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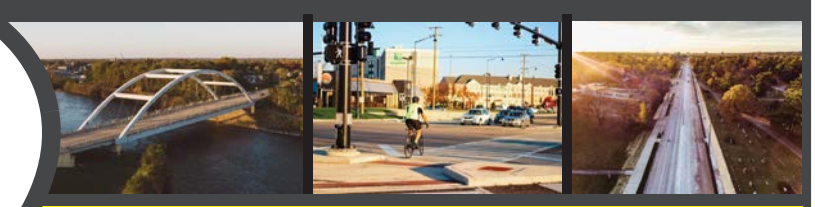

The revenue from the road referendum has allowed the City of Rockford to leverage $175 Million in State and Federal funds for our roads and infrastructure.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

If the referendum passes will the sales tax rate go up?
No. The referendum keeps the rate the same so that our roads and infrastructure can continue to be repaired and replaced.

CITY REFERENDUM

Shall the City of Rockford, Illinois impose a tax, for expenditure on public infrastructure, of 1% of gross receipts on persons engaged in the business of selling or transferring personal property other than food, medicine and titled property, at retail or incidental to the sale of service, until June 30, 2027?

YES
NO

VOTE YES! ON FEBRUARY 23RD!

VOTE BY MAIL AND IN-PERSON HAS BEGUN. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
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Paid For By Citizens For Rebuilding Rockford. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board's official website (www.elections.il.gov) or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.

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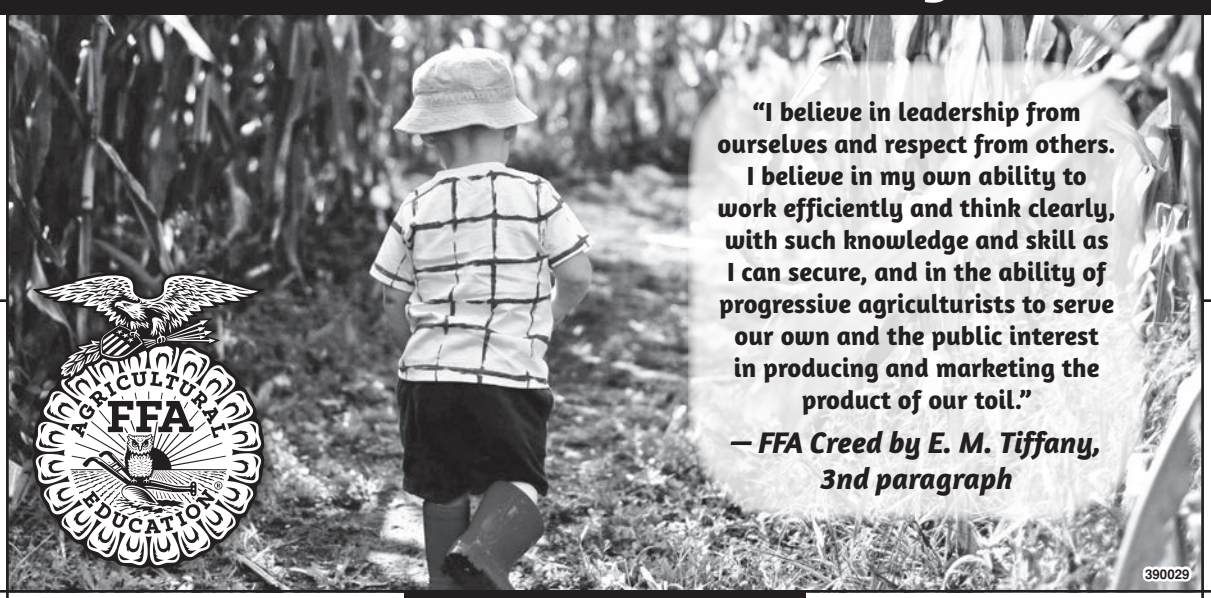

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Weekly connection

Memories of sledding, thoughts on risks and faith

By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

About 25 years ago when our four kids were between the ages of two and eight, I went looking for a long piece of rubber matting that I could use as a sled. You see, when I was a kid, we used to have a long rubber mat that we pulled behind our snowmobile.

