

The SHOPPER

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CONSTRUCION EQUIPMENT: 23' Bobcat S62 Skid Steer, Cab/A/H, 2 Spd, 3,600 Hrs, 07' John Deere 310SJ Backhoe, Cab/A/H, 4x4, Extendahoe, Swivel Bucket, Only 429 Hrs, 19' Bobcat T770 Track Skid Steer, Cab/A/H, Hyd QT, Aux Hyd, 500 Hrs, Katolight 85kw Generator, Tramount Power House 100kw Towable Generator, Katolight 175kw Generator, Champion 710A Motor Grader, 6x4, 06' Bobcat 331E Mini Excavator, Ext Dipper, Hyd Thumb, 2,200 Hrs, 10' New Holland L190 Skid Steer, Cab/H, Mech QT, 2,500 Hrs, Cat 303.5E2 CR Mini Excavator, Orops, Aux Hyd, 4 Way Blade, 2,200 Hrs, Cat 308E2 CR Exccavator, Hyd Thumb, Coupler, 2,500 Hrs, 16' Bobcat T770 Skid Steer, Forestry Package, 3,000 Hrs, Case Mini-Sneaker Vibratory Plow, 12' John Deere 750K XLT Dozer, 13' 6 Way Blade, GPS Ready, 7,400 Hrs, 09' Airman 400CFM Air Compressor, Diesel, 3,200 Hrs, John Deere 644E Wheel Loader, 16' Volvo EC350 EL Excavator, Hyd Thumb, 3rd Valve, Quick Coupler, Ditch Witch FX30S Vac Trailer, Steel Tank, Rear hose Reel, 3.5" Suction Hose, 17' JLG G5-18A Extendable Forklift, 5500#, 18' Reach, John Deere 544E Wheel Loader

FARM EQUIPMENT: 23' John Deere 5090M Loader Tractor, Cab/A/H, MFWD, 3pt, PTO, 2 Hyd Remotes, 127 Hrs, 14' Case IH 290 Magnum Tractor, MFWD, Frnt & Rear Duals, 4 Hyd Remotes, 2,092 Hrs, Case IH RXM340 24' Rock Flex Disk, 3 Bar Spike Harrow, 2 - J&M 350-SD Gravity Wagons, Glenco 18' Field Finisher, Kent 33' Field Finisher, 5 Bar Spike Harrow, Koehring Max II Self Propelled Chopper, Diesel, 2R Head, John Deere 4020 Tractor, D, WF, 9,000 HRs, John Deere 230 Disk, Hiniker 4836 Grain Drill, Int. 504 Tractor G, NF, Fertilizer Spreader, RoGator 854 Sprayer, Cummins, 90' Booms, EZ Trail Gears

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Slices of life

Dirt in the bedroom – a tragic love story

We all have portions of our lives that we'd rather not disclose to the public. In fact, most of us don't have to go too far to realize what those things are. Because we already know – all too well. Am I right?

So the discourse I'm about to write here is done so with a fair amount of discord. My heart is tugging at it's own strings. Maybe honesty isn't always the best policy. But then again, perhaps it will set me free.

I don't know which adage to abide by, much less believe, so I'm going to go with my gut on this one and simply lay (or would it be lie?) the ugly truth right there on the line.

Forgive me for my transgressions, as I try to forgive myself. My dirty truth has to do with bedrooms, and the messiness of life.

But it's not what you might be thinking; I'm not talking about that type of messiness.

I'm referring to the ceiling fan.

My story does include a component of love, which



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

Unfortunately doesn't have anything to do with me at the moment. It has to do with the aforementioned ceiling fan. The spinning blades are currently having a torrid love affair with a thick and rather busty layer of dust.

It's a provocative, dirty, unmentionable situation, but real. So very, very real.

The two of them – the ceiling fan and the dust – have become inseparable. Despite their differences they are literally drawn to one another. The bond is undeniable. Each night they cavort in a dizzying dance overhead my bed.

I believe they are in love. Despite their differences. Despite the obstacles. Despite the risks.

Because love knows nothing of differences, obstacles or risks.

Love only understands

love.

And when it is pure (albeit dirty) love is beautiful.

I'm not ready to profess the love between my ceiling fan and its dust-bride is beautiful, but I will say it is nonconforming and persistent.

I separate the two as best I can, because that is what a responsible and cleanliness-seeking homeowner does.

But dust – bride that she is – will not be thwarted. She finds a way to return to her beloved fan blades and together the two circulate the ceiling morning and night, spinning to their own silent song. Twirling and swirling like only two lovebirds can.

Their attraction to one another is magnetic – almost like it defies gravity. Like it is magic.

Which I guess love is, when it is truly meant to be.

Which brings me to the big, unanswered question: Is the love between my ceiling fan and its dust bride meant to be? Is it part of the great plan – part of the world order? Is it something bigger than me – or even bigger than you?

That's the million-dollar question and I'm not sure I have the answer. I do know that I have done my best – over the years and even decades – to keep my ceiling fan free from dust, and my efforts have been nothing if not in vain. No matter what I do, no matter how diligent I am, no matter all my best and very thrilling attempts to use the latest technology (or pillowcases) to keep my ceiling fan undustingly pristine – dust and blades continue to find one another, over and over and over again, in a deja vu that simply keeps repeating itself.

It's like it was meant to be.

Sort of like true love. And who am I to question something as big and large and wonderful as that? Besides, my bedroom has another issue, which I believe may be related (and multiplying).

