

Macon FFA Magazine



**Volume 1
Issue 3**

Meet The Editor

It's time for another edition of the Macon FFA magazine. My name is Katy Stoecklein and I am this issue's editor. I am one of the members of the seventh hour Agricultural Communications class. This is my fourth year in FFA and I hold the office of chapter president. I have been very involved in FFA over the years and it has taught me numerous life lessons that will help prepare me for life after high school. I was introduced to FFA by my dad and then my brother. FFA and agriculture have been a part of my family for years. It amazes me at the tradition that FFA holds and how a group started by a few young men has grown to over 550,000 members, and is the largest student led organization. FFA and agriculture will forever hold a place in my heart.

Besides FFA, one of my favorite hobbies is showing livestock. This past summer, I showed a Simmental steer and an Angus heifer all over mid-Missouri. I showed everywhere from the Missouri State Fair, to the Alpha Gamma Rho classic, to the local fair, and even the Angus Junior Nationals. I also enjoy softball, hunting, and fishing. I love spending time outdoors and spending time with family and friends. I am a senior at Macon High School and when I graduate, I plan to pursue a career in animal science. I will continue to keep agriculture a big part of my life.

After a lot of hard work, and careful revision, I know that the members of my class have worked very hard to insure that each of the articles of this magazine is top notch. I hope you enjoy what you are about to read.



I attended National Convention a few months ago with many of my friends.

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On the Cover

Many of the Macon FFA members attended the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, October 30th through November 2nd.

An Unknown Business

It seems to me that very few people know what Granuband is, much less what they do. I was just like the majority of these people before speaking to a former employee. Before I go into detail, let's hit the basics. Granuband is a factory on the south side of Macon right off of Highway 63. They recycle old tires into a new usable material. Usually this means making them into different forms of rubber pellets varying in size and dependent on the application for which they are used. They receive several orders for the rubber pellets used in artificial turf, as well as playground material.

Playground material is rubber chunks that range from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in size, and it must be 99% loose wire free. Loose wire would be from the steel belts in the tires. The material is approved by using a certification called ASTM as long as it meets the fall height requirements. ASTM stands for The American Society for Testing and Materials and sets requirements for juvenile products. Requirements are the amount of rubber under the equipment based on the tallest piece of equipment.

The cost of bringing tires in to be disposed of can vary from \$45 to \$100 a ton dependent on the size of the load. They accept all types of tires; however, rear tractor tires are less desirable due to the high amount of fiber cord. That makes it very difficult to produce a clean product.

The amazing thing about what they do is that the final product is 100% recycled material. This is important in helping keep our land clean. It is also a practical and legal way to dispose of old tires.

Lukas Still



This sign can be seen by many as they come into and leave Macon.

Same Bank, New Town, More Service

Macon Atlanta State Bank started as a little bank in Atlanta, Missouri. They wanted to grow so they moved to Macon because of the larger population. When they moved to Macon they were located downtown, and then a few years later moved into their big building across the road from McDonalds. Macon-Atlanta State Bank (MA Bank) has recently purchased a bank in the Monroe City. The bank in Monroe City location is still called Macon-Atlanta State Bank, but is located in downtown Monroe City. According to Lorri Cook, internal review officer at MA Bank, MA Bank is one of the best banks that you can go to because they are a lending bank. This means you can go in and get the money for your loan that day. Most other banks can't do that because they have to go through a corporate officer in another town to ask them if they can loan you the money. MA Bank can design a loan plan to fit your specific needs. If you are a farmer and will not be able to pay your loan until the beginning or end of each year they will make that loan plan to where it will work for you. Their loans can be for a specified amount of time, such as four years or six months. They can also be for just about any certain amount.

MA bank moved to Monroe City because they saw that there were a lot of farmers. According to Cook, MA Bank is also the largest agricultural lending banks in Missouri. They are hoping that with all the farmers in the area of Monroe City that they would be able to help a lot of them with their loan needs. They bought the bank that was previously in business and kept all of the employees that worked there. There also might be some employees from the Macon branch who will travel to Monroe City to help get things going strong.

Tyler Cook



Macon Atlanta State Bank has been a local business in Macon for many years. They are very excited about the new branch in Monroe City.

The new Macon Atlanta State Bank Location in Monroe City will allow the bank to offer services to customers throughout Monroe County.



Deer Hunting: Firearms Edition

“I know how my gun shoots; I know where my gun is going to shoot. I know its strengths... and its weaknesses. If there’s a monster buck in my range, I can kill it.”

My father, Mike Arnold lives and breathes deer hunting. He pursued the sport when he was sixteen years old and has enjoyed it ever since. If you find yourself stumbling on some questions about that time of year, Mike Arnold would be an excellent resource.

My dad explained to me that his preparation for deer season started about forty years ago when he became interested in the sport. On an obvious note, guns are not toys. In order to become a successful hunter, you must know all the aspects of a firearm, and most importantly... practice, practice, practice (on a target, of course)! My dad said a lot of his preparations came from mistakes. If a deer is not in a certain range, he will not shoot it to prevent hitting the deer in a spot that will not kill it.

Before the season begins, make certain you have all your supplies in order; such as your gun, bullets, knife, and attire. Remember, it is the law to wear bright ‘hunter orange’ in hunting areas during firearms season.

In order to be a hunter, you must have a hunting license, deer tag, and be a legal citizen. You can get your hunting license by taking your hunter’s education course. A hunting license is required in order to get a deer tag. Deer tags can be bought at Wal-Mart or any conservation store.

Deer hunting is an extremely ‘hot’ sport here in the state of Missouri. Although it requires a lot of work, preparation, and time, it is worth it when you shoot that ‘monster buck’ you’ve been dreaming to shoot!

Archery season began on September 15th. The main portion of firearms started on November 16th and ended on November 26th this past deer season.

Lauren Arnold

Lauren and her “monster” she shot a couple years ago.



The Past Impacts Now

The National FFA is a youth organization made to represent the study of agriculture. It was established in 1928 as “Future Farmers of America.” Many changes have occurred since FFA was founded. Kemper Walker, a Macon High School graduate in 1975, agrees. “FFA has changed a lot since I was in it; for it was only a boy’s organization,” Kemper explains.

FFA opened membership to girls in the year 1969, also making it possible for them to hold offices and be a part of any competitive event. A few years later, Julie Smiley is named the first female elected as a national officer. She was one of many females to prove that girls should have just as many rights as boys do in the organization. Walker agreed that it is great that girls are able to become members. “I think there are many more opportunities in FFA now,” he stated.

Walker was involved in FFA all four years of high school and was treasurer for his chapter his senior year. His fondest memory was being chosen as the Star Area Farmer and attending the National FFA Convention when it was held in Kansas City. According to Walker, FFA taught him discipline in a good work ethic and to conduct a meeting from parliamentary procedure. Mr. Walker is currently a farmer in the Macon area and has been doing so for thirty-nine years.

