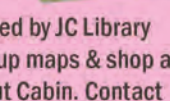
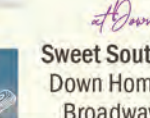
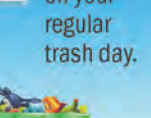


in Johnston City

JOHNSTON CITY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

 MAY 3 Saturda  COMMUNITY YARD SALE Hosted by JC Library Pickup maps & shop at Scout Cabin. Contact Library (618-983-6359) for more information.	 MAY 10 Saturda  Sweet Southern Market <i>at Down Home Comforts</i> Sweet Southern Market by Down Home Comforts on Broadway, 9 am-4 pm	 MAY 12-14 Mon-Wed  Citywide Clean Up Curbside pickup of bulk items on your regular trash day.	 MAY 16 Friday Graduation at JCHS Football field 7:00 pm CONGRATULATIONS 
 MAY 20 Tuesday  8th Grade Promotion 6:00 pm in HS Gym	 MAY 24 Saturda Rabies Clinic @ Fire station 8-11 am 	 MAY 26 Monda  MEMORIAL DAY Annual Commemorative Service War Memorial, 9:00 am CSM Ret. Thomas E. Cox, speaker	 MAY 27 Tuesda  SCHOOL'S out for SUMMER
 JUNE 2 Monday  JC KIDS' LUNCH BUNCH FREE Summer Meals June 2-Aug. 1 (11:30 am-TBA) Meals served @ 1308 Parkway, 609 Broadway & NEW location (pick-up only)—Broadway & Nelson	 JUNE 10 Tuesda  Summer Reading Program Kickoff @ Fire Station, 2:00 pm The Library Summer Reading Program continues through July 29. 	 JUNE 20 Friday CCM 1 for 3 Golf Scramble fundraiser for three nonprofits working in JC @ Hickory Ridge 9 am 	 JUNE 27 Friday  FIREWORKS Spectacular Arrowhead Lake 5:00 pm - Dark
 JULY 4 Friday  Happy 4th of July	 JULY 11 Friday JOHNSTON CITY ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS Chicken & Raffles  Andresen's Event Center, Time TBA (fundraiser for wreaths for veterans' graves project)	 AUGUST 1 Friday  Community BACK to SCHOOL Downtown event	 AUGUST 12 Tuesda  First DAY of SCHOOL

Prior to his appointment to State CSM, Cox was a traditional guardsman. As a civilian, he became an executive in the communica-



Command Sergeant Major (Retired)
Thomas E. Cox will speak at the
City's annual Memorial Day service.

The Memorial Day ceremony honors those from our community who died in the service of our country. Retired U. S. Army Sergeant Bill Hatfield, an organizer of the event, said, "It's important we let the community know that one day a year, every name on this memorial wall deserves to be spoken."

Cade graduated from JCHS in 2021, as one of four valedictorians. During his time at JCHS, Cockburn served as student body president, president of the George R. Kee Chapter of the National Honor Society, and FFA president. He was a recipient of SIU's most



Cade Cockburn, winner of 2025 SIU System Distinguished Service Award (photo posted on JCHS social media)

As an undergraduate at SIUC, Cade served as a Salluki Ambassador, Agbassador in the College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences, and member of the Student Alumni Council. He held student em-

Now in its 16th season, JC Kids' Lunch Bunch, Johnston City's only USDA-supported summer meals program, plans to provide meals at a new location on the west side. Volunteers will distribute children's meals at the corner of West Broadway

and Nelson Ave., across from Indigo Realty. Operating as a mobile site, this location will offer to-go meals exclusively for children. Unlike the park location, participants will not be required to eat on site, but the service will be limited to children ages 1-18.

