

Principal Expresses His Excitement With 1:1 Chromebook Initiative

By CHRISTY JANKOWSKI
Staff Writer

For a while now, Junior and High School Principal Jeremy Rodebaugh has been on a mission to get a chromebook in every student's hands. The initial part of the initiative is complete. Now, every single 7th and 10th grader have their own Chromebook which will be their own school electronic device.

"Us starting that initiative with every, every seventh and 10th grader now has their very own school issue computer that they will have through graduation. I'm excited about the direction that is heading for our

school. And what that does for us."

Superintendent Brett Robinson's Report

Every year the board holds a truth in taxation hearing to approve a rate higher than 5 percent. The agreement is to ask for what is likely to be given, so the district does not possibly lose out on funding. "There was no public present no public participation or correspondence. Okay. I made a presentation of the tax levy there were no changes from what I had presented at the November meeting a form of estimated amounts by fund." stated Robinson. He added later that the

property tax rate should decrease, "Actually the tax rate will go down, I believe he known until May but I believe that our tax rate will be lower, next year than it was this year so like the tax rate, I, you know, and let's say it was, um, you know, in the \$4.66, per \$100 of EAV. This past year, I anticipate it will be lower than the \$4.66, and it was last year for this year."

The board set the levy for this year at \$3,210,285. Robinson reminded readers that is for all funds with the exception of Debt Service. For Debt Service the board approved a levy of \$ 761,795.

He added that not all bonds are paid for by property taxes. "This would be a good time for me to insert the difference in those that are very close to one of the action items that occurred that I'll come to later. One of the bonds that we have is an alternate revenue source, one. So it is not paid by property taxes. Paid by county school facilities sales tax funds. So, we have to list it on the levy, and then we turn around and ask the county clerk to abate, or eliminate the amount for that particular bond because we already have those funds on hand from the sale."

Robinson stated they are seeing an increase of 7.5 percent and 11.4 percent for debt service. He added thought that the two combined together decrease the levy increase as one of the bonds is paid for through Piatt sales tax, not property taxes. "And if you kind of combine those two together. So all forms except debt service but then add in debt ser-

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Connie and Jim Winfield

Winfields retire, close dental practice in Arthur

By MARTY YEAKEL
Staff Writer

So many small towns are not as fortunate as ours when it comes to having doctors and dentists to serve the community. We have been and still are well served by several clinics but, sadly, we will no longer have one of our dentists who is retiring although, thankfully, he and his wife will still be part of our community.

As many of you may have noticed, Jim Winfield and wife Connie recently closed their dental practice in Arthur.

After coming to Arthur, Dr. Winfield opened his office on Ash Street in the building that most of us in town knew as Dr. Jones's office for so many years.

Frankly, I was very pleased to be asked to write about Jim and Connie for the Graphic as I have been a patient of Jim's since January of 1993, only a few months after he opened his office in May of 1992.

As a patient, I always knew I would be listened to and treated respectfully. We also enjoyed discussing the news of the day, sharing book reviews with Jim and talking about families with Connie. The couple was always friendly and genuinely interested in their patients.

The couple shares their philosophy as "going to great lengths to make our office a nice place to visit." As a long time patient, I can certainly attest to that.

Jim Winfield grew up in Mattoon graduating from Mattoon High School in 1963. After graduation from Lake Land, he started his career as a dental technician working for Underwood Dental Lab in Mattoon and then owning and operating Winfield Laboratories. In 1986 he made the decision to attend dental school at Southern Illinois School of Dental Medicine.

After graduation from dental school in 1991, Dr. Winfield decided to set up a

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Atwood Blood Drive January 7

The Atwood American Legion Auxiliary Blood Drive with the American Red Cross will be held on Thursday, January 7, from 2-7 p.m. at the United Church of Atwood Fellowship Hall, 210 N. Main Street, Atwood.

Be the Lifeline Patients Need. Give Blood. For an appointment call 1-800-RED

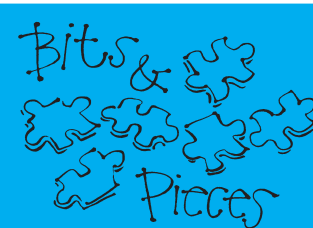
CROSS.

All donations are tested for Covid-19 antibodies. Plasma from antibody-positive donations may help current coronavirus patients in need.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.



Winter 2021 has kicked off to treat us to a mixed bag of freezing rain, snow, and freezing fog the first three days of the new year. All pictures were taken in Atwood, with the exception of the bottom picture which was taken in Hammond.



Letter to Our Readers

We are pleased to announce an exciting change that is happening with our newspapers beginning next week. To better serve our loyal readers we are merging the Mt. Zion Region News with the Southern Piatt Record-Herald and effectively expanding your weekly paper to make room for the additional content.

This combined paper will be called the Record Herald News, and will continue to cover Piatt, Douglas, Moultrie counties, in addition to Macon County.

The Mt. Zion Region News has been in existence for nearly 62 years and has led the community with loyal reporting. We are committed to the Mt. Zion community, but we have to face the reality of business as the time has come to shift into a bigger and more efficient paper.

Our parent company, Better Newspapers Inc., has decided that combining our beloved publications into one will be our best option going forward. This new paper will be larger and absolutely no content from the Southern Piatt Record-Herald, or the Mt. Zion Region News, will be lost in this transition.

Our communities have their own unique histories, traditions, and heritages that we will continue to keep in mind. With combining our papers, you won't lose what you have, you will be gaining so much more.

We're overjoyed that you are here to embark on this journey with us and it remains not only an honor, but a privilege, to bring you the latest news about your community.

We welcome your suggestions on how we can do even more to bring you a quality newspaper and invite you to call our office at 217/543-2151, or email either recordherald@consolidated.net or news@mtzionregion-news.com.

We believe we have a unique opportunity to strengthen the connections between all our communities.

Welcome one, welcome all, to the official first edition on January 13 of the Southern Piatt Record-Herald and Mt. Zion Region News combined paper.

Cheers to a bright new 2021.