Jessica Young, a graduate from Macon in 2013, is one to agree that the national organization made a right decision when letting girls hold membership in FFA. Jessica was involved in FFA all four years of high school. She was the Chairperson of Finance and Economics as well as the Assistant Secretary her senior year. “FFA taught me to take risks and try new challenges. It helped me to explore outside of my comfort zone.” Through FFA, Jessica got the opportunity to enroll in Macon’s International Agriculture course and travel to Greece her senior year. She described it as being life changing.

Whether it’s to allow females or different ethnicities into the organization, FFA has changed... and for the better! No matter your gender or race, FFA has helped students become successful since 1928 and strives to do so for many years to come.

Lauren Arnold

Author Lauren Arnold says Jessica Young (second to right) had a major impact on her FFA career.



Pulling for the Youth

On September 21st, the 4th annual Adair County Young Farmers Truck and Tractor Pull took place in Kirksville, Missouri. According to Kelly Ohaver, one of the event coordinators managing the pull, it was started to promote the local FFA seniors by earning money for scholarships. It also creates scholarships for the Young Farmers to attend conventions and meetings.



Still was the winner of the Pro Street 2 wheel drive class.

Every year the staff strives to make the pull larger and more productive. Last year it was voted as the Pull of the Year by the Iowa and Missouri pulling organization, or IAMO. The pull now includes FFA chapters from Kirksville, Laplata, Novinger, Schuyler County, and Brashear. Each of these school are eligible for one scholarship. As the pull continues to grow they are hopeful to provide bigger scholarships every year.

Lukas Still



Come support the International Ag trip to Brazil this coming summer! We will provide you with a spaghetti dinner and a live auction on March 8th at 6:00 PM in the High School gym. Tickets will be \$12 for adults and \$8 for ages 9 and under. Purchase your tickets now from Jarod Womack, Rachel Richardson, Emily Wyatt, Brody Preston, Jacob Beauchamp, or Luke Mosley.

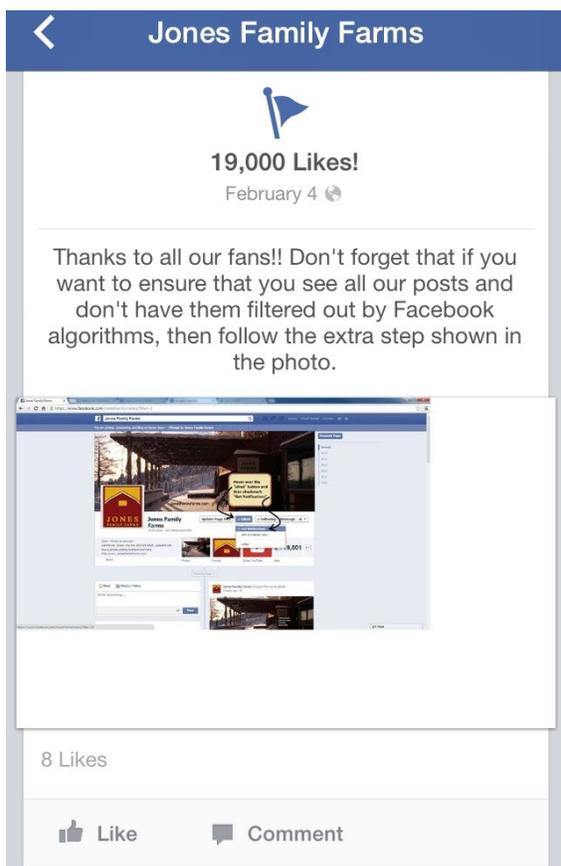
Colton's Steak House	\$20.00 Gift Card	Reflections	Shampoo and Conditioner
Gun Grove	H&R 243 Handy Rifle	Westlakes	Grill Basket
Fastenal	Bolt Bin	Citizen's Bank	Booster Cables
DuKUm Inn	\$10.00 Gift Card, Spices	Japson's Lumber	Grinder and Storage Bin Rack
Kirksville Country Club	2 Green Fees, Cart Rental	O'Reilly Auto Parts	Oil Change Kit
Los Jimadores	\$25.00 Gift Card	Vicki Hall	Macon Tiger T-shirt Quilt
Vision Care	2 Sunglasses	Helton Appliance	Duffel Bag, Umbrella
Cellular Today	2 Car Chargers	Macon Electric	Free Energy Audit
YMCA	2 Day Passes, Gym Bag	Premier Vet Services	\$50.00 Gift Card
ABC Printers	\$20.00 Gift Card	Butner's Auto Spa	\$25.00 Gift Card
Sydenstricker	Pliers, Pry Bar, Grease Gun, Hook Kit, Screwdriver, 3/8" Drill, Collectable Toy Tractor	Macon Atlanta State Bank/	
Farmer's Mutual Insurance	\$50.00 Donation	Hunters Haven	Mossberg 12 Gage Model 535 Duck Commander Edition
Lewis Body Shop	European Mount Dip	Hunters Haven	Spice Basket
MASB	Gun	White Tails Unlimited	Wild Game Feeder
Con-Agra	Food Basket	Kansas City Royals	Ticket Voucher for 4 Tickets
Raspberries	\$10.00 Gift Card	Prenger Foods	Two \$25 Gift Card
Ben Franklin	Print	Chariton Valley	Two \$25 Gift Card
Pizza Hut	Large 1, Topping Pizza	China Garden	Free Lunch Buffet
Paul Kuhman	Shotgun	Pete Claas	Signed Football Helmet
J & R Appliance	Screwdriver Set	Linda's Fashions	\$20 Gift Card
FCS Financial	Gift Basket	The Home Press	Internet Subscription to The Home Press for a Year
Macon Electric Coop	Energy Audit	C & R	\$25 Gift Card
Macon Chronicle Herald	6 Month Subscription	Macon Skate Center	10 Skate Passes
Compton's	\$50.00 Gift Card	Nate's Barber Shop	Free Hair Cut
Paglal Collision	\$75.00 Detail Gift Card		
JP's	BBQ Basket		
Truman State University	4 Shirts, Cookbooks		
Missouri State University	4 Shirts, Hat, Duffel Bag, Key Chains		
MUCAFNR	Hats, Coffee Cup, Water Bottles, Paper Weight		
Paul Lane	\$50.00 Gift Card to AJ's		

Modernizing Farm Promotion

Many farmers are deciding to use different forms of social media. Jones's Family Farm is one example of farmers that use social media. They use social media to help show what their farm is doing and also what produce their farm has to offer. Using social media can help customers self arrange their delivery.

Jones's Family Farm is located in Shelton, Connecticut. The owners are Jamie and Christiana Jones. They are the seventh generation and they currently produce and harvest crops. Some of the crops they produce are strawberries, blackberries, pumpkins, and Christmas trees. They also have a winery with fifteen varieties of wine. They have a kitchen cooking studio to conduct education classes for cooking with local fresh produce.

Jones's Farm uses Facebook, email, face to face, and phone calls to talk to other farmers. They also use farmers market to help keep up with is going around the world. Some of the benefits of using social networking is that it helps customers understand what is going on at their farm. When posting on their Facebook wall, some people might decide to share it then their friends might see it and then share it also.



