



SECTION

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Introducing Morgan Jones, Moultrie-Douglas UI Extension's new program coordinator

By Doris Elmore

Moultrie-Douglas County 4-H Clubs will be celebrating National 4-H Week October 1-7 and several activities have been planned for this special event. This gives our newspapers an opportunity to introduce Morgan Jones of Tuscola as the University of Illinois Extension Program Coordinator for 4-H Youth Development for Moultrie-Douglas Counties.

Morgan started her job on a part-time basis in March of this year while she was working on her BS in Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications at the University of Illinois. She graduated from the U of I in only 3 years in May and continued her job on a full-time basis.

Morgan is a 2020 graduate of Tuscola High School and resides in Tuscola. Much to my surprise, she said she has never been a member of 4-H, but was very active in FFA in high school and showed cattle at local, state and national level. The cattle were on her grandparent's farm. She said she showed at the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair when she was 11-12 years old, but not as a 4-Her.



Morgan Jones of Tuscola, UI Extension program coordinator for 4-H Youth Development

Morgan is the daughter of Mimi and Jason Jones of Tuscola and granddaughter of Dave & Marcia Hackett, of Rural Tuscola.

While a student at U of I, she was on the livestock judging team. She did internships

with the following: Farm Bureau in Bloomington where she planned and executed the Master Showmanship at the Illinois State Fair in 2021; Trans-Ova Genetics at Sioux Center, Iowa, in marketing and communications where she traveled to five national cattle shows; Repru Logix at Ft. Scott, Kan., where she created content for social media.

Presently, Morgan is working on her Master's Degree in the same field as her BS Degree.

Morgan attended a statewide 4-H team meeting Monday through Wednesday of last week. All 27 4-H units came together at the University of Illinois totaling approximately 150 people. They discussed improving project books, in-school programming and maximizing 4-H experience.

During 4-H week, Morgan and her co-workers will be hosting 4-H open enrollment night and floral design workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 6 p.m. at the Moultrie-Douglas Extension Office, 304 E. Progress, Arthur. Please register by Sept. 30 to be guaranteed a spot for the floral workshop.

There is no charge. Call the extension office at 217-543-3755 or go to the form on the FB page.

A new 4-H club was formed in Arcola on Sept. 2. Anyone interested in this club contact the Extension Office. They are in the process of planning several additional workshops in the coming months. On Achievement Night they will be communicating with local schools for spring programs.

Since 4-H began more than 100 years ago, it has become the nation's largest youth development organization. The 4-H idea is simple: help young people and their families gain the skills needed to be proactive forces in their communities and develop ideas for a most innovative economy. 4-H is open to all youth, you are el-



The 4-H Pledge which hangs in the Moultrie-Douglas Extension Office in Arthur

igible if you live in the country or in town.

Current 4-H Clubs in Moultrie-Douglas County include: Atwood-Hammond Prairie Dogs- Atwood & Arthur; Awesome Arthur Clovers-Arthur

(currently looking for a leader to take over); Barnyard 4-H Club, Tuscola; Camargo Champs, Camargo; Moultrie County Shining Stars, Sullivan; Purple Ribbon Riders, Arcola (New, just getting established-Sept., 2023); Sunny Side Flea Flickers (currently looking for a leader to take over).

Although Morgan's background didn't actually include 4-H, she was involved in the next thing to it, FFA. She is a very talented young woman and is anxious to work with the youth to help enhance their lives and live by the 4-H pledge: "I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, My HEART to greater loyalty, My HANDS to larger service, and My HEALTH to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

County Board approves bridge funding

The Douglas County Board approved the funding petition for two Garrett Township bridges. The first bridge, located at 380 East County Road 1350 North will be replaced for a total cost of \$57,095. The Board will provide half of the funding at \$28,547.

The second bridge, located

at 1305 North County Road 450 East, will cost a total of \$54,053. The Board will pay \$26,256.

