

# Project Tiger Pride 'Spruce Up the Square' scheduled for Sept 8

Jack Fearneyhough  
Project Tiger Pride

We've got a festival coming in late September and it's time to "spruce up the square" in preparation. The Project Tiger Pride Committee (PTP) has partnered with the City of Beardstown to do a little polishing on our already beautiful city square.

PTP Committee member and project director, Sam Surratt, is organizing a cleanup of the downtown square beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, September 8. Dead limbs will be pruned out of the trees, light poles reset and a general landscaping cleanup

of the area will be the focus. Additionally, City Alderwoman, Katie Vitalie, is organizing a replanting of the downtown planters with fall flowers.

The PTP Committee needs your help - again. It's not a labor intensive project, just one needing some willing assistance. Limbs pruned will be mulched and then set around needed areas. Leaning light poles will be "plumbed" and reset and flower containers replanted. There's something for everyone and it won't take long to complete.

Your help is once again essential to the successful

conclusion of this project. If you can only give a couple of hours - or the full day - it will make a difference. Make it a family event or your service club's contribution. We'll meet in the square, across from City Hall, at 8 a.m. and divide into groups. Let's shine up the square to show it off for the Fall Fun Festival! After all - it is OUR SQUARE!

The PTP Committee will be announcing new projects in the near future. Anyone wishing to assist with "Spruce Up the Square" can simply show on the 8. Contact the committee via email at: tigerpride@mindspring.com.

# Dr. Ryan Thoele joins IEC

Optometrist Dr. Ryan Thoele has joined International Eyecare Center and is not providing vision care services at International Eyecare Center, 105 W. Main St, Mt. Sterling.

Dr. Thoele stated, "I am thankful and excited to have the opportunity to join IEC in West Central Illinois. International Eyecare Center's commitment to quality, value and their dedication to complete patient satisfaction was instrumental in my choice to join the IEC family. It will be a privilege to make a difference in the lives of my patients."

A native of Quincy, Dr. Thoele graduated from Quincy University in 2007 with his undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences. He later enrolled at the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, and earned his Doctor of Optometry degree in 2011. After graduating



Dr. Ryan Thoele

from ICO, Dr. Thoele was selected by the primary care residency program at the William Chappell Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic in Daytona Beach, Florida, under direction by NOVA Southeastern College of Optometry. He completed the residency in 2012.

Dr. Thoele's internships included Drs. Becherer, Becherer & Assoc in Belleville, specializing in contact lenses, University of Kentucky's Eye Institute in Lexington, KY specializing in the treat-

ment and management of ocular disease, William V. Chappell, Jr. VA Clinic, Daytona Beach, Florida specializing in glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic care, and finally, The Illinois Eye Institute in Chicago, specializing in pediatrics and low vision care.

Dr. Thoele has special interest in primary care optometry including contact lens fittings, low vision services, LASIK and PRK pre-and post-procedure care, and the treatment and management of glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and other eye disease. Dr. Thoele is fully licensed to prescribe therapeutic pharmacological medication and treat ocular disease and emergencies.

He is a member of the American Optometric Association and the Illinois Optometric Association.

# Superintendent Clinton cautions Beardstown Board about money

By June Conner  
Star-Gazette

The Beardstown District 15 Board of Education approved a tentative budget for the 2012-2013 school year that is now available for review until the next board meeting, September 26, at which time a budget hearing will be held at 7 p.m. This action was taken Wednesday, August 22 at their regular board meeting.

This didn't come without some caution by Superintendent Reggie Clinton. Clinton told the board that if they do totally nothing to cut, in three years the district would be broke. "We are heavily dependent on state aid and it's a total unknown. We are going to have to start taking steps by spring. It's going to be painful, not a pretty walk in the park. It's no fun telling 20 or 30 people they are out of a job. We will have to look at sports to education programs to buildings and see how much it saves." Clinton said.

After several meetings of discussion, the board voted to rescind earlier action to allow BHS students to use their cell phones throughout the day at school. Previous policy has been that phones must be shut off and in lockers and now that policy has been reinstated. Principal Scott Riddle reported to the board that not allowing the phone use in the school was the wishes of his staff.