Jones's Family Farm has some tips for any farmer that is wanting to start using social media. Once you start a web page, maintain a platform by providing content or answer questions that develop conversation. Always be truthful when answering questions. Jones's Farm says another good tip is to show your whole team, how to use the tools, and activate the web page so that everyone can have input.

Bailey Hammontree

Farmers all over the United States use Facebook to promote their business.

An Important Agriculture Organization

For centuries, farmers have looked out for each other by joining together. One example was the forming of a group called the Cattlemen's Association. In 1911, this group helps look after the interests of the cattle industry. It helps farmers know what's going on around the world without having to go to many different sources. This helps the farmers not waste time looking up information, and this insures they have more hands-on time with their animals.

In Macon, the Cattlemen's Association has monthly meetings. Aaron Baker, Macon County Cattlemen's member says that during these monthly meetings they are able to talk about things happening around the world. It also allows them to work with the network and learn from fellow producers. This is an easier way to get information. They also listen to and work with other programs that relate to the industry. Some of the benefits that you get from being involved in the Cattleman's Association is receiving *Prime cut E-Newsletter*, which is a weekly publication, *Missouri Beef Cattleman Magazine*, that is sent out monthly, *Cattle call* which is a weekly Radio podcast, and also *A Voice in Congress*. Missouri Cattlemen's Association monitors and lobbies for issues that affect cattlemen at both state and national levels. All it takes to become a part of this organization is to pay your dues. When joining the county association you are automatically a member at the state level.

To most members, the best part of the organization is the assistance that they provide Macon County youth through their scholarship program. Over the past several years, the organization has provided tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships to Macon County Cattlemen's members, 4-H members, and FFA members through funds raised at the annual Cattlemen's banquet held in February.

Bailey Hammontree



The local Cattlemen's gives scholarships to youth in our area.

Teaching Through Food

Many sophomore members of the Macon FFA took the chance to teach Macon R-1's third graders about agriculture through cooking pizzas for them. Brett Lucas, Mackenzie Reilly, Jocie Hogsett, Kayla Cason, Abby Seipel, and Ethan Foster took this opportunity to educate the students. After carefully researching each component of the pizzas, they were prepared to tell these children all about where their food is produced. One of the biggest problems agriculture faces is a lack of knowledge, so these students jumped at the chance to teach the students. The sophomores prepared two types of pizzas for each class. They made a meat pizza and a vegetable pizza. The aspects of making the crust and sauce were carefully explained to the students. As the meat pizza was being prepared, the students learned all about from where sausage, hamburger, Canadian bacon, and pepperoni. As for the vegetable pizza, the students were educated about peppers, onions, mushrooms, and olives. The pizzas were then topped with cheese and a variety of Italian seasonings. The students were more than excited to find out they got to eat the pizza after the presentation. Ethan Foster, one of the members who presented, said that the importance of the presentation they gave was to explain agriculture to younger students. Agriculture is an ever-growing field and we must keep young people informed. The third graders surprised many of the presenters with their knowledge of the components of the pizzas. Mackenzie Reilly says she never expected the third graders to know why olives are different colors, or that red peppers are sweeter than green peppers. Hopefully, presentations like the one these sophomores gave will spark an interest with the students they presented to and encourage them to get more involved in FFA and advocating for agriculture.

Katy Stoecklein



Many of the sophomores spent the day preparing pizza and explaining each of the components. The students then enjoyed a snack.

No Room for Error

After careful revision of their prized speeches, five members of Macon FFA prepared to travel to South Shelby in hope of obtaining the number one spot at district Fall Speaking contests. Bad news struck the chapter Tuesday, November 19th as they were notified that Shelby Schaefer had the flu and would not be able to present her speech about the Farm Bureau. So Ben Nelson, Katy Stoecklein, Mackenzie Reilly, and Abby Seipel climbed in the school minivan, along with their advisors and made the trek to South Shelby High School. Once there, they checked in with the advisor in charge of their speech category. After that, each member carefully studied their speech one last time. Ben could be found carefully going over his Pet Breeders Association notecards, while Abby was reading over her sheep speech. Mackenzie was making last minute changes to her Young Farmers/Young Farmwives speech, and Katy was making sure she had every word of her Cattlemen's speech memorized. With complete confidence in themselves, each member felt prepared to step into the room with the three judges and present their speech. After a long time of waiting and careful deliberation from the judges, Macon was more than excited to find that Ben Nelson had won and would go on to participate at state in Lebanon, Missouri. Though the other three did not place, they were proud of their hard work and are more than excited to try again in the spring.

Katy Stoecklein



Pictured are the district speaking participants, Reilly, Stoecklein, Nelson, and Seipel. Ben Nelson was more than excited to get the opportunity to advance to state.

An Odd Year for Furs

The fur sales for the 2013-14 season have been very low. The prices are low and the fur quantity is not good. Fur buyers like Mike Peavler of Novelty, Missouri said that it has been a strange year. It seems like nobody is catching as many raccoons as they have been in the past few years. Also, there have been a lot of smaller raccoons caught in the latter part of the season, which is strange.

Any fur buyer will pay more money for a fully prime raccoon. You can tell a raccoon is fully prime when all the hair is longer and not bushy-like. When the fur is shorter, it means the quality of the hide isn't as good as possible. Usually, fully prime raccoons are caught in December and January; however, you can still catch a good quality raccoon in the early season, such as in November, but usually they are still not fully prime.

Any hunter knows that it is easier to catch raccoons at the beginning of the season rather than at the end. At the end of the season the raccoons are usually in rut. This means the boars are chasing the sows to mate. The boars will end up having a rub on the back of their neck and it continues down to their back. When the rut starts, the boars are going in holes in trees and in the ground in search of the sows. They go in so many holes, the fur starts to rub off and then a scab begins to form. That is how they get the rubs on their necks. If you are to catch the boars when they have these rubs, the fur hide will not be worth hardly anything. It is a big deduction because the people who buy furs for clothing like to use the back of the hide on the animal. If the hide has a rub on the back, then the hide is useless; therefore, it affects the price in a negative way. All of these factors affect the buying and selling of furs.

Cole Birdsong



Birdsong sells furs like these to a fur buyer in Jamesport, Missouri.

Excellence in Excello

Have you ever seen a semi truck full of wood going down the highway? Have you ever thought to yourself where did those logs come from? They probably came from a sawmill. One sawmill they might have come from could be the Wooten Sawmill in Excello, Missouri.

In 1995 Robert Wooten started putting the mill together. Over time, as he obtained more money, he added more facilities. There are seven employees that make up the mill, keeping it open five days a week.

There are two main types of cuts at the mill; hardwood and grade. Grade is mostly made of walnut and white oak. Hardwood can come from many different kinds of trees. Grade is worth more than the hardwood. Most of the trees that come out are mostly hardwood though. On average, there are 11,500 logs cut a day. On a good year, that equals about two million twenty-four hundred board feet!

