

Obituaries

Barbara Gosnell

Barbara Gosnell, 77, of Villa Grove died at 4:37 p.m. on March 16, 2021 at the Carle Foundation Hospital. Barbara was born on August 31, 1943 in Longview to William and Mallie (Thompson) Anderson. She married Carrel Gosnell on September 29, 1961 in Newman. She is survived by her husband, Carrel Gosnell; two daughters, Malinda Gosnell of Villa Grove and Janine (Grady) Ramsey of Thomasville, GA; six grandchildren, Niki Wilcoxon, John Ross Wilcoxon, Justin Prosser, Stephanie Finn, John Richard Carter Jr., and Kiela Martin; 12 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Jessie Griffith. She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Danine Gosnell; four brothers, Ralph, Bill, Paul, and Orvel; and one sister, Novala Williamson.

Barbara was an avid Chicago Cubs fan and loved to play Bingo. She also ran the summer rec program in Villa Grove for many years. Barbara was very family oriented and loved being with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also loved her faith and her church.

A celebration of Barbara's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Victory Church in Camargo.

Ann M. Rishel

Ann M. Rishel, age 55, of Markleysburg, PA passed away March 16, 2021 at home with her loving family at her side. She was born November 28, 1965 in Tuscola, Illinois. She is the daughter of the late Thomas Shaffer and Janice (Barger) Shaffer.



She is survived by her husband Shaun A. Rishel of Markleysburg, and daughter Tia (Shaffer) Taylor and husband Ryan of Lake Worth, Florida and brother Andy Shaffer of Tuscola, Illinois.

She was employed at the Yough Lake Sport Shop. A celebration of life in memory of Ann will be held on July 31, 2021 at her home at "Ann's Pond" from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Arrangements by Donald R. Crawford Funeral Home Farmington, PA. A special thanks goes out to her Boss Ben, family and friends and organizations for their special care for her.

Rebecca L. Crist

Rebecca Lynn "Becky" Crist, 51, of Tuscola, IL passed away at 5:46 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at the Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, IL.



Visitation was held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at the Edwards Funeral Home. A celebration of Becky's life was held at the funeral home following the visitation.

Becky was born on January 17, 1970 in Charleston, IL. She was a daughter of Clarence and Edith (Arnett) Smith. She married Robert Joseph Crist on August 17, 1994 in Portsmouth, VA.

She is survived by her husband, Bob of Tuscola, IL, one son, Eric Anthony Crist of Danville, IL; four siblings, Rick Smith of Westfield, IL, Caroline Grant of Bloomington, IL, Patrick (Kathy) Smith of Oakland, IL and Rena Nunn and her husband Tristan of Savannah, GA; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Clara and Konnie Crist of Oakland, IL; Sister-in-law, Tresa Pollock of Tuscola, IL, two brothers-in-law Tony Crist and his wife Kim of Newman, IL and Rob Crist and his wife Shannon of Arcola, IL; a special niece, Haley Crist and several other nieces, nephews and cousins.

Becky was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Edith Smith, two brothers, David Lee Smith and James Lester Smith, sister-in-law, Trena Lynn Knauss, brother-in-law, Tim Pollock and a nephew, Kyle Crist.

Becky was a 1988 graduate of Arcola High School. She worked at Littelfuse in Arcola, IL for several years.

She enjoyed gardening, she liked to try new recipes from all kinds of cookbooks. She especially enjoyed Tuscola athletics, having raised a "Warrior" and all, but her greatest joy was simply spending time with family and friends.

Memorials may be made to the Edwards Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses.

IFB District 12 Director's March County Ag report

By Larry W. Dallas

March has mostly been preparation for planting. We have moved the fall harvest and tillage tools to the back of the shed and gotten the planters and field cultivators to the front. We have mostly been over the planters but still need to check the corn units on the test stand for consistency and accuracy. The corn planter needs a couple of tires and we put a hydraulic hose that is eleven feet long on the planter we use for beans.

It is not a recent thing to have a planter for corn and another for soybeans. Bean yields usually benefit from planting in narrower rows and higher populations than we plant our corn. The platforms we cut soybeans with are not row width specific and that allows various row widths. I remember a neighbor years ago that planted corn in 36-inch rows and his beans in 20-inch rows. We plant our corn in 30-inch rows and about half of the soybeans in 15-inch rows. The rest of the soybeans are planted with the corn planter. It is twice as wide as the soybean planter. That is a big advantage in a rushed planting season.

I know that I have talked before about the differences between today's planters and those of sixty years ago. Hooking up to a planter in 1960 probably meant dropping the hitch pin in the tongue, attaching one set of hydraulic hoses to raise and lower the machine and tying the rope that alternated the markers to the back of the tractor seat. Our planters today both have 4 sets of hydraulic hoses. Two of those pairs require constant flow to power the vacuum fans that meter the seed. The planter of 1960 metered seed with plates that the farmer

tried to match to the seed size and shape. We still have seed plates but the vacuum holds the seed to the plate no matter what the shape. The tractors of that day did well to have the hydraulic flow for one hydraulic cylinder.

