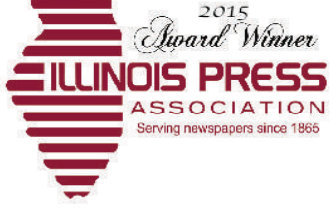




Villa Grove News

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Vol. 111 No. 11

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Pages 8

Side Tracks

your express route to upcoming VG events

WE HAVE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES!
 news@thevillagrove.com to submit your news related items and advertising@thevillagrove.com for all of your advertising needs!

6/20 Working Womens Expo at I-Hotel and Conference Center at 4pm

6/21 VG Clean Up Days 12pm-6pm

6/22 Devilettes Trivia Night at VFW 4pm

6/22 VG Clean Up Days 8am-5pm

6/24 VG City Council Meeting @ 6pm

6/25 Camargo Township District Library Summer Reading Program from 10-11:30

6/29 Tolono Fun Days Festival 5 PM - 9 PM City Park Tolono

7/3 VG Planning and Zoning Meeting @ 6pm

7/4 Independence Day

7/7 Annual Villa Grove Freedom Celebration. Fireworks at dusk.

7/7-7/11 First Christian Churc of VG Roar VBS 6:30-8:30

7/7-7/13 Moultrie Douglas County Fair

7/8 VG City Council Meeting @ 6pm

7/14 Flag Day

7/16 - 7/20 Mattoon Bagelfest @ Mattoon Peterson Park

7/19 - 7/27 Champaign County Fair

7/21 First Day of Summer

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to see featured in Sidetracks, email us at news@thevillagrove.com or call us at 832-4201

City Council Discusses Freedom Celebration

The Villa Grove City Council convened for their regularly scheduled meeting at 6 pm on June 10.

Mayor Gunter called the roll and found all members present minus Griffith.

After the pledge of allegiance, Gunter called for approval of the minutes from the last regular city council meeting and for approval of the minutes for the closed session of the city council from May 28. Both were approved unanimously. A motion to approve the minutes from the closed session of May 13 was also unanimously approved.

Mayor Gunter then called for approval of claims in the amount of \$209,647.59 and the measure was approved unanimously.

The mayor then called

for public comments, and Mike Leon was on hand to ask about the Celebration of Freedom event, and Gunter stated that it is scheduled for Sunday, July 7. There will be live entertainment, bounce houses, ball games and of course fireworks at dusk. The fireworks company has issued a \$2000 refund to the city because of last year's inclement weather, and the city has put it toward this year's celebration.

Alderman Blaney asked Alderman Hooker to contact Jamie Morse about the Bicycle Parade, and subsequently Morse and Elizabeth Hamilton agreed to organize the event again in 2019. Details about all of the day's activities will be forthcoming in a future issue of the Villa Grove

News.

Leon also inquired about ways to abate the standing water that is prevalent on school grounds, near McCoy subdivision, and was assured that a discussion between the school and the city would be had.

Finding no further comments, the council moved to conduct their regularly scheduled business.

First, they unanimously approved Ordinance 2019-MD07, which replaces the existing committees within city government with an Established Committee as a whole.

Next, the council approved the hiring of an engineer for the down town streetscape design project. The project should serve to modernize

the main street space to enhance business opportunities for tenants, while hopefully encouraging new ones.

The council then unanimously approved payments in the amount of \$144.67 to Bud's Auto Parts, with Alderman Allen recusing himself.

The Council then unanimously approved the \$49216.75 bid submitted by Earl Walker Co, Inc of Sullivan to complete the oil and chip and tilling project along north Henson road. Walker was the only company to submit a bid.

Next, the council approved payments of \$76,292 and \$1,175.32 for the new water plant.

The council then approved purchase of Line Stop materials in the amount of

\$16,466.77, agreed to payment of an invoice from Thomas Electric for work completed at Henson Park waived the formal bidding process to solicit proposals for security fencing at the new water plant and agreed to purchase employee credit with IMRF in the amount of \$69,055.07, and accepted the retirement of Harold "Rusty" Craig effective 6/28/2019.