Robert and all his workers must be certified to cut down trees. Most of their trees come from conservation and nearby land owners. In order to cut down trees on conservation land, you must bid on the land against other loggers. Conservationists go in and mark the trees they want the loggers to cut down. The conservation department normally goes and marks the larger trees because they don't allow the smaller trees room to grow to their true potential.

At the sawmill, there are three main types of equipment used: a chain saw, skid loader, debarker saw, and a chipper. The best cut to do on a tree is a wedge cut. It is safer for the tree and the logger. It also prevents the log from splitting and prevents the tree from falling on the logger.

Most people think that all the sawmill does is cut down trees and use them. That is not true at all. Every bit is used for something. The left over chips are sent to distributor and then sent to the University of Missouri to heat the buildings. The left over bark is used to make mulch.

Wooten's sawmill is important to Macon because it provides industry close to home. Many of the workers have grown up around this mill and now it provides them employment. People need to know that its not an easy job. There are a lot of steps you have to take to just

cut down a simple tree. People also need to know that this business helps many people.

Bailey Hammontree

The sawmill is a common sight to many members of the Excello community.



Rewarded

After four years of being in high school, most seniors at Macon County R-1 are thinking about what they are going to do next. Some students are thinking about colleges they can go to, jobs they will have, and just their future in general. Most of these students are starting out on their own for the first time. One thing the Macon FFA Chapter does for their students is offer scholarships. They are for all of those that have shown their efforts in school throughout the years. Some of the scholarships include: The Johnny Day Scholarship, The Everett Croucher Scholarship, The Frank Lolli Award, The Young Farmers Scholarship, and the FFA Scholarship.

The Johnny Day is a memorial scholarship. Johnny Day was from Excello, Missouri, and he was the first Missouri State FFA President. This scholarship was funded by a national fund, but that principal has been nearly depleted. The Macon FFA Chapter is now looking for ways to fund this scholarship. The scholarship is given to an FFA member that is going into an agricultural field. Half of the scholarship will be given to the student before their first semester of college. The second half will be given the second semester in college based on the grades of the students first semester.

The Everett Croucher scholarship is also a memorial scholarship, but this certain one will have existing funds in it as long as the chapter exists, as funds are provided only from the interest. The student that receives this scholarship will receive a check after their first semester of grades is received.

The Frank Lolli Scholarship is a local memorial scholarship. Frank Lolli started The Lolli Bros. Livestock Market. Frank Lolli was always a huge supporter in the FFA, and has had children and grandchildren involved in the program. The scholarship has been funded by a memorial fund, and is generally presented in a five hundred dollar check by the Lolli family.

The Macon County Young Farmers Association awards scholarship to active members that are continuing their education in agriculture. The scholarship is generally presented by Tom or Eldonna Wieberg who are officers of the Association. The award is a four year renewable scholarship that comes to a total of one thousand dollars over the four year timespan.

The Macon FFA Chapter Scholarship is awarded to students that have been involved in the chapter the past years. The scholarship varies from two hundred and three hundred dollars. Chapter members are chosen by Mr. Jarod Womack and Mr. Lonny Farrington for this scholarship.

Abbie Korman



The Macon FFA displays the recipients on these plaques outside of the agriculture rooms

Chance of a Lifetime

As an agricultural student at the University of Missouri, Jarod Womack got the privilege of studying abroad in Ireland his junior year. Realizing the type of opportunity it was, Womack desired to do it again, except a little differently the next time. After graduating from college, Womack began teaching agricultural classes at Macon County R-1. This is where he met many students who shared the same passion for agriculture as him. During the school year of 2009-2010, he created the very first International Agriculture Program at Macon. "I had to get it approved by the school board first, but knew the process would be worth the experience," says Womack. Womack took his first International Agriculture class to Nova Scotia, Canada in June 2010; Ryan Stoecklein was one of five students who got the chance to partake in the journey. Grateful for the opportunity, Stoecklein took full advantage of the trip. He learned about the specialized and labor intensive agriculture in which the Canadians practiced. They offered a plentiful amount of potatoes, grapes, strawberries, apples, etc. that required many hours of physical labor to harvest, all in which differs with agriculture production in the Midwestern United States. "I loved the terrain and climate of Nova Scotia and the food," Stoecklein admits. "I would very much recommend studying abroad! I not only learned about the way they did things agriculturally, but got to experience their culture, as well."

In June 2011, Mr. Jarod Womack took another group of International Agriculture students to study in Queensland, Australia. There they were able to see that although the Australians use similar equipment as the United States does, they seem to farm organically. Brandon Clema, a second year traveler, enjoyed many aspects of the visit to Australia, such as the people, native culture, and the difference of agriculture.

"I loved Greece... every single detail about it. The best experience of my life." Jessica Young was one of the five students to travel to Greece in June 2012. Young realized the Greeks did not use modern equipment while farming like Americans, which made her thankful for the luxuries in America. Regardless of the technology used, Young admired the fact that the Greeks know and stress the importance of agriculture just like Americans. "It was an awesome, eye opening experience. I loved the food, people, scenery, and learning. I'd go back in a heartbeat," Young states.

In June 2013, Womack got the chance to take thirteen International Agriculture students, his biggest group yet, to Ireland. There, Womack was able to relive his college experience and share the memories of the country with his students. Mary Waller had the honor to travel with the group and soaked up every opportunity she could to learn the "Luck of the Irish" way. "The Irish farms were family oriented and were passed on from generation to generation," Waller explained. "Although their technology wasn't as modern as the United States, they made it work, and I admired that. Studying abroad is definitely something I would recommend putting on a bucket list!"

Mr. Jarod Womack is currently preparing for his next International Agriculture trip to Brazil scheduled for June 2014. With each journey he strives to help students realize that no matter how different things may be in other countries, agriculture is extremely important and should be respected in all parts of the world.

Lauren Arnold

Ireland was a once in a lifetime experience for most of the students.



Designing Safer Highways

Every day it seems as if there is more and more traffic traveling through our busy rural community. As the traffic keeps increasing along Highway 36 and Highway 63, more and more dangers are present. The Missouri Department of Transportation is doing their part in helping keep highways safe by improving the most dangerous areas of the highway... intersections. In the year 2007, Missouri began building the new J turn intersections in select locations. These intersections are very common in Michigan; however, they are a fairly new thing here in Missouri.

