



**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

VFW of Villa Grove  
Bingo Every Friday  
Night @ 7pm

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

7/1 Villa Grove  
Freedom Celebration  
and Fireworks at  
Richman Park in  
Villa Grove  
Patriotic Bike Parade-  
registration/line-up  
@ 6:30 parade at 7pm  
Fireworks @ Dusk

7/4 Independence  
Day

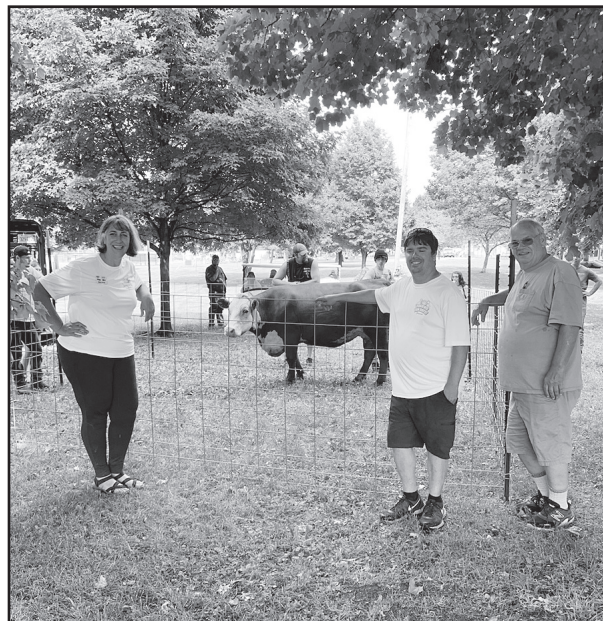
7/5 - 7/7 Vacation  
Bible School @  
Sidney Christian  
Church 9-11:30am  
ages K-5th Grade

7/5 Village of Sidney  
Board Meeting @7pm

7/29 & 7/30 Village  
of Sidney Fun Daze

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

**Tolono Fun Day 2022 Patriotic Celebration**



**Tolono Fun Day committee felt good about their June 24th and 25th weekend with festivities for citizens and visitors, many coming to check out the numerous activities for all ages. Some of the highlights included a big parade on Saturday (6/25) that had a spotlight on the fireworks tradition with a couple dozen Boom Boom Boys, of course the fireworks show at the end of a full day of events including music, a big car show, kiddie tractor pull and beer tent along with fair food/drinks and vendors selling their unique items had the community enjoying the patriotic party. Photos by D.L. Anderson.**

**Sidney American Legion Discusses Boys State, Post Offices and County Election Officers**

June 20 Sidney American Legion Post 433 Meeting Coverage – by Ann Rhoton SCCTP News Correspondent  
The Sidney American Legion Post 433 met on Monday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney.  
Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch brought the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. following opening ceremonies and a prayer given by Post 433 Chaplain Fred Olds with 12 members and one guest; your correspondent in attendance.

Commander Hensch asked if members had received a copy of the Monday, May 16 meeting minutes that were emailed or mailed to post members and if there were any additions or corrections. There were no additions or corrections and the minutes were approved following a motion from Post 433 legionnaire Michael Schumacher and a second to the motion by Post 433 legionnaire Robert Reifsteck.  
Post 433 Finance Officer Dannie Cline was absent from the meeting, but he had given his report to Post

433 Adjutant Bill McLane to read at the meeting. The report was approved as read following a motion from Post 433 legionnaire David Dillman and a second to the motion by Post 433 Historian Rollo Katterhenry.  
Commander Hensch asked Adjutant McLane to report on his grandson attending the June 11 – June 17 American Legion Premier Illinois Boys State.  
McLane reported that his grandson Oskar Hansen had attended American Legion Premier Illinois Boys State and that he had really en-

joyed it and had learned a lot from the experience.  
Adjutant McLane reported that 160 kids from all over had attended, that his grandson now wanted to join the Sons of the American Legion, and that he had asked for and received contact information for the Champaign American Legion Post 24 Sons of the American Legion Squadron 24 legion liaison from Post 24 SAL member Scott Rhoton to help his grandson to get involved with the Sons of the American Legion.  
Mr. Hansen will give a report on his experience at-

tending this year's American Legion Premier Illinois Boys State at the Sidney American Legion Post 433 August 15 meeting.  
Legionnaires in attendance decided to inventory poppies left from this year's poppy distribution at the Friday, June 24 Post 433 Friday Coffee and Doughnuts.  
Adjutant McLane reported that his wife Post 433 Judge Advocate Susan McLane, a member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (Alliance Chapter, NSDAR), and he and