Adults may pick meals up at JCity Church (609 Monroe) or take part in the congregate meal for all ages at Mike Dean Memorial Park (behind Washington Middle School and adjacent to the Scout Cabin).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Find more events on our
Community Calendar (p. 3)

Cade's mother, Channa Cockburn, who works as a special education teacher at Johnston City High School, shares her hope that current JCHS students will recognize that, with hard work and grit, they, too, can accomplish whatever they set their minds to achieve.



ARROW NEWS

VIDEO

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Dean offers kudos to outgoing Super

Clark to retire this summer

BY JIMMY DEAN

The month of July brings fireworks, the start of a lot of summer events, and vacations. July 1 also brings the start of a new, very important era to the Johnston City school district.

Long time Johnston City Unit 1 Superintendent Kathy Clark ends a lengthy run in the education field with her retirement effective June 30. Josh Pietrantonio, who has been the assistant superintendent for the past year, will move up to fill the job left behind by Clark.

Clark started her career in Mt. Vernon as a special education teacher. She then moved on to Benton where she taught special education and served as technology director. Before entering the administration world at Johnston City, she became principal at Lincoln School in Corinth in 2007. At Lincoln, she is known by many titles, including “mayor” and “police chief.”

During the 2014-2015 school year she was tagged as assistant superintendent under the retiring Terry Milt. Kathy then took over the Superintendent’s position the following year,

a position she currently holds until the end June..

On Monday, June 30, she will walk out of the building she helped develop at 1113 Grand Avenue, known as the Unit Office.



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

Having worked side-by-side, two seats to her right at board meetings (far enough not to be kicked for saying something I shouldn’t, but close enough to get the “death stare”), I have observed the true compassion she has for her job.

I’m sure some contract negotiations kept her up at night, wanting to do what was best for the district and employees. I couldn’t begin to guess how much money she has brought into the district with the amount of grants written. A lot of jobs were created through late night computer work in writing and re-writing those grants.

The old Dollar General store that now houses the Unit Office was transformed

into one of the best-looking buildings in town. This was accomplished despite several employees and board members saying it wouldn’t work. But she plowed forward and got the job done.

Her passion for making employees feel like a family when at work resonates through the district with the loyalty shown to her.

We have had more agreements than disagreements, and I can say on the disagreements we were able to come away with a solution that was good for both.

What’s in store for Mrs. Clark in retirement? She is not the type to sit at home doing nothing.

I’ve encouraged her to run for office—something I think she would be good at. Maybe she will become a grant writer, teach at the college level, or even help her nephew Sam in his lawn mowing business (inside joke).

Kathy Clark, whatever you do, I know you will do it well. It’s been a pleasure working with you the past six plus years.

Arrow News intern receives \$1000 scholarship

The Johnston City Ministerial Alliance and JCity Center for Hope and Renewal awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to *Arrow News* intern Ben Johnson, April 27. During his homeschool education, Ben studied in the Classical Conversations communities in our area. Ben began his internship as a junior. After acquiring basic video editing skills, he became producer and editor for *Arrow News* videos. Ben also wrote articles for the print edition. He and his family attend Whiteash Free Will Baptist Church, where Ben is in the youth praise band and volunteers as a sound tech.

The scholarship Ben received is one of three JCMA will grant this year. The scholarships are based on “exemplary Christian service and academic achieve-

Summer Meals

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Lunch Bunch begins Monday, June 2, and continues through August 1. Meals are served each weekday except on July 4. In inclement weather, participants at the park may dine inside the Scout Cabin. Mealtime at the park begins at 11:30 am. Serving times on the west side are yet to be determined but will be posted at the location as soon as possible.

Lunch Bunch began serving meals at the community park in 2022. Prior to the pandemic, from 2010 to 2019, JCity Church provided meals and kids’ activities in its facility. Records indicate that over the years more than 50,000 meals have been served to local children and adults. Program Director Marta Phillips shares, “We have two purposes. The first one is to feed the kids of the community while school is out. We have the free meal at the park every weekday.” She continues, “And the second one is . . . a little program at the park where we tell Bible stories, have music, and do fun stuff.” Children may opt to participate only in the meal, or enjoy both.

