

VIEW FROM THE CAB

Grateful for the family side of farm living

Farmers are lucky to spend time with family while on the job — something that can't be said about most other professions.

Rebecca and the kids rode in the cab with me a few times this fall. Kenadee reached out for the combine steering wheel while Kasen told me I left a strip of soybeans standing in the field. Kasen was my official helper for an afternoon last week (or should I say supervisor) after I picked him up from school.



Kent Casson
Ag Columnist

We were able to finish a field and move to another farm while the little guy was there.

After sitting in the quiet cab alone for several hours, it's always nice to have someone to talk to. This seems to make the time go by a bit faster.

The combine and tractor cabs of today are much different from yesterday. We didn't have an official "buddy seat" in the old days. The kids would just sit in the back if there was a ledge by the rear window to ride on.

Life on the family farm is important to me since it is how I grew up. I learned to work hard and respect the land from my dad and grandpa. Also, Mom taught me to be thankful for what we had.

Family members play a critical role in agriculture, whether working on equipment, driving a machine through the field or giving someone a ride to move to the next field.

As I write this, our harvest season is winding down as we are only down to a few fields. Where does the time go? It seems like we just started back in September and here we are approaching the end of October. Aside from a few rain events which impacted the soybean harvest, we really haven't had any major washouts this fall. Hopefully the nice weather lasts just a little longer so we can get other fieldwork done as well.

The longer range forecast calls for a few more days of mild temperatures before seasonal and cooler weather moves in. Just how cool it will get remains to be seen, but remember it is almost November.

For local farm news, harvest updates and podcasts, visit www.centralillinoisfarmnetwork.com and become a fan of "Central Illinois Farm Network" on Facebook.

ATHENA

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others who came to support her, listened on.

"The (Chamber) committee had quite a bit of discussion going back and forth about who to nominate this year, but based on the application that was turned in for you, you clearly rose to the top," Terrell told Donovan. She cited Donovan's commitment to serving individuals with disabilities, changes she implemented in improving care, and her

involvement with other philanthropic causes, such as the Livingston County Humane Society, the Salvation Army and Grace Episcopal Church. Terrell also mentioned Donovan's efforts of empowering women.

"One of the things that was said (in committee) was 'Karen feels strongly that women should avoid negative stereotypes in the workplace, and has supported the philosophy that women are strong, intelligent and capable of being professionals and leaders,'" she said.

On what receiving the award surrounded by loved ones meant to her, Donovan described herself as "overwhelmed" and taken by complete surprise. She also said that she was humbled upon entry into an exclusive group of prior ATHENA winners.

"I know a lot of the past winners of this award, and some of them have been my mentors," she said. "I never expected that I, myself, would be ever in consideration for something like this."

Terrell called it "priceless" to be able to honor

Donovan by surprising her like she had.

"It's just so amazing when you see all the nominations that are made, and you're looking at each of them, and the decision is hard," she said. "There's so many wonderful nominees, but after you go through the first round, second round and third round, Karen just rose to the top. Her career, and her life's work, are just amazing."

"Being able to surprise people with these tributes is easily the best part about my job."

MOSUL

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pulling back to bolster their defenses in Mosul ahead of the coming Iraqi offensive to retake the city. He said they were taking hundreds of civilians as human shields and had planted explosive booby-traps to slow the advancing troops.

"These small villages are secondary to them. Mosul is much more important," Mehsin said as he strode between maps in an operations center in Qayara, one of the main staging bases for the offensive. "They

don't want to waste their energy."

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights says IS fighters have been sweeping through the hard-scrabble towns and villages to the south of Mosul over the past week, killing those they fear may rise up against them and forcibly relocating others.

In one village south of Mosul, Iraqi forces found the bodies of 70 residents who had been gunned down, and IS appears to have killed 50 former Iraqi police officers it was holding in a building near the city, Rupert Colville, a spokesman for the U.N. agency, told reporters in Geneva.

He said the U.N. has received other reports of the militants gunning down 15 villagers south of Mosul and throwing their bodies in a river. Another six villagers were tied to the back of a car and dragged through the street because they were related to a tribal leader battling IS, Colville said.

Iraqi forces have been pushing toward Mosul from several directions since the operation began Oct. 17. It is expected to take weeks, if not months, to retake Iraq's second-largest city, which fell to the extremists in a matter of days in the summer of 2014.

CAMPAIGN

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they cut a wide red ribbon with golden scissors before he flew to North Carolina for what his campaign billed as an urban policy speech.

In Charlotte, Trump unveiled what he billed a "New Deal for black America" in front of a mostly white crowd. Trump, who has struggled to earn the support of minority voters, bemoaned that "too many African-Americans have been left behind and unveiled a handful of new proposals aimed at revitalizing impoverished urban areas.

They included new tax incentives for inner cities,

new micro-loans for African Americans to start companies and hire workers and reinvesting money from suspended refugee programs in inner cities.

He also wants cities to be able to seek federal disaster designations to help them rebuild infrastructure, demolish abandoned buildings and invest in law enforcement.

As Trump cut the ribbon, Clinton was slamming his business practices in Florida, a state he must win to have any chance on Nov. 8. In Tampa, she was introduced by restaurateur Jose Andres, a naturalized U.S. citizen who pulled out of the Washington hotel to protest Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric.

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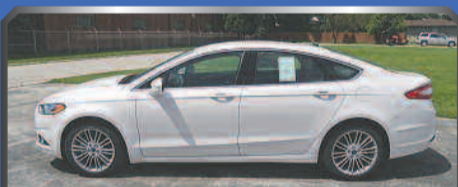
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