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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.

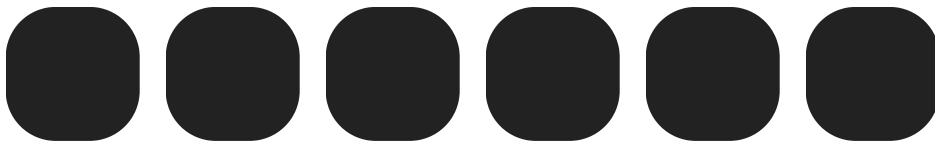
“We are pursuing improvements all over the county,” commented Talkington. “The infrastructure is so critical for our county. We continue to look for ways to improve the county for all of our residents.”

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

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Jason Smith's Capitol Report - A Favorite Tradition

JULY 22ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Jason Smith's Capitol Report - A Favorite Tradition

Congressman Jason Smith Capitol Report

A Favorite Tradition

July 22, 2016

Next week marks the start of one of my favorite annual traditions, the 8th Congressional District Farm Tour. In southeast and south central Missouri we know agriculture is at the heart of not only our economy, but our communities, and our families. The early mornings, late days, and stress associated with mother nature and volatile markets are something everyone is familiar with. But, that way of life also brings many of us together, it helps strengthen the bond of our communities, and teaches the next generation the value of hard work, perseverance and kindness.

These are the same traits handed down to me through seven generations of our family, all of which have called this area home, and it still resides in the amazing people I am honored to meet during this special tradition.

This coming week, I look forward to beginning my 4th annual Farm Tour which will take me nearly 3,000 miles crisscrossing across all 30 counties of Missouri's 8th Congressional District. It will also encompass over 40 stops and provide a valuable opportunity to hear about issues folks are facing firsthand. These folks and families are a

vital part of our state's number one industry, but they are also unique in their contribution to the broad range of agriculture products we produce. In fact, Missouri's 8th Congressional District is one of the most diverse agriculture districts in the country, and that is going to be one of our highlights this year.

As an example, most people are probably familiar with the soybeans, rice, cotton, and corn grown in our district, but we also grow peanuts, process honey, and harvest timber. We are also really proud of the quality of our beef and pork, but our region also has several trout and fish farms as well breeders of pheasant and quail for hunting. And, while most of us think about farming especially when we gather at the dinner table there are a number of other industries that play a key role in manufacturing these products. For instance, we have a number of cotton gins and mills to process raw materials, but also biodiesel facilities and a chemical manufacturer that produces environmentally friendly catalysts for spraying applications. Not to mention several companies that uniquely specialize in aerial spraying themselves. Missouri's wine industry is also taking off and some of the most popular destinations are here in Missouri's 8th District, both on the east and west ends of the district.

There is so much to be proud of and I am excited to get a closer look at these operations and meet the families behind them over the next two weeks.

There are over 19,000 farms in our district and over 29,000 hardworking folks who tirelessly keep those farms operating for the people not only in Missouri, but across the nation. Agriculture is the backbone of our district and the state of Missouri and I am a firm believer it is what is going to lead us into the future as well. I sincerely look forward to traveling southeast and south central Missouri to listen to the concerns of all of the hardworking folks who make the agriculture industry possible. Often each of them is carrying on the practices within their own family, others are innovators using the values they have learned to create their own opportunity, and for me the experience of meeting and learning from these folks has become very special – traditions we all hope to carry on.

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Governor Huckabee Endorsed John Brunner for MO Governor

JULY 22ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Governor Huckabee Endorsed John Brunner for MO Governor

Jefferson City, Missouri - The campaign of Republican gubernatorial candidate John Brunner today announced former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee has endorsed John Brunner for Governor of Missouri.

In his endorsement Governor Huckabee said: “Special interests are falsely attacking my friend John Brunner because he can’t be bought. A lot of politicians are too indebted to the donor class to fight for you, but not John Brunner. He is a tough marine, a manufacturer, and a missionary whose faith doesn’t just influence him, it defines him. Unapologetically pro-life and pro-liberty, John Brunner will fight for you. I urge you to vote for John Brunner for Governor.”

Governor Huckabee served as the Governor of Arkansas from 1996 to 2007, and was a candidate for President in both 2008 and 2016. In 2005, Time Magazine named Governor Huckabee as one of the nation's Top 5 Governors.

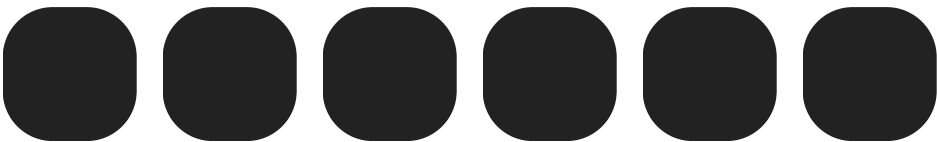
"I am incredibly humbled and honored to have Governor Huckabee's support and endorsement. He is a principled conservative and dedicated leader of faith who leads with conviction and stood up to the establishment and the special interests throughout his entire

career,” John Brunner said. “We both share a common vision of securing more freedom, with less government - and putting our faith into action. Like Governor Huckabee, I believe we can take back America, one state at a time, with tested and proven conservative leadership.”

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Eric Greitens Traveling to Dexter on Thursday

JULY 18TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Eric Greitens Traveling to Dexter on Thursday

Dexter, Missouri - Join Navy Seal and conservative outsider Eric Greitens for a Breakfast Meet and Greet in Dexter.

Greitens is running for Governor in the state of Missouri and will arrive in Dexter on July 21st at 9:00 a.m. at the Airport Café’.

He will be there for about one hour before heading to his next tour stop. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

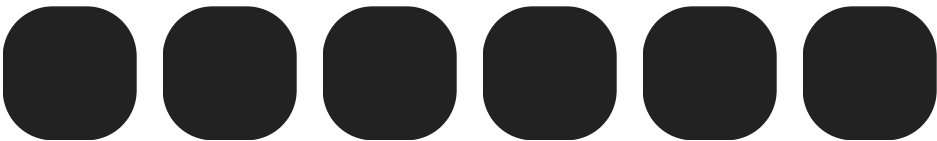
The Airport Café is located at 901 Harry Bennet Drive.

For more information about the Eric Greitens Bus Tour click **HERE**.

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