Phillips says that love for kids and the volunteers who serve in this program contribute to its longevity. “We love these kids . . . So, we want to do everything we can for them. And the volunteers

who come and cook these meals every day, all day, every summer—[are] just irreplaceable.”

Lunch Bunch is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Illinois Board of Education’s Summer Food Service Program. In Johnston City, organizers supplement the program with local funds so adults may eat at no charge.

By USDA guidelines, each meal must include a meat or meat alternative, a serving of grain or bread, two servings of fruit or vegetables, and milk. Exceptions/substitutions are allowable for individuals with food allergies. Creative menu planning provides a variety of options. Even designated Pizza Mondays and Taco Tuesdays offer differing versions of these favorite foods. Early morning posts on the JC Kids Lunch Bunch Facebook page reveal lunch menus daily. Provisions for weekends come in the form of “Friday Bags,” a take-home sack filled with various kid-friendly foods. Friday bags are totally funded by local donations.

Lunch Bunch accepts donations (tax-deductible) of any size or gifts in-kind (food items, paper goods, desserts, fresh vegetables, services, gift cards, etc.). Donors may send checks (payable to Lunch Bunch) to PO Box 55, Johnston City, IL 62951; or give online at jcitchurch.com.

Library program fires up kids to read books this summer

BY MARGIE SANDERS

Johnston City’s fire trucks, street department vehicles, and Tom Tessone’s old police car will converge at the fire station Tuesday, June 10, at 2:00 to kick off the library’s summer reading program. Youth can enjoy climbing on these vehicles and possibly dreaming of driving them one day. No sign up is required for this event and all children and parents are encouraged to attend.

The Library Summer Reading Program, scheduled for June 10-July 29, includes children from preschool through eighth

grade. The program purposes to acquaint youth in the community with different books and authors and instill within each child a desire for reading. One highlight of the program involves a reading challenge. Participation in this reading challenge requires registration and a library card, both obtainable at the library.

The library offers avenues for fun and reading for all ages throughout the summer. High school students and adults can register for Reading Bingo. First and second place winners will be recognized.



JCity Center Director Keith Fletcher presents scholarship to Ben Johnson, *Arrow News* intern.

ment.” Two more scholarships will be presented to graduating seniors, May 2 at a ceremony at Johnston City High School.

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Savant marks 50 years as family legacy continues

BY TIM HASTINGS
Murman and Wilson Funeral Home, located at 211 W. Broadway Blvd. in Johnston City, opened its doors 83 years ago. Raymond Savant, age 70, has been opening the doors for 50 of those years.

“I started working here in January of 1975,” Savant said. “I’m a licensed funeral director and embalmer. I help people when they’re in a time of need and grief.”

Savant, a Johnston City native and member of the Johnston City High School Class of 1973, said cremation is one of the biggest changes he’s witnessed in how funerals are conducted today. “When I started, cremation was unheard of,” he recalled. “Now it’s the choice of half of our clients.”

Savant bought the funeral home from John Wilson in 1997 after working under Wilson for 22 years.

“Now I have two employees—one is my son Erik, and the other is my grandson Kyle,” Savant said. “They’re both licensed funeral directors and embalmers. We all went to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale to study mortuary science. When I went, it was a two-year associates degree. For Erik and Kyle, it was a four-year bachelor’s program.”

Savant currently has no plans to retire. “I’m still working every day, and they (Erik and Kyle) do all the night calls,” he said. In addition to sharing similar careers, father, son, and grandson all played high school football as lineback-



Raymond Savant, center, with his grandson Kyle and son Erik, co-direct Murman and Wilson Funeral Home. Raymond has been with the home 50 years and has owned it since 1997. (Tim Hastings Photo)

ers for the Johnston City Indians.

