

# Just a brief note short on cattle

I thought I'd write this week about two topics: clowns and the government. But that would be redundant. They say you should write about what you know, but that well ran dry some time ago. I don't know that much stuff.

So, I could write about a couple of topics that I don't know anything about. Like golf and women.

Mark Twain called golf "a good walk spoiled." I can go along with that, so I looked

to see what the master had to say about women. What would people on earth be like without women, he was asked.

"Scarce."  
Poking fun at both sides, Twain said women would rather have beauty than brains because men are better at seeing than thinking.

Well, I suppose I should buckle down and write something original and profound. I never have before, so why should today be any

## Ramblin' Man

By David Porter



different?

The problem is, nothing too exciting happened for me this week, largely due to an expletive that I don't like to

think about, let alone write about. And that four-letter word is, of course, "work."

We've been a little short-handed, and that can

make people a little short-tempered. I can handle it, though, because I've always been short. Short in stature, short on patience, short on cash, short-sighted, some would say. One brick short of a full load.

But, I ride tall in the saddle, tell tall tales, stand in tall cotton.

Well, that's pretty much the tall and the short of it. Not much in the way of cattle; pretty much all hat. But it's a nice hat.

Pretty short story this week, but that's apropos, don't you think? I promise I'll have something better next week. Unless I break that promise. For now, I have to get back to wuh... wuh... wor... I can't even say it.

© Copyright 2026 by David Porter who can be reached at [presseditor1@gmail.com](mailto:presseditor1@gmail.com). I may not stand out in a crowd, but I'm down-to-earth.



George Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four" introduced the term "doublethink" to mean being able to hold two mutually exclusive ideas in your mind at the same time. Our Administration is providing a noteworthy example.

Our Secretary of Defense -

sorry, I mean Secretary of War - has repeatedly insisted that Operation Epic Fury was a rousing success. It's just those darn defeatists and naysayers who say it was ill-conceived, right?

I like to say, "It never hurts to check." So, what's the point of the exercise? Rendering Iran

incapable of producing nuclear weapons. We have now hit their facility at Isfahan in two operations - Midnight Hammer in June 2025, which the prez said "obliterated" Iran's nuclear program, and Epic fury this year.

OK, so, what's the official word on how effective these operations have been? A May 13 article in Military Times has the following:

"Energy Secretary Chris Wright warned on Wednesday that Iran is "frighteningly close" to obtaining a nuclear weapon, nearly three months after the

United States launched a war to irrevocably halt the Islamic Republic from crossing that ominous Rubicon.

"Wright, referring to Iran's current stock of nuclear material, told the Senate Armed Services Committee, "They are weeks - a small number of weeks - away to enrich that to weapons-grade uranium." But the energy secretary added that a months-long weaponization process would still be required beyond that point."

The problem I have with this is that it is based on the

assumption that Iran still has the facilities to enrich enough uranium from 60% to 90% to make bombs in "a small number of weeks." Which basically means assuming the military efforts to destroy these facilities were a complete failure. Which directly contradicts the prez's claims Iran's nuclear program was "obliterated," and Secretary Hegseth's proclamations of victory and a "historic achievement."

Of course, there is a rationale for assuming Iran's enrichment facilities are intact despite our

best efforts to destroy them: We can't do any damage assessment from above, to targets that are buried deep, deep, below ground. And since we can't assess the damage, we have to assume the worst.

Thus, in order to support the Admin's war on Iran, you have to on the one hand buy the jingoistic braying of victory, success, and historic achievement - while on the other hand also believing that Iran is still on the verge of producing a nuclear bomb. Doublethink.

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## Story Time revitalized at the Tolono Library

Story time at the Tolono Library has been revitalized! Now, in addition to reading two to three mindfully selected stories, there is also a designated time for sensory play. Sensory play stimulates a child's senses (in this case mainly sight and touch) which is essential for brain development. With our new sensory bins, children have the opportunity to foster cognitive growth, fine motor skills, and emotional regulation all through play. Join us this Friday, May 22 from 10:00-10:30, and see what fun we can have. Starting in June, story time will be every Friday from 10:00-10:30!

If you have older kids, don't

forget to have them join us for Patri-ROCK-tic Rock Painting this Thursday, May 21 from 3:30-4:30. It's an easy way to get some Americana decor leading up to Memorial Day and the celebration of America's 250th birthday. (Please note we are closed, Monday May 25 for Memorial Day.) If rock painting isn't their thing, they can join us for Youth Tinker Club on Friday, May 22 from 3:30-4:30. Here they can use our makerspace tools and other supplies to make and create their hearts' content. Legos will also be available for children to build with, and their creations displayed on the puzzle shelves.

