

Midland Board Discusses Personnel, Graduation

The Midland School District will see several changes in the upcoming school year when it comes to teachers and coaches. The Midland Board of Education filled and accepted resignations for several teaching and coaching positions at their recent board meeting on Wednesday, June 17th.

Allannah Spicer was hired for the PAW's program at the elementary building. Spicer had previously been a paraprofessional in that classroom and will be filling the vacancy left open when Allie Hattan resigned.

The board also hired Chloe Bade as the new fifth grade teacher. Bade had spent last year as a long term substitute at the elementary school.

Brooke Kirk was hired as the new middle school special education teacher, a position that has been hard for the district to fill. Margie Deffenbaugh, had taken on the position despite retiring from the district several years prior. The district administration said at the meeting that Deffenbaugh will continue to act as a district substitute filling in as needed.

Resignations for several coaching positions were also accepted including Megan Monier as middle school volleyball coach, Summer Traver as middle school and high school softball coach, Michelle Janssen as seventh grade girls basketball coach and Jennifer Williams as middle school cheerleading coach. Jeremy Gauwitz also resigned as high school assistant baseball coach.

The district will also be looking for a new high school athletic director as Lynn Jason's resignation from the position was accepted. Jason will continue on as the middle school athletic director.

The board also accepted the resignation of Kaila Heitter from her teaching position at the elementary

school.

In other business, the board also discussed the possibility of changing the times for graduation in the spring.

The topic was discussed because of potential conflicts with Henry-Senachwine as both schools have graduation at the same date and time in the past few years.

Jordan Farris, high school principal, mentioned he had reached out to Henry to try to find a compromise for the latest graduation, but was informed they were not interested in making any changes.

Several board members realized there will never be a time or day that satisfies everyone in the community and all families, so Darrell Meffert suggested, the district, knowing not everyone will be happy, focus on what works best for the school.

Midland is open to shifting the time of the high school graduation in an effort to accommodate families. There was some frustration expressed, as Midland has historically set the date and time far earlier than other area schools.

Other conflicts in the past have included sports like track and base-

ball and softball, which is part of why graduation shifted to a Sunday.

The board also discussed the possibility of hosting eighth grade and high school graduation on the same day. Superintendent Jeremy Gauwitz suggested hosting everything at the high school with positives including putting more money into decorating one venue, having a larger parking area and cutting down on travel times for out of town relatives.

While some board members agreed Monday night for eighth grade was not ideal, others balked at the idea of having both on the same day. Gauwitz also said some eighth grade families might be disappointed to not graduate from the building they had been attending.

Adam Janssen, suggested leaving eighth grade graduation the same for the coming school year and gathering information from families before making a change.

No decisions were officially made on the topic at this meeting, and the board is still considering how they want to approach any changes.

Construction Phase Of New Henry Bridge Likely To Begin In 2027 or 2028

Work on the replacement of the Illinois River Bridge at Henry is currently underway, but actual work on the bridge is likely not to start for a year or two.

As of this summer, there are still inspections to be done, prep work and final design phases including lane reductions during inspections.

The current bridge was built in 1934 and no longer meets modern design standards. It is considered functionally outdated and struc-

turally deficient. It has no shoulders and aging structural components.

The planning and environment studies have been ongoing for several years. Public reporting indicates that construction is expected to begin in 2027 or 2028 with completion likely to be in 2029 or 2030, depending on staging and funding.

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, the total cost of the demolition and replacement will be \$108 million.

Marshall Co. Sheriff's Office Announces July 4th Traffic Enforcement

The Marshall County Sheriff's Office announces plans "July Fourth Traffic Enforcement" with a focus on impaired and unbuckled drivers. The safety campaign will run from June 19 through July 6 to encompass three summer weekends leading up to and after Independence Day.

The MCSO will join the Illinois State Police and more than 200 local police and sheriff's departments for the statewide effort. To celebrate safely, designate a sober driver and don't let friends or family members drive impaired. Other important tips include:

- Give your designated driver your keys before you go out.
- If you are impaired by alcohol, cannabis, or any other drug,

call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely.

- Promptly report impaired drivers to law enforcement by pulling over and dialing 911.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle wears their seat belt. Not only is it the law, but it's also your best defense against an impaired driver.

The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," "Drive High Get a DUI" and "Click It or Ticket" campaigns are made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The enforcement efforts are complemented by IDOT's "It's Not a Game" media campaign, which emphasizes the serious consequences of impaired driving and other unsafe driving behaviors.

Salute To America Premiere Sunday Kicks Off Marshall-Putnam Fair Week On July 12

The Marshall-Putnam Fair begins on Sunday, July 12, with Salute to America Premiere Sunday - a day packed with excitement, tradition, competition, and family-friendly entertainment to kick off the 105th Anniversary of the fair.

The day begins at 8:00 a.m. with the Third Annual Marshall-Putnam County Fair Stampede 5K. Runners will start inside the Grandstand and follow a course throughout the fairgrounds. Registration is \$30, and entry forms are available online at marshallputnamfair.org or at the Fair Office. Participants who register on or before July 1 are guaranteed a commemorative T-shirt and medal. Four age divisions will compete for Top Male and Top Female honors, with each winner receiving a \$25 gift card.

From 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the fairgrounds will transform into a shopper's paradise during the Premiere Sunday Vendor Show. Located under the Grandstand, the show will feature local vendors offering handmade crafts, candles, baked goods, specialty items, and much more.

The flavor-filled fun continues with the Food Truck Fest, running from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. A variety of food vendors will be serving lunch and dinner options to satisfy every appetite - from savory favorites to sweet treats. Best of all, admission to the fairgrounds is free, making it easy to stop by and enjoy a meal even if you can't stay for the day's other activities.

New this year is the First Annual LEGO Contest, beginning at (Continued On Page 2)



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Ran by Killer Tournament "LB309"

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Sign-Up 11:30-12:30

Steve & Lisa Mangold Residence

503 Washburn Road, Lacon

Min. 3 Games ♦ Air Mail Contest

Longest Yard Contest ♦ Raffles & 50/50

Food by: Grubbz BBA

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In memory of Joy Wunder

\$20 Per Person - 50% Payout

NOTICE!

WATER RATIONING

Beginning June 18, 2026 thru September 30, 2026, the City Council approved issuing a Stage A water rationing.

All residents will be permitted to water daily except from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

No person shall use any water sprinkler, sprinkling or perforated hose to water any lawn, garden, shrub, tree or flower between 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

These restriction shall apply to all residences and to all businesses and institutions having lawns, gardens, trees or shrubs, and shall be followed at all parks and public buildings owned by the City of Lacon.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) upon a first conviction of this ordinance and not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$750.00) for each subsequent offense.



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