

FREE Midweek Brief

Wednesday, June 7, 2023 | communitybrief@gmail.com | 309-421-0761 | Briefly Covering Your Local News

Arrests Made in Bushnell Man's Death

Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Zone 4 announce the arrest of 18-year-old Davin M. Purden for First Degree Murder (Class M Felony); and 17-year-old Nicholas C. Lafary for First Degree Murder (Class M Felony), both of Bushnell.

On June 2, 2023, ISP DCI agents were requested to conduct a death investigation in the 600 block of Osbourne



Davin Purden



Nicholas Lafary

Street in Bushnell. During the investigation, 43-year-old Travis Purden was discovered deceased in his residence with multiple gunshot

wounds. After a thorough and extensive investigation, including reviewing surveillance camera footage and conducting interviews, D. Purden and Lafary were identified as suspects.

On June 4, 2023, arrest warrants were issued for D. Purden and Lafary, and on June 5, 2023, ISP took Purden and Lafary into custody. They were lodged in the McDonough County

See Murder on page 2

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MON-SAT 10am-6pm

Alumnus Donates Plant and Crop Measurement Equipment to WIU School of Agriculture

MACOMB – A Western Illinois University Distinguished Alumnus has made an equipment donation to the School of Agriculture, which will help students with the use of technology in the field.

Mike Thurow received his bachelor's degree from WIU in Agricultural Engineering-Mechanization with Honors in 1973. He then received his MBA from the Keller Graduate School of Management in 1985.

Thurow recently donated a long list of technological equipment to the University to help show students how plants and crops are performing in University fields. The donation is on behalf of his company, Spectrum Technologies, Inc. in Aurora, IL.

"The assumption is that professors will share the value of measurement technology and the data gathered in their classes," said Thurow. "Also, the vision is that students will use the various meters, sensors and weather stations in their labs and see first-hand the



value of measurement data and the correlation with crop quality and yield."

WIU School of Agriculture Director Andy Baker said the donated equipment will greatly enhance the department's current and future research programming.

"It will also greatly benefit us when writing grant proposals that will

utilize Spectrum's technology that will capture accurate field and greenhouse data," Baker said. "We are very pleased and excited to be able to use the latest and greatest technology in the industry today for our course labs and research programs, plus the development of undergraduate research projects."

Thurow developed his vision for the measurement and data equipment 40 years ago while working with crop production equipment for the International Harvester Company. While he was in graduate school, he created a business plan to develop and market

See Donation on page 10

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POLICE REPORTS

McDonough County Sheriff's Department

5/30

Keenin Ivel Gibson, 25, Macomb, was arrested on a McDonough County warrant
Angela Alleyne Robinson, 51, Macomb, was arrested on a McDonough County warrant

Samuel Dante Watson Rollins, 21, Macomb, was arrested on a McDonough County warrant

Justin Robert Bowden, 41, Montrose, IA, was arrested on a McDonough County warrant

Stephen Michael Burbidge, 30, Macomb, was charged with trespass to residence
Karissa Ann Kitch, 25, Macomb, was charged with trespass to residence

5/31

Brandy Joan Bolen, 65, Bardolph, was charged with battery

Justin Joseph Philipp, 30, Fort Madison, IA, was arrested on a foreign warrant

Macomb City Police

5/31

Mark A. Lasswell, 51, Macomb, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident
Terrell C. Jones, 34, Macomb, was charged with resisting/obstructing officer/official

6/2

Preston J. Carle, 24, Macomb, was charged with careless driving

Murder

Continued from page 1

Jail. Purden was given a \$2,000,000 bond, 10% to apply. Lafary was charged as an adult and also given a \$2,000,000 bond, 10% to apply. ISP also took 37-year-old Patricia J. Purden of Bushnell, and a 17-year-old juvenile female into custody for Obstructing Justice (Class 4), awaiting a bond hearing.

No further information will be released at this time. This is an active and ongoing investigation.

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

TODAY'S JOKES

Q: Why did the can crusher quit his job?

A: Because it was soda pressing.

Q: What do you call someone who doesn't like carbs?

A: Lack-Toast Intolerant.

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Weekly Drawing 6-8pm
See bartender for details

GAMING
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WEDNESDAYS
5-8PM

Ventures



Calling All Book Clubs

The **No Stress Book Club** is inviting all the book clubs in McDonough County to join us for a celebration!

Book clubs are an asset to communities. Let's recognize the many book clubs we have in McDonough County and gather for a celebration. Please have one of your book club members contact Connie LaRue connieklarue@gmail.com for more information.

