

IWES in Danforth holding Kindergarten pre-registration

Pre-registration for the 2015-2016 Kindergarten class for children who will be five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2015 is being held now until March 6.

Visit or call Iroquois West Elementary School in Danforth at 815-269-2230 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Also plan to attend the Kindergarten Open House on Thursday, April 9 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Danforth Elementary School.

Ford-Iroquois Extension Ag Day is Feb. 20

University of Illinois Extension, Ford-Iroquois Office invites the public to attend its annual Ag Day on Friday, Feb. 20 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Christ Lutheran

High School in Buckley. This year's theme is "It's All Up in the Air ...Ag. Drones, Weather and More!"

The full day event kicks off at 8 a.m. with registration, coffee and rolls, and an opportunity to visit the 2015 Ford-Iroquois Extension/Agribusiness partner displays.

Dennis Bowman, University of Illinois Extension Crops Systems Educator, will kick off the day's talks with one entitled "Are ag Drones in Your Farm's Future?" Ford-Iroquois Master Gardener, Mary Dickinson, will be presenting "Edi-mentals: Gardening with Edible Landscapes."

Bowman will be followed by "Will 2015 Weather be a Repeat of 2014?" by Jim Angel, Illinois State Climatologist. Before breaking for the complimentary lunch, Patrick Doggett, Field Representative for Congressman Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) will deliver a Washington, D.C. update from congressman Kinzinger.

Lunch will be provided free for

registered attendees and will be catered by Luke's One Stop in Cissna Park.

Afternoon sessions begin at 1 p.m. with a presentation on 2014 Farm Bill Decisions by Charlene Neukomm of Ford County Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Tammy Hubert of Iroquois County FSA. Directly following, Shelby Kaufman of Ehler Bros. Seed in Thomasboro will issue the Illinois Soybean Associate 100 Bushel Challenge.

FFA Update by FFA Section 17 President Kade Hill, FFA Section 10 President Sydney Miller, and FFA Section 10 Secretary Hayden Schaumburg. Door prizes and closing remarks will follow.

Ford-Iroquois Ag Day is free and open to the public, but reservations are required and should be completed by February 18. You can make a reservation by calling the University of Illinois Extension office in Onarga at 815-268-4051 or by registering online at web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv.

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please call the Ford-Iroquois Extension Office at least one week prior to event.

Thank You

A heartfelt Thank You to my church family, my Prairieview family and my immediate family for all your prayers and support prior to, during and following my surgery. Your cards, calls and words of encouragement meant so much. The meals and goodies were greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Kris and Taryn, my Angels of Mercy.

