



SENIOR BRADY URBAN'S poem "foundation" was chosen for first place, High School Student in the Highland Park Poetry contest and was published in the 2023 Poetry Challenge book. Submitted photo.



TUSCOLA FFA CLUB inducted their new officers at the FFA Banquet, the new members are President Michelle Reese; Vice President Cole McCallister; Secretary Carleigh Kleiss; Treasurer Jazmine West; Reporter Sidnie Barnes and Sentinel Trey Waldrop. Submitted photo.

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

Villa Grove Class Reunions schedule

May 26th	1958 Fred Smith home in Tuscola. 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.	1973 Helen Watson's House 1 p.m.	1978 Tri-City Country Club	1988 Tri-City Country Club 2 p.m. -5 p.m.	2003 emBARas 2 p.m. -5 p.m.
May 27th	1968 VFW 3:00pm and at the Alumni Banquet at 6 p.m.	1978 Tri-City Country Club	1983 Tri-City Country Club 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Meeting at Korner Beehive on S. Main Street at 9 a.m.	1993 emBARas 5 p.m.	2008 JR's Lounge 1 p.m. -4 p.m.
			1998 Tri-City Country Club Outside on back porch 2 p.m.	2013 emBARas 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	

Morgan Stanley

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2023 Honors Banquet Recipients

Simpson Farm Scholarship: Brandon Kelly
Smith Seed: Luke Zimmerman
Paul's Machine & Welding: Peyton Smith, Garrett Dale
Blue Devil Scholarship: Carson Block, Peyton Smith, Chantel Smith, Garrett Dale, Robert Fancher, Parker Stevens
Science Education: Will Jones, Jesse Bessent
Dr. John McCown Memorial: Connor Black
Sopha E. Heil Memorial: Parker Stevens
Central Illinois Mutual Insurance Company Joe Lawless Memorial Scholarship: Carson Block, Brandon Kelly
G.G. and Robert Gaines: Luke Zimmerman
House Lumber Company: Chantel Smith
Living Hope Fellowship: Emma Bratten Noice
Carolyn Eckerty Memorial: Julius Salazar
Barbara Steffens College University Scholarship: Emma Buesing
2023 National Wild Turkey Federation Scholarship: Connor Black
Marion Sturm Thompson: Jesse Bessent
Monical's Pizza Scholarship: Sam Bender
Stephen Shanks Memorial: Luke Zimmerman
Ryan Riddell Memorial Fund Scholarship: Brandon Kelly
The Hillard Agency Inc: Carson Block, Jake Gilles, Will Jones
Durland Family Scholarship: Robert Fancher, Dalton Logan, Garret Dale, Gavin Kiser
Bozdech Family Scholarship: Jake Gilles, Luke Zimmerman, Jesse Bessent
The Shearer Family Scholarship: Connor Black
VG Faculty and Staff 2023: Chantel Smith, Garrett Dale, Robert Fancher, Peyton Smith
Frank A. Norris Memorial: Will Jones
Beulah Irene Hoffman Memorial: Sam Bender
Ingrum & Gordon Families Memorial-To honor all WWII heroes: Emma Buesing
Michael "Mikey" Eisenmenger Memorial: Connor Black
Walter Jones VFW Post 2876: Jesse Bessent, Robert Fancher
Alan Bender Memorial Scholarship: Dalton Logan, Madison Logan, Sam Bender
Jones' Dental: Will Jones
Villa Grove Masonic Lodge: Maci Clodfelder, Gavin Kiser, Will Jones, Emma Buesing, Sam Bender, Jesse Bessent
Victory Church of Camargo: Parker Stevens, Jake Gilles, Will Jones
Dr John A. Leon Memorial Scholarship: Emma Bratten Noice, Will Jones, Connor Black
VG Alumni Association: Kyleigh Price
Cabot Corporation Trades Scholarship: Gavin Kiser, Dalton Logan
Alice Osborne Memorial Scholarship: Julius Salazar
Villa Grove Lions Club: Emma Bratten Noice
First Christian Church Scholarship: Brandon Kelly, Dalton Logan, Madison Logan
VG United Methodist Church: Sam Bender and Gavin Kiser
Villa Grove Booster Club Scholarship: Emma Buesing, Luke Zimmerman
Jason Watson Memorial Scholarship: Luke Zimmerman, Maci Clodfelder
The Friends of Music Thomas Watson Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship: Kyleigh Price
The Friends of Music Rachel "Ray" Watson Music Scholarship: Sam Bender
Miss VG Scholarship: Maci Clodfelder
Longview Bank Scholarship: Brandon Kelly, Carson Block
John and Ruth Schweighart Scholarship: Emma Bratten Noice
James and Bernadine Spannagel Scholarship: Gavin Kiser
Bob & Betty Hanson Memorial: Emma Buesing
Caitlin's Challenge: Luke Zimmerman
VG State Bank Scholarship: September: Luke Zimmerman
October: Sam Bender
November: Connor Black
December: Kyleigh Price
January: Jesse Bessent
February: William Jones
March: Emma Buesing
April: Emma Bratten-Noice
May: Madison Logan
Senior of the Year: Luke Zimmerman
VG Rotary Club: Dalton Logan, Madison Logan
Bill Jones Memorial: Will Jones
Pat & Martha Carr Memorial Scholarship: Luke Zimmerman, Sam Bender, Gavin Kiser, Maci Clodfelder, Jake Gilles
Theresa Fields Memorial Scholarship: Gavin Kiser
Sally Swan Memorial: Maci Clodfelder
Jerry Rund Scholarship: Brandon Kelly
VG Active FFA Senior Award: Luke Zimmerman
VGEA Nelson Wasson Memorial: Kyleigh Price
VGEA Patty Simpson Memorial: Maci Clodfelder
VGEA Christine Killion Memorial: Luke Zimmerman

