

Summer 2025 | Vol. 35 No. 2

# The Bulletin

National Tractor Parts Dealer Association

**Trust & Trustees**  
**Scholarship News**  
**Norfolk Next**



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**NTPD**  
— ASSOCIATION —  
**BULLETIN**  
MICHAEL LIBBIE, Editor

Articles, letters, advertisements and  
comments are encouraged. Send to:

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From the President's Pen .. 

## *If it were easy, everyone would do it...*

I've always heard the saying "if it were easy, everyone would do it". While this can be applied to anything in life, it is definitely true with farming in the South during 2025. Our area has had rain 18 of the first 26 days in May, multiple tornado outbreaks, hail and high winds. Typically hay farmers have the first cutting well under way, most have not even started. Row croppers normally have corn and cotton in the ground and have a good start on beans or have started harvesting wheat. I've heard of some that have planted corn for the 3rd time due to flooding. Most have sent cotton seed back since it is too late to plant. Wheat crops are lying flat on the ground from wind. So..... yeah, if it were easy, everyone would do it! We have a great customer base to assist through the trials that farming can throw their way. Although Mother Nature can make it interesting, farmers keep on farming.

The NTPDA scholarship program was a success this year. As an association we're able to help out several students with their upcoming academic goals. Reading about what the applicants have accomplished so far is amazing. Thank you to the members of the scholarship committee for their time to serve.



President Trey

Looking forward to seeing the ones that can make it to Norfolk!

Trey



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# Staff Notes

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How can we already be near the mid-year point of 2025? Time flies faster the older I get! We get the opportunity to gather twice a year in person and have some great destinations coming up for you.

As we head into another summer, that leads us to our Summer Mixer. This year we will be in Norfolk, VA, July 24 – 26.

Norfolk has always been known as a Navy city, featuring the world's largest naval base. But over the past decade, its food and art scene has exploded, creating an eclectic, vibrant and urban city along Virginia's waterways. The area is full of rich history and family fun with a variety of outdoor activities to explore. We will dine at unique restaurants with great food and drinks and have plenty of time to network and reconnect with each other. Consider making this your vacation destination and spending time with fellow NTPDA members. You can see the full Summer Mixer itinerary on the NTPDA website. If you have not made plans to join us yet and would like to attend, complete the registration form on the website. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Let's flock to Florida in January! For our 2026 Annual Conference and Trade Show we will be heading to Orlando, FL. Based on the feedback after our 2025 event, the week will be built around team building, networking, additional time for vendor roundtables on Friday, and more. We will be staying at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando. It is close enough to theme parks if that is something you would like to explore on your own time. But if that isn't your idea of fun, it is also far enough outside that you don't notice being so close. Stay tuned for more details as the event is planned. The goal is to bring you meaningful connections and experiences that justify your time and investment. So, mark your calendar now for January 22 – 24 to join us in Orlando. You will not want to miss out!

Until next time, have a safe summer!



Kim Carroll

Kim

I've just spent three days working a crowd of some 400 folks who are part of the Great Eastern Iowa TractorCade a 26 year tradition that is quite the event. There is a link in this edition of The Bulletin to listen to a conversation I had with Matt Kenney the event manager so you can learn more.



Michael Libbie

I interacted with at least 300 of the drivers of these tractors introducing them to our Parts Search on the NTPDA website. The shocking thing I learned is that not one of these folks, who LOVE their tractors, had ever heard of the National Tractor Parts Dealer Association and what we do including the fact they had no knowledge of our Parts Search.

And that, sort of, makes sense.

We do a pretty good job lifting up and marketing our Regular and Associate Members to each other but fall short in telling our story to end users, which results in fewer member sales. If folks don't know about us, how can they connect?

To fix this gap I plan to present a comprehensive marketing plan with our Board during our meeting in Norfolk.

The good news is that once these folks learned about our Parts Search they were all in and thought it was a great resource.

Finally, thank you to our Members for offering up the names of potential new members. Adding your name to that first call is so very valuable. And, if they join, you get your next year's Membership Fee waived.

Thanks for all you do and for being a member. It matters!

Remember When?

