

What's Happening... VG Community Spotlight

Side Tracks

your
express
route to
upcoming
VG events

Rural Grace Food Pantry

The Rural Grace Food Pantry continues to be open from 3 to 5 p.m. In emergencies, please call Ted at 217-841-3405.

VG Girls BB All Conference

Congratulations to Kyleigh Block for being named to the 1st team and Madie Burwell for being given an honorable mention for the LPC team.

VG Boys BB All Conference

Congratulations to Logan Nohren for being named to the 1st team and Jake Eversole for the second team for the Lincoln Prairie Conference.

Contact

If you have any information you would like included in Sidetracks please send an email to kendra@thetuscolajournal.com

Camargo Township District Library Events

- StoryTime every Thursday from 3:30 to 4 beginning April 8.
- Kid's Craft on the second Tuesday of the month from 3:30 to 4. Signup required.
- Adult Craft on the second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. Signup appreciated.
- * The library's updated hours are: Mon. and Thu. from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tue., Wed., and Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Submitted Photos

The Walter Jones Post #2876 in Villa Grove held an Easter Egg Hunt over the weekend. Pictured are families at the Egg Hunt at Henson Park. The List of Easter basket winners pictured above in the front row are (preschool and kindergarten): Taelyn Smith, Isaac Mitsdarker, and Joie Edersheim; in the second row are (first and second grade): Brooklynn Lofton and Kelsey Bales; and in the third row are (third and fourth grade): Maggi Clodfelder, Kegan Bales, and Emma Tufano.



Hook, Line and Sinker

With Tony Hooker

The words rang true in 1978, and they ring true today. An annual tradition of the farm and garden edition of the Journal.

So God Made A Farmer—Paul Harvey

And on the eighth day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait for lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make a harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe

scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadowlark. It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.

"Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So God made a farmer.

POE'S

Continued from 1

it was pretty easy to double. <smiles> It just keeps growing. I go from small accounts, \$25 yards, to \$250-dollar accounts. You have some commercial accounts as well. I kind of like commercial accounts because you can just get out and mow in space. I mow from Champaign to Arcola, from there to Longview.

You really do 'have truck, will travel'?

Yes. You don't really want to go to Champaign to do one yard, but if you have eight or ten, you can make a day of it.

Looking at your equipment, there's been a significant investment?

A significant investment, for sure. My wife is nodding her head!

But, in order to do the job right, you have to have the equipment, right? You're not going to go out there with an 18-inch craftsman push mower?

I couldn't get done. The big mower will run at 14 mph, but I can probably mow at 8 miles an hour, and that's at 60 inches at a time. The smaller mower will only run about six mph, but it's for backyards.

What would you recommend if some youngster came to you and said 'Mr. Poe, I'm thinking about starting my lawn care business?'

I'd say buy a push mower and start mowing grass. The way society's getting, people are so busy and they just don't have the time or they don't want to make the time to mow because it's taking time away from what they do for a living.

What's the future hold for Poe's Mowing?

I am hoping to double again and increase significantly this year. I'd like to do this until I'm in my seventies, to tell you the truth. I've added equipment so I do more riding and less walking on everything.

Is there anything you would like to add?

I think that it's a good career choice for a young person. It just keeps growing and growing and growing because people just don't want to do it anymore.

Literally and figuratively!

Exactly! It's a guaranteed income. You mow the grass and it looks good, but in a week, it's not going to look so you have to come back again. There is such a sense of pride when you're done.

Douglas County Farm Bureau makes donations to area libraries



In recognition of March being National Agriculture Month, the Douglas County Farm Bureau recently donated three books to area and school libraries. "Lincoln Clears a Path", written by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Stacy Innerst reflects upon the actions of Abraham Lincoln that advanced agriculture in our country. Lincoln established the USDA-United States Department of Agriculture which tested seeds and equipment. The USDA still supports agriculture and oversees food safety and the Food and Nutrition Services. Lincoln signed the Homestead Act which allowed settlers to claim 160 acres to farm. Lincoln created land grant colleges for the study of agriculture. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is one of these colleges. "George Washington Carver for Kids" written by Peggy Thomas is an in-depth study of this remarkable American. Washington was born into slavery, but persevered until he was the first black graduate from Iowa Agricultural College, became a teacher at Tuskegee Institute and became nationally known for his work in agriculture. The book features 21 activities that correlate with Washington's life. "Flight of the Honeybee" written by Raymond Huber and illustrated by Brian Lovelock is a beautiful book about a bee on a scouting mission. This bee must find the last flowers of fall so her hive can make enough honey to survive the winter. Pictured left are Jon McGee and Rhett Burris, Douglas County Farm Bureau directors and Jackie Wells, director of Camargo Township Library in Villa Grove. Pictured right are Dan Meyer, Douglas County Farm Bureau president, Tuscola Public Library director Devin Black and Alex Black.