The funeral home is a stately, two-story, red brick, Greek Revival building prominently located on a small hill on the main east-west boulevard in town. It was originally built as a private residence in the 1920s. “In the 1930s it was the site of the American Hospital,” Savant said. “Harry Wilson and Roland Murman opened the funeral home here in 1942.” It was Harry Wilson’s son John who hired Savant and helped him learn the business. John Wilson still lives in Johnston City.

The funeral home supplied ambulance service for the city until the 1980s. “We didn’t have a lot of medical training,” Savant said. “We

mainly just got people to the hospital.” Savant was a member of the first class of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) trained at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

The Murman-Wilson ambulance service also served employees of both the Zeigler Four and Freeman Four coal mines located in Johnston City. “We would pick up injured miners and take them to the hospital,” Savant recalled. The Johnston City Fire Department now provides EMT services for the community.

Savant’s late father was a World War II veteran and served as a purchasing clerk at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Marion.



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

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COMMUNITY
CALENDAR



May Events

- MAY 2
Half day of school
JCHS Scholarship Night, 6 pm
MAY 3
Community Yard Sale
MAY 4
Movie Night, “Do You Believe?” JCity Church, 5 pm
MAY 6
Business Leaders Meet-N-Greet, Andresen’s, 9 am
Lions, JCity Church, 6 pm
MAY 7
Rotary, Andresen’s, Noon
Prime Timers, JCity Church, 1 pm
School Spring Concert, JCHS, 7:30 pm
MAY 10
Sweet Southern Market, Downtown, 9 am-4 pm
Little League Parade & Opening Day Celebration, Arrowhead Ball Field
JCHS Prom
MAY 11 - MOTHER’S DAY
MAY 12-14
Citywide Cleanup Days
MAY 13
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5 pm
JCHS Baccalaureate, JCity Church, 7:00 pm
MAY 15
School Board Mtg., 6 pm
MAY 16
School early dismissal
JCHS Graduation, 7 pm
MAY 17
Commodity Dist./Food Pantry, First United Methodist, 9:30 am-12:30 pm
MAY 19
JC Planning Commission Meeting, Scout Cabin, 5 pm

- MAY 20
School early dismissal
8th Grade Promotion, High School gym, 6:00 pm
MAY 21
Rotary, Indigo Realty, 4 pm
MAY 21-23, 27
School early dismissal
MAY 24
Rabies Clinic, Fire Station, 8-11 am
MAY 26
MEMORIAL DAY
Memorial Day Service, 9 am
No school
MAY 27
Last day of school
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5 pm
MAY 29
Rotary Blood Drive, Scout Cabin, 10 am-3 pm

June Events

- JUNE 1
Movie Night, TBA JCity Church, 5 pm
JUNE 2
Lunch Bunch begins, 11:30 am
JUNE 3
Business Leaders Meet-N-Greet, Andresen’s, 9 am
JUNE 10
Library Reading Program Kickoff, Fire Station, 2 pm
JUNE 15 - FATHER’S DAY
JUNE 20
CCM Golf Scramble

Weekly Events

- THURSDAYS
Food pantry/clothes closet
First Christian, 3:30-5:30 pm
FRIDAYS
farmers Market, 7-11 am
SATURDAYS
Community Meal (drive-thru), JCity Church, 5:30-6:00 pm (not May 10, 24, ends May 31)

For calendar updates & corrections, please see our Facebook page. To submit an event, email jcitycenter@gmail.com

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Peer Mentor Program builds student relationships

BY BROOKE SCHLYER
JOHNSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Graduating from middle school is an exciting time and a rite of passage for youth and their families. It signifies years of hard work finally paying off. For some students, excitement can turn into anxiety when the realization sets in that they'll be freshmen in high school the next school year. This change means a larger building, older kids, more challenging classes, and

teachers who might be new faces.
Those feelings aren't so far away for Freshman Sadie Cobb, who reflects on her transition from Washington Middle School to Johnston City High School and ways the Peer Mentor Program helped to ease some fears.
"When I was an 8th grader filling up my schedule, I didn't even know if I was going to see my friends every day," Cobb recalls. "I

was a little bit scared about that. As an 8th grader, you have classes with just your class. As a freshman, you have classes with everyone."
Like many freshmen, Cobb quickly realized attending high school wasn't so scary after learning to navigate the hallways and becoming more familiar with her schedule.
"Sometimes I forget where I'm going," Cobb explains. "Sometimes I question myself. Am I really go-