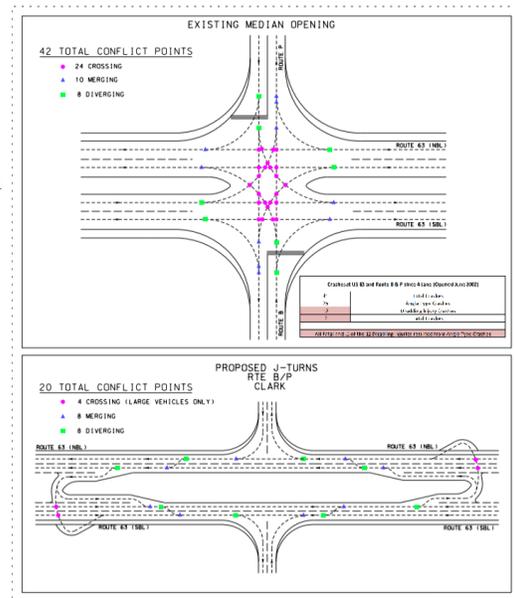
Currently, one of these J turns is being built in Randolph County near Clark. At the location there have been forty-one crashes at this intersection since Highway 63 became an expressway. Of these forty-one crashes twenty-five were angle type crashes. An angle type crash can be one of the most severe types of crashes. Also of the forty-one crashes twelve were considered disabling and two were fatal. Even with these numbers facing them, some of the local community members are not in favor of the new intersections because it requires more driving time to get across the highway, as you can observe in the diagram provided. After hearing about the new intersection being built I became intrigued and after a little research I was able to talk to Mr. Keith Killen of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and gather some more information.

A typical expressway intersection has twenty-four crossing points, all of them being the angle type crashes mentioned before. All twenty-four crossing points are eliminated with the J turn intersection with the exception of semis and vehicles pulling trailers. In other locations, results show that disabling and fatal crashes went from eleven to zero and angle crashes went from eighteen to zero.

This is a major improvement for Missouri highways and it is very important that you support it. Everybody knows that they can be a pain, especially for the locals. Just remember that the extra hassle is very minor in comparison to another lethal crash in your small close knit community.

Lukas Still

Shown here is a diagram of an example of a J-Turn intersection.



Raising Quail

What is real the point in having quail? Why are people so interested in hunting them, or just having them around their farms? These questions were weighing on my mind so I talked to a close friend of mine, Jacob Bonuchi. He then explained why it is so great to have quail on his farm.

Bonuchi has been working with quail for years. He actually got started because his dad had bird dogs, and they purchased them to train the dogs. For Bonuchi, it started out as just a hobby. They began with just 200 birds. Through the years they have raised breeds ranging from the Georgia Giant and the Wisconsin Jumbo to the smaller Tennessee Reds and the standard Bob Whites. They buy the birds at one day old for \$0.50 per bird. Then, at sixteen weeks, they sell them for around \$4.80 per bird.



Bonuchi has been raising and selling quail for years.

Some advantages Bonuchi mentioned are getting to hunt anytime he wants and making a little extra money on the side. It has been Bonuchi's Supervised Agricultural Experience for the past four years while he has been in agriculture classes in Macon County R-1 High School. A disadvantage that he said he faced is that quail are always looking for a way to die. It is very costly due to the fact that half of what are raised, die due to disease, cannibalism, and predators. When they are younger in the brooder pen, they sometimes pile on top of each other when they are cold, and then they die from that. Bonuchi said he has lost five hundred forty chicks in one night due to them piling.

If you are interested in raising quail, you must first talk to your local Conservation Agency. There you will need to get a permit for whatever birds you are planning on raising. Missouri Department of Conservation Private Lands specialist Ted Seiler says you can get a hobby permit allowing you to keep up to fifty quail for ten dollars. A breeder's permit for more than fifty quail is fifty dollars. If you want to do a "shooting preserve", there is a hundred dollar permit and there are acreage requirements. For the dog training permit, you must get a field trial, which is twenty dollars. You can have up to three people on a hobby permit. That will allow all three people to train their dogs with no more than fifty quail. There is also a "dog training area" permit and it comes with acreage requirements also.

After getting permits, you must construct a pen for them. The amount of birds you are planning on getting will determine how big your pen should be. Bonuchi has a brooder house that is about twelve by twelve feet, holds about a thousand chicks, and is heated. The chicks stay in it for about six weeks. It has to be at least 98 degrees until they are six weeks old. Bonuchi also has a flight pen where they turn the chicks out at six weeks old. It is a twenty by seventy foot pen that is covered by netting that keeps chicks from escaping.

It was great speaking with Mr. Bonuchi, and I learned a lot. Most people do not really understand why people would even want quail, but it is really a very fun hobby and makes for a challenging, but rewarding business.

Abbie Korman

Missouri Department of Agriculture

Christine Tew is the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Director of Communications. I had the privilege of getting to know about her career when I decided to write an article about Missouri's Department of Agriculture. Her career at MDA began with her as a communications specialist. After two years, a mentor mentioned to her that the Department was looking for a writer. Tew decided to apply. She was hired and has now been the Director of Communications for a little over a year.

Christine holds many responsibilities in several different areas. She works with producers when hosting special events, writes media releases and website content, researching interesting topics to help prepare speeches and talking points for the Department's director, and keeping up with the Department's social media.

Before her career at the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Tew worked for the University of Missouri. There she helped with publications in the School of Natural Resources and assisted with special events. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural journalism, and she studied marketing and statistics in graduate school. Christine earned both her bachelor's and master's degree at the University of Missouri.

After talking to Christine Tew, I have not only learned about her career, but possible career choices for myself as well. She clearly enjoys her job, and said, "It's been an outstanding learning experience and I greatly enjoy the variety that comes with wearing many hats."

Mary Waller

Christine Tew really enjoys her job as Director of Communications.



Thanksgiving Dinner

The Macon FFA Chapter upholds many traditions each year. One of the chapter's favorites is the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The officer team spends an evening after school preparing this delicious meal. Our menu is very traditional, including: noodles, stuffing, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes and gravy, ham, a selection of pies, and of course, turkey. What doesn't get finished the night before, the officers finish preparing early the next morning. The meal is always served on the last day of school before Thanksgiving break. Each hour, FFA members have the chance to enjoy it! As an officer, I have had the privilege in helping prepare this meal for the last two years. Thanksgiving Dinner gives the officers yet another opportunity to work on a project together as a team. It also is one of the best ways to show our chapter how much their hard work during fruit sales pays off! Without the fruit sales fundraiser and a hard-working officer team, this event wouldn't happen. Thanksgiving Dinner is yet another thing the Macon FFA Chapter has to be thankful for!

Mary Waller



The officers worked very hard to prepare dinner for the members.

A Family Man and a Military Man

Mark Nelson was born on September 17, 1960, in Macon Missouri to his mother and father, Toni and Jack Nelson. His mother, Toni, was a stay at home mom and his father Jack was a math teacher at Moberly and also served in the Air Force. Mark's mom Toni married Jack at age 15. Toni and Jack then moved from Bronx, New York to Macon, Missouri. Toni had her first child at age 16. Mark has three brothers Tom, Scott, and Mike and two sisters Debra and Tanya. The most influential person to him as a child was his older brother Tommy, because Tommy was the oldest; he looked up to Tommy the most. Mark said as a child his grandpa would make him and his brothers go pick all the weeds that grew in his watermelon patch. As a kid, he grew up with three pets. One pet was a German Shepard, another was a little miniature poodle, and the last pet was a bunny that he and his brother kept in their room. Mark said that he and his brother wouldn't clean the bunny cage for weeks.