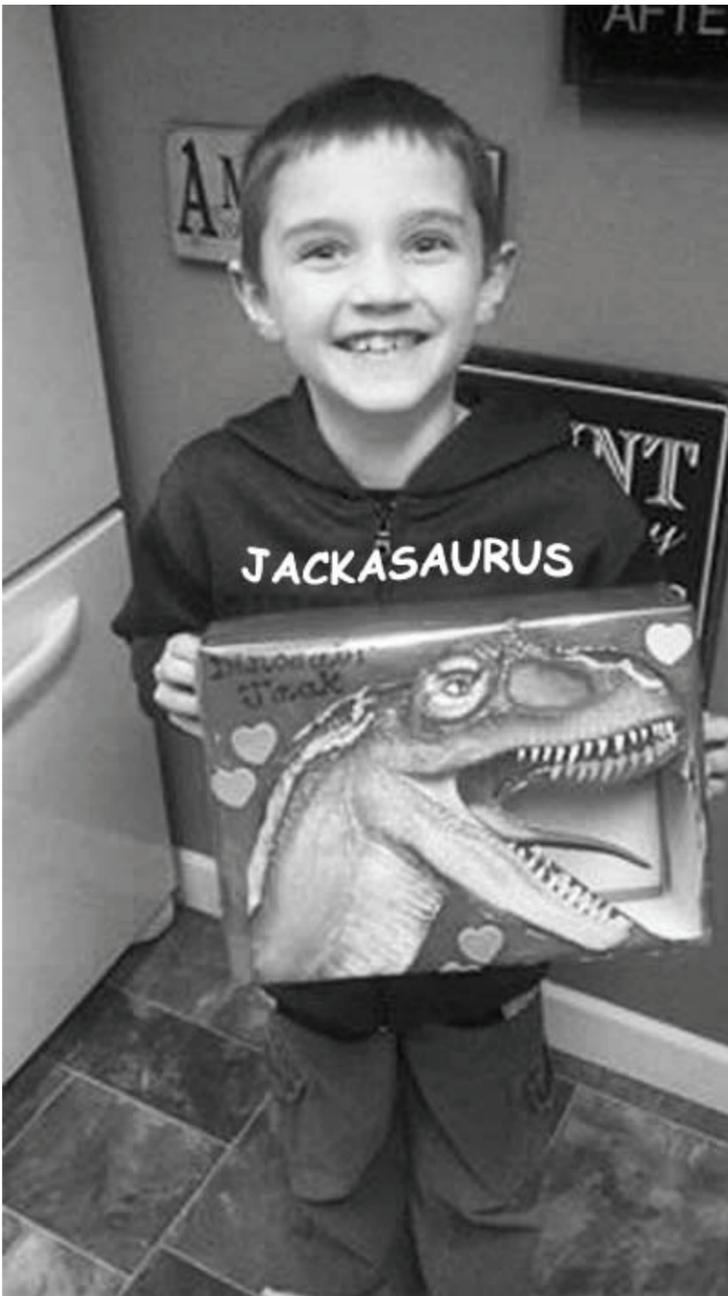
God Bless you all!
Marlys Ritzma

Thank You

John and I appreciate so much all the help from so many people during John's knee replacement recovery. We want to say a BIG THANK YOU to the guys from Crop Production Services, Roger Ballard, Royce Ballard and Luis and Julian Martinez. You all have been angels to us! May God bless you!

Telephone calls, cards and texts have also made his recovery bearable.

John and Kathy Bank



Children's book to assist area humane organizations

Over 20 years ago artwork for a children's story, "Sammy Sparrow's First Flight" was born. I was on holiday break from college and sat on the floor in my bedroom using chalks to free images for the story that lived in my mind.

The images have been tucked away in a scrapbook album until now. "Sammy Sparrow's First Flight" (ages 2-8) was released Dec. 25, 2014 by Guardian Angel Publishing. It is my third children's book. In conjunction with the book, I have created the

Sammy Shelter Project to help NINE area humane organizations with the book sales.

By ordering through the project website, \$2 from each book purchase will be donated to the organization chosen and noted on the form. Use this link to visit that page - tracyahrens.weebly.com/sammy-shelter-project.

Current humane organizations set to benefit from this project are: It's a Pittie Rescue (Peotone, Il.), New Beginnings for Cats (Bourbonnais, Il.), River Valley Animal Rescue (Momence, Il.), Cache Creek Animal Rescue (Anna and Joliet, Il.), Grassroots Animal Rescue (Medinah, Il.), Illinois Horse Rescue of Will County (Beecher, Il.), Iroquois County Animal Rescue (Iroquois, Il.), Kankakee County Humane Foundation (St. Anne, Il.) and Because Animals Really Kount (Kankakee, Il.).

Sammy Sparrow's First Flight

Written and Illustrated by
Tracy Ahrens

In "Sammy Sparrow's First Flight," a young sparrow named Sammy quickly learns why parents set rules. He was told not to fly alone at night. His wings are weak and Sammy falls into a bush below. The world looks scary from the ground. A friendly owl flies Sammy back home to sleep under his parents' wings. The story is based on my childhood years of rescuing baby sparrows that fell out of a multi-room birdhouse high up on a pole in a neighbor's backyard.

Initially I went to college to be a veterinarian and changed my major to English. I continue to help creatures with the written word, my art and volunteering for humane organizations. It's only fitting that I finally let Sammy fly with a mission to help area humane organizations I have grown to know and volunteer with. You can also find information about the project on

Facebook under Sammy Shelter Project. To donate to a participating rescue organization, you must use the form available for download from the Sammy Shelter Project website.

Otherwise, "Sammy Sparrow's First Flight" can be ordered in eBook form (\$5) and print form (\$9.95 + \$5.95) through Guardian Angel Publishing.

Friends available for adoption.



Call ICARe
at 815-429-4028

Sammy Shelter Project

