

News Briefs

Preschool screening
Red Bud Elementary School will be holding preschool screening for 3 and 4 year old children on Wednesday, March 18, for children who reside in the Red Bud Dist. #132. Children who have turned three or four will be asked to try a variety of simple tasks in the areas of language, concepts and motor. It is strongly recommended that all parents of preschoolers take advantage of this service.

Perandoe will be screening birth to three children who have not turned three by March 18, 2009. Vision and hearing are also checked. Results are discussed with the parent immediately afterward. The screening and follow-up service, if necessary, are provided free of charge. Pamphlets will be available for all parents. The screening takes about one hour to complete.

Both day and evening appointments are available for the preschool screening. Appointments can be made by calling the school office at 282-3858.

Red Bud yard waste reminder
Red Bud city residents are reminded that the City of Red Bud chips brush and collects lawn bags on Monday and Thursday of each week. Limbs must be stacked with the cut end at the curb and be no larger than four inches in diameter. Lawn bags should contain grass, leaves or yard waste only. Bags can be purchased at City Hall, the Utility Plant or at Red Bud IGA. Please call 282-3339 for a pickup.

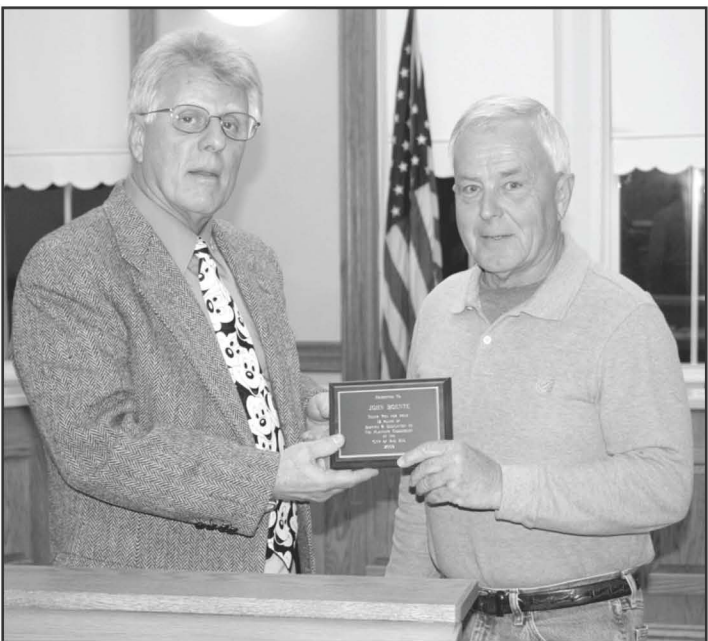
Daylight savings
Daylight Saving Time is this weekend! Don't forget to turn clocks forward an hour on March 8.

Area Deaths

Michael "Calvin" DuClos
Carol Jean Grennan
Darrell G. Kempfer, Sr.
Leroy N. Liefer
Alan D. Page
Lee J. Pour
Edgar H. Stellhorn
Emil A. Stricker

Look for these inserts...

Red Bud IGA
Rural King
Schnucks
Sears



RECEIVED RECOGNITION--John Boente received special recognition and a plaque from Red Bud Mayor Ken Mueller at the March 2 Red Bud City Council meeting. Boente was recognized for his retirement from, as well as his years of service and dedication on, the Red Bud Planning Commission.

City is saving money with new health insurance plan

The City of Red Bud has saved \$94,170 during the last 12 months for their 30 employees even after improving the health insurance benefit.

This savings was made possible due to the Red Bud City Council's decision in December 2007 to use the Einstein Method created by a group in St. Louis.

Bill Schmaltz, a principal with the Einstein Group prepared the evaluation and presented the proposal to the Finance Committee, headed by Alderman Clarence Nail. After reviewing the information from the presentation, the Committee concluded that the City would save a significant amount of money, even after an improvement to the Health Insurance Benefit to city employees.

What makes the Einstein Method unique is the analytical process used to structure and manage the plan. The Einstein Method uses real cost saving ideas to reduce the cost of Health Insurance. The Einstein Method also utilizes a three step process to reduce the cost of health insurance.

The first step is to determine the fixed cost of the group. Fixed cost includes the known recurring spending for medical services and prescriptions. This information is important to determine what type of coverage should be purchased from an insurance carrier.

The second step of the process occurs during the utilization stage. In the second step, the Einstein Consulting Group analyzes usage data to provide real cost saving ideas to the group. In the third step, they introduced a menu of wellness programs that best fit the goals of the group.

In the case of the City of Red Bud, most of the Health Care spending was both predictable and affordable, so the Einstein Consulting Group only bought insurance where it was needed and kept money that was going out each month in premiums to pay for the "little stuff."

Next, they set up the administrative system to pay for the "little stuff." The goal is to make the system seamless to the insurance user, improve the benefit for the user of the insurance, and to save the City of Red Bud a tremendous amount of money in the process. This goal was achieved. It was a win-win solution for all involved.

The Einstein Consulting Group will be discussing a Wellness Plan with the City of

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Mayor Mueller decided to clear up a rumor at Red Bud City Council meeting

The Red Bud City Council meeting held Monday night may have been a shorter meeting, but it was definitely interesting.

