

Bright future in store for Parr, FFA cont'd from pg. 1

family really WAS in agriculture because we always had a garden, raising our own food. We always canned. We did all of these things for ourselves, but we didn't have any concept that those were considered agriculture.

Where did you teach before you came to Villa Grove?

I did three years at Paris High School, where I was part of a two teacher department, and then I did five years at Tuscola and then I quit teaching for three years, but did home bounds and substitute teaching for a year and then did one on one aid for a student who was in Ag for two years and then I came back and started teaching at Villa Grove.

What's been the biggest challenge to you in building the Ag & FFA programs at Villa Grove?

There hadn't been an ag program or FFA for thirty years, so we started from scratch. It was officially a "re-charter", but in all practical purposes we started from scratch. The biggest challenge has been re-training the students in what it means to be in an ag education program. In ag education, we're experiential learning based. We're problem/solution based, and we're trial and error based. I don't hold your hand through it. The student figures out what is a good way or a bad way, because in experiential learning, the failure teaches you as much as the success. Kids have to learn that I'm not going to give you all the answers. You have to try and you have to fail and try again. Getting them to understand that it's ok to fail as long as you're trying and I'm creating an environment where you don't have to get an A every time. That's not what the class is about. You are responsible for your own learning. You have to take the lead ownership role because that's how you learn best. It's how you learn with the most meaning attached. The other big challenge has been carving out a space in student schedules. With so many requirements for graduation, it's really hard to snag the good, high performing, driven students in my room because there's just not many spots for them to take other electives. We've kind of helped address this by

getting environmental science to count as a science credit so colleges will recognize it as a lab science and it counts as a science course toward high school graduation, so that helps. The freshman year is really the crunch year, because with current events and civics class requirements, they only have two electives. So if one of them has to be a foreign language requirement and then if they're in band or choir that's their two electives. We're working with that a little bit. Miss Cardiff has been really good about figuring out independent study stuff when it comes down to our intro ag class and music courses.

How many member are in our FFA chapter now?

We have thirty members on our roster, right now, with 70-75 students enrolled in the program. About a third of the high school student population is taking an Ag class.

Where did the seeds for the appreciation breakfast come from?

In FFA, some of the things we really work on are finding ways to have a positive impact in our community and show others A. What we stand for, and B. How much we appreciate them. One of the things we do during FFA week is we sponsor a hat day and we donate all of the proceeds from that to our snack pack program. We've worked out a system where the kids can pay a dollar and they get to wear a hat all day in school. All of that money goes to the snack pack program. The appreciation breakfast is our way of saying thank you to all of the community members, the alumni, the teachers, the parents, the grandparents, everyone who has a hand in making us what we are. We are always asking "can we borrow this calf" or "We need gates" and the kids are really good about going out into the community and getting what we need, and we just wanted a way to say thank you. Thursday, from 6:30 am to 7:30 am, we are having a breakfast in the ag shop. We'll serve pancakes and bacon & eggs and biscuits & gravy, coffee and orange juice and milk. We'll just kind of let people come and go as they need to.

Is this something that is unique to our chapter?

I think a lot of chapters do

this? I picked it up when I was in Paris. We did it at Tuscola, as well. At Tuscola, we did an appreciation dinner until we switched it to a breakfast the last year. The breakfast just seems to go over well. People like the breakfast!

Do you see any involvement at the state and national level for your members in the future?

Right now, that's not what we're focused on. In our fourth year, we want to establish a good, solid foundation where our members can succeed. Once we get that good, solid foundation in our local community we can begin to branch out and grow. One of the first pieces of advice that was given to me, by a teacher who started new programs twice, was to not try to do too many things too fast. Pick the four or five things you want to do for four or five years and then add something new every year after that. If you try to do too many things at once, the kids get bogged down and then they get discouraged. I've been very specific about doing one contest every season, so we do one contest in the fall and then one in the spring. We do one program in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. Most of my kids are the same ones who are doing everything else. They're on student council and they're doing sports and they only have so much time to delegate. In our chapter, the students are the ones who do everything, I don't do it for them. They're the ones who put together the banquet script and slide show and put articles in the newspaper and pull together donations for the appreciation breakfast. They're the ones who are the driving force behind it. It's ownership, and that takes time and dedication, and so therefore we have to be very choosy about the things we throw at them because there's only so many hours in a day.

Is there anything you would like to add? Are you going to have your sweet corn booth at Ag Days?

We will have our sweet-corn booth. Our banquet is Wednesday May 8. Our junior high FFA team is going to be competing at district on March 20. That's awesome for them. Our forestry team finished first this fall.