In high school, Mark participated in running track. Mark got his first job during his teenage years working at a place called Quincy Soybean. After high school he went to college at Colby Community College. He went to study sheep and agriculture. After college Mark went into the Air Force for eight years. In the Air Force he fixed and repaired planes. He also met one of his best friends in the Air Force, Gerald (Fergy) Fergason. One of his fondest memories while serving in the Air Force was when he got stationed in Norway. It's one of his fondest memories because not many people get a chance to go to Norway. It was also hard for him because he was so far away from his wife. Mark and his wife Lori lived in Arizona and Utah while he was still in the Air Force. He considers his time in the military a positive experience because he felt like he had helped keep this country free and safe, and he felt like he had been a part of something big.

Today Mark has two sixteen year old children; Ben and Rebecca Nelson. Mark says he is happy the way he was raised because he was raised to work hard, tell the truth, and be honest. Mark says his greatest accomplishment in life is being happily married to his wife, Lori Nelson for thirty two years. To Mark, his most embarrassing moment was when he got shipped back from Norway to the United States from his temporary duty in the military. Mark was supposed to spend the whole night while he was back with his wife. Mark went to a party with his military buddies instead, ended up intoxicated, and didn't get home until late that night. His wife didn't talk to him for two days. Today Mark is a dispatcher for the Highway Patrol in Macon, Missouri. Mark loves being outdoors and spending as much time as he can with his family.



Collin Patrick

Nelson enjoys working on he family farm. He is very involved in agriculture.

Clues

Across

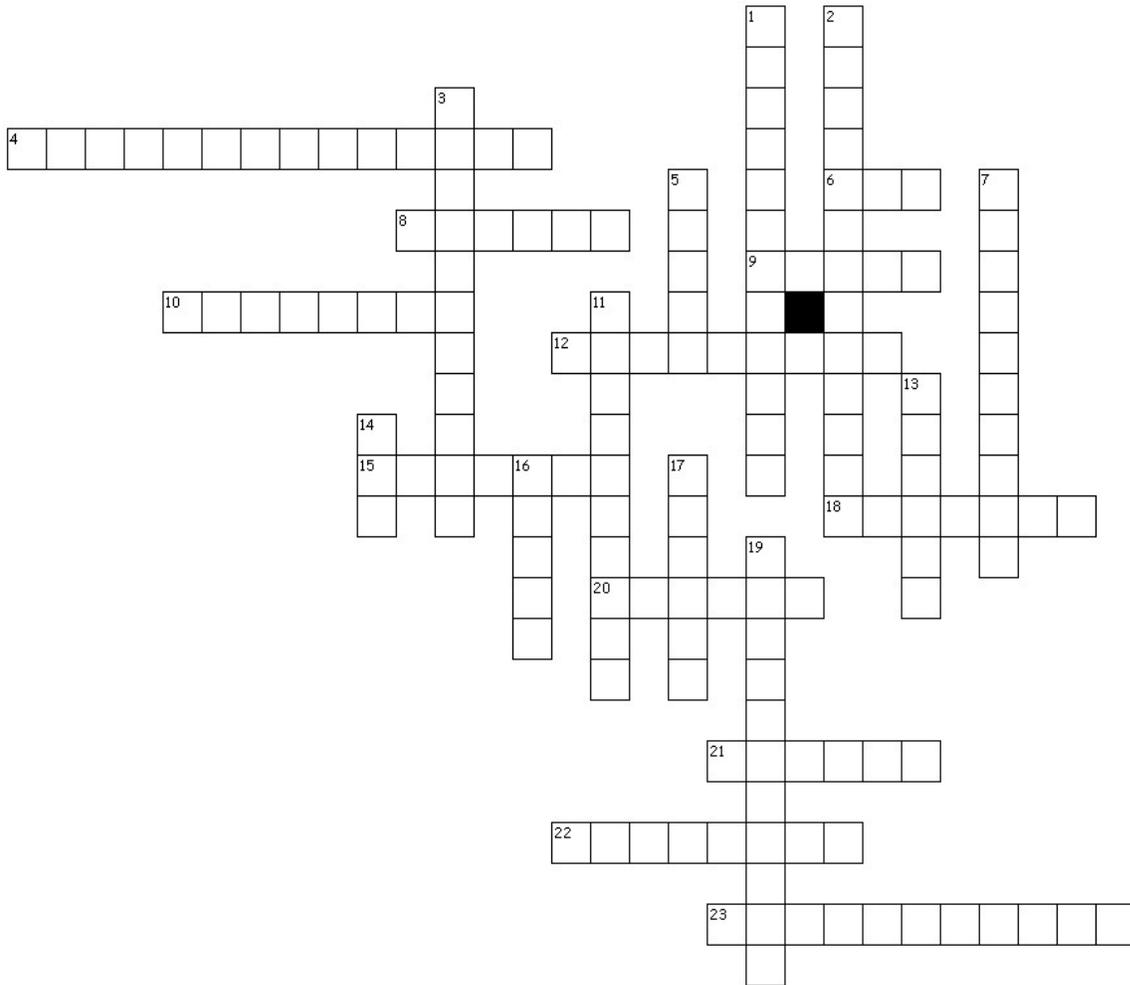
4. The type of trap that has a deer stop and a release switch.
6. The area that seems to have a dip that is muddy in the bank of a creek that a Muskrat or beaver makes.
8. Missouri's biggest rodent.
9. The clown of the furbearer family.
10. During this phase of the moon, the Raccoon hates being outside.
12. The type of trapping where the trapper makes a pocket looking set.
15. The furbearer that has the most teeth.
18. The animal that seems to have a mask on.
20. What is the country's name that has the largest import of American Fur?
21. The furbearer that is a relative to the wolf.
22. The trap that is used to catch water animals.
23. The name of a beaver home.

Down

1. A "New" style of trap that is meant to only catch raccoons not the regular domestic pets.
2. What is the name of the furbearer (s) that whose teeth, constantly grows, making it chew on wood.
3. The period of time where an animal seems to sleep for several months.
5. The smelliest furbearer.
7. What two types of foxes live in Missouri?
11. The opening day of trapping season.
13. The only cat in Missouri that is trapped for its fur.
14. The mechanism that helps hold the "Jaw" and also connects to the pan.
16. The type of trapping that is illegal in Missouri.
17. The smallest furbearer that is trapped in Missouri.
19. The type of trapping that consists of digging a hole and placing the trap in the



Missouri Trapping Crossword



Me, Myself, and I

Picture a four banger rappin' out, hitting the mud hole, and mud flying. Yep, that describes me; and my love for off-roading. After a weekend of gear jamming and engine roaring, you usually tear up a few things. That's where my real passion is; wrenching under the hood of my truck or jeep, cracking knuckles just to replace a clutch or starter. My dad, Michael, coming out to tell me supper is almost done, and mom telling me I better get my rear inside, is a common sound. I reply "Mom I'm almost done; just a few more bolts."

