



ANNA RAUGUTH, Harley Woodard, Mia Hausman, Grant Kauffman, Ella Boyer and Ethan Bialeschki were recognized as the Illinois State Scholars for exceptional SAT scores and class rank during Honors Day on May 19. Photo by Tracy Hornaday.



MAKENZIE HERSCHBERGER, Natalie Veach, Anna Rauguth, Ella Boyer, Reggan Smith, Brogan Rennert, Grant Kauffman, Mia Hausmann and Harley Woodard all received Rotary student of the month through the 2022-2023 school year. They received presentations at Honors Day on May 19. Photo by Tray Hornaday.



COLTON MUSGRAVE accepts a \$2,200 scholarship from the Cundiff Scholarship Trust. 23 other students received the scholarship alongside him for a combined total of \$52,000. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Seth D Pate

2023 Graduate
U of I
College of Agricultural



We are so proud of you and look forward to you returning to farm with Grandpa Larry & Grandma Marsha Skinner

Exchange

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every day in Tuscola because there are more opportunities to spend time with friends or do group projects.

In Spain, students end up writing a lot of essays and memorizing information. Rubio said it might seem like they would learn more that way, but for many students, it seems like it's also easier to forget all the things they write about. In her opinion, she seems to learn more in class in the States.

In Spain, Rubio is set to graduate as a sophomore due to a different school structure in there. While she's not receiving a high school diploma from Tuscola, she is allowed to walk during graduation with the senior class. Students in Spain typically enter high school or "secondary school" when they are 11 or 12 years old. In order for students to go to college, they have to attend "Bachillerato," a post-high school education that allows access to universities once the appropriate tests have been completed.

For Rubio, school wasn't the only thing that was different for her. Even the most mundane things, like houses, roads, geography and even everyday places like gas stations, were quite different.

Rubio said she also learned a lot about American culture while living here. She became more used to spending time in the living room with her host family. She usually spent more time in her room in Spain, es-

pecially after lunch, when its nap time. Dinnertime is also much earlier for her here. In Spain, she would eat dinner with her family at 9 or 10 p.m.

Family dynamics have changed a lot for Rubio during her stay in the States as well. Usually, Rubio spent most of her family time on Sundays since she usually doesn't see her parents until later in the evening during the weekday. With her hosts, Nick and Margie Carter, she finds herself spending a lot more time with their family throughout the week. Rubio said she thinks there are more options to do things throughout the week here.

"Every day can feel completely different," said Rubio.

Her relationship with her host family has grown quite strong throughout the year, even though Rubio was nervous before she met them in person. They all share a similar type of humor, tease each other and share plenty of laughs.

She went to Florida for spring break as well as Wisconsin and Minnesota. She originally hoped to go to Florida with friends, but their plans fell through. Margie and Nick wanted her to have still that experience of traveling in the United States.

Rubio had visited Chicago with her agency with other exchange students. She was able to meet some other foreign exchange students from Spain who are spending their year abroad in Arcola.

Day-to-day life also changed for Rubio a lot. She usually spent her days walking her

dog after school and traveling to the city center with her friends on the bus since her hometown of Algete is relatively quiet.

When Rubio leaves early in June, the Carter family will not be without a foreign exchange student for long. They are going to host Rubio's younger brother, Lucas, who will be attending TCHS this fall. Olivia was surprised since she didn't think he wanted to do an exchange year. She said he thought it wouldn't be fun to go abroad for the school year since he would mostly be studying, but after hearing Olivia's experiences from her parents, he seems to have changed his mind.

Olivia's father encouraged her to go abroad to the States, as he always wanted her to have that opportunity.

"I think when I really adapted myself here was around Christmas," Rubio said.

When she called home around that time, she wanted to come home and visit her friends and family. But now, she wouldn't mind repeating the last two months of Tuscola High School. She still wants to spend her summer in Spain with her friends and family. But wouldn't mind coming back to the States for another year of school. She's even considered moving back to the U.S. one day, but maybe not Illinois since she said can't stand the cold weather here.

Pool

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The Council waived formal bidding on the purchase.

The consent agenda was approved with a payment of \$26,122.50 to Clark Dietz for work on the downtown improvement plan and a payment of \$33,849.21 to Cross Construction for the Rt. 36 water main repairs at the Niles Avenue intersection. Also approved on the consent agenda was a Community Building rental May 25-27 to Rigo Rajas for a wedding reception.

In other business, a revised summer employee list was approved, and the Council lifted its COVID-19 policies.

Mayor Dan Kleiss said he had hoped the state legislature

would enact new rules to allow for broader remote attendance at meetings "and they might yet."

Hoel said the city's action to revoke the pandemic policies may be duplicative since the governor announced an end to the state's emergency declaration but that he wanted to make it clear to employees that pandemic leave policy no longer applies.

During the mayor's portion of the meeting, Kleiss praised the high school girls track team's third place state finish and the girls softball team for their "fine season." He also expressed congratulations to the graduating seniors.

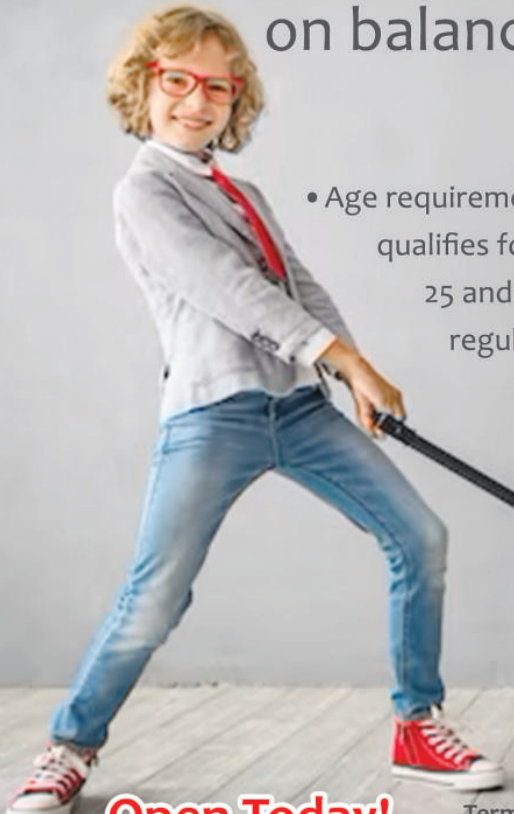


CHRIS BOYD embraces Christy Hoel during Honors Day on May 19. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

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