JCHS students participating in the school's Peer Mentor Program.

ing to that class? Is it really that time?"
With her first year of high school almost over, Cobb is thriving. She's a three-sport athlete competing in cheerleading, volleyball, and track. She's also considering the high school's medical path and earning certifications in healthcare.
Some of this success and ease of transition results from the high school's Peer Mentor Program, now in its second year. Seniors
CONTINUED ON P.5

Devotional Thought

Graduation: More than a cap and gown

BY RANDY CARNEY
Graduation season brings a mix of joy, relief, and maybe just a little anxiety about what's next. Whether it's high school, college, or kindergarten, that march across the stage and handshake with the diploma-holding principal is more than a ceremony—it's a marker of accomplishment and a launchpad for what lies ahead.
There's a reason graduation ceremonies are often called commencements. It's not the end—it's the beginning. A fresh start. A new chapter. And for believers, the idea of new beginnings is baked right into the gospel.
The wisest graduates know there's still a lot to learn. In fact, the more you learn, the more you realize how much you don't know. It's like peeling an onion—every layer reveals another. Proverbs 4:7 says, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." A diploma



DR. RANDY CARNEY, pastor of JCity Church

may represent knowledge, but let's keep chasing wisdom, too.
High school grads sometimes go from being the BMOC (Big Man on Campus) or BWOC (Big Woman on Campus) to a small fish in a very big pond. That's humbling. But humility's not a bad thing. James 4:10 reminds us, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." God is pretty good at using "small fish" to make big waves.
One of the best things about that little piece of paper called a diploma is what it quietly declares: "I didn't quit!" It's proof of something called stick-to-it-iveness—that gritty, godly perseverance. Romans 5:3-4 says, "Suffering produces

perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." If you made it to graduation, you've learned a little about that.
Graduation also reminds us that to be a graduate is to be a student. And to be a student—especially in the faith—is to be a disciple. The word "disciple" literally means learner. If we're going to follow Jesus, we've got to keep learning. Always.
A degree can open doors. Just ask the pastor who volunteered at the VA. After months, he joked with the chaplain, "What can you do that I can't?" The chaplain smiled and said, "I can get a job." Point taken.
Some people graduate with honors or highest honors. But the ultimate graduation is still ahead. One day, we'll step from this life into eternity—and the highest honor? Hearing our Savior say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23). Now that's a commencement worth aiming for.

Group offers support for caregivers, loved ones

Is your loved one in a long-term facility? Do you know someone who is? Are you a caregiver to a loved one or someone you know? A support group can be a powerful tool in helping you cope with all the demands you face.
LTC Support Group, a ministry of Marion's Third Baptist Church, purposes to provide loving and caring support to anyone in care-related situations. Ongoing since October 2023, the group forges a camaraderie of new friends and offers individuals a place to voice concerns and address issues such as grief, guilt, and the need for self-care. Attendees can freely share their experiences and express their feelings. It's a place of acceptance.
Monthly meetings typically feature a guest speaker from an array of agencies and organizations involved in care. Past speakers include an ombudsman from Shawnee Health, a

spokesperson from Hospice of Southern Illinois, and the administrator of Active Daycare of Marion. The group invites leaders to share information about their programs, lend emotional support, and/or address the rights of residents or caregivers.
LTC Support Group considers prayer an important aspect in care and makes this available to anyone who asks. Per the individual's request, prayers can be offered either privately or openly in the group. Additionally, printed handouts containing helpful Scriptures are made available along with informational materials from various care-related agencies.
The group meets the second Thursday of each

