONTACT@INDIGOREALTY.NET
[HTTPS://INDIGOREALTY.NET](https://indigorealty.net)





Legence
Bank Member FDIC

LEGENCEBANK.COM



CHRISTINA WATSON
OWNER

618-952-4030
luxepropainting@gmail.com
luxepropainting.com

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
COMMERCIAL

FREE ESTIMATES
FULLY INSURED

Call Direct:  SCAN ME

View Website:  SCAN ME

Scores from Washington Middle School

Boys Basketball

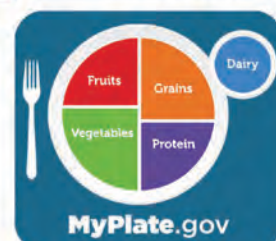
- JC 66 Waltonville 48
- JC 32 Vienna 56
- JC 59 Zeigler Royalton 22
- JC 44 Unity Point 43
- JC 67 Sesser 40
- JC 26 Goreville 67
- JC 40 Christopher 30

The WMS boys team will play Carbondale in the first round of regionals the first week of February.

The middle school girls basketball season concluded with a loss to Herrin in the first round of regionals.



My Plate for My Family Nutrition Education



Fun and educational for the whole family!

Join the **Illinois Nutrition Education Program** for a series of free nutrition education classes with hands-on cooking and tasting experiences.

 Tuesday, February 18
Tuesday, February 25
Tuesday, March 6

 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

 JCity Center for Hope & Renewal
504 E Broadway Blvd
Johnston City, IL 62951

If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in this program, please contact 618-439-3178.





More Sports News - p. 5

- Can a small-town athlete make it in the big city?
- JCHS senior won't quit no matter what
- Coaches, refs give scholarship

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

 618-952-1272

 jcitycenter@gmail.com

 504 E Broadway Blvd, Johnston City, IL 62951



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP. College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences University of Illinois | United States Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating . Illinois Extension: go.Illinois.edu/EatMoveSave.