

SERVING ALL OF SOUTHERN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

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

1/9 Tolono Library Celebrate Cops in the Community from 1:00-2:00pm

Village of Philo Christmas Tree Pick-up scheduled between January 14 & January 18

1/14 Tolono Library Family Bingo in-person event 6:00pm-6:30pm Masks Required

1/17 Sidney American Legion Meeting @ 6pm

2/15 Unity Music Boosters Meeting @ 7pm in the Band Room at UHS

2/26 Unity Music Boosters All Out A Capella Annual Fundraiser at 4pm and 7pm @ UHS

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

Sidney Lions Club Final Christmas Cash Drawing



Left to right Sidney Lions Club Secretary Tom Talbott, Sidney Lions Club President Bill Hensch, and Sidney Lions Club members Melinda Talbott and Dennis Riggs draw the final winner of the Sidney Lions Club 2021 Christmas Cash – New Year's Dash Raffle winner for the month of December on Friday, December 31. Congratulations Lonny! Photo by Ann Rhoton. See more in "Sidney Scoop" page 2 of this weeks edition of SCC-Today.

Secretary of State Departments and Drivers Services Facilities Closed Through Jan. 17

Due to increase in COVID-19 cases

Online services remain open

Due to an increase in COVID-19 cases statewide, Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is announcing that all Secretary of State departments will not conduct in-person transactions – including Driver Services facilities – from Jan. 3, 2022, through Jan. 17, 2022. All departments and Driver Services facilities will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 18. White is encouraging the public to visit ilsos.gov for online services. Online transactions will remain open for all departments to conduct office services, including, but not limited to the following:

- * Renewing a license plate sticker.
- * Renewing a driver's license or ID card for those who qualify (individuals may call 217-785-1424 to confirm their eligibility or to obtain their PIN).
- * Obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card.
- * Obtaining a driver record abstract.
- * Filing Business Services documents, such as incorporations and annual reports.

In addition, the Drivers and Vehicles Services hotline phone number will remain open at 800-252-8980. Customers with issues involving administrative hearings may email adminhearings@ilsos.gov or call 312-793-3722 or 217-782-7065.

As a reminder, White has extended all driver's license and ID card expiration dates to March 31, 2022. This extension does not apply to commercial driver's licenses (CDL) and CDL learner's permits.

"After careful consideration and out of an abundance of

caution, we have decided to close all Driver Services facilities beginning Jan. 3, 2022, through Jan. 17, 2022, due to the spike in COVID-19 cases," said White. "The health and safety of employees and the public remains paramount, and face-to-face transactions potentially increase the further spread of the virus. Our goal is to safely reopen all offices and Driver Services facilities on January 18 for face-to-face transactions."

In addition, White greatly expanded remote renewal for driver's license and ID card holders. Since this fall,

White's office has mailed letters to eligible customers with expired driver's licenses and ID cards requiring them to renew online, by phone or by mail. The office estimates that this helps to eliminate the need for approximately 1 million people to visit a facility.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended the federal REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023.

For more information, visit ilsos.gov.

New Niches Make History in Homer Cemetery



By Jamie Morse

On the morning of Thursday, December 9, 2021 history was made in Homer with the addition of Columbarium niches. The set of three Columbarium niches were placed in section 31 of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) cemetery. Adams Memorials of Champaign placed the memorials in the morning. Joe Bear, head of the cemetery board, supervised the placement.

Photo on left: Workers from Adams Memorials guide and set the last niche in GAR Cemetery on December 9. Photo courtesy of the Homer Historical Society Facebook page. If you would like to see more photos of the installation you may visit their page at: <https://www.facebook.com/HomerHistoricalSociety>.

ment.

These Columbarium niches are constructed of granite and required a crane to place the heavy structures. The concrete base was previously poured making the site ready for installation.

The Columbarium niches are for cremains to be placed in niches and memorialized. Should you like to purchase a niche call the Homer Village Hall at 217 896-2521.

Stella Lambdin Hosts GriefShare Program Beginning January 17

By Doris Elmore
Staff Writer

A GriefShare Program, hosted by Stella Lambdin, and sponsored by the Atwood First Baptist Church, will begin their program of 13 video sessions on Monday, January 17 through April 11. Sessions are every Monday from 6-8 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall, 231 N. Illinois St., Atwood.

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, this group

will help you through your journey "From Mourning to Joy!" Each weekly session starts out with a 40-minute video, a time for snacks and the most important part...a time to share with one another. No one is required to share; however, you are encouraged to participate. You will also have a workbook to help you take notes and short daily readings to help you get through your week. Cost for this program is \$20 per person

for the workbook only!

Stella states, "When my pastor, Pastor Woody White of First Baptist Church of Atwood, approached me about starting a GriefShare program, I jumped at the opportunity! Since my mother passed in 1988, I felt there has been a real need for something to help grieving people. In 2011, that need became even more real when I lost my husband of 37 years. Yes, myself and our other leaders

know all too well what grief feels like, and how it does not end after the funeral."

This program is Christian led and biblically based; however, you do not need to be a Christian or a church member to attend.

We would like to share anonymous quotes from former participants. Each one was asked, "Has GriefShare had any impact on your life? If so, how?"

Participant #1

"It's so nice when you are able to share your story and learn that you are not the only one feeling the way you do. It's nice to know that it's OK to grieve and OK to have joy."

Participant #2 remarked: "Absolutely! This session has made a huge impact on me and pushed me a little further through my grief, I needed to be nudged to face my emotions!"

Participant #3: "Yes. I realize more about

the individuality of grief (we're all at our own place of grieving & our own pace), but also the commonality of the group—we are all grieving."

Everyone grieves in their own way, but with this program you will find you are never alone. To register you can call the church office (217-578-2555) or email Stella Lambdin at stellartours@gmail.com.

Happy New Year!
2022 Is Going to Be Great
at Ford of Tuscola!



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