

Bull on the loose near I-57 spurs unlikely rodeo

Of all the places for an impromptu rodeo, Exit 59 on I-57 seems both unlikely and dangerous. But on August 14, local and county law enforcement had little choice but to call in an experienced cattle roper when a bull bound for a sale barn escaped near the interstate.

At 8:32 am, Johnston City Police Officer Cody Martin was dispatched to the interstate exchange in response to an unusual traffic hazard: a bull loose on the roadway.

The animal's owner, Steven Ross of rural Marion, had stopped to fuel his ve-

hicle at the ROC (Conoco) station. Surveillance footage shows the bull becoming agitated and leaping over the rear gate of the trailer while handlers stood by, unable to stop the nearly one-ton beast.

Williamson County Sheriff's Deputies and Illinois State Police soon converged on the scene, joining the effort to corral the bull. JCPD Officer Terry Fann, who was assisting Martin, called Kodee Ross, a rodeo calf roper from Vienna, who quickly responded. Approaching the bull on horseback, the wrangler expertly lassoed the animal,



Dash-cam video shows a local cattleman on horseback in pursuit of runaway bull on the I-57 entrance ramp in Johnston City. (Photo captured from Williamson Co. Sheriff video)

which was secured within 20 minutes after the roper joined the effort.

Throughout the incident, the JCPD, sheriff's deputies, and local cattlemen worked

together to keep the animal away from the interstate and ensure public safety.

In a light-hearted social media post following the

event, the Williamson County Sheriff's Office remarked, "Teamwork isn't just for catching criminals; sometimes it's for catching cows!"

← Former Congressman performs at First Baptist Church

Poshard Poetry Tour raises funds for Manna Mission

BY DOUG HANCOCK

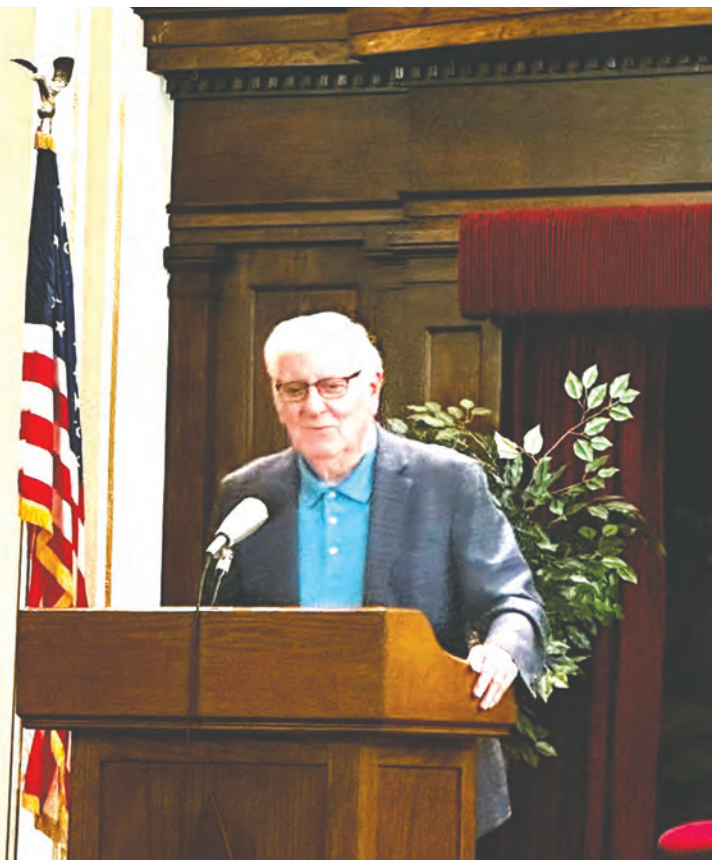
When people in southern Illinois think of Glenn Poshard, they may think of a teacher, congressman, college president, author, or philanthropist. But what about a poet? The Poshard Poetry Tour made a stop at First Baptist Church on Sunday, August 10, where Poshard performed a one-hour program that included his own poems, short stories, and works by some

of his favorite poets. Poshard has long had a heart for supporting underprivileged children, beginning with his work at a Korean orphanage when he was just 18 years old. With many children in southern Illinois facing hunger, Poshard has set a lofty personal goal to raise \$500,000 by Christmas to help fill food pantries across the region. From his humble begin-

nings in a crowded house in Marnie, Illinois, Poshard took his audience on a deeply personal and emotional journey through his life. Through poetry and stories, he reflected on his experiences growing up in a small town and later serving in the halls of Congress.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Retired U.S. Congressman Glenn Poshard on his poetry tour to fund food pantries made a stop at First Baptist Church, August 10.



