



Arrowhead Lake Campground to reopen March 15

City seeks campground host, store clerk

BY TIM HASTINGS

The City of Johnston City is seeking a campground host and a store clerk for Arrowhead Lake Campground. The campground reopens for the season on Saturday, March 15. The season runs through mid-November.

City Clerk Jade West said candidates for the host position must provide their own camper, have a knowledge of camping, and enjoy working with campground visitors. Compensation for the host consists of free campsite rental and full hookups for the campground season.

To apply, visit City Hall at 100 W. Broadway or call 618-983-6651.

The city is also hiring a part-time sales clerk for the campground's general store. The store stocks fishing and recreation supplies, snacks, grocery items, and souvenirs. Compensation for the clerk is minimum wage.

Arrowhead Lake Campground is located on the east side of Johnston City, adjacent to Arrowhead



Sunset over Arrowhead Lake, Johnston City. As campground host, a view like this could be yours almost any day. Having the 2¼ mile trail circling the lake in your front yard is one of the many perks of the job. Compensation for the host consists of free camping with full hookups for all season. (photo by Sarah Fletcher)

Lake. The campground offers RV, cabin, and tent camping. All sites include a fire pit and picnic table, with water and electrical hookups available. The campground maintains shower/bathroom/laundry facilities for campers.

Campground reservations may be made online at arrowheadlakecampground.com.

The park annually serves as the site of the city's Independence Day celebration, with this year's event slated for Friday, June 27. Festivi-

ties include fireworks, live music, food trucks, and a kids' fun field featuring inflatable playground equipment.

Arrowhead Lake has long been a popular fishing spot and hiking trail for locals as well as camping visitors.

The park's picnic shelters and playground areas offer family options for outdoor activities. A pickleball court, currently under construction, is expected to open later this year. The city is also considering adding kayak rental.



Johnston City
MUNICIPAL
ELECTION

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

Hoffard, Brymer vie for City Council seat

BY TIM HASTINGS

Dwight Hoffard and Daniel Brymer are competing for a four-year term as Ward Three Alderman on the City Council of Johnston City. Seven other seats on the Tuesday, April 1 ballot are uncontested.

Incumbents Doug Dobbins, Jade West, and Tina Lindsey seek four more years as mayor, city clerk, and city treasurer respectively. In Ward One, Jennifer Willis seeks a two-year term as alderman, while Will Carmickle seeks a four-year term as alderman. Anthony Emery (Ward Two) and Ronald Kee (Ward Four) each seek four-year terms as aldermen.

City Clerk Jade West detailed responsibilities of each city government office. The mayor holds oversight of all city departments including police, fire, street, water, cemetery, park, and sewer. The city clerk pays bills, serves as secretary for

the City Council, and oversees licenses and records. The city treasurer oversees the finance department. Each alderman is assigned individual oversight of one of the city's departments. These elected officials comprise the City Council. The Council convenes at 5:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, with meetings open to the public.

Citizens may cast their votes between 6:00 am and 7:00 pm, April 1, at one of three assigned polling places designated by the city: United Pentecostal Church, 1101 W. 10th St.; McDaniel-Mitchell Scout Cabin, 1308 Parkway Dr.; and St. Paul's Parish Center, 1104 Washington Ave. To determine the proper polling place, call City Hall at (618) 983-6651. Citizens can opt to vote early through March 31 at the Williamson County Court House.

JCity Center to host 2 free art programs for kids

BY BEN JOHNSON

JCity Center for Hope and Renewal is hosting a free art program throughout the upcoming months at its 504 E Broadway location. Due to positive community response from a similar program in 2024, sessions will again be offered for two different age groups: 3rd-5th grades and K-2nd grades.

Marta Phillips, who facilitated the groups last year, will reprise her role as leader. "This is fun," Marta says regarding the event. She shares that both groups will experiment with different paints, mediums, and canvases. Children will be introduced to new ideas such as gouache paints, new techniques, and new ways to interact with art. Marta expresses that even if kids came last year, they should still plan to attend, as this year's program has "new content and direction."

