

*Hometown Service...Hometown Pride!*

**Thoughts From the President**



**Bill Wallace**

By the time this issue hits the stores we will have all feasted on a Thanksgiving meal and I hope everyone took time to remember all the things we have to be thankful for.

Personally for me the list is endless, and I don't take even one day for granted.

As we prepare for the upcoming holiday season, we continued our tradition of allowing children and grandchildren of Big C employees to draw and color a holiday picture. A committee then selects one from each of the five age categories to represent our company holiday cards we send out each year. I personally take the time to look at each entry, write them a thank you note, wish them a happy holiday, and include a \$10 gift card for participating. I must say we have some talented young artists out there, unlike myself who has trouble drawing a stick figure.

As we start winding down on what was quite an eventful 2024, we are thankful for the business we shared with so many loyal customers and supplier partners. We also appreciate the hard work from the many dedicated employees of our Big C family, none of this is possible without you. We will finish the year comparable to 2023, which in my eyes is a great accomplishment considering some of the headwinds we faced this year.

Soon we will begin budget preparations for 2025 and look forward to talking with each of our General Managers and our Outside Sales

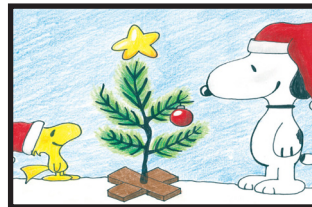
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**Big C Christmas Card Artwork**

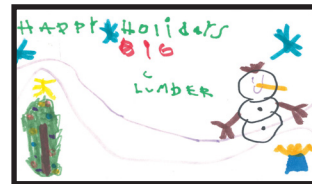
Each year, we receive artwork submissions from the children of Big C employees for our Christmas cards which are sent out to our customers. There were many to go through this year, but we are happy to share which designs made it to the printing press. The designs that were chosen were created by:

- Emma Baumann (7)- Daughter of Garrett Baumann
- Macy Kwieran (8) - Granddaughter of Joe Leichtman
- Owen Killarney (11) - Son of Devon Killarney
- Madelyn Baker (14) - Daughter of Chris Baker
- Riley Mast (15) - Daughter of Jeff Mast

Thank you to everyone who submitted a design, and we can't wait to see what the next batch of cards will be in 2025!



**Riley Mast**



**Emma Baumann**



**Owen Killarney**



**Macy Kwieran**



**Madelyn Baker**

**Customer Appreciation at Granger**

It was another great turnout this year at our Customer Appreciation Day in Granger. Over 150 customers came and spoke with the 11 vendors that were present, and a few customers were fortunate to win some giveaway prizes at the door. Thank you to Palmer Donavin, Lumbermen's, Wincore, Woolf Distributing, Wolf Building Products, FP Supply, Milwaukee Tool, Diablo, Tri-State Forest Products, Monsma and Edmund Allen for taking the time to speak with our customers. We are looking forward to having everyone join us for next year's event!



**Customers speaking to a vendor representative**



We'd like to welcome the following new associates to the Big C Lumber team: **MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR:** Austin Clark - Installer, **FORT WAYNE:** Stephen Jones - Outside Sales, **EDGERTON:** Quintin Miller - CDL Driver  
We're glad to have you with us!

**ROSELAND**

A few of our employees had the opportunity to speak about our industry at the Berrien County Career Pathway Day. This event hosted at Lake Michigan College had ninth grade students speaking with many different companies to learn more about potential career paths they may take in the future. Thank you to Derrick Meadows, Ashley Smittendorf, Shawnee Roy and Matt Kurzhal for taking the time to speak with these students!



Derrick Meadows and Ashley Smittendorf speaking with students

**THREE OAKS**



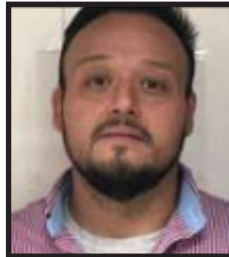
Tim Shott

Tim Shott recently celebrated 30 years of service with Big C Lumber. Tim started in the yard and has since held the position of Operations Manager at our Roseland, Mishawaka, and Three Oaks

locations. Congratulations Tim!

**COLOMA**

David Rodriguez, from our Eau Claire store, has accepted his new role as Outside Sales at Coloma. David has been with Big C for 24 years, and with his sales experience he will be a great addition to the Outside Sales team.