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The Community News Brief is a product of Community News & Market.

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DEATH NOTICES

Mary Lou Kerr

84, of Macomb

Mary Lou Kerr, 84, of Macomb, passed away at 12:15 AM Thursday June 1, 2023 at her residence.

Funeral Services was held Wednesday June 7, 2023 at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Macomb. Rev. Dr. Scott Grulke officiated. Cremation accorded after the services. Burial of ashes will be in Oakwood Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial Contributions may be made to St. Jude's Childrens Hospital, Shriners Hospital for Children or MDH Hospice. Dodsworth-Piper-Wallen Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please sign guestbook at www.dodsworthfh.com

Carl H. McKee

74, of Maple Grove, MN

Carl H. McKee, 74, of Maple Grove, MN passed away Saturday May 20, 2023. Carl was born to Beryl Brooks on February 17, 1949 in Macomb.

Celebration of Life will be June 9, 2023 at Evans-Nordby Funeral Home, Osseo, MN, from 4-7pm. Carl will also receive military honors and be put to rest at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Death notices (name, death date and services) run free of charge. Families who wish to have a complete obit published in the Tuesday or Friday Community News Brief newspaper (including picture, family, work history and hobbies and other information) should request the Community News Brief to the funeral home that is handling the services OR submit it directly to communitybrief@gmail.com. Cost is \$45 and includes a laminated copy of the obituary.

Terry Lee Wardell


Celebration of Life

A celebration of life for Terry Lee Wardell, who passed away May 14 at his residence in Douglas, Georgia is set for

Saturday, June 17 at the Macomb VFW
1200 E. Jefferson St. from 2-5 PM.
Military honors will start at 3 PM.

Terry attended Macomb high school, Class of 1971. Family, friends and classmates are invited to come out and share stories of Terry; a loving father husband, brother, grandpa, uncle, and friend.

- The family of Terry Wardell



Irene Schisler

83, of Ipava

Irene Schisler, 83, of Ipava, passed away at 10:48 am Thursday June 1, 2023 peacefully at her residence with her son by her side.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday June 8, 2023 at the Martin-Hollis Funeral Home where visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Pastor Brant Reed will officiate. Burial will be in the Bushnell Township Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to the Ipava Christian Church or to the Ipava Fire Department. Please sign the guestbook and leave condolences at www.martinhollisfh.com.

D. Wayne Norris

85, of Plymouth

D. Wayne Norris, 85, of Plymouth died at 12:20 am Wednesday May 31, 2023 at Grand Prairie Assisted Living in Macomb.

A Service of Remembrance was held Saturday, June 3, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home in Augusta. Memorial contributions will be made to Plymouth Old Settler's.

The Hamilton Funeral Home in Augusta, is handling arrangements.

Iona M. Wise

90 of Macomb, formerly of Astoria

Iona M. Wise, age 90 of Macomb, formerly of Astoria, passed away at 2:30 am on Sunday, May 28, 2023 at The Elms in Macomb.

Services were held Tuesday, May 30th at Shawgo Memorial Home in Astoria. Pastor Bob Greene officiated. Interment was in the Woodland Cemetery in Astoria.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Iona's memory may be made to The Elms in Macomb.

Dodsworth-Piper-Wallen

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Eunice Jean Bruns

89, of Augusta

Eunice Jean Bruns, 89, of Augusta, went to be with her Lord and Savior at 1:09 am Saturday June 3, 2023 at Maple Grove Memory Care in Carthage.

Funeral services will be held at 10 am Monday, June 12, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home in Augusta, with Pastor Joe Little officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn cemetery in Augusta. Visitation will be held from 5-7pm Sunday June 11, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home in Augusta. Memorial contributions may be made to Augusta Senior Citizens Center or Lamoine Christian Camp.

The Hamilton Funeral Home in Augusta, is handling arrangements.

Bertha A. Bucy

93 of Macomb, formerly of Vermont

Bertha A. Bucy, age 93 of Macomb, formerly of Vermont, passed away at 12:56 am on Saturday, May 27th at Wesley Village in Macomb.

Services were held Thursday, June 1st, 2023 at Shawgo Memorial Home in Astoria. Pastor Bob Greene officiated. Interment was in the Vermont Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Bertha's memory may be made to the Vermont American Legion Auxiliary.

Travis Michael Purden

43 of Prairie City

Travis Michael Purden of Prairie City, was taken from us on Friday, June 2, 2023. He was 43 at the time of death.