The council then moved to closed session to discuss personnel matters, and upon coming out of closed session, moved to approve the hiring of a new full time employee effective 7/1/2019.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

VG Scholastic Bowl Earns National Recognition

By Tony Hooker Staff Writer

Everyone in town knows that there are some smart cookies roaming the halls of Villa Grove High School.

Now, thanks to the efforts of Coach Paul Baumann's scholastic bowl team, the whole nation knows!

The team was recently informed that they had finished first in the nation in small school (non-selective admission, under 500 enrollment) at the National Academic Challenge which was held in New Orleans the last week of May. Summer travel plans prevented me from talking to the coach, but I was able to catch up with team members Jackson Wiessing and Sydney Eisenmenger, along with Beth Harvey, VG Schools Speech Pathologist, and Jackson's mom, to get their impressions of the competition.

Jackson Wiessing
1. What got you interested in Scholastic bowl? Back in eighth grade, Scholastic bowl had just been reinstated after a hiatus. Not being terribly athletically inclined, I jumped at this opportunity to have fun at something I was good at.

2. What has been your favorite part of being on the team?
I love the camaraderie between my teammates and me. Everyone on this team feels like a valued member of it.

3. What has been your least favorite part of being on the team?
It's a terrible feeling to lose a match against a much better team, although, the games are usually short, so the feeling fades quickly.

4. What does it mean to you to be the small school national champion in Academic Challenge?
It's the best feeling in the world. To me, it validates our program and hopefully allows it to continue for generations to come.

5. How do you prepare for competition?
We have practices twice a week during regular practice season which can help for learning the sometimes obscure information necessary for competition. Also, right before each match, we have a tradition of singing a Spanish Language song called Torero in our huddle for encouragement.

6. What has been your favorite memory during a competition? How about outside the competition when you're hanging with your team?
My favorite memory during a competition would have to be winning the Parkland challenge, a scholastic bowl tournament put on every year by parkland college. This was particularly memorable to me because in previous years our



Villa Grove Scholastic Bowl Team: Front l-r Liberty Watson, Sydney Eisenmenger, Isidora Davis. Back l-r Caleb Wiessing, Grace Hutchison, Jackson Wiessing, Jaden Grimm, Coach Paul Baumann Photo courtesy of Beth Harvey.

team had never made it past the first round of this four-round tournament, so to skip ahead and win the whole thing was a great feeling. As for outside of competition, I will always remember our trip to nationals this year and all the fun we had in New Orleans.

7. Since this is an academic competition rather than a trivia contest, what subject do you feel is your strongest? Which is your weakest? Who is the strongest team member in each area?
I'm probably most consistent with history, but I am strong with and enjoy math also. I'm weakest at fine arts, but my brother, Caleb, makes up for that. That being said, Caleb and Isidora Davis are the best for fine art and music, Sydney Eisenmenger is the best for science, and Jaden Grimm is good for general knowledge questions.

8. Did you get an opportunity to explore New Orleans? What was your favorite part? Least favorite?
We had ample opportunities. We played eight half-hour long games over the course of three days, so we had a lot of free time on our hands. My favorite part would have to be our visit to the battle of New Orleans and seeing the expansive field where it was fought. If I had to pick my least favorite part, it would have to be walking down bourbon street because of the abundance of people and construction.

9. Do your parents help you prepare for competition?
They've taught me everything I know.
10. What would you say to a student who is considering

joining your team?

I would encourage any high school student to consider joining our team. Regardless of if you feel smart enough, there is always a question you can answer, and you might just be the only person that can.

Sydney Eisenmenger
1. What got you interested in Scholastic bowl?

Scholastic bowl interested me because it is a sport that is academically, and not athletically, inclined

2. What has been your favorite part of being on the team?

My favorite part of being on the team is making friends with people I never thought I'd talk to in high school.

