

# Obituaries

## Sally Morris

Sally A. Morris, 87, of Camargo, passed away on Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

Private family services will be held.

Sally was born on January 22, 1936, in Tuscola, the daughter of Carl C. and Sarah Jane Helm Lewis. She married Joe E. Morris, Jr., on January 7, 1956, in Tuscola. He preceded her in death on September 18, 1986. She later married James V. Scott on November 7, 1998, in Philo. He preceded her in death on May 14, 1999.

Sally is survived by her daughter, Catheryn (Dave) Smith of Camargo; grandchildren, Kyle H. (Caitlin) Morris of Homer, Sam (Emily) Smith of Villa Grove and Hannah (David) Wince of Villa Grove; great-grandchildren, Zoey Smith, Lily Wince, Ava Smith



Morris

and Isaac Wince; sister, Dixie Curry of Arcola; and several nephews.

She was preceded in death by her son, William H. Morris. Sally graduated from Tus-

cola High School in 1954 and attended Indiana University at Bloomington, Ind. She was a member of the Tuscola United Church of Christ, Douglas County Republican Women's Club and The Fifth Wheel Society.

Sally taught 4-H Dog Obedience and exhibited African Pygmy Goats throughout the Midwest.

Her great-great-grandparents began farming in Douglas County over 200 years ago and her interest in the family farm remained strong throughout her life and she was very proud of the family's centennial farm.

Memorials are suggested to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, Tuscola, is entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.

## Wilma Turner

Wilma Ruth Turner, 87, of Mattoon, passed away at 2:20 a.m. on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center.

Wilma was born on April 19, 1936, in Lovington. She was the daughter of Everette Ross and Corrine (Hout) Howard.

She is survived by four children, Gena Homan of Florida, Debra Turner of Mattoon, Raymond (Kathy) Turner of California and Selena Turner of Arcola; 10 grandchildren; two great grandchildren; two sisters, Nancy Robling of Decatur, and Betty Myers of Clinton; and one brother, James Howard of Clinton.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Arlene Harasymchuk, Imogene Patterson, and Helen Howard; and one brother, David Howard.

Wilma was one of Jehovah's Witnesses'. She loved her God Jehovah.

She loved her family and loved being a mother and homemaker. Wilma enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed her quiet time listening to her favorite songs and her favorite artists, Mario Lanzo and Marc Anthony.

John 5:28-29 was a scripture she believed in and looked forward to.



Turner

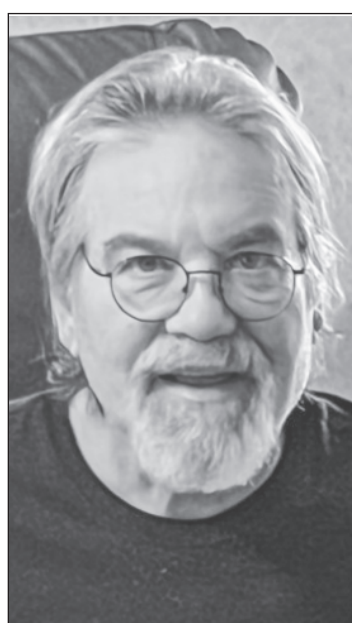
Wilma will be greatly missed.

## Kerry Gibson

Kerry Dale Gibson, 66, of Wheeler, formerly of Arcola, passed away peacefully at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at his residence.

A celebration of Kerry's life will be held on Sunday, September 17. The festivities will be held at the Arcola Masonic Community Center, 121 South Locust Street in Arcola. A time for friends to visit and catch up will start at 1 p.m. A memorial service will begin at 2 p.m. with Pastor Virgil Cisney officiating. A reception/party will immediately follow the service. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting Kerry's family with arrangements.