month from 10-11 am at the church, located at the corner of Boulevard and Fair Streets, in Marion. For more information, contact group leader Kay Jamieson (217-722-6855) or the church (618-997-6623).
ABOUT THE GROUP LEADER:
Kay (Bunting) Jamieson has lived in the Marion/Williamson County area for many years. A retired special education teacher and behavioral consultant, Kay taught for several years in southern Illinois and then in Australia from the late 1990s until 2007, when Kay and her husband (the impetus for the LTC Support Group) returned to Illinois to complete her teaching career. Kay is actively involved in the Johnston City community where three of her grandchildren attend school and her daughter is owner/broker of Indigo Realty. Kay is a member of the JC Rotary Club and seeks involvement with others in building a better community.

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

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

***JCity Center for Hope and Renewal**
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618-952-1272

***Manna Mission**
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Johnston City, IL 62951
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Jefferson School students raise funds for Heart Association



Students at Jefferson Elementary took physical activity and learning to heart and raised \$2,635 for the American Heart Association during Kids Heart Challenge. The Challenge focuses on whole body well-being, helping students improve their own health and better their character while raising life-saving donations for the American Heart Association to help kids with special hearts.

Far surpassing the school’s goal of \$1,500, students celebrated during a designated Jefferson Heart Week that included themed dress-up days.



Jefferson students enjoy pajama day during Heart Association fundraiser.

JCHS classes compete in puzzle wars

JCHS Librarian Jayne Stallings sought a way to entertain students, stimulate brains, and deter the use of cell phones in the classroom. What happened next resembles a fiction book from the library’s shelves.

Students started appearing in the library for the sole purpose of working puzzles during their free time, and a door of communication opened between students from different walks of life. Students who had never met were now working together for a common goal—to complete a puzzle. One puzzle became two, two

became three, and students are currently working on their fourth 1000-piece puzzle, which they began after returning from spring break.

Mrs. Stalling and JCHS Student Advocate Lay Ray collaborated in the idea of hosting Class Puzzle Wars to add a little bit of friendly competition into the mix. The final battle involves a 500-piece puzzle. First class to complete their fifth puzzle before the May 2 deadline will be declared victorious with winning class participants rewarded a delicious prize.

Washington Middle School

Mother’s Day poems from Mrs. Colson’s students

How Are You, Mother?

Hello Mother, how are you today?
Your shining smile is never in my way.
You let me rant, and that is definitely okay.
I love you, Mother, thank you for the day.

Mother! Oh Mother! Let me see your face!
It is something sentimental that makes my heart race.
Seeing you so happy, even if I’m away,
Makes me feel joy, and makes my day fly away.

Mother, Mother, Mother, how the time flies by,
You’re like a statue, standing there with pride,
Seeing your children, seeing them glide,
Like a free bird in the dark night sky.

Mother, I thank you for what you do.
You are like a nice tulip, beautiful, and sweet too!
If you weren’t my mom, I would absolutely sue!
Mother, Mother, Mother, I love and miss you.

Mom, I know, you’re like a soft breeze,
Walking through life with careful ease,
Happily living through peace without a care,
Happy Mother’s Day! I hope your day is fair!
—Izzy Ray

My Amazing Mother

My dear, caring mother,
You have made magic for us on most days,
On our worst nights we lay near each other.
I appreciate you so much in many ways.

On long days you come home and laze,
Yet provide for us like a cow produces milk.
You love us like a chicken loves to graze,
And your love makes the rough feel like silk.

Sometimes you feel you need help around the house,
For I will always be there for you when you need a rest.
Even if you’re as scared as I, you would protect me from a mouse.
I will always remember you do your very best.

A Mother’s Love

There’s no love like my mother’s
Her heart is filled with care.
With Christ as her example,
He savors the love she shares.

