

# Musgrave signs on to play catcher for Black Hawk Braves baseball

By Dominik Stallings

Colton Musgrave signed on to be one of the new players for the Braves baseball team at Black Hawk College in Moline. The senior will start as a catcher for the up-and-coming team in the fall.

Musgrave said the school was the only one he was interested in playing in. He said he met with the head coach Josh Keim and fell in love with the program when he visited the campus. He plans on studying business at Black Hawk College when he starts in the fall.

"I like the culture he was building," said Musgrave, "The school and atmosphere all felt homely to me."

Tuscola's head coach for baseball, Caleb Englehardt, said, "He's an outstanding leader and an unbelievably hard worker. I think that anyone who's watched him in baseball sees that he's the guy on the field who has the dirtiest uniform. He's getting in front of every ball



COLTON MUSGRAVE signed on to play baseball at Black Hawk College in Moline at Tuscola High School on April 27. In the front, left to right, Steve Stevens, Scott Musgrave, Colton Musgrave and Amanda Musgrave. In the back, left to right, Donna Stevens, Connor Musgrave and Taylor Musgrave. Photo by Dominik Stallings

that he can. (...) People saw that on the basketball court. He's a hustle player and does the job that doesn't get all the headlines. He's a quiet leader, but shows his leadership through his hard work ethic."

Musgrave said the Black Hawks have always been a pretty solid junior college baseball team, but since their new head

coach, Josh Keim started, they have been on an upwards trajectory.

"They have been a really successful program over the years and they are getting a great player," said Englehardt.

He added that they are getting a versatile player who not only excels as a catcher but also could play other positions as

well. Currently, Musgrave is the fastest runner on the team.

"If you can hit the ball, coaches are going to find a spot for you to play. There are a lot of good days ahead for Colton," said Englehardt.

Musgrave won't be joining the team on his own, either. His friend Colin Karr from Bloomington Central Catholic High

School is coming with him as well.

Baseball has been part of Musgrave's life since an early age. He remembers pickup baseball when he was six or seven years old, and he hasn't looked back since.

His father, Scott Musgrave, introduced him to the sport and Colton has been finding any chance he can get to play like his father and make him proud.

"I just love everything about baseball, I'm a competitive person, but it's different from any other sport. You control you. I like that it's a mental game and thinking about scenarios and being involved 24/7 with your teammates," said Musgrave.

"He's the only senior on our team. I can't begin to say how important that leadership has been. Some run away from problems and others dive in to fix a problem. He runs in to fix it. (...) He stuck with it and he will be rewarded for those experiences," said Englehardt.

He added that the team had a hard time coming back from Covid since the players lost a year and a half due to the pandemic.

It makes you mentally tougher to go through those experiences. The younger players see him do things done the right way and see what it takes. When the program is back to what it once was, Colton can take some ownership in that," said Englehardt.

"Last year was pretty special. I got really close with the senior class," said Musgrave, "It was a great group of guys. We could go on the field and not think about anything else. We didn't win many games, but we won a good regional game and that is something I won't forget from my junior year."

"The fall couldn't come faster. I'm ready to get down there. I'm a competitive guy and I'm ready to compete at the highest level that god has allowed me to compete at," said Musgrave.

## Competition

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Besides closeup flower photography and yearbook, Kori also likes to take photos with her friends to keep memories of their joyful moments.

"I'm definitely the Facebook mom friend of the group. I'm always taking pictures of them and capturing the moment and the happy times of the picture. It says a lot and shows people what you're doing. If I'm off on a field trip (...) I can show a picture and it makes it feel more

personal."

Kori said that she was able to earn second place because of the yearbook teacher, Brian Cordes.

"He's really involved and super helpful anytime the girls need something. He always tries to find something to do. 'Go take photo of softball, e-mail this person,' He's always on us about it. That's why the yearbook is so good. We take our time and try and we love what we do. It's so much fun," said Russell.

Cordes said that the yearbook class is usually a high school class, but he also encour-

ages the team to go out and have fun at events as well. During those times, he finds help from middle school.

"There are a few junior high kids who will step up, and it can be scary to get out there. (...) She is very talented and has an eye for photography," said Cordes. "She's well rounded, so I'm looking forward to her photography skills, but also she has a good eye for design. I think she will do well on the business side as well."

The yearbook students do all the work in the class. They create the page layout, design,

place photos, get stories and information and even make a YouTube video for the senior class. They work with Adobe Suite, the widespread service for content creation, to create their product.

Of course, the yearbook isn't cheap to make. The students work hard to fund the program with concessions and football programs. Cordes said he hopes to make the price more affordable in future years, even with inflation raising the prices. He said he was glad that the price only went up by \$4 this year.