Kerry was born on August 15, 1957, in Tuscola. He was the son of Richard Dale and Barbara (Johns) Gibson. He married Robin L. Johnson on December 2, 2014, in Newton. He is survived by his wife, Robin Gibson of Wheeler; two sons, Brandon Gibson and his wife Lisa of Mahomet, and Shay Gibson and his wife Courtney of Arcola; a step-daughter, Micah Shelley of Two Harbors, Calif.; three grandchildren, Caden Gibson, and Dale and Emma Gibson; two sisters, Rhonda Mohr and



Gibson

her husband Dick of Arcola, and Teresa Easton and her husband Bill of New Lenox; two nephews, Nathan Mohr of Greeley, Colo., and Tyler Easton of Ann Arbor, Mich.; a niece, Andrea Hart and her husband Donovan of Wentzville, Mo.; and two great-nieces, Lennox and Leighton Hart.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Growing up in Arcola, Kerry received his education from Arcola High School and proudly graduated with the class of

1975. He was a Purple Rider through and through, and played football in high school as did his dad, Dale Gibson, who graduated from Arcola High School in 1953. Kerry's two sons played football at Arcola High School as well: Brandon, who graduated in 2000, and Shay in 2002.

Kerry spent most of his professional career at R.R. Donnelley and Sons Co. where he worked as a printer and dedicated more than two decades of his life. Later, Kerry went to work at JER Overhaul in Arcola where he worked for another decade.

He was an enthusiastic fan of St. Louis Cardinal baseball, actively following their wins and losses. Additionally, he was a dedicated supporter of the Chicago Bears.

One of Kerry's favorite pastimes was riding his Harley-Davidson, Road King. He also found solace in fishing and frequented various farm ponds. Some of his preferred fishing spots included CIPS Lake near Newton, and Sam Parr State Park near Newton.

Kerry cherished spending quality time with his children and grandchildren. Family meant the world to him.

## Daniel Otto

Daniel J. Otto, 85 years, and 24 days, of Tuscola, formerly of rural Arthur, passed away at 12:59 a.m. on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, August 29, at the HCK West Building, rural Arthur. Bishop Matthew Miller officiated. Burial was in the Otto Cemetery in rural Arthur. Visitation was held Sunday, August 27, and Monday, August 28, at the HCK West Building. The Edwards Funeral Home assisted with arrangements.

Daniel was born on November 17, 1936, in Douglas County. He was a son of Jonas and

Sarah (Mast) Otto. He married Annie Mae Kauffman on September 11, 1958; they lived in Holy Matrimony for 42 years, 11 months, and 22 days; Annie passed away on September 2, 2001. He later married Fannie D. Miller on September 10, 2002; they lived in Holy Matrimony for 20 years, 11 months and 16 days.

Daniel is survived by his wife Fannie of Tuscola; four children, David Otto and his wife Rachel (Lee) of Arcola, Viola Yoder and her husband Lyle of Arthur, Wilmer Otto and his wife Martha (Yutzy) of Trenton, Mo., and Delbert Otto of Trenton, Mo.; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; one brother, David J. Otto and his wife Christina of Arcola; six sisters, Ella Otto, Lydia Otto, Mary Otto, Susanna Otto all of Arcola, Miriam Schrock and her husband Jonas of Arcola, and Verna Herschberger and her husband Monroe of Sullivan.

Daniel was preceded in death by his parents, Jonas and Sarah (Mast) Otto; and two sisters, Sarah Otto, and Ada J. Miller and her husband Harvey.

Daniel owned and operated Chestercreek Harness Shop for many years and served as a Bishop in the Old Order Amish Church.

mother whose top priority was maintaining a warm and welcoming home. She also worked part-time for many years with her brother at Dale's Jewelry in Villa Grove.

She had good taste, loved decorating and enjoyed collecting dolls and Longaberger baskets. She was a wonderful cook whose cinnamon rolls were unmatched. A great listener, she cherished her coffee dates with best neighbors Cheri and Norma.

She loved traveling with Dale, especially to Las Vegas for conventions he attended as an engineer for WCIA-TV.

Memorials may be made to maintain the aviary that Pat loved at Windsor Court, 401 Burwash Ave., Savoy, IL, 61874.

## Pat Fleming

Patricia Lou Underwood Fleming, 90, of Savoy, formerly of Villa Grove, died Friday, Sept. 1, 2023, at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana.

