

Bertha's C o r n e r



By
BERTHA PARSONS

Why didn't someone tell me before now?

Strange how after the fact someone will say, "I knew that would happen." OK, so why didn't you tell me? Sometimes we just don't think. I mean really think.

Thinking before we act is not a myth, it is an important, caring act. Have you ever gotten so excited about doing something crazy or going on a trip and you're talking all about it then realize it would upset the family, wrong time, wrong place. OK, someone should have told me.

Kindness, laughter and smiles will give more joy to others than money. I know I'm really crazy, but it's true and several "someones" have told me that. How often do you think, "if someone cared to call me or visit I would feel better". Not how much money could they give me. It's often small things, the ordinary moments of kindness that can turn a down day into a special occasion. Remember I told you that.

Life can be tough. Times today can make us look at life through dark colored glasses. How about staying positive and hopeful. Not willing to give up. Knowing that tomorrow just might be better. Someone should have told me.

Learn from your mistakes. We all make them and we all get tangled up in what we did wrong. For me, I like to look at what I can do right. Now. When I'm wrong I'm wrong and someone will let me know.

Happiness is a choice. Why didn't someone tell me? Have you depended on others for your happiness? If you are mad or upset there must be someone to blame, my husband, neighbors, the kids, my co-workers. You've got the idea. Certainly the people and places around us may contribute to our happiness. However, it's true, it all depends on you. It's your choice.

Truthfulness. Always tell the truth, not part or made up stuff. The truth is so much easier to remember. Why didn't someone tell me?

I'm going to tell you, Keep believing in tomorrow! Life is a gift and each day is yours to enjoy. Don't give up, don't stop, stay strong. Make tomorrow a day to remember.

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Animal behaviorist Dede Cervantes, left, listens as Jenn Garrett discusses Paws and Claws Animal Sanctuary at last week's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

Woman seeks to save animals, people in business ventures

A Hoopeston woman hopes to rescue animals and people with two local business ventures.

Jenn Garrett attended the June 19 Hoopeston City Council meeting to announce that her first business, Paws and Claws Animal Sanctuary, received its 501(c)3 designation, allowing donations to be tax-deductible.

Paws and Claws opened almost two years ago and is at 8891 St. Rt. 9, west of Hoopeston. It features exotic animals, such as tigers, as well as more common critters, like horses, chickens, peacocks and raccoons. The sanctuary also accepts unwanted domestic animals.

See ANIMALS on other side

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Animals continued from other side

Some of the animals are part of a traveling petting zoo for parties and other activities, while others are securely kept at the sanctuary.

Garrett assured officials that Hoopeston residents are in no danger from her animals, which are contained by three levels of security. Should a dangerous animal escape, sanctuary staff are ready to use deadly force. "We don't look forward to it but will do it, if necessary," she said.

Dede Cervantes, a West Coast animal behaviorist, is onsite at the sanctuary, working with the animals. Garrett still lives in Hoopeston but plans to move to the sanctuary property, she said.

Fundraisers for the sanctuary have been started on GoFundMe and other online donating organizations.

Garrett also announced that she has acquired the former Subway building downtown. There, she plans to open a food pantry and resource center for people struggling with emotional problems and drug and alcohol addictions. The center will be a place to hang out, offer support to each other and also have counselors, she said.

Addictions have touched Garrett, including the death of someone close and drug use by others, which prompted her to want to help.

She also plans to offer after-care for those who are trying to stay off drugs or alcohol, saying treatment plans don't offer ongoing after-care.

Reaching out to people who are struggling is something Garrett said she does as a matter of course. "I'm already doing it," she said, "so it might as well all be in one place."

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