**ADRIAN**

Our Adrian store was recently awarded Business Partner of the Year by the LISD Tech Center. The LISD Tech Center is a facility that grants the opportunity for the students of Lenawee County to explore technical education programs. For the last few years, the Adrian location has hired a student as seasonal help and this will be the first year that this student will stay a Big C employee while in school. Great job Adrian!



Dave Noffsinger accepting the award

**EAU CLAIRE**

After 44 years of service in our industry, with 22 of them being at Big C, Bruce "Slim" Bodtke has announced his retirement. Bruce has worked at the Eau Claire yard for the entirety of his career as a CDL Driver, and he will



Bruce "Slim" Bodtke

surely be missed by everyone who worked with him. From all of us at Big C Lumber, we wish you all the best in your retirement!

**DELTON**

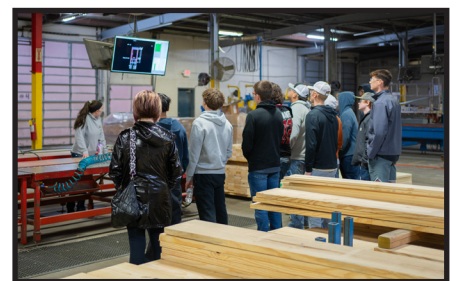
Dakota Dunn, former Schoolcraft Operations Manager, has taken over the Operations Manager position in Delton. He has been in his current manager position for over two years, and he also worked at the sales counter prior to this. With this experience he will be an excellent addition to the Delton staff. With Dakota vacating the Schoolcraft position, Steve Waldron will step into the Operations role at Schoolcraft, a position that he has previously held.



Dakota Dunn

**DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS**

The truss plant held another tour for the Van Buren Tech school in late October. Dallas Austin, Shawnee Roy, and Matt Kurzhal showed these groups of students around the facility to learn more about the machinery it takes to construct our truss and wall panels.



Shawnee Roy teaches students about wall panel construction

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## Birthdays

Best wishes to the following people who will celebrate birthdays in December & January!

### ROSELAND

Doug Kapica December 12  
Mike Swartz December 30  
Don Wantuch January 17

### ELKHART

Nate Droste January 7  
Payton Voorde January 9  
Dave Shireman January 18

### THREE OAKS

Ben Nelson January 5  
Mike Padgett January 6  
Orion Evans January 17  
Julie Fournier January 29

### COLOMA

Jason Ferrier December 5  
Melissa Lara December 23  
Daniel Strong December 31

### ADRIAN

Cal Deline December 9

### EAU CLAIRE

Chuck Huscher January 22  
Joe Palmisano January 31

### GRANGER

Kerry Snyder December 4  
Brian Mitchell December 10  
Mark Young December 13  
Garrett Baumann December 24  
Keith Currin January 28

### CROMWELL

Philip Wiler December 24

### LAPORTE

Eric Deletter December 12  
Noah Novitzke December 29  
Travis Coleman January 10

### MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

TJ Findley December 10  
Brian Yost December 20  
Shane Lane December 29  
Christy Ciula December 30  
Jeff Hanyzewski January 7

### SHIPSHEWANA

Mike Hostetler December 18  
Olley Wise December 26  
Bill Hildebrand December 31

### SCHOOLCRAFT

Mike Wright December 1  
Bill Swintz January 23

### FORT WAYNE

Chris Huffman December 8  
Jason Hamrick December 10  
Brian Antonides January 9

### KENDALLVILLE

Dave Rayner December 19

### EDGERTON

Eric Culler December 2  
Shane Smith December 20

### EDGERTON

Greg Bell December 26  
Nya Lovejoy January 11  
Allen Hubbell January 22

### DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

Gricel Roman December 5  
Lucas Ciula December 8  
Matthew Wenning December 13  
Steven Stenberg December 16  
Blaine Evans December 17  
Terry Sundstrom January 16  
Matt Kurzhal January 23  
Gilberto Meza January 23

### GRANGER CORPORATE

Ryan Brady December 4  
Bridget Brady December 27  
Scott Foley December 28  
Bill Wallace January 11  
Caitlin Stone January 16

### FORT WAYNE MILL

Lou Dornseif December 16  
Aaron Miller January 7

## Anniversaries

Congratulations to all who will be marking their anniversaries with Big C Lumber in December & January. Those with at least five years of service are recognized.