The answer is Conference & Trade Show, Memphis 2006!

Michael



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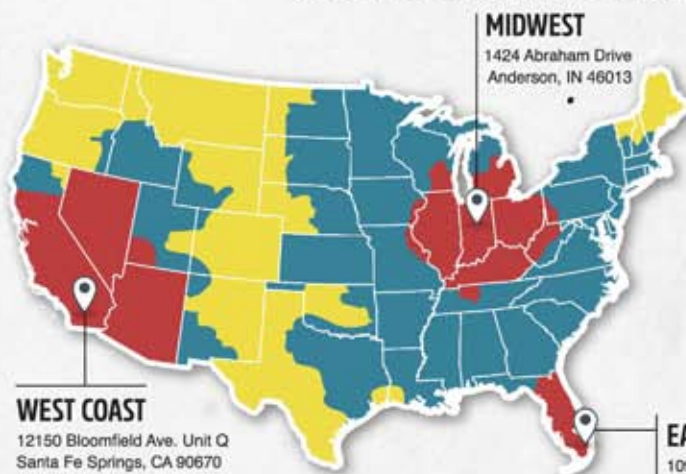
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# Trusts and Trustees

After Actor Philip Seymour Hoffman died, court documents revealed that he didn't want his children to become "trust fund kids." Rather than establishing a trust, he chose to leave his fortune to his girlfriend who is also his children's mother. The decision to create a trust is a personal one. But, beyond the potential of creating unmotivated children, a trust can be a smart fiscal choice and a way to help ensure the legacy you built during your life continues after your death.

## WHAT IS A TRUST?

A trust is a legal entity authorized by law. There are two basic categories: a living or inter vivos trust is created during your lifetime and a testamentary trust is established after death. The terms of a trust are many and limited only by your imagination. But some of the most common reasons to establish a trust are to:

- Dictate specific terms and conditions for the distribution of your wealth
- Plan ahead and ease the burden for loved ones after your death
- Avoid probate
- Reduce estate taxes that could take a significant bite from your financial legacy
- Allow for easier management of cash needs and assets if you become disabled
- Establish continuity of asset management at death
- Support a philanthropic cause

## THE BASICS

A grantor is the person who establishes and transfers property into the trust. They can also be called a settler or donor. A beneficiary is the person or entity that receives the benefits of the trust. A trustee has an important role. This is the person who manages and administers the trust. They hold a legal title to the trust assets and have the power over the disposition of the trust property in accordance with the trust agreement.

## ROLE OF A TRUSTEE

Having a professional trustee is not a legal requirement. But it can be an advantage to those who do not have the time or expertise to successfully manage their own trust. Professional trustees can be used in many different ways and serve many different purposes. But the main responsibility is to give clients peace of mind and excellent



service in the management of their trusts. A trustee acts as a fiduciary for the trust. The role of trustee comes with a multitude of responsibilities. Therefore, trustees should be highly organized, oriented towards serving others and have a solid understanding of financial basics. A trustee's main duty is to exercise reasonable care, skill and judgment for the trust. This means they must treat beneficiaries the same without favoring one over the other unless the trust specifies it. Trustees cannot use trust assets for their own benefit unless the trust authorizes it. Trust assets must be kept separate from a trustee's personal assets with separate checking and investment accounts. Accurate records must be kept, tax returns filed and reports sent to beneficiaries as the trust requires. Failure to act as a fiduciary exposes the trustee to a lawsuit from the beneficiaries if they feel the trust was mishandled or they were wronged.

## WORK WITH A PROFESSIONAL

A financial professional can help determine what kind of trust is right for your situation. You may also want to consider a professional trustee if you don't want to burden a family member with the responsibilities and issues that arise from this role. You worked hard to build your wealth and legacy. A trust and responsible trustee will help to protect both after your death.

