



**South County
SPOTLIGHT**

St. Patrick Catholic Charities - Tolono IL Free Food Pantry Every Monday from 5-6:30 and Friday 9-10:30 -Located at the Parish - providing Fresh produce, meat and pantry items. Serving all of Champaign County

The Giving Place is open every Wednesday from 4pm-6pm in Tolono to help families in need with food items.

3rd Thursday of every month - Tolono Fun Day Committee meet at 6:30 @ Police Station

VFW of Villa Grove Bingo Every Friday Night @ 7pm

4/16 RAINDATE Re-Scheduled Easter Egg Hunt for kids under 12 hosted by SIG 10am-11am @ Witt Park Ball Park in Sidney (rain date is set for 4/16)

4/17 Easter Sunday

4/18 Sidney American Legion Meeting @ 6pm

4/18 Tax Filing Deadline

4/19 Unity Music Boosters Meeting in UHS Band Room @ 7pm

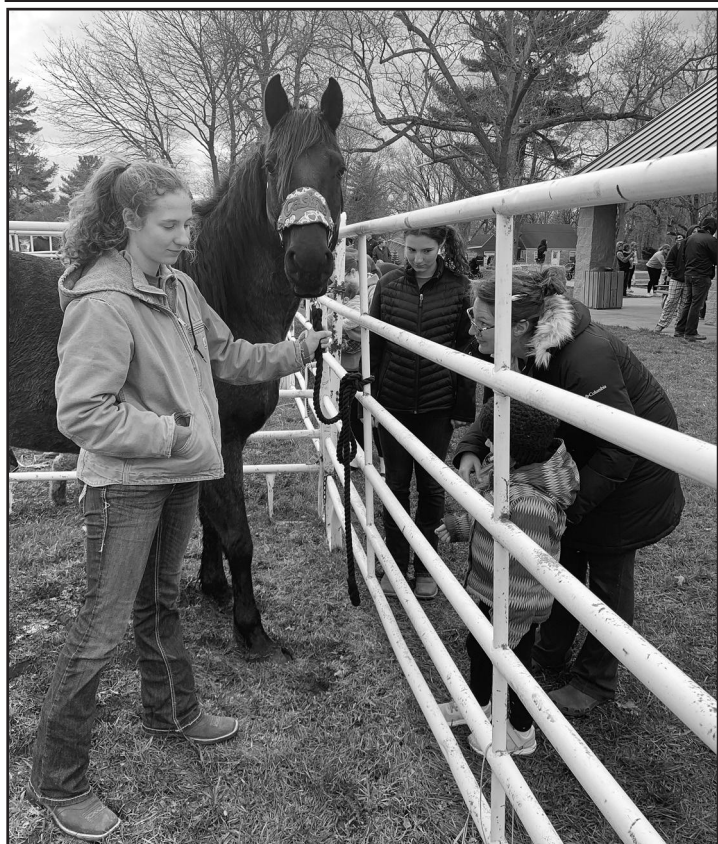
4/22 Earth Day

4/30 Tolono Junior Trustee Applications Deadline

5/1 Steak Dinner Fundraiser for Catholic Charities @ Philo Tavern, Philo: Cash bar @4pm Dinner at 5pm

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to see featured in Spotlight email us at: jamie@thetuscolajournal.com

Unity FFA East Side Park Petting Zoo: Tractors, Animals & Activities held on April 6



Unity's FFA members brought their farm animals to East Side Park in Tolono on April 6. Families in the Unit 7 got the chance to touch and learn about the animals as the high school students stood by to answer questions. Photo above shows 2.5 year old Dane sitting inside a

combine during the "touch a tractor" event on the east side of the main pavilion.

The Easter Bunny was around for a photo opportunity in the top left side photo, as well as ordinary rabbits too!

Bottom left photo features-Marie Baxley, an active FFA

member with her horse, Casinno stood in a pen with her sister Molly nearby as a young girl and her mother were curious about her equine science studies she plans to pursue at Murray State after graduating from Unity in May. Photos and descriptions by Diane Ducey.