I rush through dinner just so I can get back outside, and my sister, Michelle gives me trouble for wasting my money on the truck. She's always telling me it's a waste of time and money. What she doesn't know is there's no feeling like starting a vehicle after you just fixed it, and taking it down the road. It is the best feeling in the world!

I remember a time my brother Tony sold me a car and told me not to get rid of it. Needless to say, I found a 1993 Jeep Cherokee sitting on 31's with a four and a half inch Skyjacker lift. The guy told me he would take the car and give me five hundred cash back. I took the deal and drove my new mud toy home. Oh, my brother was mad, but he forgave me when my oldest sister Lisa found out she had a baby girl on the way.

There's never a stronger love for family than when you find out you're about to be an uncle in a few months. The thought of growing up, and having it come so fast is scary, but knowing I'm about to be an uncle sure makes it easier. In a year and a half, I'm headed to the Marines, and to technical school. I will be getting a degree in diesel mechanics, small engine, and welding.

Along with vehicles and family, I also love football. Next year is my last football season that I will play in high school, and I am hoping to start offense and defense. I'm getting knee surgery before though; unfortunately, I tore my meniscus. In the middle of a practice three weeks into the season, I was playing fullback for the scout team. I hit the hole hard, and got jammed in the side my knee. I got back up with no pain and walked away. The next play I went to sprint and collapsed. I realized my knee was shot. I played the rest of the season not knowing why my knee hurt, or kept popping. It didn't matter though as long as I got to play football with my family. The team becomes your family, and they are the people who matter.

I remember going to a football dinner at a teammate's house. Everyone was messing around and driving fast, having a good time. Another teammate about lost control on the gravel, and we gave him grief about it at the dinner. You realize how close of a family the team becomes when you sit there and talk about how it wasn't your fault for the last game, or how next game we will get the game winning block.

On Friday, you'd sit in the locker room and waiting for the speech Coach Claas always gives. You sit around talking to your brother sitting right next you; he's the man that will play next to you throughout the game. Your other family will be sitting in the stands, and your team family is right next to you ready to tear into the field and do whatever it takes to get a victory.

That's my life, and those are my passions. Football, family, and vehicles are my love. They allow me to better myself as a person.



Brittingham enjoying fixing vehicles in his free time.

The Book of My Life

Everyone has a purpose in life, and everyone has a talent; and whether it is good or bad, everyone has a story. My story began eighteen years ago on November 9th during a very important time of year. What comes to mind when you think of this time of year? The Thanksgiving holiday, perhaps? I agree that the turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and home-made rolls are great, but according to my own train of thought, November means deer season!

For as long as I can remember, my dad did everything in his power to take the bows out of my hair and dress me in camouflage and hunter orange, no matter what my mother might have said. Although I am capable of wearing a dress and high heels, I would have to admit my dad won the battle in influencing my interests. Not only did my dad teach me how to shoot a gun and live off of the land, but he also eliminated the pom-poms and frilly skirts from my wardrobe and instead, put a basketball in my hand. Doing this helped me to realize that having people cheer for me feels much better than cheering for other people.

I learned at a very young age that even though cheerleading is a popular girls sport, it is definitely not my forte. Having been a four-and-a-half years younger than my sister Shelby, I spent much of my time watching her play sports. This is where my love for basketball began. Throughout these eighteen years of my life, I have kept basketball a huge priority. I have put forth a lot of hours practicing in the gym just to improve my skills. Playing basketball gives me a feeling that is difficult to describe. It is a game that requires you to think on your feet and tends to be very challenging, which I conclude may be the reason why I love it so much.



Basketball has become a huge factor in forming the person I am. Not only do I thoroughly enjoy the sport itself, but have learned I am a person who craves competition. My athletic ability, determination, and intelligence of the game also play a huge role in why I truly admire the sport so much. After all, who actually enjoys something in which they do not perform well?

I am currently a senior playing for the Macon Tigerette high school basketball team. Being the oldest, I choose to set a positive example for my fellow teammates and partake in a leadership position to try and give the underclassmen someone to look up to. Not only do I do this in basketball, but in other school activities as well, such as Student Council, National Honor Society, and FFA.

Lauren's senior pictures perfectly display her love for outdoors and deer hunting.

These are all important in the book of my life. Being a member of the FFA; however, has opened opportunities that I never knew existed. As a freshman attending Macon High School, I was enrolled in all the general education classes as well as a few electives, business being one of them. At the end of this particular year, I decided I would take an agriculture course instead of business my sophomore year. Little did I know, agriculture and FFA would also become a huge priority of mine. The past three years I have managed to accomplish the unthinkable; FFA making it all possible. Through FFA, I have made lifelong friendships, memories, and am soon going to pursue one of my most recent dreams as attending the University of Missouri as an agricultural major.

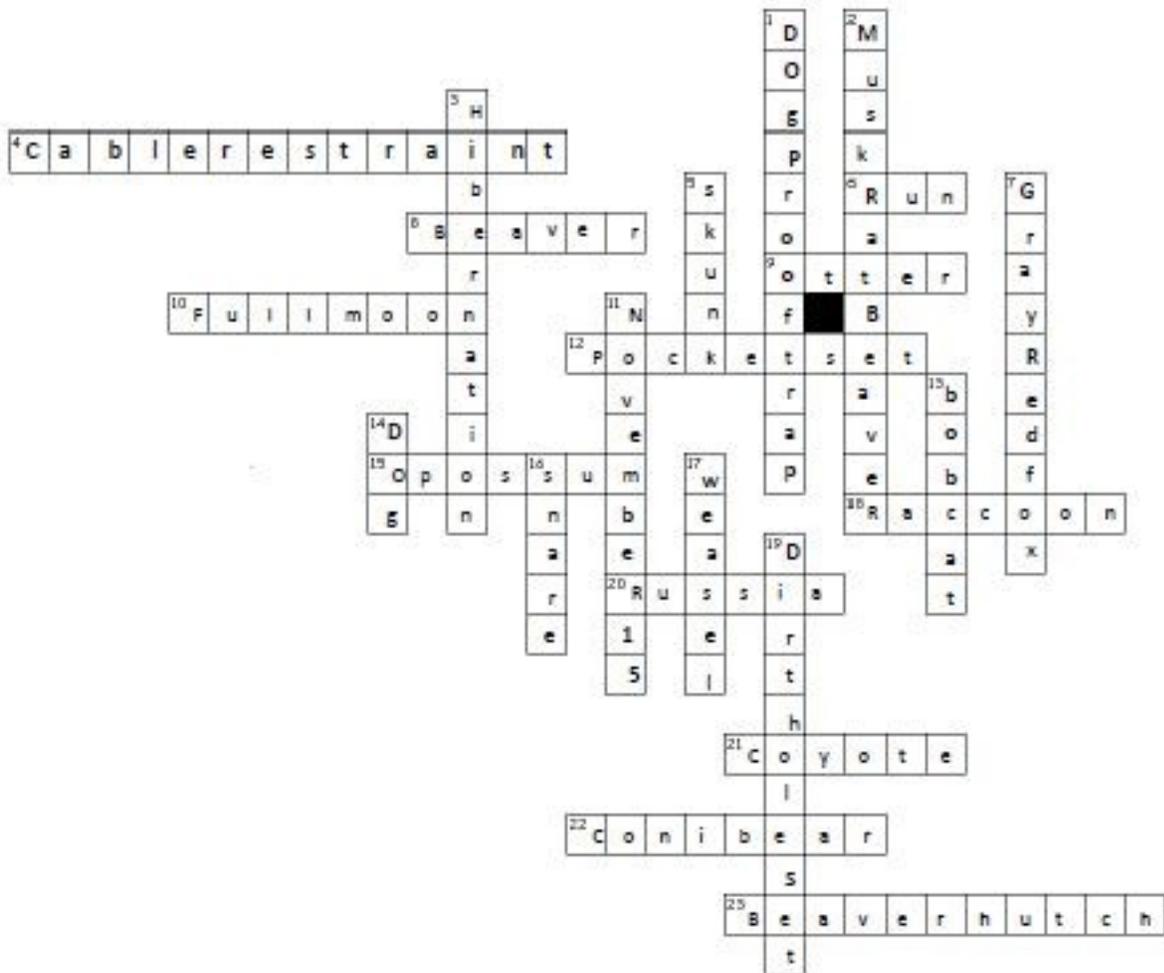
The next few pages in the book of my life are expressed with a dream I have had since I was young. I come from a family who is very musically inclined. I, myself have a hidden talent that can be demonstrated vocally. Although my nerves get the best of me on most occasions, I love being in the spotlight, and my dream has always been to become famous for singing. I would have to admit that this dream may be a bit of a long shot, but it is something I have dreamt of ever since I first learned to speak. I have grown up now and understand that my chances in becoming famous are one in a million. I have formed other goals that will help me become successful in the future; however, will always secretly imagine myself pursuing my dream in the spotlight on stage.