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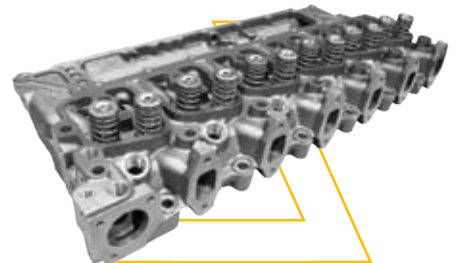
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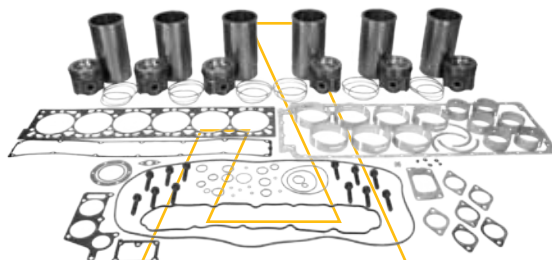
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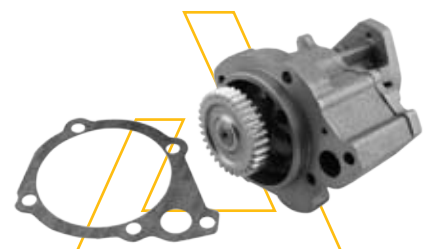
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## ***DID YOU KNOW...***

### **NTPDA Job Board**

A couple of years ago we were talking about how to bring even more value to our members. One of the things we hear most frequently is how tough it is to find employees. And, yes, it is a tight labor market. So the idea came to us to create the NTPDA Job Board which you can find on the top of our website. To be honest, there hasn't been much activity there but recently our friends from Gratton Coulee Ag Parts in Alberta wanted to give it a try. Thank you, Mike, for submitting your job request and here is hoping that others will follow.

To post a job simply write out what you are looking for and send that to [NTPDA@NTPDA.com](mailto:NTPDA@NTPDA.com) and we'll take it from there. The NTPDA Job Board just another one of the many benefits your association delivers. Thank you for being a member...it does matter!



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## Cranfills Gap Tractor Parts

We're sad to report that Larry has made the decision to retire and close down Gap Tractor Parts in Texas. We talked to him and Kathie Witte recently and they confirmed that they will have an auction later in the summer or fall. The business started in 1969 and after a couple of owners Larry purchased the company back in 1992. Kathie started there in 1995 and served on our Board of Directors. Larry told me that it was, "just time to hang it up". It wasn't that business was bad but it's difficult to find workers and he said, "I'm getting older and want to get out and have some fun and do something besides working." We get it. Kathie tells us she is taking the summer off and then, maybe, find something part-time. Our best wishes to Larry, Darrell and Kathie and thank you so much for being loyal members of NTPDA.



## The Great Eastern Iowa Tractorcade

While they are not NTPDA members we thought you might be interested in why we worked the crowd and what this 26 year-old event was all about. If you scan the QR code you can listen to my conversation with Matt Kenney the manager of the event. And, because it's all about tractors, we think you'll enjoy learning more.



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Academic Year  
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# SCHOLARSHIP Recipients

The Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the 2025 scholarship recipients. This year there were 3 trade/technical scholarships and 22 collegiate scholarships awarded. The top two applicants were awarded \$5,000 each and the remaining scholarships were \$3,000 each with the sponsoring company contributing \$500 towards

the scholarship award per recipient. A special thanks to our Scholarship Committee: Eric Shaul, Renae Jensen, Marian Levan, Erika Sudbrink, and Jake Walmer. The feedback we've gotten tells us that this member benefit is greatly appreciated and one that we hope continues for many years to come.



**TRAVIS C. BARNHART**

Purdue University - West Lafayette

Degree: Engineering

Sponsoring Member: Bates Corporation

Parents: Kenny & Terri Barnhart



**LYDIA BLANKESPOOR**

Augustana University

Degree: Biology

Sponsoring Member: A&I Products

Parents: Loren & Phyllis Blankespoor



**ALLIE GOUCHER**

University of Central Missouri

Degree: Speech and Language

Pathology

Sponsoring Member: Cook Tractor

Parts, Inc.

