

# Peering Into The Past



Paul Knox Hardware Store, 13 N Main, in 1946. Herman Bean is on the left and Paul Knox is on the right. Photo Courtesy Villa Grove State Bank, Celebrating 100 Years.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,  
I am writing to express my disappointment with the Hook, Line, and Sinker column from February 13. The column was an inaccurate depiction of the Villa Grove dance program and painted a false narrative about the true purpose of the program.

In the column, the author mentioned how disappointing the varsity dance team's second place finish at State Finals was, how there was no joy in being part of the dance program, how being a dancer had become a burden for ALL of the team members, and how the drama and pressure from being a Devilette weighed heavily on the team. I have personally coached and been a dancer on a number of teams that have walked away from State Finals without any trophies, and the lessons that were learned and memories that were made from each of those years were not tarnished by the absence of a decorative object at the end of the season. I would be willing to wager that the fourteen years-worth of dancers from the Villa Grove dance program prior to the program's first championship title in 2012 and all of the dancers that have come after that first title would attest to difficult moments during their time on the team, but the lessons learned, friendships gained, and memories made have stayed with them throughout their lives.

A second place State finish may be disappointing to a group of kids who have earned several consecutive State Championship titles but should not define an entire season, an entire dance career, or an entire 22-year and counting program, and should certainly not be used as ammunition to taint the reputation and culture of a program that has positively impacted so many lives and that so many people have worked tirelessly to build. In order to adequately prepare for their adult futures, these dancers need to understand that in life, you will win some and you will lose some. No matter how hard you work toward your goals, there will undoubtedly be losses in your career and in your personal life. Even with this knowledge, these dancers should be encouraged to never stop putting forth their best effort in everything they do. No trophy, plaque, medal, or piece of paper can define their life or their value.

Being a member of the dance team should be viewed

as an honor and a privilege. Each member of the team earns their spot through an audition process and makes the conscious choice to be part of the team every season and every day throughout each season. Members of every dance team are brave and vulnerable, because being part of a dance program means putting your heart and soul into something and hoping that others appreciate what you've created, all while knowing that your work is worth so much more than trophies, numbers on a scoresheet, or the approval of an analytical group of spectators.

As a lifelong supporter of the Devilettes and someone who has been personally involved with the dance program at Villa Grove for over half of my life, I find it imperative to voice my opposition to the column and cast a more accurate portrayal of what the dance program is really about. The Villa Grove dance program is about empowering kids and young adults to gain confidence while still practicing humility, to set big goals and learn what steps are needed to achieve those goals, to work together with peers, to be accountable, to learn how to overcome adversity, and to be supportive and respectful of others. Every current and former coach of the Villa Grove dance program would surely agree that the hope is to instill lifelong lessons that will help these young people succeed in all areas of their life.

The February 13 column also questions the future of the Villa Grove dance program. The seventh consecutive State Championship earned by the Junior High dance team this season was overshadowed by the negative tone of the column and was only briefly mentioned in one succinct sentence that was followed directly by a statement that "help" toward the future success of the varsity team would be "a while in coming" due to the shortage of incoming freshmen. My response to that statement is as follows:

If you are a student who is considering auditioning for the dance team, please know that you will not regret your decision to take the chance on being part of something so special. If you are selected to be a dancer in the future, know that you will forever be part of a legacy and you will make friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. If you are a parent of a potential future dancer, please

know that as a dancer your child will be challenged to set big goals, to work harder than they thought possible while trying to achieve those goals, to work with a team of individuals with varying personalities and backgrounds, to overcome adversity, to respect authority and peers, to laugh and to trust, and will be loved by coaches and teammates who will support them and share a deep passion for this program and for every individual that has a role in the program. I have no doubt that the future of the Villa Grove dance program is bright, regardless of the trophies its teams carry home.