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Camargo United Methodist Church
103 E. Main Street
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.fctuscola.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 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

And just like that, a chapter ends

Yesterday, I watched my baby girl, my princess, walk across the stage at the Banterra Center on the campus of SIU.

Not only did she earn her BS in Paralegal Studies, with a Political Science minor and a Pre-Law specialization, she did so without earning a single grade lower than an A. A perfect 4.0. Summa Cum Laude. Of the 800 participants at commencement on Saturday afternoon, very few stood when the Chancellor, Austin A. Lane, asked for those with straight A's to rise.

And there was my angel, standing proudly, if a bit hesitantly, all grown up, but to me the little girl that used to do my nails and loved it when I would count her brush strokes while she brushed her teeth, adding an emphat-

Hook, Line and Sinker By Tony Hooker



ic "Spit!" when the appropriate number was reached. The girl who would set her dolls and stuffed animals up and 'lecture' to when she was in grade school.

In fact, for the first 12 years of her life, we were sure that she would be an elementary school teacher, but dreams and goals change, and some time around junior high or freshman year, she pivoted from becoming a teacher, perhaps for the bet-

ter. She's been such a 'grinder' her whole life, striving for perfection, that I'm not sure teaching those without that motivation would have been her cup of tea.

Of course, I have a million different memories, just like those. So inconsequential to anyone else, but absolutely seminal to me. The cool thing is that I'll bet everyone who has kids has the same type of memories, oddly so ephemeral at the time, yet so

lasting. At least I hope that they do.

Now comes the weird part. What the heck do I do now?

My children have gone to school and gotten the training and experiences they need to succeed in life. Their lives are moving on, and I'm a spectator, basically. Of course, this has been the case from jump street. Mrs. HLS has been the main catalyst for the kiddoes. There is no way that I could have been the child raising ninja that she was. She's the reason they turned out as cool as they are, and this is my mother's day ode to her.

To all the mamas out there, know that you are strong, and you have done your best. And to all the kids out there, please celebrate your mama. She loves you.