We went all around the orchard and the back yard enjoying the fun of sledding without a steep hill. It was great fun, and I thought that our own kids should have this experience as well. Where I grew up there were no big sledding hills around and pulling a mat behind the snowmobile was the next best thing.

Actually, it might have been better because there was no dragging a heavy toboggan back up the hill after sliding down. Using the snowmobile and mat meant we could sled for hours and never get very tired. Plus, it was fun to be the driver as well. We would turn a fast corner and watch the sled go zipping around gliding with great speed across the drifts of pearly white snow.

Anyway, my searching paid off and, I was able to find what I was looking for, a two foot by ten-foot piece of rubber mat. It was about a half inch thick and quite strong. I drilled some holes along the sides and in the front of the mat, so I could run some rope through. I used the rope for hooking up to our four-wheeler as well as for the riders to hold on to. We were in business.

Since I didn't own a snowmobile, I had to work pretty hard to make a hard path for my four-wheeler in the snow. That was hard work because a four-wheeler tends to get stuck in the snow until a path is beat down. When the path was ready, we hooked up that sled and the kids hopped on.

When they were very young, I took it kind of easy, but as they got older, we picked up the pace. They never got too old for this. In fact, there were times when the four of them, all well into their teens, would pile on and man did that four-wheeler have to work. The laughter and joy we had was awesome.

Now that some of the grandkids are old enough, the old black rubber mat is back in business. I love hearing their squeals of delight as they ride on top of the snow hanging on for dear life. One of my absolute favorite Bible verses is found in Paul's letter to his young pastor friend, Timothy. He writes in 2 Timothy 1:7, *For I did not give you a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

When I was a health teacher for many years, we always did research on the leading causes of death for all the different age groups. Then we discussed risk taking and living life to the full. Life is all about risks and the joy of an exciting and full life.

Some risks are certainly necessary wouldn't you say? As a Christian living in 2021, it all comes down to this, I choose to live with faith over fear. A young father of four in our church wrote something down for me last Sunday. It was two acronyms for the word fear.

Some people are living this way. F-forget E-everything A-and R-run and others of us are trying to live this way, F-face -E-everything A-and R-rise. I am praying for God to raise people up out of fear and give them a heart of faith.

Until next week, God bless.

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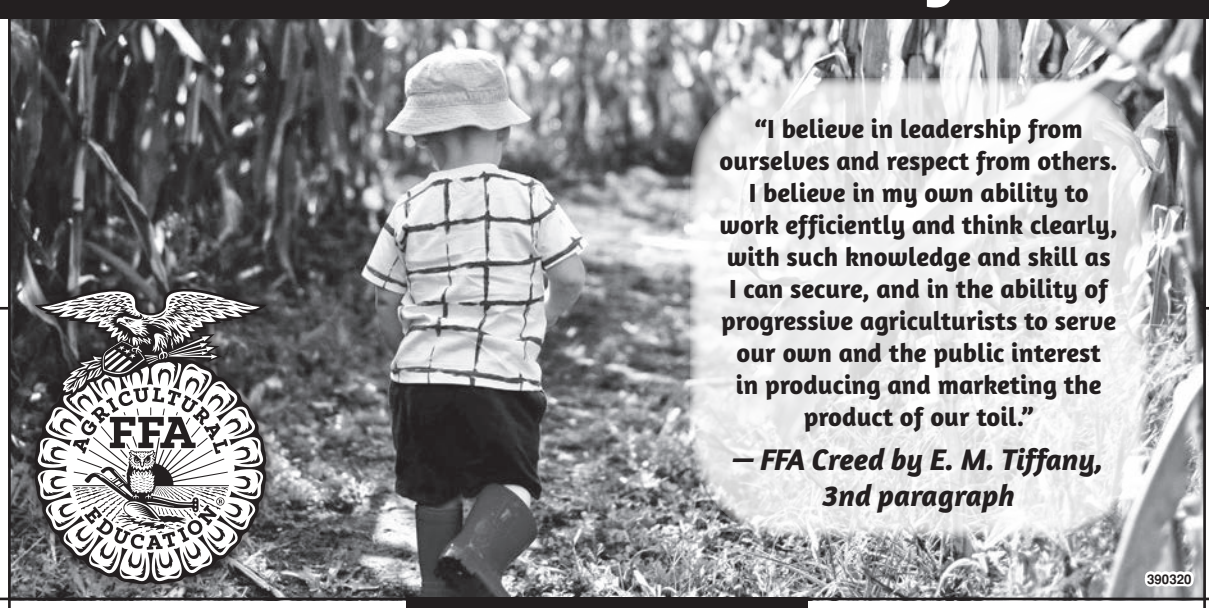