Cremation Rites have been accorded. A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023 at Martin Hollis Funeral Home from 5:00 until 7:00 pm. Memorial contributions can be made to the family of Travis Purden. Martin-Hollis Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please sign the guestbook and leave condolences at www.martin-hollisfh.com

Izella June Switzer

89 of Colchester

Izella June Switzer age 89 of Colchester, passed away Thursday, June 1, 2023, at her home in Colchester.

Funeral services will be 11:00 A.M. Thursday, June 8, 2023, at the Jones Mortuary in Colchester with Pastor Nathan Nelson. Burial will follow the services at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Colchester. Friends may view and sign the register book at the funeral home from 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Wednesday, June 7, 2023. Memorial is to St Jukes Children's Hospital. Condolences and memories can be expressed to the family at jonesmortuaryfh.com.

Community Calendar

Blandinsville

EVERY SATURDAY

Story Hour and Crafts

Saturdays at The Blandinsville-Hire Library at 10 AM. Snacks will be available. Check out the many new kids and young adult books. Spend some time at the library and take a book home to read!

Bushnell

EVERY MONDAY

Coffee Club

from 9-10am at Courtyard Estates of Bushnell.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

City-wide Cleanup

Colchester

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Movie Night at the Firehouse

Colchester Fire Department Movie Night at the Firehouse. Gates open at 8pm, showing starts at dusk.

Macomb

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

Summer Concert Series

Bill Maakestad opens the Downtown Macomb Summer Concert Series in Chandler Park. The Series is held every Wednesday from 12-1pm June 7-August 9. The event is free to attend.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

ACAMeeting

ACA will meet at 6pm at the Library University Baptist Church

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

Second Wednesday of Month

The Page Turners Book Club meets the second Wednesday of every month from 4:30-5:30pm in the Macomb Public Library Meeting room. The public is invited to attend.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Annual Juneteenth Celebration

Mount Calvary Church of God in Christ will host the 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration in Macomb IL. 61455, on June 17th from 12 noon to 4pm. This program strives to bring the entire community together for a free, fun-filled day. This is an educational opportunity to learn more about the history of Juneteenth and its significance while enjoying free food, games, and entertainment.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

All You Can Eat Breakfast

Sons of the American Legion will be serving from 7-10:30am at the American Legion Post 6, 221 E. Washington St. Open to the public. \$8 per person, \$7 for Seniors 55 and up, children 6 and under are free.

MONDAY, JUNE 19

Genealogical Society meeting

McDonough County Genealogical Society Meeting Ice Cream Social at 10:30am. Share your love of knitting or crocheting with both experienced and beginner crafters. Meet fellow knitters, brush up on skills and learn new techniques. Materials will be provided but feel free to bring your own projects. All levels of experience are welcome.

Submit your calendar item or photo to communitybrief@gmail.com

Table Grove Fire and Rescue

Family Fun Day

June 10th, 2023
12:00- 4:00

At the
Table Grove Park

Bean Bag Toss

Norman Wise- Lawn mower train Rides/ Cotton Candy

Bounce house & water Slide

Popcorn-\$1.00

Face Painting

\$10.00 Wristband per child includes (1 hot dog meal)

Additional food may be purchased

All children who are participating in the event will be required to have a \$10 wristband for the day.



LORRI'S MARIETTA TAP



112 COAL ST., MARIETTA
309.926.6901

BAGS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH SIGN UP BY NOON
Bring your own partner \$10 ENTRY 100% Payout - 3 Places paid
BAGS FLY BY 1PM

Whole Catfish Dinner

SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH
3pm to 8pm or until gone • Choice of sides

Join us for Indian Tacos
EVERY WEDNESDAY 5-8PM OR GONE
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VFW Post #1422

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DRAWINGS EVERY SATURDAY AT 7:30



CHECK THE BOARD FOR FLIPPED CARDS BEFORE PICKING A NUMBER

TICKETS AVAILABLE DAILY AT BUSHNELL
VFW POST #1422 OPEN AT 4PM

Little Lunchers is Back

Get your little ones ready because Little Lunchers is BACK for the Summer! Mark your Calendars for June 15th, July 13th and July 27th at the Chandler Park Gazebo from 12-1pm. The Macomb Park District and Macomb Library are so excited to welcome you back to our Little Lunchers Series! This is a free program and includes story reading and a complimentary lunch (while supplies last).