←

September Events in Johnston City

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The Wonders of Working Together

BY JIMMY DEAN

Just about anything can be accomplished when people work together.

Such was the case last month when the first ever district-sponsored Back-to-School Bash and the 19th annual Mike Dean Memorial Blood Drive fell on the same day.

It takes a lot of work to put on any kind of event, but for events to be successful, collaboration and coordination must go hand in hand.

Brenda Mummert and her Johnston City HOSA Club members organized the well-run blood drive.

The Red Cross goal was to receive 19 donors. Forty-two donors showed up to give blood, shattering the goal.

It was so memorable for me to see many of Mike's friends and former classmates give blood.

Adam Cargal, one of Mike's closest friends, brought his family. Mike's mother, Donnette, and sister, Donnelly, gave for the first time. It was pretty emotional, but for a great cause

that would have made my son proud.

The downtown Back-to-School Bash proved sensational.

Mother Nature provided a perfect day weatherwise. Broadway was blocked off from the railroad tracks to Monroe Street. While businesses remained open, the street was filled with activities and giveaways for all the kids, in preparation for the first day of school.

I can remember carnivals downtown and none of those drew as many people as this event. Parking places were hard to find. With all church lots full, folks drove two and three blocks north and south to find an empty spot.

Members of the police and fire departments were out in full force, helping in the event. Smiles beamed on kids' faces.

Brooke Schlyer, our school district's media guru, did a fantastic job of getting the word out for both events.

Community School Team Leaders Heather Miller, Ronda Koch, and their

group organized the downtown Bash and could be seen working in the crowd. Community Liaison Megan Hearn put a lot of work into the event, along with Washington Middle School Principal Kristina Armes and the WMS FSCS Advisory Team.

Last, but not least, our teachers and administrators deserve praise. They were behind the tables, serving up goodies and answering questions from the long lines of eager kids. In their matching shirts, educators and administrators from across the district worked the booths, helping the kids as they navigated the lines.

All this happened in one day, but the preparation and planning took months. With folks from Johnston City working together, a lot is and can be accomplished.



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

Washington School Teacher Trivia (part 1)

BY MARGIE SANDERS

Are you a Washington Middle School student or parent? How well do you know your teachers?

This is the first of a three-part trivia series about the WMS faculty. Can you match each fact with a teacher (answers on p. 4)

1. Her sisters and this teacher all had softball scholarships.
2. This teacher likes to water ski.
3. A trip to Greece was this teacher's dream come true this past summer.
4. This teacher ran over a U.S. Congressman's foot with a golf cart.
5. This teacher went to college on a music scholarship.
6. He performed the Na-

- Mrs. Sally Baker
- Mr. Alex Zimmerman
- Mr. Mike Smith
- Mr. Jim Switcher
- Mrs. Rosa Moulton
- Mr. Mike Chaney
- Mrs. Jaimi Kerley
- Mrs. Olivia Hoxworth
- Mrs. Ashley Huey
- Miss Kailee Grant

tional Anthem at a World Series game in St. Louis.

7. This teacher is six feet tall.
8. This teacher played on the Thrillbillies baseball team.
9. She loves jigsaw puzzles, kayaking, and working on motors.
10. This teacher lives on a lake.

Poetry by Poshard (CONT. FROM P. 1)

Interspersed with his readings, Glenn also sang gospel hymns and spirituals he had learned in his youth at a church in Mar-

rie. By memorizing these pieces, Poshard delivered them with a polished voice full of vibrancy and emotion. Poshard shared the stories behind some of his own poems, like "The Walk," which he dedicated to his late sister and their walks home from school together, or "The Wall," which recalled his 1989 visit to the Vietnam War Memorial before his congressional inauguration.

