


Community Spotlight

Villa Grove BINGO
Every Friday Night VFW post 2876

6:30 pm- Early Bird
7:00 pm- Regular Bingo



Jackpots:
 Egg in a Basket Raffle Chance **up to \$2000**
 Blackout Jackpot Chance **up to \$1000**

Bingo Lic# B1934
 Pull Tab Lic# P-48



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 - Lemmy Sumner
 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.fcvcg.com
 E-mail: fcvcg@frontier.com
 Minister- Mike Zylstra
 E-mail: fcvcgmin@frontier.com
 Open communion observed weekly
 Morning Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 a.m.
 Jr. & St. 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.fcctuscola.com

Tuscola United Methodist Church
 901 N. Prairie Ave.
 253-4232
 Sunday Worship Services:
 9:00 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 Street, Villa Grove
 Pastor -Rev. Aloy Ndeamefo
 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
 1:30
 Sunday 9:00-9:45 am

Vault

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Nivens has constantly been exposed to art his entire life. His parents both were art teachers. Even in his middle school years, he knew he wanted to work in the creative world. He won a contest to design a poster for the fire department. That recognition made him focus his time and energy into art at school.

"I was as invested as possible at the time. Sort of like how other kids are into football or sports or something. I put my all into it," said Nivens.

He started out with painting, printmaking, and even metal smithing and sculpture work at Interlochen. However, His passion was for animation.

"I think the thing that sparked it all, I was actually in champaign at a gallery opening," said Nivens. The gallery was for an animator, Chris Sickels, from Red Nose Studio.

"At the time, he had a gallery full of puppets up there. They were climbing up the wall and climbing up the ceiling," said Nivens. "I just saw that art opening and was mesmerized by it."

Sickels spoke about how animation worked at the gallery.

"I went home the weekend after that and made my first stop-motion animation," said Nivens.

Nivens has a long history in the animation industry as well as an instructor. Before starting at LSU, he worked in props and puppet and set fabrication for the studios Lift Animation, Screen Novelties, Stoopid Buddy Stoodios, and Netflix. While at LSU, he has taught courses in 2D Animation, Storyboarding, Stop Motion Animation, Experimental Filmmaking, 2D Design, and 3D Design. Lift Animation created the short film "Henrietta Bukowski," which was nominated for an academy award.

"Stop motion was an amalgamation of all those things. When you're making a stop-motion film, you're building the backdrop, the props, puppets, cameras, lights, voiceovers, and voice acting. I was just always attracted to those art forms and combining all the things I learned into one thing."

report, Dr. Munson will meet with the new activities director for the city to ensure that the district and city can collaborate. Dr. Munson also got notice that the district is eligible for portable air purifiers through IDPH.

For the Elementary Principal's report, Mr. Beck noted that both kindergarten registration and parent-teacher conferences went well. Reading night and the SOAR program were well received.

Beck also told the Board that the PTO is looking to start fundraising for a new playground. A letter will be sent out at a later date for more information on gathering donations.

Family Fun Night will take



A PUPPET made by Joe Niven. Submitted photo.

Board

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address issues. The committee recognized that isolation from the pandemic was a factor and that building community could strengthen resiliency. The committee took a survey of all of the students to determine interests. With this data, the committee created ten clubs that students were sorted into. These student-led clubs will meet every other Friday.

The Career Path committee established a plan of action for implementation of current standards. Highlights include the implementation of Xello throughout Junior High and

High School, financial education in 8th grade rotation, moving career fair into the school day, elementary career exploration, and job shadowing experience.

The School Improvement Committee noted that not all of these changes will happen immediately, but will be implemented over time throughout the next five to seven years.

The Board approved Shelby Eversole, Jacob Griffith, Jim Kestner, Robert Knilands, and Mary McGarigle for tenure. The Board also approved membership renewal for IHSA and IESA, as well as the Intergovernmental Agreement with Education for Employment #330.

For the Superintendent's

place on April 28, 2023.

For the Junior High and High School Principal's report, Mrs. Jones congratulated the high school boys and girls track team for a successful season so far with records already being broken.