Blandinsville Library Summer Reading

Please join us for the Summer Reading Program this summer, every Wednesday June 14-July 19 from 10am-12pm. This summer the theme is: "Words are the Seed so Learn to Read". We will be focusing on different types of farming in our community. There will be a story time, activity, craft and snack each week related to that week's farm theme.



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FRIDAY SPECIAL

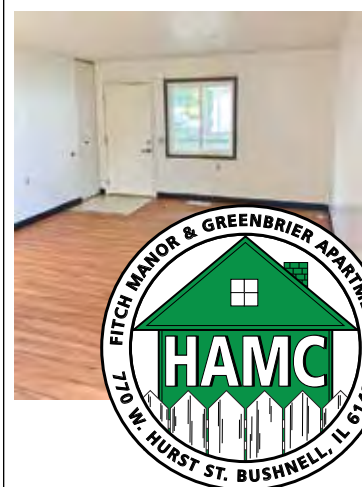
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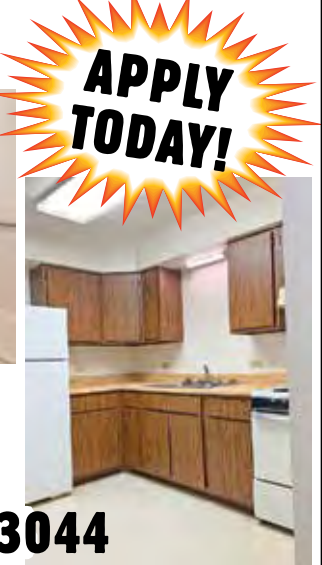


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SATURDAY 10AM-11PM

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FAMILY FUN

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

FEATURED MAIN STAGE EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

MACOMB MUNICIPAL
BAND 5:45-6:45

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

DUKE & THE AMERICAN DREAM 6:00-7:15

GERALD "THE SOUL
KEEPER" MCCLENDON
7:30-8:45

HEARTSFIELD
9:15-10:30

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

REAL PRETENDERS 6:00-7:15

WIN NOLL & THE ROCKIN' SOULS
7:30-8:45

AYODELE
DRUM & DANCE
ENSEMBLE
PRESENTED BY WIN BEAR
4:45-5:45

THE
40 ACRE
MULE
9:15-10:30

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

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For complete schedule of events: **MacombHeritageDays.com**

*4 out of 5 doctors recommend Macomb Heritage Days for their patients who choose festivals.

Table Grove Fire and Rescue

Family Fun Day

June 10th, 2023

12:00- 4:00

At the

Table Grove Park

\$10.00 Wristband
per child includes
(1 hot dog meal)

Additional food may
be purchased

Bean Bag Toss

Norman Wise- Lawn
mower train Rides/
Cotton Candy

Bounce house & water
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Popcorn-\$1.00

Face Painting

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GOOD GROWING

Is it too late to cut back ornamental grasses?

Every day I drive up to my house I am confronted with the neglect of my landscape. Admittedly, I did not cut back my ornamental grasses this spring. At a Memorial Day pool party, the conversation turned to neighbors who don't cut back their grasses. Everyone agreed, uncut ornamental grasses drove them crazy! I slunk low in my patio chair and shot my wife a glance that read, "Don't give me away!"

Why do unpruned ornamental grasses stick in my conscience so much? It's only a couple of grasses, right? Well, the former owner of our home must have loved ornamental grasses, because they are everywhere in my yard. No matter where you look right now, there are half-green, half-tan clumps of tall grass.

I did a better job managing these grasses for the few previous springs we have been in our home. One year I borrowed a friend's hedge trimmer, tied the grasses in a bundle, and cut

at the base of the plant. The bundle is easy to carry and makes cleanup a breeze. The next year I burned all the grass. That was much more exciting, but if you've never burned prairie or grasses before, these fires burn quickly and intensely. I may have accidentally scorched part of the neighbor's lawn. (I apologized!) What's the hang-up this year? These last months, I find myself either at the office or the baseball field helping coach two little league teams. The grasses will have to wait.

So what happens to the grass if we don't cut it back in the spring? Nothing. It does not affect the overall health of the grass. Actually, once the new green leaf blades grow up they will mask last year's foliage. Aside from the brown seed heads poking over the green growth, you won't even notice.

Leaving ornamental grasses standing over the winter does help protect the growing points of the plant at the soil line from extremely cold temperatures. Grasses and other herbaceous plant stems also serve as habitat for beneficial insects and pollinators.


