

What's Happening... VG Community Spotlight

Side Tracks

your
express
route to
upcoming
VG events



Submitted Photo

Sixth graders at Villa Grove attended Environmental Stewardship Field Trip at Walnut State Park on September 9 hosted by the Douglas County Farm Bureau.

This week's "Dude of the Week" is sophomore Brady Clodfelder



By Tony Hooker

What is your favorite sports team?

My favorite team is the New England Patriots.

What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is Fried

Chicken.

Who does the best Coach Wilson impression?

Braydon Dowler

Which is better, a TD catch or an interception? Why?

In my opinion, an inter-

ception is better because it can completely change momentum in the game.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 10?

I see myself working for my dad at CU plumbing.

Hook, Line and Sinker

With Tony Hooker

With a special thank you to Alan Jackson, this week I'm reflecting on that horrible day, 20 years ago.

Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day?

Were you in the yard with your wife and children?

Or working on some stage in L.A.?

I was in my office in admissions and records at the UIUC campus when word of a terrible accident began to filter in. It wasn't until the second plane hit that we knew that it was no accident.

Did you stand there in shock?

At the sight of that black smoke

Risin' against that blue sky?

Did you shout out in anger?

In fear for your neighbor

Or did you just sit down and cry?

I remember all three emotions at different times. At first, I was just shocked at the presence of such evil. I wanted to rush home, grab my kids from school and hug them in the living room and have a good cry at the senseless loss of life. And then, as I am wont to do when attacked, I got angry. Very angry.

Did you look up to heaven for some kind of answer

And look at yourself and what really matters?

I must give a huge shout out to my supervisor at the time, Barb Wood. She immediately understood the gravity of the situation, and that there were many students on the UI campus who might be held accountable for the actions of the terrorist scum who did this vile act. She rallied us almost immediately to

take care of our constituency, our students. It's what we in student services always do.

Did you open your eyes, hope it never happened?

Close your eyes and not go to sleep?

Did you notice the sunset the first time in ages?

Or speak to some stranger on the street?

For the first time in years, I re-gained an appreciation of how great my life really is. I have a beautiful wife, four awesome kids and a fulfilling job that allows me to help others and keeps us living comfortably. Over time, of course, these thoughts of true gratitude faded...until COVID-19 struck. And then, during the pandemic, I was reminded of just how blessed I am.

Did you lay down at night and think of tomorrow?

Go out and buy you a gun?

Did you turn off that violent old movie you're watchin'?

And turn on "I Love Lucy" reruns?

Perhaps my memory has been tarnished by the passage of two decades, but I remember a certain sentimentality settling over most all of us. For a brief time, we were all simply Americans, without regard to hyphens or the amount of melanin in our skin, or any other factor. It is my fervent wish that we can get back that feeling of unity, if not in my lifetime, then at least in the lifetime of my children or their children. I only pray that it doesn't take another 9/11 to get us there. May the memory of all those who lost their lives as victims and first responders on that tragic day never fade.

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to them, that sort of thing.

Do you think the events of that day still resonate?

Definitely with my generation, and with anyone older than us. We had a moment of silence and read a poem today in school. We told them that "we know you don't remember this, you weren't even born yet, but you need to appreciate and understand the events of that day."

Did that day change you in any way?

I definitely think so. That's the first time in my life that I thought that somebody hated Americans. I've always been very proud of being an American, being from a small town, and I think it made our community very aware of how much our military and our first responders do for us. I think it made us more of our first responders, for sure.

Dan Sappenfield, Boyer and Sappenfield Investment Advisors

Do you remember where you were and what you were doing when you first became aware of the horrific terrorist acts on 9/11?

Oh, yeah. I think everyone remembers. I had just gotten back to my office, and my wife called and asked me if I had seen what's going on. I hadn't, so I turned on the tv at the office right as the second plane hit. I think everyone remembers that, unfortunately.

What was your immediate reaction?

I guess I was kind of numb, wondering if it was an accident, and then the second plane hit and then it changed into something very serious.

How did your company react? Did it impact the way you did business?

Absolutely. Everyone was just so much more unified at that time, so our company and our clients were more united than we've ever been before.

Do you think the events of that day still resonate?

Absolutely! It has to resonate with all of us.

Did that day change you in any way?

In many ways. We were all reminded of our freedoms that we had taken for granted. Even things like getting on an airplane, or traveling have changed forever.

Mary Hite, co-owner, Korner Beehive

Do you remember exactly where you were and what you were doing when you first became aware of the horrific terrorist action on 9/11?

I was home with my new-born son.

What was your immediate reaction?

Tears. Anger.

What was your response to the event?

I ended up enlisting in the military.

Do you think the events of that day still resonate?

Yes, definitely within certain communities. The active military, the veterans, the first responders, those types of communities but with the state of the world today, I think a lot of people have forgotten. Our world has never been more cohesive and united as we were on September 12.

Obviously, I know the answer to this question, but did that day change you in any way?

Yes, it did. It made me who I am today.

Bethany Floyd-Jenks, co-owner, Korner Beehive

Do you remember exactly where you were and what you were doing when you became aware of the events of 9/11?

I was sitting at my grandparent's kitchen table because I was pregnant with Libby.

What was your immediate reaction?

Actually, it was complete shock. I just couldn't believe it.

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Submitted Photo

Villa Grove anatomy students learn about anatomical directions by playing a "find my wound game."

Rural Grace Food Pantry

The Rural Grace Food Pantry will continue to be open on Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m. Clients who have been vaccinated may enter the pantry individually to shop their products. Boxed groceries will be available for those who have not been vaccinated. In emergencies, call Ted at 217-841-3405.

Homecoming Parade

Do you have an organization that would like to participate in the 2021 Homecoming Parade? This year's theme is "Tropical Nights". The school will not require an entry fee this year as they want as many entries as possible. Registration is due by: Monday, September 20, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Marci Howard at mhoward@vg302.org. Registration forms can be found on the Villa Grove CUSD 302 Facebook page.

CDTL October Craft

Camargo Township District Library will be hosting their October Craft on Thursday, October 7 at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The event free for library patrons and \$5 for guests. Please sign up soon at CDTL.

Contact

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