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By
BERTHA PARSONS

Just Laugh About It

When was the last time you had a jolly belly laugh? Not a smiley laugh or barely a giggle, I'm talking about a laugh that almost knocks you off your feet!

My mother would start laughing when getting in the car or stopping at a stop sign or over nothing. If you asked her, "what's so funny?" she would say "I don't know, I just felt like laughing." Before you knew it, we were all laughing. It makes me smile just thinking about it!

I'm sure you have a memory of laughing out loud and the joy it gave you. I think laughing is real medicine. Thank goodness it's free, no prescription needed. No permission slip, you just laugh at it.

In our day-to-day activities, we run out of time for a good laugh. We don't want anyone to think we are crazy to be laughing about "whatever". Too much work and no play or laughter is not good for anyone! Also, our little part of the world may certainly have difficulties. People trying to change how we live, how we shop, how we spend our money, where we work, how to pray or not to pray. Seems like not a lot to laugh about.

If laughing out loud seems ridiculous to you- too bad! Call me a fool, maybe even square.

Laughing about something that happened in my life today, like losing my wallet for two days. I was crazy looking in all the obvious places, not there. My husband, in his wisdom said, "I'll help you look". The first thing he did was dump everything out of my purse! There at the very bottom was the lost item! We both laughed until almost sick.

Sometimes we look for something fun to do, a movie, a good book, a family game of Scrabble, a book filled with jokes or anything to give us joy. All good reasons to laugh

Have you ever made a mistake? A funny, make a fool of oneself mistake? Well, I have, and believe me, when that happens, not just my family, but it seems like the whole world laughs about it!

So, in my wisdom, I've learned when my friends, my family or I make a silly mistake. I just laugh about it! Everyone feels happier.

Can you believe that a little laughter can cure a sad day? A lot of laughter can make rainy days seem sunny! A split one's sides laughter can give you joy for free. I like free-how about you? Let's just laugh about it!

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Vermilion County SWCD honored at annual Pheasant Fest

Vermilion County Soil & Water Conservation District was honored last month during Pheasant Fest in Schaumburg.

The annual event, sponsored by Pheasants Forever, was held in Illinois for the first time ever this year.

Vermilion County SWCD, represented by Mitchell Killough, resource conservationist, and Lisa Leigh, administrative coordinator, was recognized Thursday, Feb. 21 by the National Pheasants Forever, for its partnership and assistance with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Pollinator Habitat initiative in the county over the past three years.

Vermilion County Pheasants Forever was recognized with a Conservation Excellence Award as an Outstanding Chapter, for putting \$750,000 toward local habitat and conservation projects over 28 years.

Sponsored by Federal Premium Ammunition, the National Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic drew more than 22,000 people to the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture addressed the group at its banquet February 23, announcing his department's intention to hold upcoming signups for the federal Conservation Reserve Program, the country's signature pheasant and quail habitat creator.

Perdue said farmers, ranchers and wildlife conservationists can expect general and continuous CRP signups by



Mitchell Killough, resource conservationist, and Lisa Leigh, administrative coordinator for the Vermilion County Soil and Water Conservation District, display a Great Plains drill at Pheasant Fest in Schaumburg. VCSWCD rents equipment like the drill for small seeding projects.

summer's end. Signups are essential in working toward the new 27-million-acre national CRP – an increase of 3 million acres – established by the recently-passed federal Farm Bill.

Perdue also discussed one of the country's newest conservation programs, the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP). Authored by South Dakota Sen. See SWCD on other side

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Thank you for supporting Bob Holmes

I would like to thank Superintendent Suzzette Hesser, principals Klaber, Walder, White, teachers and staff, for hosting Bob Holmes, the one man volleyball team.

I also very much appreciate Valarie Hinkle, East Lynn Fertilizer, the Hoopeston Chamber of Com-

SWCD continued from other side

John Thune, SHIPP is a new voluntary program that, unlike the traditional CRP, requires a landowner commitment of only three to five years.

Perdue called SHIPP, which is authorized and funded as a pilot program at 50,000 acres in the six Prairie Pothole region states, the sleeper program for wildlife in the new Farm Bill's conservation title.

The Prairie Pothole region includes Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota and Montana in the U.S., and Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta in Canada.

Additionally, Perdue noted USDA would accept comments on rules and regulations for all conservation programs beginning February 26, a crucial step in the implementation of the Farm Bill.

Perdue's policy message was followed by Steven Rinella of MeatEater television and podcast fame, who delivered the event's keynote address. Rinella thanked Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever members and volunteers for their often-unheralded efforts in keeping wild places and spaces alive and brimming with wildlife.

Pheasant Fest is the nation's largest gathering of upland wildlife conservationists.



Letters to the Editor

merce, and many individuals from First Baptist Church who helped cover Bob's travel expenses, pizza for the community, and other items. The school district gave Bob a beautiful shirt personally engraved and made him feel welcome.

Please continue to support Bob as you are able. No individual to my knowledge has been more effective in stopping violence, depression, and terrible addictions among teens as Bob Holmes. Bob advises congressional committees and works tirelessly at the age of 62 for the good of America. Bob champions free

speech and yet is sensitive and kind. Bob loves and accepts those who disagree with him but is not afraid to tell the truth. He is in Rantoul schools this week. He has spoken to more than 6 million teens.

Adam Taubert
Pastor, First Baptist Church
Hoopeston

From the Blotter

A 77-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 6:51 a.m. Monday that someone took property from his vehicle while it was parked in a driveway in the 400 block of North Third St. Police are investigating.

An Alvin man was arrested after a car vs. gas pump accident at 10:50 p.m. Monday.

Police said Johnnie Shults, 49, was northbound on Rt. 1 and turned east on Penn when he lost control of his 2009 Lincoln. The car went over an embankment and ran into a gas pump at Casey's General Store, 1022 W. Penn.

Shults was ticketed for driving under the influence and driving under the influence .08 or more.

Court Dispositions

February 7

Julissa Rivera, Hoopeston, failed to appear for general nuisance, found guilty, fined \$210; status check March 7.

Melissa Johnson, Danville, failed to appear for general nuisance, found guilty, fined \$210; status check March 7.

Obituaries

WALTER - George Walter, 95, of Hoopeston, formerly of Rossville, died at 3:40 p.m. Sunday, March 3, 2019 at Carle Hoopeston Regional Hospital. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 28. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 17. Tomorrow, partly sunny then snow likely. Chance of wintry mix late. High 30, low 25.

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