

Midland FFA Labor Auction Scheduled For March 19th

The Midland FFA Alumni Association is pleased to announce its annual FFA Labor Auction and Meal, set for Thursday, March 19, 2026. This event will be graciously hosted by Joyce and Kenny Pognant at their farm, located at 1530 Feazel Road in Lacon. It is open to the public.

Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase grilled ribeye sandwich meals for \$10 and pork chop sandwich meals for \$8, available from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Labor Auction will commence immediately thereafter, beginning at 6:00 p.m. This auction presents an excellent chance to secure eight hours of labor, with a minimum bid established at \$120. The enthusiastic members of the Midland FFA Chapter are prepared to assist with various tasks, including spring cleanup, mowing, garden planting, weeding, farm work, yard work,

window washing, haymaking, running errands, babysitting, fall leaf raking, deck washing, car detailing, and house cleaning, among others.

NEW THIS YEAR!

A 1954 John Deere 50 Tractor will be auctioned off following the Labor Auction.

Thank you to Dave Brown of Lacon for this generous donation!

Donations made payable to the Midland FFA Alumni Association are tax-deductible. Proceeds from this event will support the Midland FFA Chapter in promoting student development in leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education initiatives.

For further information, please contact Darin Blunier or Lilah Bobinski, Midland FFA Ag Advisors, at Midland High School by calling (309) 463-2095.

Three Sheets in The Wind . . . by Mary

Is it spring? I'm seeing some signs like a kid walking across the street wearing a T-shirt, shorts and sockless shoes. The squirrels are going crazy, chasing up and down the trees. Those little patches of left over snow have finally melted, and the winter coat has been relegated to the back of my closet. It's only mid-February. This is all just a Mother Nature tease. It's no more than a reminder that after all the cold bleak winter days, there will be spring.

However, the flip side is that spring will not come in the middle of the longest month of the year, February. Not in Illinois, it won't.

Before you pick up the phone to point out my mistake, I do know that February is actually missing a couple of days, making it technically the shortest month of the year. It seems longer.

Maybe it's because of the Groundhog who is rudely awakened the second of the month so that he (she) may predict the length of the remaining winter. I think, for revenge on being dragged out of a warm nest, the groundhog never really looks for a shadow, and, as always, it's anybody's guess how much more winter we'll have.

I have been watching too much T.V. I find myself searching for something "good" to watch. With all the channels available, it seems impossible that there's really not much worth watching.

I am ashamed to admit that I like "Funniest Videos." My favorites are the funny animals and people who make obvious mistakes. The very best are the ones with unpredictable animals and predictable people who think they are actually in control.

As I scroll through the TV channels, I'm always amazed at the re-runs. I don't mean the repeats of last summer's shows. I mean the shows that ran in the 60's, 70's and 80's. Any day, any time, a person looking for a relaxing hour can find *Gunsmoke*, the *Golden Girls*, *Perry Mason*, even *Petticoat Junction*.

The other day, I watched *Rock-*

ford Files with James Garner (who was on another station as *Maverick*). I liked it. It was a good mystery with no Swat teams, no big bombs destroying half the town, and the Criminal Minds did not arrive in their custom jet to lend a hand.

I also do have a favorite channel or two. One shows "English" who done its. The other channel I really like shows older movies uninterrupted with commercials.

Recently, I saw the original *Mash*, and before I went to bed one night, I caught the last half hour of *Doctor Zhivago*. My mom and I saw that movie in Spring Valley, when it first came through our area. Mom said she had never been so cold, ever, watching

the horse rides through the frigid Russian wilderness with beautiful music playing in the background.

After all this talking of winter and TV and movies, I look out my window and see a beautiful, sunny day. Time to take a walk. Maybe I'll pretend it really is spring.

Imposition Of Ashes At The First Congregational Church Planned For February 18th

The imposition of ashes and participation in Lent is a spiritual practice among Christian churches preceding the celebration of Easter. Lent 2026 begins on Wednesday, February 18. The imposition of ashes will be from 11:00 am -2:00 p.m. and 4:00-5:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church of Lacon, 205 N. Prairie Street. Pastor Linda Butler will impose the ashes and will provide requested individual pastoral care.

GriefShare Program Offered At Henry Presbyterian Church Starting March 3



Grief is experienced in many ways as people go through the process of losing a loved one. The GriefShare program identifies how people react to it differently and it offers helpful ways to work through it. Leading experts in the field of grief recovery explain, "Grief is not something you get over, rather something that you work through."

The program consists of a 13 week series prepared by many of the nation's foremost Christian ex-

perts on grief and recovery topics. The videos share how others have experienced their grief journey and how they have grown from attending the program sharing with others who have gone through the same emotional rollercoaster as them.

Those who have been through the program say it was very helpful and comforting to be among others who understood the various phases of grief.

The first session begins Tuesday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m. or at 6:30 p.m. at the Henry United Presbyterian Church. The church is handicap accessible. There is a small fee of \$20 for the course book and scholarships are available.

Please call if you have any questions regarding the program. You can begin at any time.

Registration is available at griefshare.org or call: Connie - 309-238-0432; Ida - 815-481-2403; Adelaide - 309-364-2556; Lois - 309-364-3180; Pat - 309-364-3091; or Jonathan - 815-866-0020.

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