Phillips believes art programs should be fun. After a long day of school, kids can enjoy something fun, something with "no absolutes." "There are no rules on a piece of paper," she contends. Phillips emphasizes the importance of experimentation and relaxation derived from art and how kids can excel in a creative environment. "When



A student in "Art for Fun and Relation" at JCity Center experiments with pastels, one of a variety of art media introduced in this free class.

you don't give them limits, they come up with masterpieces."

The program is free with all art supplies provided and includes four weekly sessions for each age group. Classes meet Tuesday afternoons, 4:00-5:15 pm, in one of the Center's newly renovated downstairs rooms. The program begins March

18, with classes for 3rd-5th grade students, followed by K-2nd grade classes starting April 15. All children are welcome to attend. Preregistration is encouraged, but not required.

For more information, call 618-952-1272 or email jcitycenter@gmail.com

Love Keeps the Bus Wheels Going Round

BY BROOKE SCHLYER,
JOHNSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

“It’s just something that sticks with you,” says Tonnie Nordmeyer, a bus driver for the Johnston City School District. “Those kids, you get really attached to them. It’s just something that puts a smile on my face and love in my heart.”

Nordmeyer defines the adage, “If you love what you do, you’ll never work a day in your life.” The Johnston City resident has been with the district for longer than she can remember. Nordmeyer admits she’s not very good with years and times, finally settling on 1994 as her hire date. However, her motivation in taking the job remains very clear.

“I wanted to be with my kids,” she recalls. “As they got older, be able to go to their sports events. Be able to drive the bus and just be part of the community.”

As with United States Postal Service employees, bus drivers work behind the wheel in rain, sleet, snow, or shine, sometimes driving long distances for tournaments, field trips, or after-school activities.

Nordmeyer says driving to Panama City, Florida, for

a high school cheerleading camp is a trip she’ll never forget, especially since her daughter got to be with her.

“It was a brand-new bus, but we found out there was a leak,” Nordmeyer laughs as she reflects. “All the posters they made for cheer camp got wet, so we had to rush around and get new poster boards.”

Although Nordmeyer left for some time to start and run a family business, she eventually came back and still has a route today.

In 1997, Nordmeyer helped a family friend, Patricia Mueller, get a job driving buses for the school district. At the time, Mueller worked at a dentist’s office and felt like she was missing out on her kids growing up.

“My oldest one was in junior high and getting into sports,” Mueller remembers. “It would put me to where I could take my kids on their school trips and be with them. If they got sick or anything, I would be right there.”

At first, driving such a big vehicle made Mueller nervous. It was something she had never done before. Mueller quickly got used to



School bus drivers Patricia Mueller (L) and Tonnie Nordmeyer (R) have nearly 50 years of combined service to the Johnston City School District.

maneuvering the bus and the multitasking involved.

“A lot of times, you got 30 to 65 kids on the bus,” Mueller explains. “Then you’re trying to keep them corralled. You’re trying to keep your eyes on the road in front of you and what’s going on around you. Then,

you can’t forget to stop and let certain kids off.”

February was designated as Love the Bus Month, a time to show appreciation for drivers like Mueller and Nordmeyer who provide reliable, safe transportation. Currently, the Johnston City School District employs

seven bus drivers and three substitute bus drivers.

Becky Vancil, transportation director, recognizes the hard work and efforts of all bus drivers. The shift includes early morning arrival to inspect the bus as well as late nights away from home for afterschool programs. At times, this involves driving in bad weather conditions.

Vancil believes work-life balance draws people to become bus drivers, but strong relationships keep them clocking in.

“They become your kids for life,” Vancil says about students. “I’ve been here for 20 years. I still talk to some of my kids that I drove when they were in kindergarten, and now they have kids.”

Nordmeyer and Mueller also share this sentiment.

“I’ve had this route for a long time, Mueller says. “I love my kids and their families. I’m driving kids whose parents I drove when they were kids.”

“I’ve only driven for Johnston City,” Nordmeyer adds. “I wouldn’t want to go anywhere else. I’m pretty partial to Johnston City. It’s my heart for sure.”