Sidney Village Board Discusses Dumpster Day, Appropriations, and More

April 4 Village of Sidney Board of Trustees Meeting Coverage - by Ann Rhoton SCCTP News Correspondent

The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees met on Monday, April 4 in the Sidney Community Building meeting room at 7:00 p.m. Village of Sidney President Jason Arrasmith brought the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. following the recitation of the pledge of allegiance by all in attendance.

Village of Sidney President Jason Arrasmith asked if there was any public comment and, as there was none, moved on to ask trustees if there were any corrections or additions to the Monday, March 7 regular and executive (closed)

session meeting minutes and for a motion to approve them as written if they so choose. A motion from Trustee Matt Laurent seconded by Trustee Dan Gadeken to approve the Monday, March 7 regular and executive (closed) session meetings minutes as written carried.

Village of Sidney President Jason Arrasmith began his comments by requesting approval of village employee raises in relation to the increase in minimum wage, etc. as discussed during the Monday, March 7 executive (closed) session meeting.

A motion from Trustee Bret Harris seconded by Trustee Dan Gadeken carried three

to one with Trustee Donna Hooker voting no to pay Village of Sidney Cleaning Employee Peggy Carlson \$15.00 an hour, Village of Sidney Maintenance Employee Terry Woodworth \$21.00 an hour, Village of Sidney Clerk Maggie Fish \$19.00 an hour, and to increase Village of Sidney Treasurer Ashley Reinhart's salary by \$35.00 more a week (\$70.00 per pay period).

President Arrasmith continued his comments by informing trustees that they needed to look at appropriations for the next fiscal year. The trustees decided to schedule a 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21 special meeting to look at figures and decide how much

money they needed to have appropriated for the various Village of Sidney accounts.

The board discussed this year's Saturday, April 30 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Village of Sidney Dumpster Day taking place at Witt Park under President Arrasmith's comments. Village of Sidney Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Wyant providing dumpster prices and a motion from Trustee Bret Harris seconded by Trustee Dan Gadeken for the Village of Sidney to spend not to exceed \$5,000.00 with Captain Hook for dumpsters for the Village of Sidney Dumpster Day carried.

It was also reported that Sidney Township Highway

Commissioner Jeff Roberts said that the Sidney Township would help with the township truck, back hoe, and other needed items for the Village of Sidney Dumpster Day.

The board additionally decided that folks with special needs needing help with getting items to dumpster day could call Village of Sidney Clerk Maggie Fish at (217) 688-2225 to have their name put on a list for the Village of Sidney to pick up items for them to take to dumpster day.

The following has been posted at the Village of Sidney Facebook page since the meeting: "The Village of Sidney would

Cont. pg. 4

Village of Tolono Water Systems, Call for Public Works Staff

By Diane Ducey Staff Writer

Village trustees gathered for their bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday April 5th in the police station downtown in the room that is equipped with cameras so that anyone can view and participate with their internet connection.

The reports on Tolono's

drainage, water and sewage system as well as some of the pumps dealing with low areas that have been flooding near Elizabeth and Benham took up a good portion of the meeting. Representatives from American Water Company as well as the public works and citizens with insight and concerns all spoke to the board

about getting video surveillance done soon to see if there are cracks in the pipes that are under such stress in order to assess the problem, get a proper diagnosis and proceed with a plan to fix it.

The need for more staff came up and a post for more resourceful team members to step up and submit an ap-

plication in our public works department came up, as well as the need for another squad car for the police, since a recent estimate for repairs on the "spare" vehicle were higher than the cars value. That started a debate about whether to fix the car or simply move forward to get another vehicle that can be fully equipped in

the new 2022-23 budget that has some room for those type of improvements once the new fiscal year starts in May.

Some of the audience participation also came into play as our Tolono Park Board tries to navigate new territory of possibly being absorbed by the village. Some of the concerns about how money is

spent as well as accountability and tracking is being worked out and a few key players involved in this transition will be giving reports at the Monday April 11th meeting, also in the downtown Tolono Police station with video for community input.

As the meeting started to wind down, Cont. pg. 4

WWW.FORDOFTUSCOLA.COM
217-253-3353
ON 36 IN TUSCOLA

Icon EV Golf Carts

Nearly 15 in stock!

Stop By Today for Best Selection!

FINANCING AVAILABLE!!!

Brand New 2022's