He also spoke about poems and writers who had touched his heart, from the Bible (Psalm 23) to sports (like Bart Giamatti's "Baseball"), and even whimsical works, such as "Biff, the Friendly Purple Bear" by Dick Feller.

The idea to raise funds for food pantries through his poems and readings came from Glenn's wife, Jo.

To help Poshard reach his \$500,000 goal and support the J.C. Manna Mission Food Pantry, send donations to JCMM, P.O. Box 424, Johnston City, IL 62951. Include "Poshard" in the memo.

News Briefs

Back-to-School Bash Draws 1,168

The Johnston City school district reports that 1,168 community members, including students, participated in the Back-to-School Bash held downtown August 1.

Key highlights of the event include:

- 30 community partners who attended or made donations
- 14 vendors who provided food, services, and entertainment
- Stylists who gave 70 students free haircuts
- Dental Safari, which offered 11 cleanings, check-ups, and fluoride treatments
- Over 25 school staff members who volunteered

The event organizers would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all participants and attendees for making this event a success.

The bash was funded by the Full-Service Community Schools Grant, which also provided funds for every student in the district to receive a free backpack with school supplies.

Fire Department dedicates memorial bench for 'childhood cancer warrior'

The Johnston City Fire Department honored the memory of 8-year-old Amirah Marie Jones with the dedication of a memorial bench outside the fire station, August 3.

Family, community members, and firefighters gathered for the unveiling, which featured a bench adorned with an engraved plaque and surrounded by plants. The tribute commemorates Amirah's courageous battle with cancer and her lasting impact on the community.

Amirah, remembered as a "childhood cancer war-

rior," passed away on August 3, 2020. Prior to her passing, the Fire Department and local emergency agencies organized a parade past her home to show their support.

The new bench serves as a permanent reminder of her strength and the community's love for her.

Lunch Bunch serves nearly 5,000 meals

JC Kids' Lunch Bunch, Johnston City's summer meal program, just finished its 16th season. Ending on August 1, the program provided more than 3,600 meals for children and over 1,000 for adults. Children's meals were supported in part by the USDA, while the generosity of the community made adult meals and weekend extras possible. This community program is spearheaded by JCity Church and JCity Center for Hope and Renewal.



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Adam King, pastor

***First United Methodist Church**
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618-983-5150
Paul Jacob, pastor

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Dr. Randy Carney, pastor

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618-983-5938
Brandon Abernathy, pastor

***St. Paul's Catholic Church**
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Johnston City, IL 62951
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Father Brian Barker

***Washington Ave. Baptist Church**
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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**
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



September Events

SEPTEMBER 2
JC Business Meet N' Greet, Andresen's, 9 am

Lions Club, JCity Church, 5:30 pm

SEPTEMBER 3
Rotary Club luncheon, Andresen's, Noon

SEPTEMBER 7
Free Movie Night, JCity Church, 5 pm

SEPTEMBER 9
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5 pm

SEPTEMBER 13
Sweet Southern Market, downtown, 9 am -4 pm

SEPTEMBER 14-17
Revival, JCity Church, 7 pm

SEPTEMBER 16
Lions Club, Andresen's, 9 am

SEPTEMBER 17
Rotary Club, Indigo Realty, 4 pm

SEPTEMBER 18
School Board Mtg., Unit Office, 6 pm

SEPTEMBER 20
Car show, downtown, 12-4 pm

SEPTEMBER 23
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5 pm

SEPTEMBER 26
JCity Church's 4th Friday for Kids (K-5), 6-8 pm

October Events

OCTOBER 11-12
2025 Arrowhead Endurance Run, 7 am- 7 am

OCTOBER 18
Halloween Hustle 5k, Line-men's Lounge, 10 am

OCTOBER 31
Downtown Trail of Treats and Citywide Trick or Treat

Weekly Events

THURSDAYS
Food pantry open, First United Methodist, 9 am-1 pm (Commodity distribution on the 3rd Thursday each month)

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

FRIDAYS
Farmers Market, 7-11 am

For calendar updates, please see Facebook or watch our video podcasts. To submit an event, email date, time, and details to jcitycenter@gmail.com or call 618-952-1272.