Council Discusses Recycling Changes Along With Plans For Senior Center cont'd from pg. 1

with Mayor Gunter and Jacki Athey he met with Ken Miller from Advance Disposal and discussed the current recycling program. Mr. Miller pointed out with approximately 1100 households in the city the recycling effort failed to meet expectations. Presently Advance Disposal has approximately 326 recycling containers placed at residences and serviced weekly. These are not being maximized and his suggestion is to replace the 35 gallon containers with 65 gallon containers and schedule a pickup every 2 weeks. This would still meet the demands to provide sufficient container capacity while reducing exhaust emissions from the trucks and pavement wear with a 50% reduction of trips into the city. Conversation

moved to the public Works project of removing the leaves from the fall collection. Public Works Director Rusty Craig estimated that the city had approximately 600 yards of compacted leaves that would need to be hauled. Mayor Gunter proposed that possibly an agreement could be reached on these two issues with Advance Disposal. This will be something that will be on the future agenda of the city Council. Bruce announced that AG Days this year would be August 2nd 3rd and 4th. There will be a meeting next Monday, February 18 at 6 PM at City Hall. This will provide an opportunity for everyone to exchange ideas and suggestions for the upcoming event.

• Senior Center – Chairperson Griffith – Darrell was

very positive and supportive of new hire Robin Cowman as the Site Director. Robin and Darrell will be participants at the Inter-Generational meeting. The emphasis of this meeting is to lay plans for future growth of the Center.

• Mayor Gunter in her Mayoral Report announced the Inter-Generational meeting which the city of Villa Grove facilitated. The mayor will be the host speaker at this meeting which will bring together community, business and educational leaders from the area.

There was no need for an Executive Session Meeting and the Council meeting was adjourned.

The next City Council meeting will be February 25, 2019 at 6 PM.

Holding It All Together cont'd from pg. 4

trick is to keep repeating the truth without repeating the misinformation. The reason for this is because the more often people hear untruths, the higher the likelihood they will believe it (Hennigan, 2015):

our preexisting beliefs, far more than any new facts, can skew our thoughts and even colour what we consider our most dispassionate and logical conclusions. This tendency toward so-called 'motivated reasoning' helps explain why we find groups so polarized over matters where the evidence is so unequivocal (Hennigan, 2015)

There is also the problem of willful ignorance. "That is when a person becomes so hardened in their position that they even demonize people with differing opinions. No amount of evidence will get people suffering from "willful ignorance" to change their mind. Eventually, this refusal

to listen to other points of view becomes denialism." (McIntyre, 2016)

Scientists are doing their jobs backwards. They look at the pond and see 1,000 white swans, and so they look for more white swans. They find a bunch of white swans, so they make a statement that all swans are white. Then a black swan lands on the pond. Their statement is now false. All swans are not white. Scientists need to quit looking for white swans to prove that all swans are white, and start looking for other colored swans to prove they exist too.

Critical thinking is the key to not fall into a trap, and be able to look at others opinions and seek the truth yourself. Question everything. Don't just look for the "white swans". There is a lot of those scientists out there still making statements. Not all of them are right.

Wise or Otherwise cont'd from pg. 4

I picked it up at the dollar store. It was very cute, made of what seemed to be durable material and made a cute squeaking noise.

Well, the noise was cute in the store but not so much at 6 in the morning when you just get up, or while you're trying to talk on the phone or write a column for the newspaper. But she loves her blue pig and despite the fact that I

have purchased other much more expensive, supposedly indestructible toys it is blue pig that lives on.

I've even taken blue pig away at times to preserve what is left of my sanity. I have to do it when she is not looking because otherwise she will sit next to the table or counter pining for her favorite squeak toy. Somehow, I swear, it ends back up on

And lastly, you aren't the smartest person in the room. You ain't all that and a bag of chips. You aren't golden, the shidazzle, Queen, or hotsy tots. We are all human and on this ball together. We all have different talents and know different things. We are all good at something. We all have our special gifts. There isn't a one of us any better in God's eyes than another. Have humility, an open mind, admit when you are wrong, listen to others, don't be a jerk. See, the world is already a better place.

1 Samuel 2:3 (KJV)

Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

Proverbs 8:13 (KJV)

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Douglas County Courthouse News cont'd from pg. 3

Gabrielle A. Smith, 20, of Chicago was ticketed February 12 for speeding 80 mph in a 65-mph zone westbound on U.S. 36 at County Road 1250 East in Tuscola Township. Ticket was filed February 13.