Parents: Ralph & Crystal Goucher



**JACKSON BROWN**

North Central Texas College

Degree: Agribusiness

Sponsoring Member: Ray's Used

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Parents: Chad & Sherry Brown



**SIDNEY BIERET**

University of Northern Iowa

Degree: Humanities Arts & Science

Sponsoring Member: Wall Lake Used

Parts

Parents: Josh Bieret & Courtney Bieret



**RUBY COBB**

Auburn University

Degree: Speech, Language and Hearing  
Sciences

Sponsoring Member: Russells Tractor  
Parts

Parents: Marty & Holly Cobb



**EMERY BLANKESPOOR**

Iowa State University

Degree: Animal Science/Pre-Vet

Sponsoring Member: A&I Products

Parents: Tim & Leah Blankespoor



**ALEXANDRIA CRAVEN**

University of Michigan - Flint

Degree: Nursing

Sponsoring Member: Steiner Tractor Parts,  
Inc.

Parents: Craig & Jaclyn Craven





**BENJAMIN FIRESTONE**  
University of Northwestern Ohio  
Degree: Agricultural Diesel Repair  
Sponsoring Member: Bates Corporation  
Parents: Robert Firestone & Jessica Firestone

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**AMALIA ENGSTROM**  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Degree: Nursing  
Sponsoring Member: Parts ASAP – Hudson, WI  
Parents: Chad & Linnea Engstrom

---



**MATTIAS ENGSTROM**  
South Dakota State University  
Degree: Agricultural Engineering  
Sponsoring Member: Parts ASAP – Hudson, WI  
Parents: Chad & Linnea Engstrom

---



**JACOB ENNOR**  
University of South Dakota  
Degree: Physical Therapy  
Sponsoring Member: Worthington Tractor Parts  
Parents: Travis Ennor & Diana Flora

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**JUSTIN HENKE**  
South Dakota State University  
Degree: Computer Science  
Sponsoring Member: Parts ASAP – De Soto, IA  
Parents: Corey & Mary Henke

---



**TENLEY KESLER**  
Winona State University  
Degree: Nursing  
Sponsoring Member: Parts ASAP – Lake Mills, IA  
Parents: Ryan & Shannon Kesler

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**SUMMER GRACE OWENS**  
Texas Christian University  
Degree: Political Science  
Sponsoring Member: Wellington Tractor Parts, Inc.  
Parents: Steve & Lucy Owens

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**FINLEY ROGSTAD**  
University of Northern Iowa  
Degree: Biology  
Sponsoring Member: Parts ASAP – Lake Mills, IA  
Parents: Chris & Shana Rogstad

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**AUBREY ROSSER**  
Baker College  
Degree: Radiology Tech  
Sponsoring Member: Steiner Tractor Parts, Inc.  
Parents: John & Emily Rosser

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**BRAYDEN KOLE SIMPSON**  
Northwest Missouri State  
Degree: Marine Biology  
Sponsoring Member: Abilene Machine, LLC  
Parents: Grant Jurgensen & Kimberly Jurgensen

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**BLAKE SCHROEDER**  
Manchester University  
Degree: Business  
Sponsoring Member: Diesel Power Group  
Parents: Travis Schroeder & Wendy Schroeder

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**PAIGE THIESSEN**  
South Dakota State University  
Degree: Nursing  
Sponsoring Member: Parts Express  
Parents: Jeremy Thiessen & Jennifer Kleeman

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**TREYLIN THORSON**

University of Wisconsin - River Falls  
 Degree: Computer Science & Information Systems  
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 Parents: Amy Thorson, Douglas Thorson,  
 Jennifer Thorson

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**LAUREN THRUSH**

University of Delaware  
 Degree: Physical Therapy  
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 Parents: Kevin & DeAnne Thrush

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**BRANDON VAN VLEET**

Fox Valley Technical College  
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 Sponsoring Member: Parts ASAP – Black  
 Creek, WI  
 Parents: Ben Van Vleet & Vicki Van Vleet

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**ELLA VANDERVORT**

University of Delaware  
 Degree: Chemical Engineering  
 Sponsoring Member: Hooper Inc.  
 Parents: Kevin & Jennifer Vandervort

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**RYLEIGH WOODFORD**

University of Wisconsin – Stout  
 Degree: Biology  
 Sponsoring Member: Parts ASAP –  
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 Parents: Fred & Brandi Dinsmore