Cordes said that the Villa

Grove yearbook has received awards in multiple categories in the past and is highly ranked for its school size. He believes his students can perform just as well as other schools..

Jonathan Hanaway, the Jostens representative for central Illinois, presented the second-place award to Russell.

Hanaway said, "We're very proud of Kori for the incredible artwork and also Brian, who runs an incredible program (...) I never have to worry about that crew. They always put together a really incredible yearbook."

Hanaway added that the

yearbook classes can help students get into a career with a steady need for photographers and other creative artists.

"One of the best things about being part of the yearbook is not just teaching lessons. It's directly relatable to the workforce," said Hanaway.

Russell said she has been thinking about photography as a career in the future, using her skills as a side gig when she goes to college.

"She gets to know that the photo she took is second to one and will cherish that for most of her life," said Hanaway.

## Cage

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launch hitting and pitching camps soon, some of which are for a day, others for multiple weeks.

For those wishing for a baseball or softball themed birthday, with the new location, the Cage is able to rent

out the space for a celebration.

The newest addition to the Cage is a golf simulator. Tabe-ling thought it would be some-

thing the community is interested in, since the Iron Horse golf course is nearby.

Business hours for the cage

are currently by appointment. You can make appointments on their website, [cuatthecage.com](http://cuatthecage.com).

## Board

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to proceed with upgrades to the baseball field. Plans include utilizing a poured concrete wall with pads and netting surrounding the area. Paul's Machinery will donate a crane and labor to assist with the project. One month of revenue from the 1 percent sales tax will cover expenses from this project. The Board is projecting that the softball field will be done next summer.

For the Elementary report, Principal Beck announced that all students that participated in Special Olympics qualified for state. The Blue Devil Classic will

take place on May 18, as well as "Smart Family Night," which provides financial literacy for students. This is sponsored by Indiana State University. Summer tutoring will be from June 5 through July 29, with a week off for July 4.

Principal Jones reported that the High School band and choir concert was outstanding, as well as the art showcase and Honors Banquet. \$52,392 were given in scholarships. FFA had a successful banquet and both the Junior High Track and ACES team were congratulated for their performance at state.

Principal Jones asked everyone to keep the Olson family in their prayers as Becky Olson passed away on May 12.

## Obituaries

### Becky Olson

Rebecca J. Olson, 50, passed peacefully on Friday, May 12, 2023 at her home in Villa Grove.

Becky was born August 12, 1972 in Kankakee, Ill. to Lawrence and Jane (Benoit) Rolph. She married Brian Olson on December 3, 1994 in Bradley, Ill.

She is survived by her husband of 28 years, Brian; two children, Holly (Noah Ferren) Olson and Daniel Olson; one brother, Chad Rolph; her mother, Jane Cahan; and her step-mother, Wendy Rolph.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lawrence Rolph.

Becky spent 29 years with the Villa Grove School system where her heart found its home.



Becky Olson  
Becky's passion for teaching

paired with her ability to foster relationships with students, parents and peers will leave a lasting impression for years to come. Becky truly fulfilled her calling by "Teaching the Children" as she heavily influenced the lives of countless students and community members.

Becky enjoyed reading on her screened porch at home and her annual beach trips with her friend Kendra. She was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone and loved to spend time with her family and friends. She attended and was heavily involved with Victory Church. Becky will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate enough to have crossed paths with her.

See more obituaries in B Section

A celebration of Becky's life will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2023 at Victory Church in Camargo. The memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at Victory Church with Pastor Duane Piercy officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Becky Olson Memorial Fund at the Villa Grove State Bank which will go towards the Snack Pack Program at the Villa Grove High School. Memorial donations may be mailed to Villa Grove State Bank, 10 N. Main St. Villa Grove, IL 61956.

## VILLA GROVE STATE BANK SENIOR OF THE YEAR



Luke Zimmerman

# Congratulations!

## Villa Grove State Bank Recognizes the Outstanding Seniors for 2022-2023

The Senior of the Month and Senior of the Year program honors Villa Grove High School students who have outstanding records in academics, leadership, and extracurricular activities. School personnel select the recipients, and Villa Grove State Bank honors each monthly winner with \$100. The Senior of the Year receives a \$1,000 scholarship.

Congratulations to this year's winners—and our best for their future success!



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Luke Zimmerman  
SEPTEMBER



Sam Bender  
OCTOBER



Connor Black  
NOVEMBER



Kyleigh Price  
DECEMBER



Jesse Bessent  
JANUARY



Will Jones  
FEBRUARY



Emma Buesing  
MARCH



Emma Bratten-Noise  
APRIL



Madison Logan  
MAY