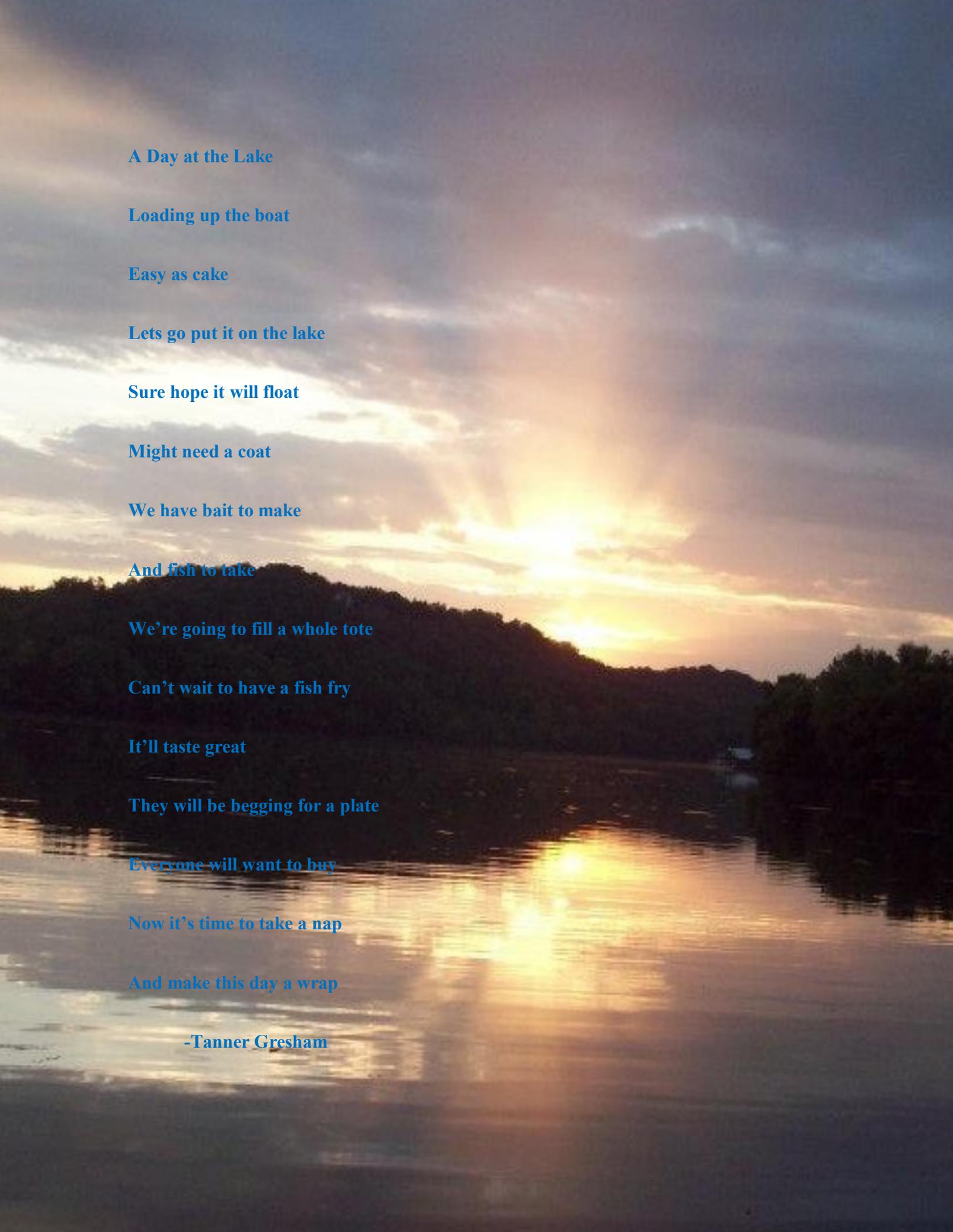
God has blessed me with many talents and has given me the opportunity to be able to express them in ways in which are possible for me to become successful. I am lucky to be living the life that I do with the people who are a part of it. I refuse to give myself credit without also giving credit to my family and other supporters, as well. Day by day, the special people in my life continue to be my backbone in whatever I do, and I would not be the person I am today without them. I truly could not thank them enough.

In the book of my life, God grants us all the gift in being whoever we wish to be, because the sky is the limit. Everyone has a talent, a dream, a hobby, and a story. Would you like to know the rest of my story? Well, it's still being written.

Lauren Arnold

Missouri Trapping Crossword Key



A photograph of a sunset over a lake. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by clouds, casting a bright orange and yellow glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The shoreline is dark and silhouetted against the bright sky.

A Day at the Lake

Loading up the boat

Easy as cake

Lets go put it on the lake

Sure hope it will float

Might need a coat

We have bait to make

And fish to take

We're going to fill a whole tote

Can't wait to have a fish fry

It'll taste great

They will be begging for a plate

Everyone will want to buy

Now it's time to take a nap

And make this day a wrap

-Tanner Gresham