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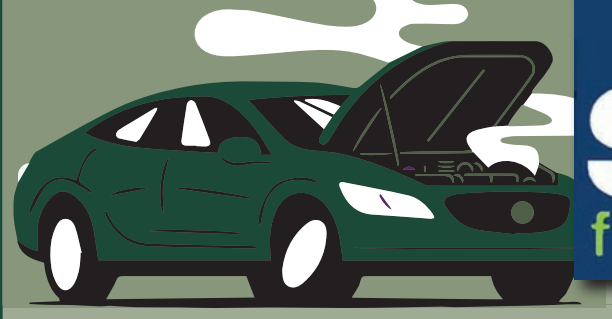

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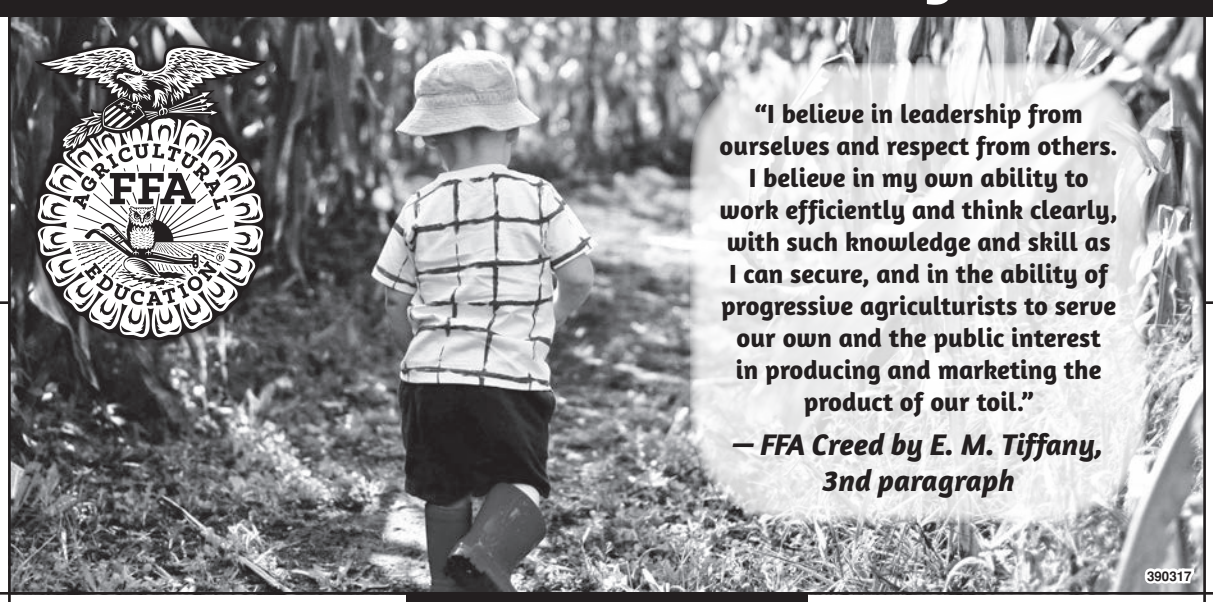

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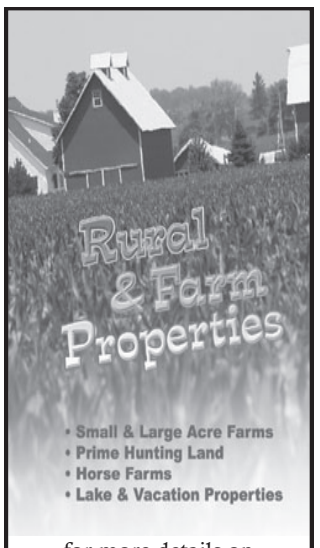

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