Criminal Petitions

Bryce C. French, 20, of Tuscola has been charged with unlawful consumption of alcohol by a minor, a Class A misdemeanor carrying up to 364 days in jail and a fine up to \$2,500. French, a person under 21 years of age, is accused of consuming alcoholic liquor on January 24. Charge was filed February 11.

Dustin M. Gilpin, 34, of Villa Grove has been charged with possession of methamphetamine, a Class 3 felony carrying two to five years in prison and a fine up to \$25,000, and unlawful possession of a hypodermic syringe, a Class A misdemeanor carrying up to 364 days in jail and a fine up to \$2,500. Gilpin is accused of knowingly and unlawfully possessing on October 14 less than five grams of a substance containing methamphetamine and of possessing a hypodermic syringe on October 14 adapted for the use of injecting controlled substances into the body through subcutaneous injection. Charges were filed February 5.

Marriage Licenses

A marriage license was issued February 13 to M. Todd Shunk and Michele Jarie Chappell, both of Tuscola.

Real Estate

State Bank of Arthur, also known as Morton Community Bank, granted Gary L. Phillips and Darlene Phillips a release for Lot 46 of Oaks Addition, Atwood (202 Oak

Circle, Atwood).

State Bank of Arthur, also known as Morton Community Bank, granted Justin Wierman and Andrea Wierman a release for Lots 9 and 10 in Block 23 of the Original Town, Tuscola (103 North Main Street, Tuscola).

State Bank of Arthur, also known as Morton Community Bank, granted Eli William Otto and Marjorie K. Otto a release for a parcel in 22-15-7 (357 East County Road 600 North, Tuscola).

State Bank of Arthur, also known as Morton Community Bank, granted Arturo M. Zendeja a release for Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Block 19 of the Original Town, Arcola (202 South Chestnut Street, Arcola).

State Bank of Arthur, also known as Morton Community Bank, granted Anel Gonzalez Garcia a release for Lot 11 in Block 7 of the Original Town, Arcola (125 East Jefferson Street, Arcola).

State Bank of Arthur, also known as Morton Community Bank, granted William W. Singer, L. David Camp, and Beth A. Camp a release for parcels in SW 8-15-7 and SE 7-15-7.

First Mid Illinois Bank granted Terry Melton satisfaction of mortgage for Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of James Plowman Addition, Camargo. (205 South Vine Street, Camargo).

LoanDePot.Com granted James L. Culp and Katherine E. Culp satisfaction of mortgage for Lot 8 of Parkview Second Addition, Tuscola, and a parcel in SW 27-16-8 (212 Fairlane Drive, Tuscola).

James R. Huser granted Andy Pollock and Emily Pollock a warranty deed for

a parcel in SW 23-16-8.

Ernest W. Yoder granted Morton Community Bank a mortgage for a parcel in SW 16-14-7.

Jeanne L. Pettry granted Quicken Loans Incorporated a mortgage for Lot 52 of Southland Acres Second Subdivision (405 Southland Drive South, Tuscola).

David W. Pugh and Karen S. Pugh granted Quicken Loans Incorporated a mortgage for Lots 25 and 26 of Prairie Lake Estates, Arcola (835 Dogwood Drive, Arcola).

Jonathan W. Penn granted Prosper Real Estate Investments LLC a warranty deed for Lots 1 and 2 in Block 14 of the Original Town, Tuscola (306 North Main, Tuscola).

Prosper Real Estate Investments LLC granted Casey State Bank a mortgage for Lots 1 and 2 in Block 14 of the Original Town, Tuscola (306 North Main, Tuscola).

Prosper Real Estate Investments LLC Jonathan W. Penn a Subordination of Mortgage for Lots 1 and 2 in Block 14 of the Original Town, Tuscola (306 North Main, Tuscola).

Ronald A. Rome granted JP Morgan Chase Bank a mortgage modification for Lot 1 in Block 27 of the Original Town, Tuscola (213 East Newkirk Street, Tuscola).

Steven L. Douglas and Sherilyn R. Douglas granted Villa Grove State Bank a mortgage modification for a parcel in NE 4-16-9 (Part of 14750 East County Road 1550 North, Villa Grove).

New Day Financial LLC granted James Cox and Casey Cox satisfaction of mortgage for Lot 32 of Country Club Second Subdivision, Villa Grove (16 Beech Lane, Villa

Grove).

J. Sue Alcorn granted J. Sue Alcorn, trustee of J. Sue Alcorn Trust, a deed in trust for a parcel in NE 16-16-8.

Timothy Fintoski and Rebecca Fintoski granted JG Wentworth Home Lending LLC a mortgage for Lot 4 in Block 3 of Enterprise Subdivision, Tuscola (817 East Newkirk, Tuscola).

