

The Midland Elementary Students Of The Week Recognized For Being Accountable

Each week Midland Elementary School recognizes students who are showing positive characteristics. This week we celebrated students who are accountable. Congratulations to this week's Students of the Week.



Pictured K-4 Back Row (left to right) Lexi Endress, Zane Wehrle, Eva Schoepke, Kooper Peplow, Abby Seympour, Charlie Wilson, Kami Wagenbach

Front Row (L-R) Jordan Slimko, Pryor Stork, Terrell Watson, Parker Zimmerman, Evy Kereta, Shawn Nelson



Pre-K PM- Kasher Hoffstatter



Pre-K AM Sylas Kelly

Midland To Host Blood Drive

The Midland High School Student Council is hosting a blood drive on Friday, February 27 at Midland High School Gym. The blood drive will run from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you are interested in donating blood, you may either sign up online at redcrossblood.org and enter the zip code of 61375 to find the "Midland High School" drive or simply call the high school office at 309-463-8007 to set up an appointment. If you have any questions, please email Molly Crawley at mcrawley@midland-7.net.

Blood Donors Must:

- Be in good general health and feeling well
- Be at least 16-years-old or have parental consent
- Weigh at least 110 lbs. Additional weight requirements apply for donors 18-years-old and younger and all high school donors.
- There are some additional requirements as to how often you may give blood. To check if you are eligible, please visit the Red Cross website at: redcrossblood.org.



Illinois Ranks 5th Among The States With the Fewest Collection Accounts

A collection account is a debt that has gone unpaid for so long that the original lender sells it to a debt collector, giving the agency the right to pursue payment. Having a collection account on your credit report significantly harms your credit score (which is likely already low due to missed payments), and it remains on your report for seven years.

To determine which states have the highest number of collection accounts - and therefore where residents' credit scores and financial stability may be most at risk - WalletHub analyzed all 50 states using four key metrics. These included the average number of collection accounts, the average balance owed, and how both figures changed from Q2 2025 to Q3 2025.

"Collection accounts stay on your credit report for seven years, even once they're fully paid off, so it's ideal to not get into this situation in the first place. But if you do have

A Night Out With Midland & The Lady Pumas For A Wonderful Cause

Please join us on Monday, February 16th as the Putnam County Lady Pumas take on Midland Junior High in Granville for a fun night of volleyball! This night is very special as it is the Lady Pumas Volley For A Cause Fundraiser. This year, it is being played to benefit Midland student CailLynn Day, who was injured in an automobile accident on October 28th, the eve of her 18th birthday, and has a long road of recovery ahead of her. There will be raffle baskets as well as silent auction items to bid on.

Tickets are being sold by volleyball players, at Midwest Farm

Charm, the Coffee Hub and the Lacon Home Journal. Last year's benefit between Putnam County and Henry raised over \$7,000 for ChooseJoy.

If you'd like to learn more about CailLynn's accident and her recovery to date, or if you would like to donate directly, you can visit her GoFundMe page: Support CailLynn's Road to Recovery.

If you would like to donate a basket or silent auction item, please contact Shannon Jenkins at (815) 883-4532 or Jenkins_again76@outlook.com.

We thank you for your support and hope to see you there!

Lacon City Council Conducts Regular Business At Brief Meeting On Wednesday, January 14th

In a short meeting held last Wednesday, the Lacon City Council met to conduct regular business.

During the meeting the council approved a resolution to use IDOT MFT (Motor Fuel Tax) funds for a street maintenance project. The project will be located on Seventh Street and N. High Street. The project will see the removal of the storm sewer.

Originally, submitted last year, the project would have used Rebuild Illinois funds, but environmental surveys and other requirements in Springfield have held up the project.

In other business, Shamra Behnke, representing the Lacon Chamber of Commerce, approached the council regarding the closure of part of the alley between Country Financial and The Coffee Hub from 3 pm to 7 pm on January 31st. This will be closed for the Ransom on the Roof fundraiser.

A portion of the alley will be closed to accommodate the fire truck needed for the event. The back half of the alley will be open for residents and parking for the downtown businesses. The fundraiser is being held to raise funds for the upcoming balloon and foam festival in September.

February 28th Fundraiser Set For Lacon-Sparland Ambulance Service

The Lacon-Sparland Ambulance Service is asking for our help. The Life Saving Team of our ambulance service is asking for "cash donations and raffle items" for an upcoming fund raising event.

On Saturday, February 28, Whiskerz Pub will play host starting at 4 p.m. Highlights will be the BINGO which starts at 5. Join in any time to play to win fantastic prizes. In addition to Bingo, there will be raffle drawings throughout the night.

Enjoy a meal of "pulled pork" with all the good things that go with it. The meal will be served till all the pulled pork is gone.

For many years, in all weather, interrupted meals or sleep, the ambulance has been manned and

ready for every call. Now, the service needs the community's help.

All funds raised at this event will be used to be sure the Lacon-Sparland Ambulance has all the tools and life saving equipment needed.

To donate raffle items or for more information about this fun and fundraising event, contact Kelsey Fitschen at 309-472-7665; Mary Mooberry at 309-238-4761 or Lee Ann at 309-267-8113. Monetary donations may be mailed to Lacon-Sparland Ambulance, PO Box 52, Lacon, IL 61540

Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated by the Ambulance Service and our entire community.

The ambulance is located at 921 Fifth St. in Lacon.

an account in collections, there are several ways you can resolve the issue. You can work to pay off the balance, which may improve your credit score. You can also pursue debt settlement, create a debt management plan, or try to wait out the statute of limitations. No matter what avenue you decide on, you should know your rights and protect yourself from harassment by debt collectors."

Chip Lupo, Wallethub Analyst

States With The Most Collection Accounts

State	Score
1. Wyoming.....	91.68
2. Alaska.....	84.66
3. Montana.....	84.14
4. Nevada.....	83.91
5. Arizona.....	80.86
6. Georgia.....	79.25
7. Florida.....	78.61
8. Idaho.....	77.48
9. Rhode Island.....	77.40
10. North Dakota.....	76.18

11. Texas.....	75.27
12. New Hampshire.....	73.42
13. Kansas.....	73.32
14. Nebraska.....	72.31
15. Louisiana.....	72.12

States With The Least Collection Accounts

36. Vermont.....	65.46
37. Iowa.....	65.43
38. Minnesota.....	65.40
39. New Jersey.....	64.32
40. Colorado.....	58.51
41. Delaware.....	58.14
42. Maine.....	56.48
43. Maryland.....	56.28
44. New Mexico.....	55.69
45. Hawaii.....	50.71
46. Illinois.....	50.24
47. Massachusetts.....	49.39
48. New York.....	46.56
49. North Carolina.....	28.47
50. Mississippi.....	14.11

Illinois Stats

- Overall Rank: 46th
- Average No. of Collection Accounts: 14.11

(Continued On Page 2)

FREE RETAIL MARKETPLACE ZERO COMMISSION AUCTIONS

TRACTOR TUESDAY

More Information
(402) 702-2222

Register on the Website
tractortuesday.com



FRONT END ALIGNMENTS AVAILABLE!



Who You Gonna Call?

Jeff Cochran!

We will no longer be accepting credit cards

Find Us On Facebook

COCHRAN'S COLLISION CENTER

Located at Lacon's East Edge - 1218 Ninth Street (Just Off Route 17)

(309) 246-8000

www.cochranscollisioncenter.com