My mother’s love is endless.
Never ending all the time.
When needed by her children,
My mother’s love will shine.

God bless my special mother
God bless her every day,
For all the tears and all the time

She spares us every day.
When days on Earth are over,
My mother’s love lives on.
Through many generations,
God is blessing everyone.

I’m thankful for my mother
Who loves me night and day.
I’m thankful for my mother
Who never leads me astray.
—Kamri Clark

And when you feel as if you are not enough,
I will make sure to give you lots of love.
Sometimes life is rough,
But when I’m with you I feel above.

Like a mother hen,
You take me under your wing when I feel down.
You will always be my other part
Like a mama llama, you’re very zen,
Especially when you have been crowned
Mom of the year in my heart!
I love my mom :D <3
—Elizabeth Boyt



Peer Mentors

CONTINUED FROM P. 4

are assigned a freshman classroom and hold lessons once a month on a Tuesday during Tribe Talk. These lessons focus on character education, topics like leadership, social engagement, and stress management.

JCHS Social Worker Ashley Gualdoni oversees the program. Selected by school administration for her ability to build relationships, she also bears a successful track record in encouraging responsibility and leadership within stu-

dents. Gualdoni sees it as an asset to both freshmen and seniors.

“We want all of our kids to feel like they have a place here at school, and . . . have people they can look up to,” she says. “It gives our seniors a little bit of ownership and accountability. It also gives our freshmen that feeling when they come here.”

Gualdoni hopes to keep this program thriving and growing. One goal is for the freshman-to-senior ratio to be small, but she needs more seniors to volunteer.

“We want as many se-

niors as we can,” Gualdoni adds. “We have exceptional students here at our school. We want to showcase that and show our younger students they do have someone to look up to.”

Senior mentors for this school year included Cannon Ashmore, Ty Clark, Zoe Cullum, Kylie Dugger, Aidan Eberhardt, Olivia Giron, Cassidy Hermetz, Karleigh McVey, Jordan Norris, Sydney Pietrantonio, Seth Rice, Evan Sanders, Kara Smith, Erin West, and Aubree Williford.

Coaches

CONTINUED FROM P. 6

to continue doing things the way we have done them over the past seven years,” Thomas states. “Not having the off the field, behind the scenes responsibilities should free up some time for me.”

The school board ac-

cepted the resignations of Burzynski and Thomas during its regular meeting, April 17. Superintendent Kathy Clark spoke on behalf of the board saying it understands these difficult decisions.

“We completely support their decision and want to thank them for all the time, energy, and heart they’ve

given to our teams over the years,” Clark says. “They’ve had a big impact on our students, and we’re glad they’ll still be in the classroom, continuing to make a difference.”

Not only will this be a big change for our student-athletes but also parents and the community. The school board is working to make a seamless transition.

“We appreciate the continued support of our community as we move through this transition, and we remain committed to upholding the high standards of Johnston City Indians athletics,” Clark added.

At this time, the Board of Education and district leadership are working diligently to fill both positions. The focus is on maintaining continuity within programs and ensuring student-athletes continue to receive the support, guidance, and stability they deserve.



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JCHS Math Team: State Champions

BY BROOKE SCHLYER
JOHNSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
(UPDATED BY ARROW NEWS)

The JCHS Math Team took home the gold, April 26, winning first place at the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) High School State Math Competition. Parents and friends welcomed the winning team home with an impromptu parade late that evening.

Johnston City's high school math team carries a long-standing tradition of triumph. Each school day, students and staff walk past a case filled with trophies and plaques in the upstairs hallway. Former JCHS Math teacher Mr. Ron Nagrodski started the team in the 1985-1986 school year, building a reputation as one of the best in the state.

Since its inception, the math team has dominated regional and state competitions, now winning eight state titles; achieving state runner-up 15 times; and winning 25 regional championships.

At this year's regionals, JCHS students claimed 21

out of 22 medals and earned a 681 score, a 314-point lead ahead of the high school that took second place.