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**Villa Grove Patriotic Bicycle Parade is Bigger Than Ever**

By Tony Hooker  
As she was growing up, the 4th of July was always a big day for Jamie Morse. Turns out that it still is! I recently caught up with my friend and co-worker at the Southern Champaign County Today and Journal Newspaper to talk about her involvement with the patriotic bike parade, which will be held on July 1 before the fireworks at Richman Park in Villa Grove.  
Where did the idea for the Patriotic Bicycle Parade come from?  
Before the very first Freedom Celebration, Jody Eversole and I were kicking around ideas for things to add in besides the fireworks, and I came up with it after seeing it in another small town. I immediately cornered Elizabeth Hamilton into being a co-organizer of the event and we started out small the first year, which was good as we were learning how to make everything go smoothly. The event has grown larger over the years.  
Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a small town north of Champaign Urbana in Thomasboro and went to High School in Rantoul.  
Did you consider yourself a patriotic person growing up? Did you like that sort of thing, the parades and fireworks and civic spirit when you were growing up in Thomasboro/Rantoul?  
Oh, definitely! The Fourth of July was always a big celebration. We would always get together and stay up late to watch the fireworks, cook-out and play games out in the street.  
How many years has this event taken place?  
This is our fourth year.  
How do you think it evolved over those years?  
I think that the community has really come together to boost the event. We have a lot of people that want to donate and be a part of the event. A lot of people in the community come out for the event and really go above and beyond to decorate their bikes, strollers, wagons (anything with wheels) and parade in

the event. The Journal Newspaper has always donated Holiday World tickets for the event. This year, they donated 4 family 4-packs of tickets that we're giving away.  
That's quite an incentive to get out there and decorate your bike and participate! How are they judged?  
The Miss Villa Groves will be there again this year to help out, make announcements etc. and they will have four jars for 4 different age groups, and will draw for the tickets.  
Got it! They're not being judged on their decoration for the Holiday World tickets.  
Right, but we have other prizes that we'll be giving away based on their decoration. We'll have categories such as most patriotic, best use of decorations and Judge's favorite. We'll have a couple of cash prizes and Monical's Pizza donates individual pizzas and a few Family Pleaser certificates every year and we give those away based on the overall theme of how the participants have decorated. We also have a huge prize table,

thanks to a donation every year from the Villa Grove State Bank, so each participant can pick a toy or patriotic item, everyone gets a participation gift!  
Anything new this year?  
Thanks to a very generous donation from the Rotary Club, we were able to purchase a microphone and speaker box and give away a couple of cash prizes. We are really excited to be able to play patriotic music while the parade is taking place! We feel extremely blessed to be a part of this community and to have the community's support for an event like this. We're happy that we'll be able to play the music, make announcements, and announce the winners and everyone will be able to hear us. We also bought small American flags that we will use to line the entire parade route this year.  
What time should folks assemble?  
We're going to start lining up at 6:30, but we're going to hold off on starting the parade until 7 pm, because the kiddie



**Photo above: The Villa Grove Freedom Celebration Patriotic Bike Parade in 2018. The free event will be held at Richman Park this year, registration and line-up begins at 6:30 and parade to begin at 7pm before the annual fireworks show.**

tractor pulls are starting at 6. We are hoping that they'll be finished by 7, when we start.  
Anything you want to add?  
First of all, I want to thank Elizabeth Hamilton, my co-organizer of this event. She has been very involved since the beginning, and it wouldn't be the same without her. I also want to point out that this event is completely free, and everyone is welcome to participate. We'll have free

water and popsicles, as well. Jackie Wells has donated the water this year. I hope to see a lot of new faces and I hope that everyone that's come in the past continues to come out. They really put their hearts into decorating, and I can't wait to see them as we celebrate this holiday.  
For more information visit our Facebook Page: Villa Grove Annual 4th of July Bike Parade.