Longview Bank granted SOSPEN LLC a release for Lot r of Hillcrest Subdivision, Tuscola (4 Hillcrest Drive, Tuscola).

George Nelson granted Jane S. Antle a quitclaim deed for a parcel in NE 33-15-8.

Countrywide Bank granted William C. Edgar and Susan D. Edgar a release for a parcel in 14-14-9 (1595 East County Road 100 North, Hindsboro).

H&R Block Mortgage Corporation granted Gary D. Barnard, Paula N. Barnard, and DiTech Financial LLC, formerly known as Green Tree Servicing LLC, an assignment of Mortgage for Lot 2 of Cooks Subdivision, Arcola (416 West Jefferson Street, Arcola).

Gordon G. Schneider and Linda L. Schneider granted National Bank of St. Anne a mortgage for a parcel in NW 8-16-10 (Part of Section 8 in Murdock Township).

Darren L. Happ and Caryn E. Happ granted Illinois National Bank a mortgage for Lot 4 in Block 7 of Assessor's Subdivision.

Illinois National Bank granted Darren L. Happ and Caryn E. Happ a release for Lot 4 in Block 7 of Assessor's Subdivision (708 East Overton Street, Tuscola).

Kenneth Brent Wilson granted Kenneth Brent Wil-

son and Tiffany A. Wilson a quitclaim deed for Lot 31 of Southland Acres Second Subdivision (610 Southland Drive, Tuscola).

Kenneth Brent Wilson and Tiffany A. Wilson granted Illinois National Bank a mortgage for Lot 31 of Southland Acres Second Subdivision (610 Southland Drive, Tuscola).

Richard C. Klopfleisch and Lynn M. Klopfleisch granted Heartland Bank and Trust a mortgage for a parcel in SE 36-15-7 (554 East County Road 300 North, Arcola).

Christopher Michael Robison granted First Mid Bank and Trust, N.A., a mortgage for Lot 2 in Block 6 of Bartel's Subdivision (105 and 107 East Fourth Street and 501 South Oak Street, Arcola).

Christopher Michael Robison granted First Mid Bank and Trust, N.A., assignment of mortgage for Lot 2 in Block 6 of Bartel's Subdivision (105 and 107 East Fourth Street and 501 South Oak Street, Arcola).

Christopher M. Robison and First Mid Bank and Trust, N.A., granted Christopher Michael Robison and First Bank and Trust a release for Lots 1 and 2 in Block 6 of Bartel's Subdivision (Lot 7 of Fourth Street, Arcola).

Christopher Michael Robison granted First Bank and Trust releases for Lot 2 in Block 6 of Bartel's Subdivision of Chandler and Bales' Second Addition, Arcola (107 Fourth Street South, Arcola).

Christopher M. Robison granted First Bank and Trust a release for Lot 2 in Block 6 of Bartel's Subdivision of Chandler and Bales' First Addition, Arcola.

Villa Grove State Bank granted Social Oasis LLC satisfaction of mortgage for Lot 13 in Block 11 of Johnston's First Addition, Villa Grove (101 North Main Street, Villa Grove).

Social Oasis LLC granted Villa Grove State Bank a mortgage for Lot 13 in Block 11 of Johnston's First Addition, Villa Grove (101 North Main Street, Villa Grove).

William J. Ludwig and Heather L. Ludwig granted First State Bank a mortgage for Lot 3 in Block 49 (305 East Van Allen, Tuscola).

Midland States Bank and Bobbie Jo Hatfield granted Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC an assignment of mortgage for a parcel in SE 18-15-10 (661 North County Road 1850 East, Camargo).

Douglas County Sheriff Joshua Blackwell granted Federal National Mortgage Association a sheriff's deed for Lot 71 of Meadowview Subdivision (906 Fairview Drive, Tuscola).

Jack E. Oye and Charity R. Oye granted First State Bank a mortgage for Lots 3, 4, and 5 in Block 6 of Reeder's First Addition, Arthur (232 South Maple Street, Arthur).

Omer Schrock granted Wilmington Savings Fund Society a warranty deed for Lots 4 and 5 in Block 9 of the Original Town, Hindsboro (401 Ohio Street, Hindsboro).

Wilmington Savings Fund Society and Citifinancial Services Incorporated granted Omer Schrock satisfaction of mortgage for Lots 4 and 5 in Block 9 of the Original Town, Hindsboro (401 Ohio Street, Hindsboro).