Our planters have two different electric harnesses. One controls the folding of the machine, keeping me from opening the markers when they will hit the tractor. The other harness controls the population that the planter puts out and tells us the spacing and seeds per acre. Planting 60 years ago meant you were off the tractor a lot, digging behind the planter to see if the spacing was correct. If I want to change the population, I just punch it up on the controller. Our fathers had to change a gear ratio or swap the planter plate and try again.

We have been making progress readying our tillage tools for spring as well. We grease and check bearings, adjust tire pressures and usually replace the sweeps that engage the soil. You can pull an implement out of the shed and go directly to the field. It usually works better to give things a going over.

I think that farm implements are more durable than when I started farming. They are made heavier to cope with the large horsepower tractors we have. Transport tires are bigger as well to safely move the implements on the road. The electronic component of so much of our farm machinery is a possible trouble point we did not have fifty years ago. Many of us use computer controllers to spray and plant. A pinched wire or a computer glitch can sideline a farmer as quickly as a flat tire or bad bearing.

The cold weather in differing rules regarding rent as result, they argued.

"The way this is written, you could have a thousand sets of rules throughout the state," said Rep. Andrew Chesney, R-Freeport. "Because it's so vague, you're giving no investor any certainty."

Opponents also argued that the legislation does not address the underlying causes of housing insecurity in the state such as high property taxes and access to affordable housing stock.

Michael Mini, Executive Vice President of the Chicago and Apartment Association, told the committee that caps on rental costs "fail to

Texas last month made the news but I did not see a lot of reports on how it affected agriculture. I saw an estimate of a 250 million dollar loss for the citrus industry. Fruit still on the trees froze and the crop for next year will be cut as well. The flowers for the 2022 oranges and grapefruit were on the trees and these froze too. Many acres of vegetables were killed. One story said the damage was \$150 million. Those can be replanted when the snow melts but the investment in the initial crop is lost. A dairy processor was forced to dump 14 million gallons of milk because the plant was without power.

The weather source we use shows us ahead of average on rainfall for the calendar year by about half an inch. The last rain filled the ponds and made the field tile run. We must be catching up from the deficit we had last year. The small creeks that were dry in the second half of 2020 have water in them again. Our two constructed wetlands have water in them for the first time in six months.

Northern Brazil has continued to have almost daily rain during their harvest season. I have seen pictures of harvested soybeans that are discolored and sprouting. The elevators are rejecting them because they don't have enough good beans to blend with the bad and make them acceptable to importers. Ordinarily, the world would be using South American beans by now. In early March, a reported 250 ships were waiting to load beans in Brazil ports. Their soybean harvest is a full month behind normal.

China has continued to be heavy buyers of US corn and soybeans. The lack of

South American supplies is part of this. Our grain is readily available and better quality it appears. China has never purchased much US corn. They are roughly the same latitude as we are and grow that crop themselves. As they try to stop the African Swine Fever they have fought for over a year, China is consolidating hog production into large farms, ending so-called backyard pork production. These pigs were often fed garbage. That is replaced by corn and soybean meal in the large hog setups. We are the only source of that right now.

We really do not know much about China grain stores or hog numbers. Opaque is the word I have heard more than once. Most grain-producing countries around the world make estimates of animal numbers and grain production. These may not be particularly accurate, but they make the effort. China makes no production numbers available. With the covid travel restrictions, there are not many travelers to China bringing back their ideas about the situation. One day, I read that we should not plan on China grain purchases because the African Swine Fever had returned. A second market advisor was optimistic about continued Chinese grain purchases.

We will soon be on the roads again as we try to get the 2021 crop in the ground. Please watch for equipment moving from field to field. Our speed is at most 20 mph. Your car going 50 will close on a tractor and planter in the blink of an eye. Thank you for reading about Douglas County agriculture this month.

help those it's intended to serve," saying instead that the repeal of the blanket ban could cause developers and landlords to pull out of the state and contribute to a shortage in available housing.

"The best way to address the need for affordable housing is to support proposals that ultimately lead to the creation of more apartments, rent control is not the answer," Mini said.

Some legislators on the committee acknowledged that lifting the ban on rent control would not offer a singular solution to the affordable housing crisis, but would be a step in the right

direction to offer support to low-income tenants and "mom and pop" landlords.

Rep. Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, described lifting the ban on rent control as "a tool towards solving the housing crisis."

"There's not a single solution to this, this isn't the silver bullet, nor is it the death knell to affordable housing," Cassidy said. "I just encourage us all to stop with the extremes and look at this as a tool that we need and move forward."

The bill passed the Housing Committee with 13 representatives voting in favor and 9 against.

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2 1/2 Hour Auction

Bertha Schrock Roan PUBLIC REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

Location: 250 N 1425 E Road, Atwood, IL North of Atwood to Magnolia St. then west 1 mile to CR 1425 E, then North 1.5 miles to auction site. Watch for signs.

Saturday, April 17 • 10:00 a.m. (Real Estate Sells at Noon)



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Real Estate Terms: Real Estate terms: 10% down payment auction day, balance due at closing within 30 days, possession at closing. Auction is subject to sellers approval.

Auctioneer's Note: This is a beautiful country home on 2.5 acres with plenty of trees, birds & wildlife. New windows in 2019. Food stand by Pauly's BBQ.

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