I love the rain

BY JASMINE MORGRET

I think spring is the BEST season. It may rain a lot, but that’s not even that bad. People love the rain! You can jump in puddles, kids make mud pies after it rains; people even dance in the rain. Rain isn’t a terrible thing; it can bring a lot of good. Rain helps the flowers grow, and it makes people happy and have fun. I personally think rain is amazing, I LOVE the rain. Some people may not agree, but that’s okay. Rain is beautiful, and after it rains you get to see a rainbow. The flowers that grow in spring are beautiful, too. The pollen isn’t always fun, but the flowers are. You can make bouquets for your friends, family, or your significant other. There are so many different flowers, and the beautiful colors are just so pretty. You can

do so many cool DIY’s with flowers too. You can make flower bracelets, headbands, and even necklaces. Spring just brings people so much joy, and it makes everything look pretty with all the bright colors.

Spring, the perfect season

BY ALEXANDRIA CARPENTER

Spring is the best season, and I am going to tell you why it is. Well, in spring it is not too hot, and it is not too cold. It is the perfect weather for you to dance around in the grass and to wear any type of beautiful clothing you want. You won’t feel chilly, and you won’t feel hot. It is the perfect weather to do any fun activities that you want to do like biking, hiking, and much more.

Another reason is that spring gives off the most breathtaking scenery, with all of the flowers bursting into all types of colors. With the birds chirping,

it is an amazing sight to wake up to. There won’t be any snow, and there won’t be any dead leaves falling off the trees. If you want a lovely background for your Instagram photos, well, the spring season will give you just that. Overall, spring is the best season to do anything and everything.

Calming Rains

BY SCARLET COREY

I think spring is one of the best seasons in many ways. One way is all the rain. Every time, my mom and I have a garden and we plant beautiful flowers. Sometimes you want to go outside on your porch and listen to the rain. I love the rain and how it sounds, because it can really calm you from a stressed-out day at school or even work.

Spring is when all the trees come back and the animals get out of hibernation.

Spring can also raise the temperature. So, no more cold days and no more having to go inside. Spring is one step away from summer, so it really is exciting. Everything is green with no “non-leaf” trees—just beautiful green trees. Yes, it might storm and cause major damage, but it helps our plants grow for oxygen and for our gardens to grow. Spring is often called the “rainy season” for a reason. Without spring, many trees and plants and food we grow in gardens will sadly die.

Spring is one rain-tastic season!

Spring Is Amazing

BY KEEGAN BEAL

Spring is the season for new, radiant life to flourish

and thrive. It nourishes fauna and drives them to grow larger and even more beautiful than before. The scenery of the season is enhanced by the overwhelming amount of wildlife and plants that sprout anew. And even more than just plants and animals flourish; so does life itself. It gets warmer and more comfortable than the winter season. This time of year is always better for many reasons, even more than

Introducing Mr. Billy Brayfield

BY MARGIE SANDERS

Billy Brayfield grew up in Johnston City, became a 2000 JCHS graduate, and later received his Education Degree from SIU-C. His responsibilities at Washington Middle School include athletic director, golf and baseball coach, and Science and Robotics teacher. Robotics has now been added to the Washington School curriculum. The program allows students to engineer and design a vehicle and then power it to move on its own using a cell phone.

Although Brayfield says he has enjoyed his 19 years of teaching, he admits he will be excited to retire after 12 more. Mr. Brayfield wants to be remembered as “a teacher [who] allowed his students to be themselves, [giving them] a chance to learn in different ways.”

what I’ve given so far.

It’s also a sign life is changing and progressing. Spring is the mark of a new year, one to enjoy. Life is way beyond enjoyable and thrives when spring arrives and brings the warm weather, and provides plants and animals with rain. Rain may be bad, but it only is bad if you let it be; so don’t. Enjoy spring and your year will be better. Believe me, spring is the best.



When asked what he enjoys most about teaching, he was quick to respond, “I love working with kids.” “I couldn’t picture myself doing anything else.” Brayfield’s non-teaching hobbies include house painting, playing golf, and fishing. Billy Brayfield, wife Amber, and their three children live near Benton.



8th grader, Faryn Thompson is proud of her unicorn robotics project.

Darren & Shelley Pyle

PYLE

Funeral Homes

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



Education

FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS LIAISONS. Interested candidates send cover letter, resume, and references to: Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, Attn: Kathy Clark, 1113 Grand Avenue, Johnston City, IL 62951, or kclark@jcindians.org. See Full Service Community Schools Liaison Job Description at JCindians.org

LINCOLN SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL Please see JCindians.org 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.