The board approved Custom Structures of Ashland the bid for a 24' by 32' garage storage shed at Grand Avenue School. The bid was in the amount of \$15,979.00.

After executive session, approval was given for teacher hiring of Yolanda Hernandez, ESL elementary; Mariam Koivogui, ESL high school; Kyle Dodson, elementary PE; Lyle Palomo, Pre-K; Chuck West, part-time high school science. Aides employed were Philippe Nogues,

middle school language cilitator; Robert Ndaye, elementary special education one-to-one French speaking; Heather Spears, middle school education one-to-one; Wivine Kalala, Pre-French; Fatima Fernandez, elementary special education Spanish speaking.

Extra Curricular approval was given to Cody Winkman, middle school book track; two volunteers were approved for middle school football, Brad Wankel and Jake Logsdon.

Resignations accepted included Kitty Beard, c today; Rebecca Piggard cafeteria; Michele Escapa Pre-K teacher; Kristen Chapman, high school ESL teacher; Brook Ho special education aide; Kofi Ada, French language facilitator; Cody Winkman, JV girls basketball; Kelsey Kent, freshman girls basketball; Carol Moore high school drama; Lar Geisler, elementary PE and high school girls basketb.

# 2012 Ashland Summer Days a success

Thanks to all the advertisers that contributed to a very successful 2012 Ashland Summer Days: Sponsors include: Cass Communications, Inc. comprised of Cass Telephone Company, Cass Cable TV, Inc. and Cass Long Distance, Inc.; Brandt Consolidated, Inc.; Ashland Business Association; Village of Ashland and West Central Bank. Sponsors contributed a minimum of \$500.00 to provide free entertainment for the weekend.

Other advertisers include: Allen's Market, Ballpark Motors, Beard Implement Company, Custom Structures, Inc.,

Lamar-Hager Construction Company, Inc., Prentice Farmers Elevator, Roberts Tools, Inc., West Central Financial Services, Inc.-Matt Greer, Anderson Automotive, Armstrong Disposal, Ashland United Methodist Church, Atwood Tree Sales, Cosner Family Enterprises, Inc., Fulton Metal Works, Inc., Jim Heather Auto-body and Refinishing, Inc., McClure, Thomas and Thomas, Printers Ink, RPA Farmers Co-op, Mark Stribling Trucking, Inc., Transaction Marketing and Sales, Inc., Wallbaum Plumbing and Heating, West Central Insurance, Arends-Awe

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Thanks to all of the advertisers that helped make 2012 Ashland Summer Days a success. Plans are underway for the 2013 event to be held June 21, 22nd and 23rd at Jam Park and various other Ashland sites.

Thanks to those that attended and hope you w

Continued on page

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## A new electric transmission line: delivering reliable and cost-effective energy

**Please join us for an open house - because your input matters.**

The Illinois Rivers Transmission Project will improve reliability, provide more access to renewable power and bring economic benefits to our area. And your opinion is vital as this initiative takes shape. At our open house, you can learn about the need for this new transmission line, share your thoughts on best possible routes and get answers to your questions.

**Elks Club**  
**11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 26, 2012**  
**205 E. Second Street, Beardstown, IL 62618**

Learn more now at [ILRiversTransmission.com](http://ILRiversTransmission.com) or call **1.800.229.9280.**

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Code: IRT

## Cass County Star-Gazette launches 'Caring and Sharing' program

**Jody Woltman**  
Star-Gazette publisher

launching a 'Caring and Sharing' program.

With the limited supply of food and donations at the Cass County Food Pantry, the Star-Gazette is

Drop off \$10 worth of non-perishable food items or a \$10 cash donation and receive a six-month free subscription to the Star-

Gazette (new subscribers.)

If you already subscribe, receive a four additional months to your current subscription.