The ceiling fan and its dust-bride have been consorting in ways I don't want to imagine and in

the process have created mini dust offspring. They reside under the bed, like little bunnies. I'd call it inconceivable, if I hadn't witnessed it myself.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

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A trip to Africa in love

Recently, two men from our church and I took an amazing trip deep into the heart of Africa to visit a young man that had come into my life some 30 years ago. You see, it was 30 years ago that my wife and I signed up with an organization that brought a little five-year-old African boy named Jimmy into our lives. We were at a concert with some friends from our church and during intermission some people came around with these little packets of information on children who were in great need in very poor parts of the world. We thought it would be a great idea to choose one of these children to support, and so we



By
SCOTT CERNEK
Columnist

chose a little boy and signed up for the program. We chose a little boy named Jimmy and agreed to send about \$30 a month to help Jimmy out. He lived in a country way down in central Africa and every couple of months I would write him a letter and he would write back to me.

For years we sent letters back and forth through the organization that we signed

up with and we learned all about his story of poverty and pain. A few months before we started supporting Jimmy, he had lost his dad and siblings to a rebel group who was trying to overthrow the government at the time. They came into his village and his family was shot and killed. Jimmy fled with his mother to a safer part of the country and together they tried to put their lives back together. Several years later, just before Jimmy graduated out of the program, his mother died, and he was left as an orphan all alone in this world. Our heart went out to him and through social media we were able to keep in touch and help him through college, where he earned a

degree in pastoral studies and began volunteering his time and efforts with a church that had a school and an orphanage that they ran as well. His only means of income were whatever vegetables he could sell from his small garden and also whatever small gifts his church could give him on occasion.

For years this was how he survived. Finally, this December, he sent me a message that he was taking a bride in March and would love it if I could come. I decided to see if there was any way I could go and see him. Sure enough, I found a flight that was affordable and recruited some men to go along. Our church gave

us a wonderful send-off and a couple weeks ago we took off on the adventure of a lifetime. I can't tell you how exciting it was to fly over the Sahara Desert and look down over millions of acres of sand, and then a while later to look down on millions of acres of jungle. Finally, after eight hours of flying across the Atlantic and eight more hours from Brussels to central Africa, we descended back to the earth and landed in a strange and distant land.

I have to say that the Holy Spirit was with us each step of the way and in the end, we were able to meet up with our long-lost "adopted" son Jimmy. We spent the week traveling and visiting schools, orphans, churches, and sharing many different kinds of gifts that we took along for the children we met. It was an eye-opening trip, to say the least. The poverty is beyond belief in some places, but the

kindness and gentleness of the vast majority of the African people we met was wonderful to experience. I have to admit there were times when things got a bit sketchy and fear started to creep in, but the Lord gave me the verse found in 2 Timothy 1:7, "For I have not given you a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind." We felt the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit often on our trip and back home again. Since we have arrived back home, I have shared Jimmy and my story with several school classes and also at church. It is my desire that we become a truly thankful people who thank God for our great country and for the salvation that only comes through faith in Jesus Christ. It was a joy to meet many fellow believers who even though times are very difficult for them, the joy

See TRIP, Page 5

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Loves Park police reports

All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

March 27

Matthew Ballard, 27, 3:43 a.m., Quincy St., Rockford, charged with Aggravated Fleeing/Attempting to Elude Peace Officer - Involves Disobedience of 2 or More Traffic Devices, Aggravated Fleeing/Attempting to Elude Peace Officer - Rate of Speed at Least 21 mph Over Speed Limit,Reckless Driving - Drives Vehicle With Willful or Wanton Disregard for Safety of Persons or Property, Other Driver License Offenses

Scott Butte, 51, 12:13 a.m., Elm Ave., Loves Park, charged with Failure to reduce speed/ Too fast for conditions, DUI - Alcohol Concentration in Blood or Breath 0.08 or More, DUI - Under the Influence of Alcohol

March 28

Shamon Banks, 29, N. Sec-

ond St./Clifford Ave., Loves Park, charged with Speeding, Resisting or Obstructing Peace Officer

Matthew McCoy, 43, N. Second St., Loves Park, charged with Disorderly Conduct, Aggravated Battery - Based on Location - Minor or No Injury - No Dangerous Weapon, Possession of Controlled Substance, Failure to reduce speed/ Too fast for conditions, DUI - Alcohol Concentration in Blood or Breath 0.08 or More, DUI - Under the Influence of Alcohol

March 25

Destiny Hart, 23, 2 p.m., N. Second St. / Landstrom Road, Loves Park, Warrant Service

Tevyn Thorns, 28, Harlem Road/Forest Hills Road, Loves Park, charged with Failure to reduce speed/ Too fast for conditions, DUI - Under the Influence of Alcohol Failure to Remain at the Scene

of a Personal Injury or Fatal Motor Vehicle Accident, DUI - Under the Combined Influence Alcohol, Other Drugs, Intoxicating Compounds, Driving While Driver's License, Permit, or Privilege to Operate Motor Vehicle is Suspended or Revoked Operation of Uninsured Motor Vehicle

March 24

James Markiewicz, 23, N. Perryville Road/Harlem Road, Loves Park, charged with Possession Adult Use Cannabis in Motor Vehicle Outside Approved Container - Driver

Jasper Fiorenza, 33, 9:10 p.m., N. Second St., Loves Park, Warrant Service

Redmond, Jr., 24, 2:38 a.m.,

E. Riverside Blvd., Loves Park, charged with Resisting or Obstructing Peace Officer,

March 22

Brianne Bauling, 35, 3:39 p.m., Galleria Dr., Loves Park, Warrant Service

• Trip

(Continued from page 4)

of the Lord was very evident in their lives. I find myself reflecting a great deal on what we experienced, and I'm driven to pray for those who have so much less than we have here in this great country. Until next week, God bless.



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