Will You Answer the Call?

BY RANDY CARNEY
Have you ever noticed how our phones often ring at the most inconvenient moments? Maybe we're sitting down with a plate of fried chicken and hot cornbread, and ring!—it's a telemarketer offering us an "extended car warranty." That's the kind of call we're quick to ignore. But life offers us other calls—calls from God—that we can't afford to send to voicemail.

That theme, "Answer the Call," has been echoing in our church family. Not long ago, my wife, Rhonda, and I, along with Keith and Sarah Fletcher, attended a convention with messages centered on this very idea. Now, we're about to hear similar messages again. Pastor Mike Sauvageot, from Tupelo, Mississippi, will be preaching revival messages for us in September. (His last name looks complicated, but his dad devised the perfect memory trick: "Just remember, Save Asia!" Once

you hear it, you'll never get it wrong.)

Unsure of a revival theme, someone suggested, "Answer the Call." When I shared this with Pastor Mike, the theme immediately resonated. I'm eager to see what direction God will lead him to take.

God calls us in many ways. First, He calls us to salvation, inviting us into a personal relationship with Him. Then comes the call to grow spiritually. Faith is more than a one-time decision; it's a journey of learning, stretching, and maturing. And there's also a call to serve—using our gifts and talents to make a difference in the lives of others.

As a pastor, this challenges me in a personal way. The Bible says in Ephesians 4:12 that my job isn't to do all the ministry myself, but to equip others "for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." In other words, God's call isn't

just for preachers or missionaries. It's for everyday believers who are willing to step forward and be used by Him.

So, the question remains: When the call comes—and it surely will—how will you respond? Will you answer the call?



Dr. Randall Carney was called to pastor JCity Church in 2023. As an author of several books, he also mentors other aspiring writers.

JCity Center Resumes Normal Hours

JCity Center for Hope and Renewal is now open Tuesday-Thursday, 9 am-5 pm. Mondays are reserved for counseling appointments and support groups. The Center is closed Fridays, but Take Action Today staff may be on call (618-212-3171). Lunches are usually available from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. The Saturday Night Community Drive-Thru Meal will resume later this month at JCity Church next door.

Arrow Distribution Points

Each month, volunteers distribute at least 1,000 copies of *Arrow News* to more than 30 local establishments. Here is a partial listing of places to pick up your copy:

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| Casey's | Manna Mission |
| City Hall | McDonald's |
| Dollar General | Moonshine Run |
| Down Home Comforts | The Painted Cowgirl |
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ARROW NEWS

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JCity SPORTS NEWS

Southern Illinois Coaches Association honors JC's Todd Thomas as 2A Football Coach of the Year

The Southern Illinois Coaches Association has named Johnston City's former head football coach, Thomas, the 2A Football Coach of the Year. The honor was presented during the association's annual banquet, August 21.

Thomas, who led the Indians for seven seasons before stepping down after the 2024 season to devote more time to his family, built one of the region's most successful programs in recent years. Under his leadership, Johnston City posted a 47-7 record over the past five seasons, capturing four conference championships and finishing as runner-up once.

The team also made a strong mark in postseason play, recording an 8-4



Todd Thomas (holding plaque) with the JCHS coaching staff (photo from Johnston City Schools)

playoff record. The Indians reached the second round in both 2021 and 2023, advanced to the semifinals in 2022 and again in 2024.

Though no longer serving as head coach, Thomas remains with the program as an assistant, continuing

to mentor student-athletes and contribute to the team's ongoing success.



WASHINGTON SCHOOL TEACHER TRIVIA ANSWERS (see p. 2) 1. Mrs. Jaimi Kerley; 2. Miss Kailee Grant; 3. Mrs. Sally Baker; 4. Mr. Brian Chaney; 5. Mr. Jim Switcher; 6. Mr. Mike Smith; 7. Mrs. Olivia Hoxworth; 8. Mr. Alex Zimmerman; 9. Mrs. Rosa Moulton; 10. Mrs. Ashley Huey

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