

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



Summertime conversations past and present

The season of fairs and festivals is in full swing in our area and won't stop until summertime is through. I have many fond memories of these events and like to think back on conversations I had with my parents and friends many years ago. What is funny is that some of those topics of discussion are still the same over all the years from kids to grandkids. I think some might sound familiar to you, too.

Here are a few of the conversations from yesteryear or did I just hear them yesterday?

"This is all the money you are getting for tonight and that is final" followed after

a few hours by "Mom? Dad? Can I have just a little bit more money? - Children aren't really budget-savvy, kind of like our state legislature or Congress, anytime but especially when it comes to fair time.

It is so easy to blow through that nightly allowance for rides, games, food and other entertainment in a heartbeat. Kids are savvy in this respect because they know parents are likely weakened by watching them have a good time while having a good time themselves.

It is a thin line between "oh, okay" and "don't press your luck." Maybe it is the warm, summer nights that help loosen up the wallet and the purse? Still, remember to negotiate with skill, young-

sters, just like your parents used to do with grandma and grandpa!

Speaking of which the wee ones have learned the divide and conquer approach works well but the parents are on to this game; it goes something like this:

"Daaaad, can we ride the tiltascramblerparachuteshustlerferriswheelrocko'planes ten more times, puhlease!" "Go ask your Mom" equals Dad win.

"Mooooom, can we ride the tiltascramblerparachuteshustlerferriswheelrocko'planes ten more times, puhlease!" "Go ask your Dad" equals Mom win.

Sometimes this situation goes critical so Mom and Dad join forces and say, "Go ask your grandparents!" Brilliant!

Here's another; To Mom and Dad: "I'm going out to ride rides in the carnival with my friends." Translation: "Mom and Dad, I want to be left alone with my friends to have fun and while I'd like you to be somewhere in the vicinity on the fairgrounds as you are my biological ATM's just please act like you don't know me. Thank you!"

Some conversations are silent, like the one you have leaving the fairground carrying a child who is asleep, holding the hand of another who is holding a goldfish in a bag, silently praying it lasts until you get home and another young one who is either eating a cotton candy or simply making a gooey, sugary mess of themselves from head to toe.

Finally, someone says suddenly alarmed, "Where are grandma and grandpa?!"

Cont. on pg. 7

Bird Is The Word
For the last week or so there

has been a theme to my thoughts, actions, and interests. That theme is birds. So when I was contemplating a topic for this week's column, the idea was as clear as the beak on my face.

A few weeks ago, much to my shock, sadness, and dismay, I learned of an innocent flamingo at a nearby zoo that had to be put down due to an injury it sustained from a visitor. That visitor was a child who threw a rock hard enough to break the flamingo's leg, injuring the bird so severely that it had to be humanely put down. I was deeply saddened, appalled, and frankly really mad. Who are the parents of this child? Why would he (or she) want to hurt an animal? What kind of punishment did this child and the parents have to suffer? I could think of a few that I would like to try. Perhaps they all should be dipped in peanut butter and sunflower seeds and locked in the Ostrich pen for a day. Talk about Jurassic Park Live.

And then 2 days ago, I read on Yahoo News that a man who killed a flamingo at Busch Gardens in Florida, was struck and killed by a truck. Talk about karma. A couple years earlier, this guy, who had served time in prison for animal cruelty, reached over a barrier at Busch Gardens, grabbed

the famed Pinky the Dancig Flamingo, and slammed the bird down as hard as he could onto the pavement, injuring the animal so severely that it's foot was nearly severed and it's body cracked

open like an egg. Laughing as he and his family ran away from the area, he was later captured and stood before a judge who was appalled at his actions. I'm not sure what punishment he received at that time, but this latest truck death incident surely finished what laws and judges couldn't. Still though, poor Pinky. I love flamingos and to think of someone injuring one is repulsive. They are defenseless, fragile, comical, endearing, and beautiful. There must be a deep and dark evil in the heart of someone who would want to destroy that.

