

## Ransom On The Roof Raises Over \$10,000

What began as a fun, light-hearted community challenge turned into an incredible show of local support as the Lacon Chamber of Commerce hosted its first-ever Ransom on the Roof fundraiser. By the end of the day, the event raised an impressive \$10,024 to benefit the upcoming 2026 Foam & Flight Hot Air Balloon Glow Festival.

Dozens of local business owners and community representatives willingly "turned themselves in" for a good cause, spending hours on a rooftop until they could raise enough donations to earn their freedom. The playful competition quickly turned into an outpouring of generosity as friends, family, and customers rallied behind their favorite participants.

The Chamber extends sincere thanks to all of the businesses and individuals who bravely took part in the event, including:

Rich Koch-*Lacon Sparland Fire Chief*, Gloria Dunn-*Lacon Sparland Ambulance*, Leroy Poinant- *Timber Ridge*, Jonathan Kriehauser- *Country Financial*, Jami Begole-*5th Street Revivals*, Stephanie Gilkerson- *FroSmokes Meatery*, Sam Davis-*Two Friends Flowers & Gifts*, MJ Langner-*The Lacon Home Journal*, Justin Meierkord- *Marshall County Title*, Dan O'Conner- *O'Connor Ventures*, Terri Lambrecht & Yatish Patel- *IGA*, Tyler Behnke- *All in the Details*, Shamra Behnke-*Whiffletree Place*, Natasha Boyer- *Wildey's Country Diner*, Mary Chambers- *Edward Jones*, Christina Patellaro- *Patellaro Group*, Amanda Barnett- *Thrive Fitness*, Christian Carboni- *GreenWing Aviation & Marshall County Airport*, Cynthia Nighsonger- *Marshall County Treasurer's Office*, Jeremy Gauwitz- *Midland School District*, Carrie Schupp- *Midland Elementary School*, Ashley McMahon- *First National Bank of Lacon*.

A special shoutout to Board Members Lauren Blough and Cynthia Triplett for all of their hard work and countless efforts behind the scenes to make sure Ransom on the Roof was a success!

A big thank you to CIProud WMBD 31 for coming out to cover the event and to Eric Lytle at Eric Lytle Drone Services for capturing amazing drone footage that showcased the excitement from above.

Thank you to Jonathan Kriehauser and Dawn from Country Financial for hosting the event and keeping spirits high all day long with fresh popcorn and plenty of encouragement. They are a great team, and we are so appreciative of their support.

The Chamber is especially grateful to the Lacon-Sparland Fire Protection District. Their team went above and beyond to make this event possible, assisting with

setup, ensuring safety throughout the day, and lending their time, equipment, and expertise so everything ran smoothly. Their support and commitment to our community do not go unnoticed.

We are also incredibly appreciative of Wildey's Country Diner and Yarger's PoPo Pizzeria for generously feeding all of our hungry rooftop participants. Thrive Fitness helped keep everyone hydrated by providing bottled water, while Midwest Farm Charm and 5th Street Revivals brightened the day with extra treats and thoughtful surprises.

The day wrapped up with some friendly competition awards:

Traveling "Key to Freedom" Trophy: Awarded to Terri and Yatish representing IGA, who raised an incredible \$1,020, the highest total of the event. Community members are encouraged to stop

into IGA to see the trophy on display.

First to Escape Plaque: Earned by Justin Meierkord of Marshall County Title, who reached his goal faster than anyone else.

"Lifer" Medal: Presented to Jonathan Kriehauser of Country Financial for being the last participant to get off the roof and for hanging in the longest.

"We raised over \$10,000, which is just incredible," said Chamber President Shamra Behnke. "It's crazy to see how much support and how many amazing people we truly have here. I love our town."

The Chamber also encourages everyone to continue that spirit of support by marking their calendars for the upcoming Lacon-Sparland Ambulance Services Fundraiser on February 28th at 4:00 p.m. at Whiskers Pub. The event will

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"Lifer" Medal: Jonathan Kriehauser of Country Financial



First to Escape Plaque: Justin Meierkord of Marshall County Title



Traveling "Key to Freedom" Trophy: Awarded to Terri Lambrecht and Yatish Patel representing IGA

## Latest Midland Elementary Students Of The Week Recognized As Being Organized

With a new year beginning, just a little over a month in, it might be time to get organized. It's not always easy to keep yourself and your surroundings "in order."

Take a tip from these Midland Elementary students. They know how to "organize."

Each week Midland Elementary School recognizes students

who show positive qualities. The students being honored this week are organized! These students are being recognized after being nominated by Midland teachers and staff for their great qualities each week.

Congratulations to these students and great job on all your hard work.



K-4 Front Row (L-R) Brooklyn Nixon, Lincoln Meighan, Cayson Jefford, Charlotte Smith, Christopher Watts, Emberlynn Ireland, Cheyann Head

Schmitt, Addy Behnke, Charlotte Zimmerman, Elise House, Finley Shields, Parker Klein, Emmy Greenway



Pre-K AM Elaine Gensler & Quinn Steele



Pre-K PM Kadyn Hawk

## Extra! Extra! Midland vs. Putnam Co. "Volley For A Cause" Raffle Tickets For Sale

PUTNAM COUNTY JR HIGH VOLLEYBALL

# Volley FOR A Cause

Drawing on 2/16/26

\$5.00 EACH

DOES NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

CHANCE TO WIN

**1ST PLACE: \$500**  
**2ND PLACE: \$250**

Raffle tickets are being sold in Lacon to help support Cailynn Day. Tickets are only \$5 each for a chance to win \$500 (1st place) or \$250 (2nd place). Tickets can be purchased at The Coffee Hub, Midwest Farm Charm, or the Lacon Home Journal.

Volleyball players from Mid-

land and PC are also selling tickets. Drawing will be held February 16 in McNabb (Putnam County Junior High) along with a silent auction and chances to win donated baskets. You do not need to be present to win. The event starts at 4:30 with 6th - 8th graders playing volleyball during this fundraising event.

## Marshall County Historical Society Annual Meeting

## Sunday, February 15

**Toluca American Legion** at 1:00 p.m.

Open to the Public For Dinner, Short Meeting & Entertainment by Bob and Barney

Make Reservations by February 9th  
Call 309-238-0432 or 815-326-1179.

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