3. What has been your least favorite part of being on the team?

My least favorite part of being on the team is the practices.

4. What does it mean to you to be the small school national champion in Academic Challenge?

We were the only small school (a school with 500 students or less) to qualify for the playoffs round and win round one, thus making us the Small School National Champion.

5. How do you prepare for competition?

We prepare for competitions by practicing twice a week and answering questions on the way to meets.

6. What has been your favorite memory during a competition? How about outside the competition when you're hanging with your team?

My favorite memory during a competition would be beating Tuscola by 400 points. My favorite memory outside of a competition would be when we first found out we qualified for Nationals.

7. Since this is an academic competition rather than a trivia contest, what subject do you feel is your strongest? Which is your weakest? Who is the strongest team member in each area?

8. Did you get an opportunity to explore New Orleans? What was your favorite part? Least favorite?

We did a lot of exploring while we were in New Orleans. My favorite part would be the day we went to swim at Lake Pontchartrain. My least favorite part was the National WWII Museum, because I find history very boring.

I'm not a pro in any one subject, but I know a few things and I know them really well. My weakest subject is history. Jackson is the strongest member in just about every area. Caleb is the strongest in anything fine arts or music.

9. Do your parents help you prepare for competition?

Our parents help us prepare for competitions by providing us with snacks, and always knowing what to say when we get stressed out.

10. What would you say to a student who is considering joining your team?

I would tell a new student joining the team that they better be ready to study, because Mr. Baumann gives us lots of art and history lessons.

Beth Harvey
1. How did this team grow as the season progressed?

Coach Baumann would be a better source for this question. As a parent, I wasn't at practices and I'm sure there was A LOT of growth as they practiced to perform and work as a team. I was, however, able to see how they progressed once the competitions started. They have always worked

well together, but you could see them maturing as the season progressed. They were always supportive of each other; compassionate when an incorrect answer was given and complimentary when one shocked the crowd with a difficult answer.

2. As a parent and teacher, how did you help the team prepare for competition?

I don't feel like I did anything spectacular as a teacher/parent to help the team. They are a group of self-driven young people who do not require much prodding from their parents to want to succeed in academics and competition. There was always a large group of parents and grandparents at every match to cheer them on and celebrate their accomplishments (no matter how far away the competition was). They truly are an impressive team to watch. They consistently surprised us with correct answers to questions that perplexed most in the crowd. We would often sit shaking our heads in amazement.

3. Are you excited about next year?

I am incredibly excited about next season. I love watching my sons (and their teammates) showcase their knowledge and have such fun doing it.

I have said this many times, but I am on the edge of my seat at every match. My stomach is in knots until the matches are finished. They are far more suspenseful for me than any athletic event I've attended. I love that this group is able to excel against much larger schools, schools with more resources, and schools with more experience in tournament play. As a parent and teacher, I could not be prouder of this group of kids.

4. Are there any seniors on this year's team?

There were NO seniors on this year's team. The team consisted of five juniors and two freshmen. Many of the teams we competed against were compiled of all upperclassmen. The fact that our team was so strong with younger players this season leads me to believe we will be even stronger for the 2019/2020 season. I can't wait to see how far they can go next year!

VG School Retired Employees Meeting

Villa Grove School Retired Employees Reunion

The Villa Grove Schools will be having a reunion of retired employees on August 3rd, 2019 at the Austin Appgar Farm. This is located between Villa Grove and Tuscola at 1300 N and 1350 E. This is for

all retired personnel including teachers, administrators, custodians, secretaries, aides, Etc. The get together will be from 1:00PM to ????. Please bring a finger food snack and your own drinks. Plates, cups, ice, etc. will be provided. Please spread the word. If

you have any questions you may contact Donny Powell on Facebook or Joe Landeck at 840-8146. Former students and current employees are also invited to attend. Hope to see you all there.