You may even argue that it is okay to just leave old growth every year. However, the accumulation of dead grass material can cause

longer-term problems. And removing that old growth can be useful in getting rid of the debris and mimicking fire that created the vast North American prairies where many of our ornamental grasses developed.

At this point in early June do I plan to do anything with my ornamental grasses? I may take scissors and remove the most offending seed heads from last year. I also have plans to dig up some of the grasses and replace them with some woody shrubs and perennials. Cutting them back now at this point is probably not in the cards as they are just getting out of their ugly duckling phase and it would just prolong that.

While I may hang my head somewhat in guilt for not cutting back my ornamental grasses, I remember sometimes the imperfections give us a new perspective. As Yogi Berra said, "If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be."


Good Growing Tip of the Week: Cutting or burning your ornamental grasses in the spring does have a benefit. When foliage is removed, spring growth will begin earlier. Old foliage left on the plant can delay the crown's warming and subsequent growth by as much as 3 weeks.



Advice for the *expected*
& the *unexpected.*

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Donation

Continued from page 1

plant measurement technology for the agricultural and horticulture industry. This resulted in his opening of Spectrum Technologies, Inc. in 1987; a company which has grown into a world leader in advanced plant measuring technology.

"There were no companies doing this at the time," Thurow said. "Our first product at Spectrum was a Soil pH Meter, and many other products followed. Today, a product development team of engineers and software developers at Spectrum create the products, Cloud solutions and apps that bring more value to measurement data."

Thurow's company has 45 employees and has developed 25 products, which have been named AE50 award winners by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers for outstanding product innovation.

Spectrum Technologies, Inc. does business all over the world.

WIU's School of Agriculture has previously ordered equipment from Thurow's company. After meeting with researchers from WIU, Thurow said he decided he wanted to "help these passionate folks enhance their research work with plant measurement technology."

"The need to measure key environmental parameters is relevant to understanding how plants and crops perform, and the yield that's produced," he said. "One of my favorite sayings is that 'we know what we know, but we don't know what we don't know.' Measurement data explains most of these factors and variables that Mother Nature delivers."

Thurow said his experience at WIU was significant in the process of validating his passion for mechanized agriculture. He said he graduated from Western with the confidence that he could achieve anything in life he

desired.

"I was motivated to becoming a better student by professors (Ed) Breece, (Safwat) Moustafa and (Bill) Detar, with their support for learning and achievement," he said. "I was active in the Ag Mech Club and the trade show that introduced graduates to career opportunities with the various exhibiting companies. I have great memories of being an officer and soliciting companies in the area to exhibit at the show."

Thurow and his wife, Donna, live in Naperville, IL. They have three daughters and three grand-

children. He was named one of the School of Agriculture's Distinguished Alumni in March during Farm Expo weekend at Western.

For more information about the WIU School of Agriculture, visit wiu.edu/agriculture.

Copy By: Jodi Pospeschil



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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* The "Guinness World Records" holds the world record for being the most stolen book from public libraries.

* Some New York City taxis are actually undercover cop cars.

* Nintendo was sued and found guilty because kids were getting blisters from playing too much Mario Party.

* Before he became the axman for Guns N' Roses,

Slash auditioned for the band Poison but decided not to join when he was asked about wearing makeup.

* Onions are the only commodity banned from futures trading in America.

* The man for whom Mount Everest was named, George Everest, didn't want the honor, pointing out that his name was difficult to write or pronounce in Hindi and that all previous Himalayan peaks were officially given indigenous names.

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Yard Sale- 575 Front St, Bushnell Thurs. June 8 & Fri. June 9 8am-1pm Home decor, Collectibles, Craft Supplies, household items, row tiller, Manual lawn mower(old school). A little bit of everything except clothing.

Garage Sale- 1907 S. Madison Fri. June 9 & Sat. June 10 7am-3pm New living room furniture, lamps, tables and chairs, bar stools, dining room tables and chairs, hutch, china cabinet, glassware, kitchenware, bedroom suite, clothes, American Girl dolls (Rebecca, Molly, Josefine), jewelry, Ukulele with music, garage items, holiday decor, many other items.

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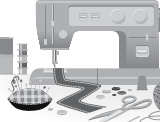
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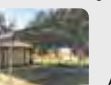
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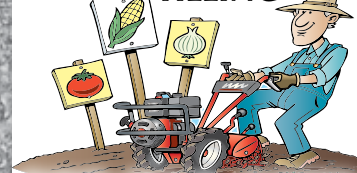
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