PART-TIME MUSIC TEACHER. Interested candidates send a letter of interest, resume, certification and letters of reference to: Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, Attn: Kathy Clark, 1113 Grand Avenue, Johnston City, IL 62951, or kclark@jcindians.org.

Coaching

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.

Transportation

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

SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVER, SUBSTITUTE BUS MONITOR Please click on the link on jcindians.org 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 Kitchen Staff and Substitute Kitchen Staff. Please see jcindians.org for more information and to apply for these positions.



Opinion

Why were we taught that in school?

BY JIMMY DEAN

Recently, I was with a group of people questioning why certain subjects are taught in schools.

“Why do kids have to learn the Constitution? They will never use it. In my job I’ve never once talked about the Constitution,” the person added.

Another chimed in, “Why do I need math? I’m going to work in the fields.”

On and on it went, causing me to ponder, “Am I really hearing this?”

These comments came from men and women whom I considered smart and successful in their fields. Amid this conversation, I started having second thoughts.

Growing up, in grade school and high school as well, I did wonder at times why I was taking math, English, or Spanish. (Thank goodness Mrs. Pyle liked me, or I’d still be in that class.) But as an adult, I began to see the value and usefulness of those classes.

I’ve previously mentioned that I am just about the only non-teacher in



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

my family. My wife was a high school math teacher; one daughter teaches Kindergarten; one daughter teaches high school math; my late son taught business; and my son-in-law is a middle school assistant principal.

If you could ask my former teachers about my scholastic ability in high school, they would probably tab me as an under-achiever. I would rather go to a ballgame, play in some type of ballgame, or talk sports with someone instead of study.

Later, I realized that the classes I took were very much needed for the path life took me. Typing and English helped me become a sportswriter and, eventually, a sports editor. History and government helped me tremendously when I

became involved in politics and ran for office. Even math and drafting were there for me as a police officer reconstructing accident scenes.

Although I had no knowledge of what field I was going into after high school, it’s evident that I did use most of the tools from my high school toolbox.

Which brings me back to the initial discussion of why certain classes are needed (required) in high school. Googling the question, “Why should someone learn about the Constitution?” brought up some interesting answers. It helps to learn the rights, structures, understanding and principles that guide the nation. In other words, basically every decision in life is somehow tied to the Constitution.

By no means do I know a lot about the Constitution, and as stated earlier, school was not one of my favorite pastimes. But I’d like to think our forefathers were making the framework of everyone’s lives when they wrote the Constitution.

This is kind of a rambling column. Maybe seeing how hard teachers, administrators, and people in the education and government sectors work at their jobs to make this a better world touched a nerve.

To those who are still in school and searching for a career, and to those who are working now, but may be changing fields, I say learn what you can from whatever is offered. You never know what lies ahead.

Email me your thoughts at jrdean@mchsi.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





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



ARK
INSURANCE GROUP, INC.
Home Auto Life Health

Office: (618) 983-8000 Fax: (618) 983-8001

1109 Grand Ave.
Johnston City, IL 62951
arkinsurance@ark4me.com



Banterra®

PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES SINCE 1975

908 GRAND AVE. | JOHNSTON CITY | 618-983-6925
BANTERRA.BANK | 866-226-8377 | MEMBER FDIC

Interested in Preschool for the 25-26 school year?

Sign up for a Child Find screening today!



WILLIAMSON COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD COOPERATIVE

Children will participate in a “game-like” activity to measure their development. All families with children ages birth to five are encouraged to attend, regardless of income. Children must be 3 years old to attend Pre-K.

APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED. Please call 618-993-2138 or 618-733-3355 to schedule or cancel an appointment, or to request additional information. If a family is unable to attend their local screening, they may schedule an appointment at another location.