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*Thank you for selecting me as a recipient. I am honored to receive this support, and I truly appreciate your investment in my education and vocation in healthcare.*

*Lydia Blankespoor*

*I would like to extend my gratitude for being honored as one of the recipients of the National Tractor Parts Dealer Association Scholarship. It will be a tremendous help for me as I attend the University of Northern Iowa in the fall. Thank you again for making my college journey possible.*

*Sidney Bieret*

*I wish to express my deepest gratitude for being selected as one of the 2025 NTPDA Scholarship recipients. Thank you for supporting students like me who have dreams and goals but lack the financial means to achieve them alone. This support will allow me to continue studying and act as an investment in the impact I hope to make in healthcare someday. Thank you again!*

*Lauren Thrush*

*Thank You so much for selecting me for a scholarship! This scholarship will not go to waste! Again Thank you for believing in me!!!!!!*

*Brayden Simpson*

*Thank you for this life changing opportunity. I am so grateful to be one of the recipients of this scholarship. The support provided through this scholarship is incredibly impactful, and I know it makes a significant difference in the lives of all who receive it. I am sincerely thankful for your investment in my future and for the positive impact you continue to make in the community.*

*Jacob Ennor*

*Thank you so much for the NTPDA Scholarship. My future plans are to attend UNOH and get an Associates in Ag Diesel Tech, Medium/Heavy Duty Diesel and my CDL. I will be using this money for schooling and boarding costs.*

*Ben Firestone*

*Thank you so much for awarding me the generous NTPDA Scholarship. Your support means more than words can express, and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity it provides. This fall I will attend Purdue University to study engineering. I'm excited to join a program that will challenge me academically and prepare me to make a real difference through innovation and hard work. Your belief in my future is something I deeply appreciate and will carry with me throughout my journey.*

*Travis Barnhart*



# Let's Eat!

## Zest Up Your Pasta!

By Roz Corieri Paige

I was flipping through a magazine and saw this recipe and it is perfect for summer. It's light, creamy with a kiss of lemon. Lots of flavor with little effort. Fresh basil and garlic round out the sauce, while lemon zest and Parmesan add a welcome touch. It's a great dish, perfect for summer evenings.

### Ingredients

- 1 Pound Spaghetti Pasta
- 3 Tbs Salt
- 3 Tbs. Olive Oil
- 3 Large Garlic Cloves
- 4 Tbs Butter
- ¼ Cup Fresh-Squeezed Lemon Juice
- Zest of One Lemon
- 1 ½ Cups of Heavy Cream
- 1 Cup Freshly Grated Parmesan Cheese
- Freshly Minced Basil (plus more for garnish)
- Lemon Peels (for garnish)



### Instructions

- Boil water in a tall pot
- Add the salt to the water before adding the pasta
- When the water is boiling, cook the pasta for 7 minutes or until firm to the bite
- In a large frying pan, heat the olive oil
- Add the garlic and saute' for 1 minute
- Stir in the butter until melted
- Add the lemon juice and heavy cream, stir to combine
- Add the Parmesan, then the basil, stirring gently
- Add the cooked pasta and toss to coat evenly
- Plate the spaghetti and garnish with minced basil and small slices of lemon peel
- Serve immediately with a small bowl of extra freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

ENJOY!



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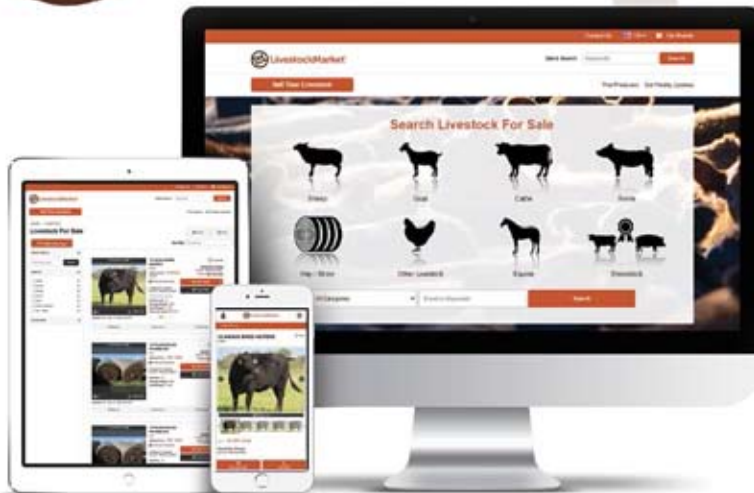
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# Come to Norfolk in July!!

