


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 - 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:
 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 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

Church

From page 1

ing to be involved?

There are 40 people in the choir. There are 15 in the orchestra, there are 13 disciples and Jesus, a narrator and a director. So, there are around 70 people who are involved.

Was it intentional to include all of the local churches in the Cantata?

Yes, before we start, I send out fliers to all the churches in the area and to churches who have been involved before. I believe that there are 14 different churches who are involved. We have teachers, farmers, and businessmen involved. We have people of different ages, some older, some younger, trying to get a variety. I don't know if it's a true picture of our community, but there are enough different areas.

Where did you draw inspiration for hosting the event? You had the first one, and then Covid shut it down for two years, then you had last year, and this is the third year, right?

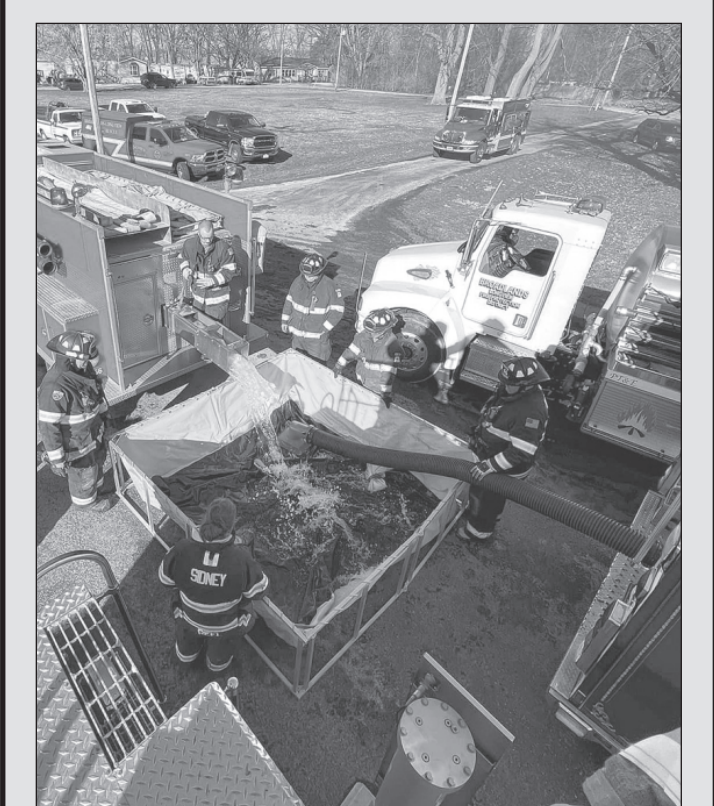
We moved here from Minnesota in 2014, and our community had done these for 15 years, and Mike and I were in on it from the beginning. I missed doing something. There's not a lot of fine arts in our community and so I missed doing those sorts of things, but I also thought it would be important to have local people being a part of something like this. We started this in 2019. I think there were 25 members of the choir and nine in

involved next year?

If they have an interest, they should just watch for the signs. It will be in the paper. Our musicians have to be pretty competent and able to practice on their own. We just have one rehearsal this week, and the orchestra won't practice until April 1.

What time is the event and is it open to the public?

Absolutely. It's Palm Sunday, April 2 at 4 p.m. There is no charge, but there will be a basket for donations if people would like to see this continue. It does take a few dollars to put these things on.



FIREFIGHTERS ESTABLISH a water shuttle operation during the Fairland fire March 19. Once set up, multiple tankers can dump their water and a fire engine can draft off the drop tank and pump the water through various applicances. The Tuscola Ladder 96 was used to extinguish flames from above the building. Photo by Dalton Donnals of Tuscola Fire Department.

Board

From page 1

Mark Graves (Scott Graves' brother) said, "I love your passion. I'm right there with you on that [mural] wall." He said, "We need that passion to keep us moving..."

Alexander noted that the Board works by majority rule, so it only takes four Board members to approve a decision. Board member Wade Wilcox said he likes how Omni has reached out to stakeholders to help drive the changes. He said this level of renovation has not been done in Tuscola before and likely would not be done again anytime soon.

Spillman asked that Board member Chris Rennels be appointed as the point person for the district on renovation matters. He noted that Rennels has relevant experience, a good relationship with Omni and has an even-keeled personality.

Scott Graves recommended that Alexander continue to be the go-to person between Omni and the district.

During the regular meeting convened shortly after 7 p.m., the Board approved Neal Garrison as high school guidance counselor. He succeeds Justin Bozarth, who was named dean of students last month and is expected to move into the principal position. Alexander currently serves as acting principal as well as superintendent. Logan Donnals and Emily Chumley also were hired as teachers at North Ward grade school.

