

## Midland Board Extends H.S. Principal's Contract, Conducts Routine Business

by MJ Langner

Midland's High School Principal Jordan Farris will continue in his position for another three years. At their Board of Education meeting last Wednesday, January 21st, board members approved a new three year contract for Farris to continue on as principal.

The board also approved the hiring of Sam Mintus as an aide at the elementary school. Superintendent Jeremy Gauwitz noted that next month, the agenda will include an action item for the employment of a new technology director for the district. They began the search when the board accepted the retirement of Dale Heinold in December. Gauwitz told the board three applicants applied for

the job, noting that this was very lucky for the district, as technology director is often a difficult position to fill.

Additionally, the board approved spring overnight trips for the school's FFA Chapter and discussed options for redoing the playground at the elementary school. Principal Joe Mintus noted that new mulch was likely needed and a drainage issue is obvious on the playground. The grassy area could either be blacktopped or the district could add turf rather than reseeding it. There was also talk of using the field across the street as a playground and even moving the equipment there. These discussions are very preliminary and no decisions have been made.

## Lady T-Wolves Are Tri-County Conference Champs



For the first time in Midland school history, the Lady Timberwolves are champions of the annual Tri-County Tournament, hosted this year by Dwight High School.

They opened the tournament on Saturday, scoring a 50-33 win over Marquette. The Lady T-Wolves got off slowly, taking a 12-11 first quarter lead but started to pull away in the second quarter, taking a 24-16 lead into the half. The lead was 35-24 heading into the fourth quarter where senior Ella Foster hit three 3-pointers as Midland

drew away to the 50-33 win.

Foster finished with a career high 22 point, 21 of them coming from 7 3-pointers. Anna McGlasson added 9 points.

In the semi-final game, the Lady T-Wolves came up against Roanoke-Benson, a team that had beaten them 44-28 just four days earlier. On this night they got their revenge as they hit just enough free throws down the stretch to walk away with a 43-36 win.

Midland led 19-16 at the half and held that advantage at 30-27 heading into the final quarter. The Lady T-Wolves went to the line 12 times in the fourth quarter, converting 8 of them as they held on to the 43-36 win.

Ella Foster continued her hot streak from 3-point range as she added 4 more 3-pointers to lead the team with 12 points. Anna McGlasson and Emma Franks each added 9 points.

In the championship game on Thursday, the Lady T-Wolves came up against St. Bede, a team that had beaten them in their last six meetings. It looked like it might be 7 in a row when the Lady Bruins jumped out to an 18-7 first quarter lead. "After that early double digit deficit, we battled back and showed tremendous grit and toughness to pull off the win," stated Head Coach Xavier Warren.

Midland cut the deficit to 28-23

## Ransom On The Rooftop



Get ready, Lacon... because something hilarious (and for a great cause) is hitting the rooftops! The Lacon Chamber of Commerce is hosting the FIRST ANNUAL Ransom on the Roof Fundraiser on Saturday, January 31, 2026, starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Country Financial building (316 5th Street, Lacon).

Here's how it works: local business owners, school staff, community leaders, and first responders will be "stuck on the roof" and the only way down is for the community to raise money to bail them out!

Come out with your friends and family and help "bail out" your favorite rooftop hostage! You can vote with your donations by sending them a hot chocolate, coffee, snack, blanket, or even a chair while they're up there. At the start of the event, each participant's personal online donation link will go live, so you can also "bail them

out" from anywhere. Whether you donate in person or online, it all counts, and every dollar helps!

Proceeds from Ransom on the Roof will help support the 2026 Hot Air Balloon Foam & Flight Festival, a community event designed to bring people together and create unforgettable memories right here in Lacon.

Whether you donate a little or a lot, you're helping build something awesome for our town, and you'll be laughing the whole time, too.

For updates and event info, follow the Lacon Chamber of Commerce on Facebook.

## Marshall Co. Historical Society To Hold Annual Meeting Feb. 15

The Marshall County Historical Society has been in existence since 1956 when Eleanor Bussell gathered an interested group of people to organize a historical society. They met in the basement of the Courthouse.

Over the years, the organization has gathered an enormous amount of historical items. In 1983, Mrs. Kathryn Ehringer, former owner of the Ehringer Furniture Store, gifted the organization with our present building at 314 5th Street in Lacon.

Our board of 12 members meet 6 times a year to continue the business of preserving the integrity of the historical items and the history of Marshall County.

Through the years the museum has been enlarged as artifacts have been donated. At the present time, (Continued On Page 4)



Anna McGlasson (left) and Ella Foster (right) were both named to the Tri-County Tournament All-Tournament Team.

## L-S Fire Dept. Year End In Review

In 2025 the Lacon-Sparland fire dept. responded to a total of 304 calls, this is up 67 calls from 2024, they are as follows.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| EMS.....                     | 180 |
| Mutual Aid.....              | 33  |
| Auto Accidents.....          | 32  |
| Alarms.....                  | 21  |
| Brush/Grass/Field.....       | 10  |
| Wires Down/Arcing Wires..... | 7   |
| Public Assist.....           | 6   |
| Illegal/Control Burns.....   | 6   |
| Vehicle Fires.....           | 4   |
| Structure Fires.....         | 2   |
| Haz Mat.....                 | 1   |
| River Rescue.....            | 1   |
| Other.....                   | 1   |

### Calls By Town

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Lacon.....       | 205 |
| Sparland.....    | 66  |
| Henry.....       | 27  |
| Chillicothe..... | 2   |
| Hennepin.....    | 2   |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Spring Bay..... | 1 |
| McNabb.....     | 1 |

Busiest month was March with 43 calls, slowest was December with 9

### Top 5 Responders Were:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Jayden Koch.....  | 243 |
| Levi Warner.....  | 144 |
| Rich Koch.....    | 134 |
| Greg Costley..... | 93  |
| Tom Scoon.....    | 90  |

The Dept. currently has 18 members, with the following officers:

Fire Chief..... Rich Koch  
Asst. Chiefs..... Tom Scoon & Mike Routh

Captain:..... Greg Costley, Andrew Birchler & Jon Weir.

The Fire Dept. would like to thank everyone who supported us in 2025. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Stay Safe & Warm this Winter!

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