Four students were selected to play in the Order of the Eastern Star All Star Football game in June. Jones also congratulated the ACES team.

The High School had a Winter "Decades" dance and Junior High Scholastic Bowl has started.

The FFA had another successful FFA week with a "Kiss the Pig" assembly. They raised \$1,477 for the Snack Pack program.

from West & Company.

The Council also approved the engineering agreement with Engineering Resource Associates for rehabilitation planning for the Front Street Bridge in the amount of \$27,000.

The Council approved changing the names of Front Street to East Harrison street, East Walnut Street to East Vine street, and East Elm Street to East Wilson Street.

All members were present at the meeting other than aldermen Cheely and Garrett.

City

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some overtime hours.

Finally, Public Works director Mixell reported that the new addition to the public works building was back on track after inclement weather had slowed progress. He also noted that his staff is transitioning to outdoor functions as spring approaches.

He also noted that something needed to be done with the tree in front of the Zest For Life Center, as it was causing issues with the gut-

tering and roof of the center, as well as causing problems for seniors entering and exiting the building because of constantly dropping sweet gum balls on the sidewalk. The council gave a consensus to have Mixell and his crew remove the tree and replace it with an ornamental variety or some other sort of decorative device.

The council approved the bid from Arrow Glass in the amount of \$8,498 to replace the Zest For Life Center entry doors, making them ADA-compliant and including automatic door openers.

The council then ap-

proved ordinance 2023-MC04, amending Title XI, Chapter 111, Section 111.18 of the City of Villa Grove, Illinois Municipal Code regarding an increase of Liquor Licenses from 6 to 8, and the motion passed unanimously.

The council then voted on Ordinance 2023-MC05, an ordinance assigning street names and property address changes to Real Estate in the City of Villa Grove, Illinois, located on East Elm, East Walnut and Wilson Streets and the motion passed unanimously.

The Council approved of the fiscal year 2022 audit

in it," said Taylor.

Having Tim do the remodeling saved the business a lot of money, but they were closed in January, making it a difficult month.

Shimmer and Sheek's online store is slated to open in the coming month. Taylor said she also hopes to do more events with other businesses downtown, like the successful "Galentines" event in February. She also hopes to start a fall festival, where craft vendors and food trucks can gather, to liven up downtown Tuscola. She was hoping to start it in the spring, but the renovations made planning difficult.

The business owners said many people are surprised that the two of them are able to work together so well.

"Honestly, we always had a unique and special relationship. We get along really well. It's been really great," said Jennifer. Taylor said they each have strengths and weaknesses and make up for each other.

Taylor describes her mom as the creative one who thinks outside the box, while Jennifer describes her daughter as the "boss."

Jennifer was also the one who encouraged Taylor to follow her dream of opening a boutique and agreed to help in her endeavor.

When Taylor wanted to start her online store, Jennifer told her, "If you want to do this. Go for it. See what happens."



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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 \$100.

Shimmer

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store. Taylor said they first started the business online in May 2019 and worked out of her mother's basement.

"We just jumped in and we kind of transformed our basement into racks and a shipping station and everything," said Jennifer. "She was the brains behind the website and getting all that going."

They remained an online-only business for three years before finding their first storefront location at 210 N. Main St. in 2021.

"I never thought I would ever open a store-front, but I'm really glad we have a brick-and-mortar store," said Taylor. "Moving here was the best business decision we ever made."

Taylor said she started the

HELP WANTED

The City of Villa Grove is recruiting for a full-time Laborer within the Public Works dept. This position includes assisting with park maintenance, landscaping, planting, mulching, watering of landscape beds and trees, mowing, trimming, street and alley maintenance, tree removal, facility maintenance, custodial duties including removing trash receptacles and cleaning restroom facilities.

Applicants must be 18 years of age, with a valid Illinois driver's license, and not afraid of heights. Some knowledge of bucket truck, backhoe or bobcat operations or construction is a plus. This is a union position; starting wage is \$18.80/hour with excellent benefit package. Pre-employment physical with drug testing is required. Submit resume, with names of three work/professional references, to City Hall in person or email to city.hall@villagrove.org with PW FULL TIME LABORER in the subject line. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. EOE