SCREENING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

CARTERVILLE - Monday, March 17th
8:00 am – 2:30 pm
Little Lions Pre-K Center
1703 Poteete Drive
Carterville, IL 62918

HERRIN - Wednesday, March 19th
8:00 am – 2:30 pm
First Baptist Church
1500 S. 13th Street
Herrin, IL 62948

JOHNSTON CITY - Thursday, March 20th
8:00 am – 10:30 am
J City Church
609 Monroe Avenue
Johnston City, IL 62951

CRAB ORCHARD - Thursday, March 20th
8:00 am – 10:30 am
Center Baptist Church
18800 Crab Orchard Road Marion, IL 62959

MARION - Thursday, March 20th
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Friday, March 21st
8:00 am – 2:30 pm
Second Baptist Church
308 S. Russell Street
Marion, IL 62959

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) MUST ATTEND WITH THEIR CHILD. Current Pre-K students do not need to attend screening.



5th Sunday

Community Sing
March 30
6:00 pm

First Christian Church

505 E. Broadway
Johnston City

Refreshments
after service

Everyone welcome

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



March Events

MARCH 4
Business Leaders Meet-N-Greet, Andresen's, 9 am
U of I Ext. free nutrition education, JCity Center, 6:00-7:30 pm
Lions Club, JCity Church, 6 pm
MARCH 5
Rotary Club, Lunch @ Andresen's, Noon
MARCH 7
School early dismissal
MARCH 10-14
Spring Break
MARCH 11
U of I Ext. free nutrition education, JCity Center, 6:00-7:30 pm
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5 pm
MARCH 15
Arrowhead Campground reopens
MARCH 17
JC Planning Commission Meeting, Scout Cabin, 5 pm
MARCH 18
Kids' Art Class, JCity Center, 4:00-5:15 pm
Lions Club, Andresen's, 9 am
MARCH 19
Rotary Meeting, Indigo Realty Office, 4 pm
MARCH 20
Preschool Screening, JCity Church, 8:00-10:30 am

MARCH 20
Commodity Dist./Food Pantry, First United Methodist, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
School Board Mtg., Unit Office, 6 pm
MARCH 21
School half day
MARCH 25
Kids' Art Class, JCity Center, 4:00-5:15 pm
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5 pm
MARCH 28
4th Friday Fun, JCity Church, 6:30-8:00 pm
MARCH 30
5th Sunday Night Community Sing, First Christian Church, 6 pm

April Events

APRIL 1 - ELECTION DAY
Business Leaders Meet-N-Greet, Andresen's, 9 am
Kids' Art Class, JCity Center, 4:00-5:15 pm
Lions, JCity Church, 6 pm
APRIL 2
Rotary, Andresen's, Noon
APRIL 5
Lions Club Fish Fry, Masonic Hall, 11:00-2:00
APRIL 8
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5 pm
Kids' Art Class, JCity Center, 4:00-5:15 pm

APRIL 13 - PALM SUNDAY
Community Service, JCity Church, 6 pm
APRIL 15 - TAX DAY
Lions, Andresen's, 9 am
Kids' Art Class, JCity Center, 4:00-5:15 pm
APRIL 16
Rotary, Indigo Realty, 4 pm
APRIL 17
Commodity Dist./Food Pantry, First United Methodist, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Early School Dismissal
School Board Meeting, Unit Office, 6:00 PM
APRIL 18 - No School
APRIL 21 - No School
JC Planning Commission Meeting, Scout Cabin, 5 pm
APRIL 20 - EASTER
APRIL 22
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5:00 pm
Kids' Art Class, JCity Center, 4:00-5:15 pm
APRIL 29
Kids' Art Class, JCity Center, 4:00-5:15 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



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

Johnston City Ministerial Alliance

Community Service

Palm sunday

APRIL 13 6:00 PM

Guest Speaker,
Gaylon Stewart

PASTOR OF
HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP

JCity Church, 609 Monroe (Broadway & Monroe)

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

JCMA
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

Coulson's

HEATING & COOLING

Since 1961

983-8133

Heating & Air Conditioning
Amana

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.

SPRING is a season to celebrate God’s creative power and His ability to bring forth new beginnings. Let this time of renewal inspire you to deepen your faith, embrace hope, and grow in the grace of God. As flowers bloom and the earth awakens, remember that God is also at work in your life, bringing beauty, growth, and transformation.