Throughout the year, the team spent hours each week solving math problems before and after school and on their lunch break. Senior Katelynn Turner put as much effort into preparation as possible, knowing this would be her final state competition. She and other math team members even reviewed after finishing their assignments in calculus class.

"We focus on math team stuff toward the end of the hour, so that we can get just a little more practice in," Turner says. "We do the written competition. Then we go over as a class which problems we got wrong and which problems we should be getting right every time."

Turner gravitates toward geometry, but she was also quizzed on algebra 1, algebra 2, and pre-calculus at state. She embraced this challenge after seeing some personal academic improvement throughout the team's season.

"I love the shapes and



THE 2024-2025 WINNING MATH TEAM
(Listed by class, not in order in photo above) SENIORS: Ty Clark; Jacob Johnson; Chase McReynolds; Seth Rice; Katelynn Turner. JUNIORS: Mariah Hall; Graci Lakotich; Carson Murrah; Logan Smith; Sophie Walker. SOPHOMORES: Brylee Bailey; Hayden Burton; Andrew Keith; Amaya Peairs; Noah Pender; MacKenzie Turner; Daniel Ward. FRESHMEN: Elijah Abbott; Brier Beck; Jack Carmine; Kate Carmine; Kace Grant; Jaxson Hope.

triangles," she explains. "I'm a big fan of sine and cosine. I think it's because I really like art that I like shapes. I do think that I've learned a lot more this season. I feel like I can handle a lot more of the problems than I normally can."

Multi-branch mathematics teacher Trevor Stanley coaches the team. Prior to the competition, he expressed his confidence that his students have what it takes to be number one. Although thousands of students compete at state, the

team's fiercest competition usually comes from students in private schools.

"Some of the hardest-working kids in the state go to Johnston City," Stanley says. "It doesn't matter that they're not attending a \$50,000-a-year tuition school out of Chicago. They're just as good as those kids. They can compete. . . ."

Overall, 23 JCHS students took part in this year's contest at the University of Illinois in Normal. Each team member

could participate in up to three of four contests: individual; eight-person; calculator; and two-person.

"It's not like basketball or baseball, where you play head-to-head," Stanley explains. "Math team's closest comparison is probably track and field, where it's not head-to-head against another team. You go out, run your race, and compare your times."

One student who knows all about track and mathematics is junior Carson
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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JCHS head coaches step down, leaving big impact on players, community

BY BROOKE SCHLYER
JOHNSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Boys Head Basketball Coach Scott Burzynski and Boys Head Football Coach Todd Thomas are stepping down from their roles. Now, both coaches are reflecting on their time in these positions and looking forward to what the future holds.

Boys Head Basketball Coach Scott Burzynski expressed his gratitude for those who have supported him throughout the years and said he is proud of all his former players.

"I did step away from my basketball coaching duties at JCHS," says Burzynski. "I would like to thank Mrs. Kathy Clark, Mr. Josh Pietrantonio, and the school board for the opportunity to coach basketball at JCHS. I would like to thank my assistant coaches for the work they put toward the program. I want to thank all the players for their time and willingness to make the basketball program better."

Despite stepping down from coaching, Burzynski will continue teaching at JCHS, making a positive impact on students in his

classroom.

"I'm looking forward to continuing teaching with the great administration and faculty at the high school," he adds.

Meanwhile, Boys Head Football Coach Todd Thomas is looking to put family first after countless hours invested into the football program and its players.

"I desire to spend a more considerable amount of time attending to my family. When you are a head football coach there is a tremendous amount of time and energy put into the details of the sport," Thomas says. "After a while you look around and start wondering where all the time and years have gone. I have made a lot of memories with our players, but I want to spend more time making memories with my own family."

The community, however, may still see him involved with the football program, but in a smaller role.

"I desire to assume the role of an assistant coach in the program and [for] us

CONTINUED ON P.5

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