NTPDA holds two in-person events each year. Our Annual Conference and Trade Show is in January. And in 2026 we'll be in Orlando! Then in July we hold our Summer Board Meeting and Summer Mixer. This year we will be in Norfolk, VA July 24 – 26 and will be at the Norfolk Hilton. Every member is invited to attend. We've got a great line up of events and if you ask any member about their time in Des Moines last year...we're sure you'll get a thumbs up. So...join us in Norfolk this July and enjoy these photos!









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## Advertising – Marketing Tip

by Michael Libbie

# REPLACE OR RETAIN?

A couple of years ago I interviewed an entrepreneur about his business. During our conversation he said this, “My marketing team wants me to spend thousands of dollars in social media outreach, and while that is important, I don’t believe it is better than building solid personal relationships with the people who carry our brand.”

He is so spot on.

That comment led me to this Marketing Tip and it’s about building relationships with those who sell your product and those folks that buy your product. The bottom line is that we all, each of us, want to matter. We want to matter in our personal and our business

lives. If we matter (or have a customer service relationship)

we are much more inclined to stay with a product or service and often for years.

That is true of startups and established businesses... but sometimes the bigger we get...the more distance we put between our business and our customers.

Click the player to listen to the entire story. It takes only five minutes but it could change how you think about your...customers... you know, the people who matter.



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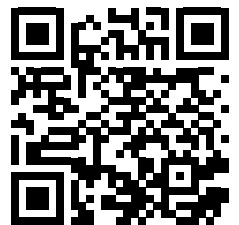
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# Greetings from . . . **Greasy Girl**



Dear Friends,

Happy Summertime to all of you! We have had an abundance of rain and the grass is growing! They say in Missouri we are 2 weeks away from a drought or a flood. I do believe that is true.

I wanted to write to you all about how quickly life can change. We all know in the back of our minds but we don't really allow ourselves, to think about it much. I am an only child, and my cousins have always been like siblings. I have a cousin that, as we have grown older, we have gotten closer. About 3 years ago he moved to Minnesota so I haven't gotten to see him as often as before. April 1st, he called me and said that he had cancer. Russ and I had seen him last summer at the summer meeting and we all had gone into Canada. He was healthy and we enjoyed seeing him and his wife. So, we sort of struggled with believing that he had cancer; well, as it went on, it was stage 4 and was in his spine. He suffered a lot of pain and couldn't do anything.

Yesterday he passed away -- two months to the day of finding out. Now that is a perfect example of how quickly life can change. As I thought about his life and the many times we had spent together, I thought about life and how good and how hard it is. It is terrible to only have 2 months to live but he didn't have to suffer with operations, radiation, or chemo. Russ and I traveled to see him and it was very apparent that he would not be with us long. I am sad about his death but when I was with him, he told me he was done and I said, "Heaven is a beautiful place." He said, "I will see you there." I said, "Do you promise?" and he grinned and said "Yes!"

I wanted to share this story with you; it tugs at my heart as I write it but please let this be a warning to live life to the fullest. What matters in life is God and people. We are to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our minds and with all our strength and love our neighbors as ourselves. Don't let work steal you from the people you love. Recognize that every day is a gift from God and be thankful and grateful for each breath that you breathe.

Our lives are like the rain and the drought -- it can change in a few weeks or maybe even in a moment. Slow down, drink a glass of lemonade and sit on the front porch and visit with your spouse, kids, or neighbor. Turn your phone off and plug into living.

My heart is full of thankfulness for the time I had to enjoy my cousin. I pray that your summer is full of love and happy memories.

Blessings  
Greasy



*By Terri Stevens*

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