### ROSELAND

December 9 Anne Feirick 5 Years  
January 24 Ashley Smittendorf 12 Years

### ELKHART

December 23 Zach Mounts 5 Years  
January 15 Brett Griggs 6 Years

### COLOMA

December 16 Bruce Hilliard 11 Years

### EAU CLAIRE

January 5 Shawn Williamson 20 Years  
January 27 Jason Elston 10 Years

### LAPORTE

December 17 Steve Tolch 6 Years  
January 7 Randee Radloff 5 Years

### MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

January 25 Ron Goetz 38 Years

### SHIPSHEWANA

December 23 Matt Bontrager 28 Years

### DELTON

December 19 Dakota Dunn 8 Years

### EDGERTON

December 30 Mitch Gonzales 11 Years

### DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

January 5 Steven Stenberg 9 Years  
January 12 Isaiah Jones 9 Years  
January 16 Steven Bakeman 18 Years  
January 16 Wendall Whitaker 18 Years  
January 21 Michael Berry 5 Years  
January 21 Jonah Brethauer 9 Years

### FORT WAYNE MILL

January 5 Andy Bullinger 9 Years

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**Thoughts from the President (cont.)**

team to get their perspective on the upcoming year. Always get a good pulse on what to expect after those meetings and I'm sure this year will be no different.

As we close out the year it also brings us to the last two on the 10th anniversary of our Value Statement. During a recent training meeting the moderator commented that we have too many values for our team to remember and focus on and we should consider reducing to our top 5-6. If one day we decide to change this, it will be difficult to pick those that are most important since all mean so much to how we want to live our daily lives at Big C Lumber. In the meantime, these last two happen to be a couple of my personal favorites.

**Teamwork:** Cooperation and support between employees is essential. Lack of cooperation can cause more harm than anything our competitors can do to us.

**Caring:** We will operate under the golden rule, treating all people as we want to be treated.

**Trunk or Treat**

It was a night of treats at Newton Park on October 19th. Dozens of kids showed up to our booth to show off their costumes and take with them some Big C goodies as well as the most important part of Halloween: the candy! Newton Park, in Lakeville, IN, partners with local organizations and businesses each year to participate in this event to create a safe and inclusive environment for all.



Chuck Goethals, Tiffney Sweezey, Garrett Baumann, Bill Kuminecz, and Catlin Stone representing Big C Lumber

**Caught in the Act**

For this issue of the Big Scene, we would like to showcase Brandon Magor's submission for Lucas Ciula. "I have caught Lucas Ciula in the act of Teamwork and going the extra mile to add value for one of our customers. Lucas took the time to do a little bit extra for one of Kevin Mertz's jobs and this made such an impression on Kevin that he took the time to send a note of appreciation. Sometimes it's the little things we do that make all the difference. Nice work Lucas - thank you for putting in the extra effort! Here's that email from Kevin: Good morning, Lucas I just finalized this quote and just wanted to say thank you for picking up all the window and door headers also porch beam sizing it made the take off so much easier and accurate. I won't have to go back and get sizing on all those when the framing starts. Thank you again."

**News & Announcements (cont.)**

**DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS**

The truss & wall panel packages that typically come out of our Dowagiac facility have our name spray painted in red. In October, they decided to change the paint color to pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month.



**GRANGER CORPORATE**



Khalani Marie Wayne

Taylor Szucs, daughter of Jennifer Szucs, and Derrien Knight have announced the birth of their daughter Khalani Marie Wayne on October 7th. Khalani weighed in at 7lbs, 1oz and this will be Jennifer's sixth grandchild. Congratulations to the Szucs family!

Alec Evans and his wife Melanie ran the Monumental Marathon in Indianapolis, IN on November 9th. This course took them through 26.2 miles of Indy streets, and left them with gold metals around their neck. Great job to the both of you!



Alec and Melanie Evans



Eau Claire employees dressed as M&M's for Halloween.

**INDIANA**  
CROMWELL • ELKHART • FORT WAYNE • GRANGER  
LAPORTE • MISHAWAKA • ROSELAND • SHIPSHAWANA • KENDALLVILLE

**MICHIGAN**  
ADRIAN • COLOMA • EAU CLAIRE  
SCHOOLCRAFT • THREE OAKS • DELTON

**OHIO**  
EDGERTON

**MANUFACTURING**  
CUSTOM MILLWORK & CABINET FACILITY  
WINDOW & DOOR FACILITY  
STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS FACILITY

NEXT ISSUE IS SCHEDULED FOR

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2025

The Big Scene is a bi-monthly publication. Submit stories to [news@bigclumber.com](mailto:news@bigclumber.com) or contact Alec Evans at the corporate office.

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