—thebibleteachesthis.com



St. Patrick: the myths, the legends, the truth

BY DOUG HANCOCK
Since many folks in JC claim a “wee” bit of Irish heritage (including myself), some research about St. Patrick’s Day might be necessary. So, let’s begin.

First of all, St. Patrick was not Irish. He was born in Britain in the fourth century, and his real name was Maewyn Succat. As a teenager, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and served as a slave/servant for six years before escaping and making his way home. A vision beckoned him to return to Ireland and evangelize the pagan masses. Realizing his lack of education, he spent his next years in France, where he became

a priest and changed his name to Patricius (Patrick) and left for Ireland with the Church’s blessing.

His choice of color was blue, not green and this remained until the 17th century when green became the national color. And concerning snakes, these serpents are not native to Ireland, so the banishing of snakes by St. Patrick is the stuff of legend.

As for those lucky four-leaf clovers, the local flora, the shamrock has only three leaves and again legend states that Patricius used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to the masses. And although Americans spend around

\$6 billion on alcohol every year to celebrate the holiday, until recent times, this was a dry holiday with all pubs closed.

Ireland’s census boasts of six million (plus), yet the US census records almost 37 million Americans who list their heritage as Irish. And what about our favorite Irish meal, corned beef and cabbage? Native Irish prefer pork, but early Irish immigrants discovered that beef was cheaper and could be cooked with cabbage in the same pot.

Getting back to our patron saint (not really since persons before 1000 AD were not granted sainthood), Patrick authored two books that spoke of his life story and his work on the Emerald Isle. He died March 17 (by tradition), in Saul, Ireland and was buried nearby. This, too, is contested by several communities claiming the official location of his grave.

Do these revelations change anything? Absolutely not. Enjoy the upcoming special day as you please—just remember to wear green, so the leprechauns won’t pinch you.

CARING COUNSELING MINISTRIES

11TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

PARTNERING WITH JCITY CENTER FOR HOPE AND RENEWAL & TAKE ACTION TODAY

June 20, 2025

• Check in 9 AM • Tee Time 10 AM

Hickory Ridge Golf Course
Carbondale, Illinois

Support three Southern Illinois nonprofits by:
• Becoming a corporate sponsor
• Sponsoring a hole
• Donating silent auction items
• Sponsoring (or playing on) a team

To sign up, visit
<https://tinyurl.com/48audk29>
or scan QR code

No matter where you are in your marriage journey, we can help you find the way.

- Experiential Marriage Retreats
- Marriage Counseling Intensives
- Family Counseling
- Spiritual Guidance
- Relationship Coaching
- Addiction Recovery
- Sexual Integrity Support
- Trauma Care

www.jcity.center

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

618-952-1272 | jcitycenter@gmail.com

5k/10k Run

CONTINUED FROM P. 6
as possible. Several members of the Johnston City School District support this mission and are signed up for the run.

One of those is Tim Kee, a second-grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary, who annually participates in the 5K/10K. “Kegan was a student of mine,” Kee recalls. “In my first 13 years at the district, I taught high school. Kegan was one of my senior English students shortly before he passed away.”

Kee also crocheted an afghan to donate as a raffle prize, but feels he’s gained more than he’s given.

“Kegan’s mom and I have become close friends as she’s worked over the years to keep Kegan’s legacy alive,” he explains. “I’ll miss it, but I know Cindy will continue working in Kegan’s name—just in other ways.”

JCUSD’s Unit Secretary Kim Grant, whose youngest brother graduated with Kegan, also participates in the event.

The 2025 Kegan Johns Memorial 5 and 10K Walk/Run takes place March 2, at the Harry Crisp Sports Complex, 1606 S. Carbon Street in Marion. Starting time is 1:00 pm. This family event includes door prizes, a silent auction, and BBQ. Organizers encourages attendees to “bring the kids, the strollers, and the pets,” and join in the fun.”

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
MANAGING EDITOR
REPORTERS
PODCAST CO-HOST
SPONSOR RELATIONS
DISTRIBUTION TEAM
STUDENT REPORTER/VIDEO EDITOR

Keith Fletcher
Sarah Fletcher
Tim Hastings, Doug Hancock, Margie Sanders
Doug Hancock
Margie Sanders
Phil Crosby, Doug Hancock
Don & Brenda McChesney
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.

