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FREE

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 2023



Rock Valley Publishing is seeking freelance reporters and photographers to produce local news and photos for your hometown newspaper. Weekly stories and photos needed for Machesney Park, Loves Park, Rockton, Roscoe, Pecatonica, Winnebago, Stillman Valley and Byron. Writing and reporting experience a plus. Work from home as an independent contractor with no in-office requirement.

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LIVE PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCT. 7 • 9 A.M.

405 EAST LAFAYETTE ST., SOMONAUK, IL

The sale is located on the northeast side of Somonauk, IL. Watch for signs at the intersection of Rt. 34 and Sycamore Street. Go north to Lafayette, then east to sale site.

Comfort station and lunch available. Rain or shine. This is a partial listing only, expect to find surprises! Will update AuctionZip as we find other items. Steve sold his home in Sandwich, the items were moved to his brother's shop. Everything will sell to best and highest bidder. Large sale lots of hard-to-find collectible items.

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sell to best and highest bidder. No property removed until settled for. Not responsible for items or accidents. NO BUYER'S PREMIUM. LIVE AUCTION ONLY. Must be present to bid. **AUCTIONEER:** Chris Wegener 815-451-2820 - Sandwich, IL

STEVE PIRON, OWNER



For photos and more details: go2wegenerauctions.com

UCTION DEADL

Contact Rhonda Marshall at rmarshall@rvpublishing.com for information on advertising.

— PUBLIC AUCTION —

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30 • RUNNING TWO RINGS!

Lunch by: Moni • 9 A.M. • Comfort Station Available

LOCATION: Boone Co. Fairgrounds, 8847 IL Rt. 76, 1 mi. north of Belvidere. VEHICLES, BOAT & TRAILERS, COINS, ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, HOUSEHOLD, TOOLS, YARD & MISC. LARGE ITEMS TO BE SOLD AT 11 A.M. SHARP!

OWNERS: S. Miller, P. Perrone, A. Lerma, H. Randall, T. Ellis, C. Kelly, L. Diaz and B. Backe.



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11211 North Road, Evansville, WI 5608) 882-6123 For complete listing and photos log on to www.georgeauction.com

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SUNDAY, OCT. 8 • 10 A.M.

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William E. Griffith, OWNER



For photos and more details:

Early mornings are the best

day than the mornings, if you ask me. My mornings start by making the rounds to serve up an early breakfast for all my animals around the farm. I'm quite sure that all farm animals are early risers, and they are always enthusiastic for breakfast, but the chickens are the earliest risers of all. My rooster is the guardian of my twenty or so hens and he starts crowing about four o'clock each day. I can hear him from our bedroom window the mornings that I am awake. When I go outside at about six, the entire flock is up and ready to eat. I have four small feeders set up in the chicken yard and I fill each of them with a mixture of layer feed, shelled corn and a small scoop of oyster crumbles to keep their eggshells hard. They dive right into the feed and while they are eating, I clean and refill their water containers. Then I head down to the shed to load up hay in a small wagon that I pull behind my ATV for my sheep, ponies and beef cows and calves. I have three different pastures that these animals stay on and now that we are at the end of the growing season these pastures have slowed down their production significantly. So, I have started to feed a little a little hay to supplement their diet.

There isn't a better time of



By SCOTT CERNEK Columnist

I start with the sheep and throw a chunk or two of hay on the grass for them to eat. They always come running over with a happy bleeeeet and baaaaa. This past year my five ewes gave me ten new lambs. Five were rams and five were ewe lambs. I butchered the rams and kept the ewe lambs giving me ten ewes all together. I think that's going to have to be my limit so next year I may have a few lambs to sell. They are sure fun to watch in the summer as they grow from little babies to big strong animals. I didn't know if I would like lamb chops and lamb steaks, but we grilled some up the other night and they were delicious.

After I finish feeding and talking to the sheep, I drive over and throw a couple chunks of hay to the ponies who dance and bob their heads up and down in anticipation as I get close. It seems that all the animals are always hungry, but then again so am I so that stands to reason. Now that I have taken care of the small animals it's

time to head down the lane to the beef pasture and give them some feed and hay as well. We've learned over the years that feeding your cattle out on the pasture each day is a great way to keep them tamed down. I scratch their heads and pat them on the neck as they eat. The calves are always a little curious and like to sniff around me as I sit on the ATV and watch them eat at the bunk. This is my favorite time of the day for sure. When I get back to the house I sit down with a cup of coffee and read my Bible and morning devotions. God is sure good. In Psalm 31:19 we read, "Oh how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you have prepared for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the sons of men!"

Until next week, God bless!

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Life on the family farm under an open heaven

New visitors to our farm

Well, we had a surprise here a little while back; new visitors or maybe I should say new residents living on our farm here. They just flew in and decided to stay. Who am I talking about you may ask? Cliff swallows. For all the years of farming, we've always had barn swallows come to our farm in early May. They would build nests out of mud in our barn on the joists. They would daily fly just over our heads and above the cattle catching mosquitoes and other insects. They're very good birds to have around.



TOM **HECK**

would also build their nests under the eaves of the barn and sheds. I'm always amazed as I watch them how they can so maneuver in the air as they fly. I know of no other bird that can fly like they do. I'm amazed at how God created them so special and unique. Just how He

has created everyone on this Like their barn swallow earth so special and unique.

Well, a while back here, we noticed that some of the swallows weren't flying around in the air as they normally do. So that really caught our attention and we looked at them really close. Half of them were flying around like normal and half were flying differently. Then we noticed the other half were built slightly different. So then Catherine got out a bird book and studied it out and found out, we had new residents on our farm. They are cliff swallows.

relatives, they like to eat lots of mosquitoes and insects. I really like to have lots of swallows around to eat the mosquitoes so they don't eat

One interesting thing is that the cliff swallows will never fly into our dairy barn or build nests in it like the barn swallows do. Both types of swallows do however build their nests out of mud. They normally have four to six young in a batch, and have three batches over the summer months before leaving in the fall. Both

parents, the male and female, head south; the bird experts work catching mosquitoes and insects to feed the young ones until they're ready to fly and take care of themselves. That's how God made them. Some people in this world today could learn a lot from them. It would make for strong families and homes, and for children being raised the right way and being blessed. God can teach us a lot through birds!

Now, when I'm out cutting hay, I will normally have about 50 swallows flying around me at all times. My discbine stirs up a lot of mosquitoes and insects that they catch and eat. Now it's really interesting, half of them are barn and half are cliff swallows. I'm always amazed to see how God created everything so unique and to interact with everything else. God is truly wonderful and amazing.

Fall is coming, and all my swallow friends leave for the winter. I hate to see them leave, but I know it's part of God's plan for them. They

tell us they migrate as far as 10,000 miles. It's good they don't need passports like people do to travel to other countries, or else they would be in trouble!

I know they will be leaving soon, but I know I will see many of them next May again as they come and make their homes on our farm here. Just think of the navigation God gave these small birds to travel thousands of miles away and then come back to our farm again. How God created all of this is truly amazing. And yet what is astounding is that God loves us far more than the birds He created. He loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to redeem us back to Himself.

Tom Heck and his family have a small dairy farm in Wisconsin. To view Tom's past articles go to: tomheckfarm.com. Email $Tom\ at\ life on the family farm\ @$

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM HECK Rock Valley Publishing Top: Young barn swallows nest in the barn. Above: Cliff swallows nest under the barn's eave.



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