For soon-to-be and new

moms, Crisis Nursery will be back for week two of their Cuddle and Connect program on Tuesday, May 26

from 4:00-5:00, and, finally, seniors, don't forget to come to week two of Senior Fitness with Eddie Edward from

the Stephen's Family YMCA. If you missed week one, no problem; you can join at any time!

For more information on all of our upcoming programs, be sure to check out our website and social media.

## Philo Public Library report

Do you realize that next Monday, May 25, is Memorial Day? It seems to me that Spring finally showed up with showers and warmer weather and then what do you know, Memorial Day (and Poppy sales) are less than one week away.

On Sunday, May 17, we had a gardening presentation by Ale' Hernandez, a Parkland Horticulture graduate who, by December, will also have his degree from Parkland in Agriculture. After Ale's talk and questions, a seed and plant exchange was held. Thanks to all who attended, hope you have good luck with your new veggies/flowers.

In that same frame of mind, (programming), the first two events for kids will be June 2 at 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Read with the Dogs will feature "Bear" and "Poppie" and they are both just happy as can be thinking about having kids read to them. The reading portion of this program

will be for ages K - 4th or 5th grade. The participant needs

to be able to read a page or two from an easy reader.. If

there are siblings who want to come, they are welcome to sit near the dog and listen to the stories. This program is made possible by PawPrint Ministries and the dogs and handlers who volunteer their time. We are very grateful to this organization for continuing to help our kids practice their reading skills.

On June 3 (Wednesday) at 1:30 p.m. the first of three Champaign County Forest Preserve programs - Micro Marvels - will be presented. We had a couple of these programs last year, that were well-attended. The ones this summer are new to Philo Library and open to the public. We think you will enjoy all three of these programs. Hope we see you then. Keep reading this column to find out about new books and activities which will be available in the coming month or stop in and pick up a flyer. Until then, thanks for reading!



Southern Champaign County **TODAY** BUSINESS DIRECTORY

VETERINARY SERVICES	EYE CARE
<p><b>Four Counties Mobile Veterinary Services</b></p> <p>Kathleen M. Mcmanamon, DVM</p> <p><i>House and Farm Calls Small Animal and Equine</i></p> <p><b>Hours:</b> Monday-Friday, Noon-8 p.m. Saturday, By Appointment Phone: (217) 834-3472</p>	<p><b>CHITTICK FAMILY EYE CARE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult &amp; Pediatric Eye Care</li> <li>Contact Lenses</li> <li>Custom Vision Correction</li> <li>Digital Retinal Exam</li> <li>Glaucoma detection &amp; management</li> </ul> <p>10 West Adams Villa Grove, IL 61956 Office: 832-2111</p> <p><b>Hours: Mon - Fri 8 - 5</b> Medicare assignments accepted/Health Alliance Provider</p>

**To list your business, contact**  
Stephanie Wierman, 217-620-7460  
[stephanie@thecounty-chronicle.com](mailto:stephanie@thecounty-chronicle.com)

## Area Church Services

<p><b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 390 CR 2400E, Broadlands (217) 834-3289 Pastor Rev. John Sharp Sunday Schedule Service - 9 a.m. Sunday school and Bible classes - 10:15 a.m. (Aug. - June) Adult Bible Study Wednesdays - 9 a.m. (Aug. - June) Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. Second and Fourth Saturdays (Lincoln Street Lounge) •Youth Group•Sewing Circle• •Men's Club• Call the church office for more information.</p>	<p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Non-Denominational) "Come Rejoice With Us" 701 N. Sycamore Street Villa Grove, Illinois Phone (217) 832-5231 Fax (217) 832-9348 website: <a href="http://www.fccvg.com">www.fccvg.com</a> e-mail: <a href="mailto:fccvg@frontier.com">fccvg@frontier.com</a> Minister—Mike Zylstra e-mail: <a href="mailto:fccvgmin@frontier.com">fccvgmin@frontier.com</a> Open communion observed weekly Morning Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 a.m. Jr. &amp; Sr. High Youth Group 1st &amp; 3rd Sundays 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>COUNTRYSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 1807 County Road 1000N, Urbana Between Sidney and Philo Rev. Jeff Stahl E-mail: <a href="mailto:cumc.office99@gmail.com">cumc.office99@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.countrysidemethodist.com">www.countrysidemethodist.com</a> Worship Coffee Hour- 8:30 a.m. Worship-9:00 a.m. Nursery Available during worship Wednesday Wednesday's Bible Study 1:30pm Facebook Devotionals on Thursdays - 1:30 Crossroads Youth Group meets on the last Sunday of the Month from 5-6:30pm; dinner is provided. (Ages 7 &amp; up) Please contact the office for more information 217-688-2422 "Love God; Love Each Other"</p>
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**To add your church to the directory, email:**  
[office@thecounty-chronicle.com](mailto:office@thecounty-chronicle.com)