### Large donaton for Girls Little League



Jody Woltman/Star-Gazette

Eric Svendsen, vice president of casings, International Casings Group, presents a check for \$3,000 to Jon Stock. Stock said the donation will be used for snack shacks and dugouts for the girls little league field.

## Horace Mann starts matching donations to classroom projects

Horace Mann agent, Colin Ash, encourages teachers to post classroom projects needing funding to DonorsChoose.org ASAP.

Starting on October 1, Horace Mann will be matching properly coded donations up to \$100 to projects posted on DonorsChoose.org, through its "Imagine a Better Classroom" matching donation campaign.

For a project to receive a matching donation, the donor must enter a promotion code at checkout when making a donation. Full-time public school teachers, nurses and guidance counselors wishing to have projects funded can obtain the code from any Horace Mann agent and can pass the code along to colleagues, friends, family and other potential donors.

"The codes enable

donors to double the money they donate," Ash said. "\$5 becomes \$10, \$20 becomes \$40 and \$50 doubles to \$100. It speeds the time it takes to get projects funded."

Horace Mann will be donating \$250,000 through "Imagine a Better Classroom," increasing its total contributions to DonorsChoose.org to more than \$1.5 million since February 2011.

Once Horace Mann donates to a project, the monies stay with that project even after the \$250,000 funding is depleted. If a project isn't fully funded, the matching donation returns to the donor who was matched, not Horace Mann, to reallocate to a different project. Gift cards and corporate donations will not be matched.

About DonorsChoose.org

Founded in 2000, DonorsChoose.org is a nonprofit website where public school teachers describe specific educational projects for their students, and donors can choose the projects they want to support. To date, almost 160,000 public and charter school teachers have used the site to secure funding for \$71 million in books, art supplies, technology, and other resources that have supported more than 5 million students.

Horace Mann (Horace Mann Educators Corp. (NYSE:HMN) is the largest national multiline insurance company focusing on educators' financial needs. "Founded by Educators for Educators"® in 1945, the company is headquartered in Springfield. For more information, visit [www.horacemann.com](http://www.horacemann.com).

### D&D co-Business of the month



Submitted photo

Congratulations to D & D Enterprises of Illinois, Inc. on being chosen for August 2012 Co-Business of the Month. They are located on Route 100 between Beardstown and Fredrick and can be reached at 217-323-3008 or [danddscrap@att.net](mailto:danddscrap@att.net). Don Large started this business in 1994 and moved to his current location in 2003 and has 15 employees. Pictured left to right: David Large, Christina Garcia, Jeremy Walker, Don Large II.

### Use September to prepare for emergencies

September is National Preparedness Month, and the Cass County Health Department is encouraging county residents to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

What can you do to be "prepared?" Assemble an emergency supply kit, make your emergency plans, stay informed and get ready for an emergency. Having a plan could make all the difference when it comes to protecting those you love during an emergency.

The health department encourages residents to take the following steps to be prepared:

- Get a kit. An emergency kit should include the basics for survival for at least three days. You can find a checklist for your emergency kit at FEMA.gov.
- Make a plan. Go over your emergency plans with your family members in case you are not together when an emergency occurs. Talk about how you will contact each other and pick a meeting

place.

- Be informed. Part of being prepared is staying informed. Check all types of media to get up to date information.
- Get involved. Think about becoming certified in first aid emergency response training.

To get more information on how to be prepared for an emergency visit FEMA.gov or ready.gov or call Kay, the Cass County Health Department at 217-453-3057, ext. 302. You can never be too prepared.

### Fiestas Patrias – continued from page 2

with significant experience in the Caribbean genres: Bachata, salsa, cumbia, and many others. "RQ la Diferencia" Puerto Rican born artist who specializes in reggaeton music. Both will entertain

us with their rich music for a span of one hour.

• Mariachi Alateño - For five consecutive years Mariachi Alateño has entertained the public that attends the "Fiestas Patrias" celebration. Nine

performers who play traditional mariachi music very skilled at interacting with the public. Originated in Chicago, but their talent is recognized over the state and surrounding states.

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Look for map of proposed routes in future ad

Please join us for an open house - because your input matters.

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