Sincerely,  
Alyssa Hudson

## Letter to the Editor

I keep hearing about how wind turbines are environmentally friendly. How they produce no emissions and are great for the world.

In an article by windpower engineering it mentions turbine blades. They are not recyclable. It is estimated that by 2020 there will be 50,000 metric tons of blade waste. Currently that goes into landfills. That number will rise to 200,000 metric tons by the year 2034. This is because the blades are made of glass or carbon fiber reinforcement in a polymer matrix. Magnets drive the turbines electric motors. According to Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft magnets contain neodymium and dysprosium, rare earth minerals. Only gained under difficult conditions and with a great deal of energy input the article reads. They are therefore quite expensive and their procurement leaves an ecological footprint behind. 90% of these elements come from China the article says. These magnets are also non recyclable.

A University of Wyoming study was covered by Eve Newman. That study was about how windfarms affect downwind pollination of certain plants. They did notice a difference in the downwind study, however the lead invertebrate zoologist, Lusha Tronstad also pointed out some other interesting facts. Insects are attracted to the wind turbines. Build up of insect carcasses on the blade's, and oil soak buildup attract dirt. If that buildup is not cleaned it can make the turbines power output decrease by up to 50%. Also noted by Tronstad is that birds are killed typically by being struck by the blade of turbines. However bats, which die at a rate 7 times higher than

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birds, are killed when the spinning blades cause a drop in air pressure as the bats approach, that drop causes blood vessels in their lungs to burst.

Not in that article but easily researched is that the spinning blades also produce infrasound, low frequency noise. I encourage everyone to look into that and read what it is capable of.

Think also for a few minutes how metals are forged and molded and the process that is needed for that. Is that process green that is used to produce these things? How much aggregate do we use in paving roads out to these. How much aggregate do we use repairing roads that are destroyed during their construction process. How much concrete is consumed in the base of each turbine? Most of that is left behind, buried and not reclaimed.

Each turbine produces electricity but also requires a source of electricity to operate, everyone should look into that. A recent Harvard study claims that a transition to wind or solar in the U.S. would require five to 20 times more land than previously thought. It says if such large scale wind farms were built, it could warm average surface temperatures over the continental U.S. by 0.24 degrees Celsius. They are at the mercy of the wind and need sustained wind speeds in order to produce the amount of energy they are capable of. So please make your own conclusions on how environmentally safe these machines are. I would also like to see a safety manual for the models EDP wants to install here, maybe they will put safety distances in event of an emergency in one of their letters to the editor?

Written by Ed Luth.

## Letter to the Editor

I'm writing today in strong support of the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm. I was raised on a farm just outside Villa Grove, graduated from Villa Grove High School, and taught in the Shiloh School District. I moved away for years, and when I returned four years ago, I was saddened by the depressed state of, and lack of industry and small businesses in this area.

There's a lot of fear-mongering happening by an extremely vocal minority, which is drowning out the great benefits this project will bring. Frankly, the wind farm is the only opportunity around here for a needed economic boost. The wind farm will contribute over \$2 million in taxes in the first year and \$50 million over the next 30 years. There are no industries coming to this area, and no one wants to move to an area that's drying up. We'll never progress if we continually refuse to evolve. We need revitalization and the wind farm is our chance.

Several school districts

have consolidated because there's not enough funding or attendance to sustain them. Teachers and programs are being lost because there's no money to support them. The millions in tax dollars that will go to the schools will increase the quality of education and attract additional teachers and staff, which will attract people to the community. These people buy houses.

The Harvest Ridge Wind Farm will also spur job creation. Wind farms create hundreds of construction jobs that are filled by locals, which allows them to support their families and have health benefits. Some of this earned money is then circulated into the local community, supporting restaurants, gas stations, and retail.

The wind farm is the progress we need to bring vitality back into our communities! We simply can't let this opportunity pass us by!

Sherry Ellis

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6:30 pm- Early Bird  
7:00 pm- Regular Bingo

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