My husband and I love to sit on our front porch, especially in the morning and early evening, and just listen to the birds communicate. He told me recently that he wished he knew what kind of birds made all of those different chirps. That made me miss my daddy. I remember walking in the woods with Dad, and he would stop and whisper, "Listen." And I would close my eyes to hear it better, because that works, you know, (wink), and high up in the trees above us I would hear it. A small sound, then it would get a little louder and my dad would lean over and whisper in my ear the name of the bird that was making that sound. God, I wish I had paid more attention, maybe remembered more of what he was trying to teach me.

Well, then a friend needed someone to pet-sit his birds for a while until he moved into his new apartment, and because I am good with animals and love them so, I was high on his list. Even though we have 2 cats, I agreed to take on the birds, because he assured me that the birds have been around cats before and all went well. Besides, I miss having a bird around.

He brought the little birds over yesterday and set them up. They are beautiful little creatures. They are Pacific Parrotlets, which is the smallest parrot kept as a pet. One is blue and one is a greenish blue, like a jade color. Thus their names, Blue and Jade. The cats were curious and watched them from their window shelf. I gave the felines a quick spritz of water when they decided to approach the cage, and so far that has kept the cats a safe

distance away. I believe everyone can live in peace here as long as we respect each other's space and keep our noses in our own business. If only people did the same.

And last of all, I am going to wing up next week, and do my best to remind everyone to respect, soar high, and come to church. Yes, once again I am going to be our church's eagle mascot in the 4th of July parade in Tuscola, Eagle Mountain Assembly of God. The bird of all birds. I would have liked to have been a flamingo, as pink is my favorite color, but I don't have the legs for it. And it would be weird for Eagle Mountain Church to be represented by a pink flamingo. So eagle it is! A short, 50 something year old, chocolate-loving, milkshake drinking, mother of 7, patriotic, bald eagle. I hope it's not too hot. The suit isn't exactly lightweight; it's made of fake fur fabric. And I can't see out of the nostrils very well, so I run into stuff. But I love being a mascot, and making people smile.

At the Sparks in the Park in Tuscola, Eagle Mountain Assembly of God also will be giving out free hotdogs and bottles of cold water until they run out. Our church has been doing that for over 10 years now. It's just a way that we love to give back to our community.

Come by our tent for a free snack (before noon), and also a photo op with the eagle.

So, as you see, I have had birds on the brain lately. And even a creature as small and weak as a little bird, God has made it, and He cares for it, and he knows when it falls. How much more does he care for you? We cannot comprehend.

DEADLINES

**Classified-Friday @ 2
News-Friday @ 2
Ads-Friday @ 2**

Locally & Veteran Owned

122 W. Sale St.
Tuscola, IL.

217-599-1046



Business and Professional DIRECTORY

The following Business and Professional People are ready to serve you. Call for their services.

EYE CARE

CHITTICK FAMILY EYE CARE

- Adult & Pediatric Eye Care
 - Contact Lenses
 - Custom Vision Correction
 - Digital Retinal Exam
 - Glaucoma detection & management
- 10 West Adams • Villa Grove, IL 61956
Office: 832-2111 Hours: Mon - Fri 8 - 5
Medicare assignments accepted/Health Alliance Provider

VETERINARY SERVICES

Four Counties Mobile Veterinary Services

Kathleen M. Mcmanamon, DVM

House and Farm Calls
Small Animal and Equine

Hours:
Monday-Friday, Noon-8 p.m.
Saturday, By Appointment
Phone: (217) 834-3472

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD!
ADVERTISE IN THE VG NEWS
AND THE SCC TODAY
NEWSPAPERS
& Reach up to 5000 customers
Call Jamie
AT THE VG NEWS OFFICE
832-4201 or
email - vgads@mediacombb.net
for more information on
AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING

PRINT

Villa Grove News
5-7 S. Main Street,
Villa Grove, IL
Phone: 832-4201
All your print job needs:
Business Cards
Raffle Tickets
Envelopes
Copies and Faxes
and more

