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Congressman Smith to Visit H.W. Winchester Farm

AUGUST 01ST 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Smith to Visit H.W. Winchester Farm

Advance, Missouri - On Tuesday, August 2nd, Congressman Jason Smith will visit H.W. Winchester Farm in Advance as part of his annual Farm Tour. This year's Farm Tour starts on Monday, July 25 and will run through Friday August 5th. During this year's Farm Tour, Smith will make over 40 stops across each of the 30 counties in Missouri's Eighth Congressional District to highlight the farms and ranches in the area and the tremendous impact that agriculture has on the economy and rural way of life in south central and southeast Missouri.

WHO: Congressman Jason Smith

WHAT: Farm Tour stop at H.W. Winchester

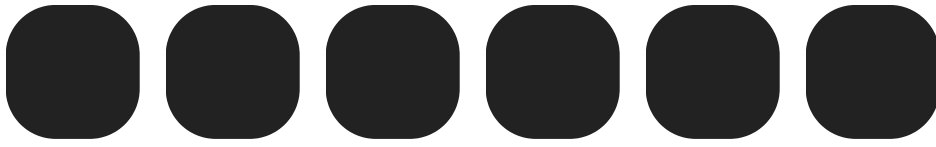
WHERE: Rural Route 82, Box 2606, Advance MO, 63730

WHEN: Tuesday, August 2nd, 8:00am-9:00am

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Talkington Puts Federal Tax Money to Good Use

JULY 30TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Talkington Puts Federal Tax Money to Good Use

Stoddard County, Missouri - Danny Talkington, County Commission District 1 has worked diligently over the past 3 and 1/2 years to get monies appropriated and spent on bridge repair and drainage work in the Pike Township, Castor Township, and Duck Creek Township.

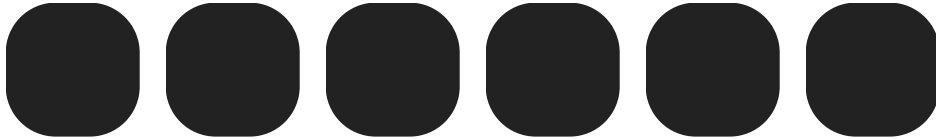
In Pike Township more than \$906,000 has either already been spent or is appropriated for bridge repair and drainage work. In Castor Township, more than \$759,000 has been spent on bridge repair or will be spent relatively soon and in the Duck Creek Township more than \$440,000 has been or will be spent on bridge repair. That's over two million dollars of funds spent or appropriated to be spent for much needed repairs.

What's great about this money is that it is 80% funded by the Federal Gas Tax and only 20% came from local Stoddard County tax dollars. There were no additional costs to residents in the three townships.

Talkington said, "The north end of Stoddard County is receiving this money largely do to his and other Commissioners' efforts and it is my hope to continue to do so for the next two years."

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Local Business Owner Meets Presidential Candidate

JULY 29TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Local Business Owner Meets Presidential Candidate](#)

Barry Aycock got the chance of a lifetime at a recent Meet the Candidate dinner in St. Louis, Missouri. He and about 20 constituents were able to have dinner with Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. He was one of four from the group who was chosen to ask her questions. His topics were EPA and Agricultural issues.

"I asked her a question about how agriculture is a National Security Interest," stated Aycock who owns AgXplore International in Parma, Missouri. 'Since we had just eaten a good meal and our bellies were full I thought it to be an appropriate question and she answered with an excellent response."

"I think agriculture is a great national security interest since I just voted to get the new Farm Bill passed," Clinton responded. "Food and fiber are quite important in our life."

As she was escorted out of the building by the Secret Service she thanked Mr. Aycock for asking that particular question. "My belly was full like everyone else!" she remarked as she shook his hand.

Aycock felt it important to hear what Hillary Clinton had to say and throughout the evening he felt she was probably the smartest person in the room answering some pretty difficult questions.

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Congressman Smith Visits Martin Rice Mill in Bernie

JULY 28TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Congressman Smith Visits Martin Rice Mill in Bernie](#)

Bernie, Missouri - On Tuesday, July 26th, as part of his 4th Annual Farm Tour Congressman Jason Smith visited Martin Rice in Bernie to view the rice operations and speak with owners Tim, David and Mike Martin about their industry, how the rice mill

operates, and the issues they are facing.

Smith commented, “Great companies like Martin Rice make it possible for Missouri to be one of the largest rice-growing states in America. And, after over 50 years of growing and processing rice, the hardworking folks at Martin Rice continue to push themselves to provide the highest quality product. Companies like Martin Rice are exactly why Missouri's 8th District is recognized throughout our state and the nation as being a leader in agriculture and I am very proud of the work they do to showcase our region.”

The Martin Rice Company is owned and operated by the Martin family who have been in the farming business in the Missouri bootheel for over 50 years. Martin Rice Company today produces Long Grain and Jasmine rice on over 7,000 acres of farmland in Southeast Missouri. Martin Rice Company is shipped worldwide and is one of only a few U.S. companies to grow jasmine rice, which is normally imported from Thailand.

This year’s Congressional Farm Tour will span roughly two weeks and cover nearly 3,000 miles while crisscrossing all 30 counties in Missouri’s 8th District. In addition to hearing directly from the families and farmers about the operations they are running right here in southeast and south central Missouri, the farm tour will also highlight the diversity, importance and prominence of agriculture in Missouri’s 8th Congressional District.

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Danny Talkington for Stoddard County Commissioner District One

JULY 25TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Danny Talkington for Stoddard County Commissioner District One

Stoddard County, Missouri - Danny Talkington has three plus years serving as our Stoddard County Commissioner District One. He again is asking for your vote this year at the August primary.

“I believe in a common sense, conservative approach to spending the taxpayers money,” stated Talkington.

Danny holds Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Memphis State University and has 30 plus hours of graduate courses from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

He has been married to his lovely wife Sondra Tucker Talkington for 50 years and has two children, five grand children, and two great grand children.

He is extremely active in the Dexter Rotary Club, Bell City Rotary Club, Stoddard County Rotary Interact, Secretary of the Stoddard County Republican Committee, and volunteers with the Essex Church of Christ Food Bank.

Talkington has 28 years of manufacturing and wholesale distribution experience holding positions of general accountant, plant controller, chief financial officer, vice president of manufacturing and company president. He has also worked in several states including Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama and North Carolina.

Danny returned to Stoddard County in 1998 to farm. While farming he also worked 16 years in tax preparation and auditing at Jean & Company CPAs.

His experience as Board of Trustees at Freed-Hardeman University for 23 years gave him

an opportunity at the university level to serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Investment Committee.

Since serving as the Stoddard County Commissioner the county has constructed 4 bridges and have 8 bridges in process in the past three years. Prior to that the county only constructed one bridge a couple of years before becoming Commissioner.

“We are pursuing improvements all over the county,” commented Talkington. “The infrastructure is so critical for our county. We continue to look for ways to improve the county for all of our residents.”

Shown in the photo are Sondra and Danny Talkington who just celebrated 50 years of marriage.

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