A visitation will be held from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, at the Joines Funeral Home (Villa Grove) with the funeral service beginning at 2:30 p.m.; Pastor Mike Zylstra will be officiating. Burial will follow at the Centennial Cemetery in Villa Grove.

Pat was born July 2, 1933, on the family farm near Murdock to Ernest and Irma Underwood. She married Dale Fleming of Newman on July 9, 1953. He died Dec. 25, 2021.

Pat is survived by her four children and their families, Pamela (Marvin) Cler of Vil-

la Grove and their daughters, Jill, Audrey, Elizabeth and Paula; William (Jan) Fleming of Savage, Minn., and their daughters, Jaynerin, Megan and Kaitlin; Todd (Rebecca) Fleming of Gilbert, Ariz., and their daughters, Yvonne, Stephanie and Milah; and Nathan (Mary) Fleming of Savoy and daughter, Natalie. She has 10 great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by sisters, Jane Seider of Champaign and Joan Underwood of Villa Grove; and brother, Gale Underwood of Villa Grove; sisters- and brothers-in-law; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by brothers Cleo and Dale Underwood.

Pat was a loving and supportive wife, mother, grandmother and great-grand-

## Facts for Families —

# Making family mealtimes happen

By Cheri Burcham  
Family Life Educator

With many families in back-to-school busy mode, it can sometimes be difficult to enjoy having meals together. However, research shows that having meals together is beneficial for individuals as well as the whole family. Family members who eat together tend to eat healthier – they eat more fruits and vegetables and less fat overall. Family mealtimes foster more positive family interactions, teach good manners, and help youth practice communication and build their vocabulary and social skills. Research has also found that youth who participate in family mealtimes had higher academic performance and lower incidence of depression, substance use and other risky behaviors. If sharing meals together is so beneficial, why does it seem so difficult to make it happen?

Sometimes it can be due to meal expectations. What is your idea of a family mealtime? Does it take place at home, with nice dinnerware, and a full seven-course meal? For mealtimes to be beneficial, the most important aspect is for the family members to participate, but the where, when and how can vary. The family may only be able to eat breakfast together, or have the meal at a restaurant, as a picnic or even in the car! Maybe everyone chooses their own food or



snack and eat out on the patio. Family mealtimes can take on many forms, but it is crucial that family members are present, the atmosphere is positive, and distractions like electronic devices and TV are eliminated. Making mealtimes a priority and coordinating family members' schedules to include them will also go a long way to get the whole family together.

Sometimes it can be hard to have good conversations at mealtimes – especially with teens! The Family Dinner Project ([www.familydinnerproject.org](http://www.familydinnerproject.org)) offers these potential conversation starters for families with children in school:

- What's one thing you learned today that you think I might not know?
- Who are you most excited to see at school? Least excited? Why?
- If you could change one thing about school, what would it be?
- Think of a project or assignment you really enjoyed. Why did you enjoy it?
- If you could make the rules at school, what would your top 3 rules be?

- Tell me about what lunch (or recess) was like today.
- What motivates you to work hard at school? What doesn't motivate you, and how can we change it?
- If you could take a class in anything, what would it be?
- Who is the best teacher you have this year (or have ever had)? What makes them a great teacher?
- What makes you feel good about yourself when you're at school?

Keep family meals fun and simple. Be creative and have all family members involved in the planning, preparing and cleaning up. Also, remember that it is not all about the meal, but about being together and interacting positively with each other that are the primary goals! For more information on University of Illinois Unit 19 programming and to read more helpful articles, visit our website at <https://extension.illinois.edu/ccdms>, call us at (217)345-7034 or contact Cheri Burcham at [cburcham@illinois.edu](mailto:cburcham@illinois.edu) Also visit the Family Files Blog at <https://go.illinois.edu/familyfiles>.

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS

## SHOWING UP TOGETHER

Regional Office of Education #11  
Kyle Thompson, Ph.D.  
Regional Superintendent

### Attendance Works

ATTEND TODAY. ACHIEVE TOMORROW.