ARROW NEWS

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

jcity.center/subscribe

“THAT PERSON IS LIKE A TREE PLANTED BY STREAMS OF WATER, WHICH YIELDS ITS FRUIT IN SEASON AND WHOSE LEAF DOES NOT WITHER— WHATEVER THEY DO PROSPERS.” – PSALM 1:3 NIV

ARROW NEWS—MARCH 2025 • 5



JCHS graduate Kegan Johns (1986-2004)

Goodbye winter, welcome spring sports

As one season ends, another begins. In southern Illinois, this is more true of school sports than the weather, where temperatures bounce back and forth between winter and spring in a day's time.

As the winter sports seasons—basketball, volleyball, wrestling, bowling—fade into memories captured on yearbook pages, players and fans alike migrate outside for softball and baseball games, track meets and bass fishing. Shout out to spring!

Let's not forget the accomplishments of some outstanding athletes. High school wrestlers, Ben Harris and Jerry Tate, advanced farther than their team by going to the sectionals, where they made a good showing; though each lost two matches. Outstanding girl wrestler Kiowa Quillen went 2-2, but fell short in what wrestlers call the blood rounds. This was the best finish for a female wrestler in JCHS history.

The girls also dominated in basketball with the Lady Indians 24-9 for the season, the second most wins in school history. In post season, they put up a good fight but lost to Vienna (40-48) in the regional championship, February 20.

The boys basketball team took a 71-54 bruising from the Sesser-Valier Red Devils in their last game, finishing the season 8-21.

After enjoying an empty schedule during spring break, the girls softball and boys baseball teams open their seasons March 16, at Eldorado. The home open-

er for the girls is March 19 against Anna-Jonesboro. The boys play their first home game March 31, against Steeleville. Welcome spring! Let's go Indians!

A last run for Kegan Johns Memorial 5/10K

BY BROOKE SCHLYER,
JOHNSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

For the past seven years, the Kegan Johns Memorial 5K/10K has served as an outlet for the community to turn a tragedy into a lesson for students across the region. Gearing up for the eighth and final run, Johns' mother, Cindy Walsh is reflecting on her son's short life and its big impact.

Kegan Johns is a familiar name for many in Johnston City and southern Illinois. He graduated from Johnston City High School as a four-sport athlete and decided to serve his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. However, Johns never got the chance to attend boot camp or embark on his military career. In 2004, just three months after graduating, he passed away. The 18-year-old was a passenger in a single-vehicle crash in which the driver had been drinking.

Walsh found herself determined to bring some purpose behind her son's death and give back to the community. "His favorite sport was socializing," Walsh laughs as she remembers. "He played football, baseball, basketball, and did track. He always

enjoyed running, like cross country and long distances."

Remembrance of his love for running inspired the Kegan Johns Memorial 5K/10K Run Walk. The event originally benefited Williamson County Traffic Safety Days, allowing law enforcement to teach high school students cautious driving principles and the dangers of driving under the influence. When COVID-19 took students from in-person to e-learning, Walsh redirected the profits toward student scholarships, including scholarships for Johnston City High School seniors.

"It's not a lot, but it's something," Walsh says. "Maybe gas money, some new clothes. Whatever they need in that moment to get them started and into their next chapter of life."

Lacing up her sneakers one last time for this memorial race, Walsh is also ready to enter the next chapter of her life. She plans to retire and spend more time with her family, especially as she patiently awaits the arrival of her first great-grandchild.

Walsh hopes for a high turnout at this farewell event, providing scholarships to as many students

CONTINUED ON P.5



School district employees Kara Stark, Kim Grant, and Mary Johanson, participants in a previous Kegan Johns Memorial 5K/10K.



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.



February 25
March 4
March 11



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.



REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

618-952-1272

icitycenter@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.

FOR THE LATEST JC INDIANS SPORTS SCHEDULES, SCAN THIS...



jcindians.bigteams.com



LEGENCEBANK.COM



900 W BROADWAY BLVD
JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951
618-952-5200
CONTACT@INDIGOREALTY.NET
HTTPS://INDIGOREALTY.NET