

Community Spotlight — Villa Grove

Coach

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expected to fill. A few minutes after 11 a.m., the players file out to the bus for the roughly 1-hour long trip to Bismarck. The driver? None other than the coach himself. "The school loves it when I drive," Sappenfield quips, later. "They don't have to pay down time to the driver when I'm coaching."

The bus arrives shortly after noon for the one o'clock tip off and the players head to the locker room to begin game prep. The coaches greet acquaintances and spend some time watching the host school Bismarck-Henning, playing against the Indiana Math & Science Academy, both of whom are future foes.

The game is closer than expected after three quarters, but the hosts ultimately prevail. "We'll have to be strong against their pressure," Sappenfield notes.

At 12:35, the coaches move to the locker room to address their team. Sappenfield exhorts his team to give maximum effort. "Play hard. That's the one thing that you can control," he notes. "If I put you in for defense, play the best defense that you can. Noting the prominent absences, the coach implores his players to each give a little more. "If we all put forth just a bit more effort, we'll come out alright."

The first half goes well for the Blue Devils, as they find themselves down only 4 points after two quarters. For his part, the coach continues his message of consistent effort. "Defense and rebounding are going to determine this game," Sappenfield stresses. "The offense will come, but effort and defense and rebounding will be the difference."

Unfortunately, the good vibes of the first half quickly evaporate as Milford comes out smoking hot on offense, making 7 of their first 9 shots. Meanwhile, the Blue Devils find themselves falling behind and start to play too fast, resulting in 5 straight turnovers, and to make matters worse when the Bearcats do miss, they all too often gather the rebound and put it back in, and very quickly



AFTER RETURNING from the game, Coach Sappenfield plugs in the bus to prevent the diesel from jelling. Photo by Tony Hooker.

the lead reaches double digits. After one of their senior guards gets injured and has to leave the game, the coaches call two quick timeouts in succession, but by this time, the lead has reached 20 plus, and the outcome is no longer in doubt. The coach, who until this point has maintained his calm demeanor, finally calls his team out for a lack of effort during a time-out.

Later, when talking about the game, he comments on that particular situation. "I can handle getting beat by a better team, but they're not better than us. We just need to find a leader who will keep fighting, and so far, no one on this team has taken on that role."

The game ends at a little after 2 p.m., and Sappenfield is brief in his post-game com-

ments, challenging his team. "Do you have any fight in you?" he asks. Later, he expounds on his call to action. "I can't keep beating them up, you know?" By the same token, he acknowledges that leadership must come from within the team's ranks and that it's not effective for him to have to lead from the bench.

The coaches and players then loaded back onto the bus and headed back home to Villa Grove High School. Before taking a break to grab lunch and check messages, Sappenfield makes sure to plug in the bus, so the diesel fuel won't jell and then waits in the vestibule for ten minutes with three players whose rides aren't there. Just one more step in the not-so-glamorous life of a high school

coach. At 5 pm, he'll return home to do the whole routine over again.

Sappenfield has been doing this routine for 24 years, but he first started with 5th and 6th-grade boy's basketball. He went on to coach junior high girls and then high school girls. Two years ago he jumped over to high school boys.

"I've coached a lot of kids. It's kind of cool, because now I'm starting to coach the kids of kids I coached before," said Sappenfield.

Sappenfield has a thriving business and is financially set, but he has chosen to work with the kids so that they can learn and grow as people.

"It's all about hopefully having a positive impact on the kids. When facing adversity,

and we're facing a lot of adversity right now, it's how you deal with it. Hopefully, I can give those life lessons, because I don't think that as a kid, I did a very good job of it. It's not the wins and losses. I mean, sure everyone wants to win, but it's more about seeing the kids develop as good young men and ladies," said Sappenfield.

When asked why he does all this work, he laughingly responded, "It's an illness! Really, it's just a passion that I have for it."

The team played four more games in the tournament and won once, but they were much more competitive in those games than in their first contest.

Side Tracks

CTDL & Korner Beehive Bingo

Camargo Township District Library and the Korner Beehive are partnering to offer Bingo the first Wed. of every month from 1 to 2 p.m. for anyone over 50. No cash but a lot of fun prizes to give away!

Listening Ear Ministry

Come worship with us! Listening Ear Ministry every Wed. at 6 p.m. at Murdock UMC. Also visit our facebook page Listening Ear Ministry Ted Shearer.

Story Time

Camargo Township District Library will be holding story time every Thurs. from 3:30 to 4:30.

AA Meeting

Do you think you have a drinking problem? Stop by 8:00 p.m. on Thursday nights at the VFW bingo hall in Villa Grove.

VG Police Activity

The following is Villa Grove Police Department activity for Dec. 18-24:

- Written Warnings-2
- Traffic Citations-3
- Identity Theft-1
- Found Property-1
- Parking Complaint-3
- Theft-1
- Burglary-1
- Welfare Check-2
- Animal Complaint-1
- Activated Alarm-2
- Criminal Trespass to Property-1
- Juvenile-4
- Suicidal Subject-1
- Domestic Battery-1
- Disorderly Conduct-1
- Warrant Arrest-1

Villa Grove

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went into effect Jan. 1, 2023. They reported that there was a decrease in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund rate for 2023 to 6.77.

The Council approved the Broeren Russo Pay Request No. 6 and noted that everything has been exactly on time for their initial schedule of the project.

The Council approved the employment contract for Director of Public Works Randy Lake which will be effective Jan. 3, 2023.



BRIGHTEN Your SUMMER

Vacation Club

You can save \$480 a year for your next Vacation by setting aside just \$40 a month!

Vacation Club payments will be set up as an AFT (Automatic Funds Transfer) from any deposit account at Prospect Bank.

An AFT will be issued around April 15 for the amount that has been deposited. Set aside up to \$1,000.00 per month!

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Disclosures: The above example is intended to be used as a guideline. Automatic funds transfers will continue until an account is closed. Withdrawals from a Vacation Club account are not permitted prior to annual disbursement. There will be a \$20.00 fee for closing a Vacation Club account early. The rate may change after the account is open. Minimum opening deposit of \$1.00.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

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.

First Christian Church (Non-Denominational)
"Come Rejoice With Us"
701 N. Sycamore St.
Villa Grove, Illinois
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
Open communion observed weekly
Morning Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 a.m.
Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
1st & 3rd Sundays 6:00 p.m.

First Christian Church
100 E. Church St., Tuscola
253-2394
Sunday Worship services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:15 a.m.
Youth Group 7th-12th @ 6:33 Sundays
After school program
5th-6th girls, Wednesdays
www.fccuscola.com

Tuscola United Methodist Church
901 N. Prairie Ave.
253-4232
Sunday Worship Services:
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.

If you would like your church featured in our directory, please call Jamie at (217) 369-1398.

First United Pentecostal Church
1 South Pine Street, Villa Grove
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

Forty Martyrs Catholic Church
201 E. Van Allen St
Tuscola, IL 61953
Pastor: Rev. Angel Sierra
Office Phone: 217.253.4412
Sacrament of Confession:
Saturdays 5:00 pm
Or by appointment by calling the church office: 217.253.4412
Week-day Mass Times:
8:00 am Monday, Thursday & Friday
Weekend Masses:
5:30 pm Saturday
8:00 am Sunday

Immanuel Lutheran Church
600 E Northline Rd.
Tuscola, IL 61953
217-253-4341
Services: Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am

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:
Sunday 9:00-9:45 am

Good to the Last Word

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