The Board approved the calendar for next year as well as an amended calendar for this year since a day was taken off due to the state basketball playoffs. May 26 will now be the last day of school for students while teachers will go through May 30. School will resume Aug. 21 for the 2023-24 year.

The school's contract with Gould Bus Service also was renewed with about an 8 percent increase. Alexander said after the meeting that Gould's has been great to work with and always responsive to the district's needs.

Russ Leigh & Associates was again approved as the district's auditor. Alexander said the price has gone up about \$300. The Board also renewed its membership in the Illinois High School Association at no cost.

Donations were accepted as follows: \$167.07 from 1989 Tuscola Boys Basketball for the high school basketball program; \$1,000 from Melita Commandery No. 37 for social skills; \$100 from Matt Porter for FFA; \$150 from Cabot Corp. for Science Olympiad.

Administrative reports will be in next week's edition of The Journal.

Sterkel's crew makes hardware haul

By Lenny Sementi

Girls track coach Drew Sterkel's squad won the state outdoor track meet nine months ago but gone from the group is Murray State runner and 40-point scorer from the state meet, Alyssa Williams. Sterkel can't replace the leadership qualities and the athletic abilities of a generational athlete, but this past weekend at the Top Times Indoor State Meet in Bloomington-Normal, the Lady Warriors let everyone know they are still a force on the track.

Sterkel returns one of the top runners in the state in super sophomore Lia Patterson. As a freshman, she was a part of four medals at the state meet, joining with Williams and two returners in senior Mia Hausmann and junior Jillian Alexander to win gold in the 800-meter relay while capturing second in the open 200, a third in the grueling 300-low hurdles and a fifth in the 100-low hurdles. She brought home three medals from the Indoor State meet this past Friday, finishing second in

the 200 with a 26.35-seconds, fourth in the 60-meter hurdles crossing the line in 9.23-seconds and joined her teammates on the podium with a seventh in the 800-relay posting a 1:52. She was just tenth of a second off the top of the medal stand in both her open events.

"Lia has had a great week of practice both physically and mentally and came into this meet with high expectations. She did not disappoint. She ran 3 events and PRd four times. Including the prelims of the 60 Hurdles. I have been really impressed with her approach to practice and meets this year."

Tuscola qualified six athletes for the state meets at Illinois Wesleyan and all six came away with some hardware. Hausmann and Patterson linked up with junior Kenna Clodfelder and freshman Chole Bowden in the 800-relay. "Mia started us off as she is so reliable and great out of the blocks," the coach said. "This team worked really hard during the week cleaning up their handoffs and it showed."

Clodfelder took home a medal in the field, grasping a seventh-place finish in the triple jump, hitting a big leap in her final jump. "Kenna is our Swiss army knife. There isn't much she can't do," Sterkel said. "Every one of the athletes that competed got a medal hung around their neck at the end of the night."

Junior thrower Natalie Hastings out of long-time throws coach Stan Wienke's stable entered the meet ranked sixth overall and placed one higher, collecting fifth-place hardware. "Natalie has been consistently hitting her marks all year and deserves so much credit for her hard work and coachability," stated the coach. "She takes what coach Wienke is teaching and uses it at the meets."

A newcomer but not new to the high school running scene was the sixth to earn some hardware. Freshman distance phenom Kate Foltz coming off an all-state cross-country season in the fall, found her way to a pair of medals. She had the longest day of all, competing in both distance races rounding the indoor oval 24 times in all, taking home a third-place medal in the 1600-meter and 10th in the 3200-meter.

"Kate has done an amazing job of understanding pieces and race approach. I feel she is only going to get better throughout the year," Sterkel commented. "She may be one of the hardest workers I've ever encountered. I can't stress enough how difficult it is to run both the two-mile and mile in the same meet with all the elite competitors in it. Kate proved on Friday that she deserves to be in that conversation."

Shred Day 21

APRIL 9AM-3PM

DROP YOUR SHREDDING AT ANY PROSPECT BANK LOCATION, WE WILL ENSURE SAFE AND SECURE SHREDDING ON US!

****PLEASE CALL YOUR LOCAL BRANCH FOR DROP OFFS OF MORE THAN 2 BOXES/GARBAGE BAGS FULL**

The Opportunity Bank | BANKPROSPECT.COM



Hearing Aid Service

...MEANS BETTER HEARING FOR YOU

Homer Community Building

500 E. Second St., Homer, Illinois

Wed., March 5, from 8 - 9 a.m.

- Free Electronic Hearing Test
- Free Cleaning on ALL Makes and Models
- Battery Sales
- In Home Service on Request

BELTONE HEARING AID SERVICE

816 N. Country Fair Dr, Champaign, IL 61821 • 359-3331 • M-F 8-4