Area Church Services

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

1 South Pine Street,
Villa Grove, Illinois
Wheelchair Accessible
Where Lives are Changed!
Pastor Jerry L. Conner
Church 832-7071
Residence 832-8577
Sunday School—10:00 a.m.
Worship Service—10:00 a.m.
Evening Evangelistic
Service—6:30 p.m.
Monday
1st one of each month
Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 p.m.
Monday—Friday
Ladies Prayer Group—9:00 a.m.
Tuesday
Youth Service—7:00-8:00 p.m.
Thursday
Bible Study—7:30 p.m.
Free Home Bible Study
We welcome you to worship with us in all of our services

VICTORY CHURCH

100 E. Second St • Camargo,
Illinois 61919
Pastor—Duane Piercy
Church 832-8398,
Email
info@victorychurch.life
Web Page: victorychurch.life
Find us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram
Service Times
Sunday
Adult Sunday School—
9-9:45 a.m.
Soul Cafe- 9am-9:45
Worship & Service—10:00 a.m.
RUSH Youth Group
1st & 3rd Sunday 5-7pm
Celebrate Recovery
7:15pm
Wednesday
Men's & Women's Bible
Study-6:30-8 p.m.
Thursday
Prayer Group—6:00-7:00 p.m.
Worship Team 7:00-8:00 p.m.
American Sign Language Available • Wheelchair accessible •
Nursery Care • Sports Ministries
• Motorcycle Ministry

LIVING HOPE FELLOWSHIP

(An Independent New Testament Church)
South of Villa Grove on Rt. 130
Pastor Randy Walters
Phone: 217-218-9001
Elder — Pete Lake, 832-2400
Sunday Worship Service—
10 a.m.
Communion is observed
each week.
Children's Church:
pre-school through fourth grade
For transportation to any service
call: 217-218-3217
Church facility is
wheelchair accessible
"Room for everyone. Enough
love to go around."

VILLA GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Growing Closer to the Heart of God"
302 Second St., Villa Grove
Pastor—Rev. Sandi Hire
Church 832-3971
Summer Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9am - noon
Email: secretary.vgumc@yahoo.com
Website: www.vgumcweb.org
Find us on Facebook for upcoming events
Sunday
9:15 am Sunday School
For All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Child care available during
Worship
Open Communion first Sunday
of each month
Walkers are welcome Monday-Friday during office hours in the
Henson New Life Center
Quilters- contact the office for
opportunities to join our quilters
Community Vacation Bible-School
"ROAR!" -
Safari Celebration!
July 7 – 11 Open to All Ages
Save the dates and watch for
more information

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"Come Rejoice With Us"
701 N. Sycamore Street Villa Grove
Phone (217) 832-5231
Fax (217) 832-9348
website: www.fccvg.com
e-mail: fccvg@frontier.com
Minister—Mike Zylstra
e-mail: fccvgmin@frontier.com
Morning Worship—9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Celebration
9:30a.m.
Age 4-5th Grade
Sunday Morning
Celebration Leaders:
Cecile Cassida & Seth Shunk
Sunday School—10:45 a.m.
Junior High Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
1st & 3rd Sunday 5-6pm
High School Youth Group(Grades 9-12)
1st & 3rd Sundays, 6-7:30pm
Youth Group Leader: Brenda Logan
Nursery care at all services.
Open Communion offered each Sunday

CAMARGO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

103 E. Main Street
P.O. Box 122, Camargo, IL 61919
Church—832-9388
e-mail: umccamargo@gmail.com
Office Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Pastor - Lenny Summar
Traditional Worship - 9:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10:30
"Come just as you are to worship"
Open Communion first Sunday
of each month
Prayer Group - Meets after
Sunday Service

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

208 N. Pine Stret, Villa Grove
Pastor -Rev. Aloy Ndeanaefo
Office: 832-8352
Hours: M-F 8:30am-1:30pm
Email: villagrove.hume@gmail.com
website: sacredheartandstmichael.com
Mass Times: Saturday: 4pm
Sunday 10:00am
Sunday @ St. Michaels in Hume
8:00am
PSR:
Wed Eve 1st - 8th grade 6:30 - 7:20
and 9th - 12th 7:30 - 8:30 pm.