The Board approved adopting three collective bargaining agreements for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. The first agreement for deputy sergeants and lieutenants, the

second for deputy officers below sergeant and the third for corrections officers and corrections sergeants.

Douglas County Sheriff Nathan Chaplin said the bargaining agreements are the third iteration of the bargaining unit's

See COUNTY BOARD on page 3

Singer/songwriter Jack Shannon coming to Arthur

After a long career of playing music, Jack Shannon decided to give up on music but that all changed on a late-night drive from Terre Haute, Ind., to his home in Rockville.

A full moon was hanging in the sky that night and it was all the inspiration he needed to write his first song, "Same Old Moon." The song was soon recorded by award-winning guitarist and vocalist Jim Hurst and has become a favorite for his many fans. It wasn't long before Jack's dream became

reality, and he was able to hear his song being played on Sirius XM Bluegrass Junction and many other bluegrass stations across the country.

This was just the start of a great songwriting career for Jack, since then he has had many songs recorded by prominent bluegrass artists. He has also recorded his own cd of 15 original songs.

Local band "Mackville" performs one of his songs, "Bloomingdale Boys" and has had the privilege of co-writ-

ing several songs with Jack, "A Thousand Years From Now" and "Dirt."

Everyone is welcome to Penn Station in downtown Arthur on Sunday, Oct. 8 starting at 6 p.m. to enjoy this special evening with Jack Shannon. His performance will be followed by a songwriter workshop for anyone who is interested in writing songs or just interested in the process of writing a song.

Free admission and refreshments will be served.

BRIEFS

Dress for success

Join the Douglas County Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) 1-5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 401 S. Main St. in Tuscola. Darlene Smith, recovery navigator, and Jenna Slaughter, workforce development career coach, will discuss tips and tricks on how to shop for business casual clothing on a budget, as well as provide information on basic interview etiquette and resume development.

You will have the opportunity to "shop" in the business attire closet filled with generously donated, gently used business attire and pick out a few items to take home, free of charge. The closet is also open by appointment or during walk-in hours Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. till 12 noon. For information, call 217-253-7555.

Recovery workshops

The Recover-Oriented Education Series' Wellness Group is hosting seminars on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The first Wednesdays are held from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Atwood-Hammond Public Library, 123 N. Main St., Atwood. The third Wednesday sessions are 11 a.m. to 12 noon at the Camargo Township District Library, 14 N. Main St., Villa Grove.

The October topic (Oct. 4 and 18) is Fall in love with recovery. November (Nov. 1 and 15) is Things to be thankful for. December (Dec. 6 and 20) is 'Tis the season for recovery.

New nurses

Lakeview College of Nursing recently held a White Coat Ceremony to recognize students who achieved the

transition into clinical practice within their bachelor's degree nursing program. Area students who were honored include the following: Cassie Sanders of Oakland and Taylor Spelman of Arcola.

Blood drives

Tuscola United Methodist Church is hosting a blood drive from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19. To donate, visit www.bloodcenter.org and use code 71203 to register on the website. The Tuscola Moose Lodge is hosting a blood drive from 9 a.m. till 12 noon Friday, Oct. 20. Use code 71315 on the website to register.

Forecast

Wednesday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1pm, then showers likely between 1pm and 4pm, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 4pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 8 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Wednesday Night: A chance of thunderstorms before 7pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. East wind around 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 79.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 81.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 81.



An Evening With Jack Shannon
Singer/Songwriter
Sunday, October 8th
Penn Station
122 E. Progress St. Arthur, IL
6:00 pm
Free Admission

Jack will be hosting a songwriting workshop following the concert. All are welcome to stay and attend.

Jack Shannon, from Rockville, IN, is an accomplished and talented singer/songwriter.

Jack's songs he wrote can be heard on various Bluegrass and Americana radio stations. His songs have been recorded by groups such as Sideline, Mike Mitchell Band, Jim Hurst and Wilson Banjo Company to name a few.

It will be a very enjoyable musical evening!

For more information:
Larry Schlabach
217-246-5024

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