Towards the beginning of the meeting, Mayor Ken Mueller announced that a fee, which had been previously questioned by some of the aldermen, was an attorney fee for a personnel issue.

"Rumors start and I want to clear one up," Mueller said. "It has nothing to do with someone being appointed." He continued by stressing that the situation was about ethics and that he had not wanted to make an issue.

It was reported that a city employee, who has not been publicly named at this point, had been accessing pornographic sites on a city computer, as well as sending/receiving e-mails containing pornographic material.

Mayor Mueller stated, "My intention was never to say anything public about it, but to investigate if it really came from a city computer."

After the matter was brought to the mayor's attention, he opted to have City Attorney Mark Rohr review the material to see if it was felony material, like child pornography, which it was not.

"We won't stand for it, and it's my job to make sure it doesn't happen on a city computer," added Mueller. "It's deplorable, it's unacceptable and shortly I will present an ordinance for the council to review."

Tina Steibel, the new Red Bud YMCA Site Director, approached the council about the swimming pool contract and setting a cap on the city's reimbursements for YMCA losses at the swimming pool.

Last year, the city had set a loss cap at \$10,000, and Steibel stated they lost \$6,500 last year. She also stated that the YMCA does not want a loss cap this year, stressing that since the YMCA has taken over the pool that the yearly losses have been less.

After being asked if the cap amount was the issue, Steibel stated that she was told by the YMCA that even a cap of \$100,000 was unacceptable. "We are running it as a business and we aren't out to lose money," she added.

Hoping to resolve the matter in time that the YMCA can hire and train staff to open the pool for Memorial Day weekend, the aldermen agreed to hold a meeting to negotiate the issue.

For this month's meeting, the city had received many letters of compliments. First, Mayor Mueller read a letter from some local first grade students that had noticed how quickly the City Utility Department fixed a broken water line.

There was also a letter from Mike Reed, Provost at Red Bud's SWIC Campus thanking Assistant Police Chief Dan Brotz and Officer Ted Stellhorn for their professional guidance and support provided during the Feb. 17 abduction incident.

The last letter was from Steven E. Shelby, Police Chief of Madison, expressing his gratitude for Detective John Brittingham for his assistance with the Major Case Squad on their homicide investigation.

Mayor Mueller also took a moment to recognize John Boente, who was retiring off of the city's planning commission. Mueller presented Boente with a plaque for his years of service and dedication to the commission.

Ethan DuClos was at the meeting looking for approval of his Eagle Scout project. He wants to build a handicap accessible ramp at the Cercis Pavilion. He would have two adults from his troop as well as other adults and scouts helping.

The council approved of the project, and will pay for the costs, with the costs of constructing the ramp not to exceed \$750.

From the Public Health and Safety Committee, the council approved of getting bids for and repairing at the lowest price a city administrative vehicle. The funds to repair it will come out of the Police Department's budget.

They approved of two training requests for Officer Ted Stellhorn, one training request for Officer Paul Borger, and two training requests for Detective John Brittingham. All of those trainings had no registration fees. They also approved of paying the 2009 Major Case Squad annual dues of \$250.

The Finance and Personnel Committee only had one maturing CD to deal with this month. Additionally the council approved of sending Mayor Mueller and his wife to the St. Clement Community Foundation's Annual Dinner.

The council also approved of the changes recommended by Bill Schmaltz at the committee meeting for the new insurance plan. It was recommended that they should send direct payments to doctors and hospitals to speed up payment time.

The Public Works Committee had a water meter presentation at their meeting. They suggested that the council approve of a feasibility study to see if a new water meter program would pay for itself. The council approved.

They also approved of having

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RECEIVED RECOGNITION--Red Bud Alderman Clarence Nail received the Frontier award from Bill Schmaltz of the Einstein Consulting Group for his work in helping with the city's implementation of the Einstein Method.



RECEIVED RECOGNITION--Joanne Cowell was recognized for her help and support in getting the City of Red Bud to use the Einstein Method to save money. She was presented the MVP award by Bill Schmaltz of the Einstein Consulting Group.

Alice Kastens named Teacher of the Month

Alice Kastens from St. John's Lutheran School was named the February Teacher of the Month. On Feb. 26, she was presented the award by Brian Guebert of Edward Jones Investments, who sponsors the award program.

Kastens has been teaching at St. John's now for 13 years. She teaches fourth grade and is a librarian at the school.

She currently holds a masters degree in education, which she received from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Previously, Kastens has taught at Collinsville Unit 10 Vocational School in Collinsville, Widefield High School in Widefield, CO and Immanuel Lutheran School in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

She is married to Rev. Dennis Kastens and they live in St. Louis, Missouri. They have two married sons: John (Carmen) Kastens and Mark (Amy) Kastens; and five grandchildren: Jacob, Grace, Miriam, Joshua and Hannah.

In her spare time, Kastens enjoys music, crocheting, quilting and cooking.



TEACHER OF THE MONTH--Edward Jones Investments in Red Bud sponsors the Teacher of the Month program. This month, Alice Kastens was presented the award by Brian Guebert. Pictured with them is Kasten's fourth grade class at St. John's Lutheran.