

Journal Destinat By Missy Chappell In 2006, the Tuscol

end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough. -Oprah Winfrey

Beautiful Poinsettias

The Class of 2018 will once again be selling beautiful poinsettias for Christmas this year. Contact Christy Hoel, Dedee Hoel, or Jeannie Craddock if interested. Order by Nov. 27 with delivery on Nov. 29.

Thanksgiving Hours

Journal we would like to extend a Happy Thanksgiving to our family, friends, and community. This year we are thankful for his brother Dillon play in three our readers and your continued support. Safe travels to any on the road this year. So that we may celebrate with our families, The Journal office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24.



Christmas Nativity

The live Christmas Nativity drive through hosted by the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 600 E. Northline Road, Tuscola, will be 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3.

Holiday Lights

Do you deck your house in a dazzling display of Christmas lights? Do you remember the reason for the season with a Chritmastime Nativity? Then we want to include you in our citywide Christmas light map. Let us know your address at the proper fit may prove to be The Tuscola Journal office or by emailing Kayleigh kayleigh@thetuscola journal.com.

Statebound Warriors

The Tuscola football team will kick off at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 24 for the 1A state title at Northern Illinois University's taking on the role. Huskie Stadium. All seats are general admission. Tickets can be purchased at the within the next week or two, plus Inc.)." **high school office Monday or Tuesday or at** the county will explore any other the stadium prior to the game. Following the game, fans are invited to a post-game tent party hosted by Pow-Wows and the football moms in the "Spirit Zone" near the stadium. A pep rally will be around 4:30 p.m. Friday at the high school gym. More information about the title game will be released as the week progresses, so check The Tuscola Journal or Tuscola CUSD 301 Facebook pages for updates.

EP Girls Regionals

The East Prairie girls' basketball teams head in to post-season play this week. The seventh grade girls kicked off the regional tournament 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 20. The second seeded eighth grade girls will take on the winner of the Toledo-Cumberland and Shelbyville Moulton game at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28.

Tuscola to turn to Christmastown Dec. 1-3

Tuscola's Christmastown celebration will be December 1, 2, and 3, and you are invited to kick off the holiday season at the Holiday Vendor Fair at the Community Building. This twoday vendor fair is sponsored by Becky's Buddies Relay for Life Team and will feature more than 40 local handmade items, as well as many at home party vendors.

On Friday, Dec. 1, the library will host free carriage rides downtown, several businesses will be open late, and carolers will fill the downtown with Christmas tunes.

Santa's first stop will be the Santa Chase 5K, where he will lead the runners Saturday, Dec. 2. The race starts at 8 a.m., and participants are encouraged to register early to be guaranteed a T-shirt. Enjoy breakfast with Santa from 8-11 a.m. at the Douglas County Museum. Each child will receive a gift.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Annual Tuscola Christmastown Celebration.

The TUSCOLA OURNAL

Destination DeKalb: Tuscola Warriors state bound

Wednesday, November 22, 2017

In 2006, the Tuscola Warrior football team completed a perfect season and brought the first ever State Championship to their Be thankful for what you have; you'll hometown. In 2007, the Warriors went back, but didn't come out on top. Two years later the Warriors played their first of three state championship games in a row and came away victorious before falling to Lena-Winslow in 2010 and Dakota in 2011.

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The 2017 Warriors are finally taking Tuscola back to the state championship game. Like the 2006 team, they take an undefeat-On behalf of the staff at The Tuscola ed record to DeKalb, and they hope to win one more.

> Senior Dalton Hoel watched straight state championship games. Dalton showed up as a freshman with speed and agility, if not size. Listed at 5'6" 150, Hoel is fairly certain he's gained maybe 5 pounds in size since his freshman season, but he's never lacked athleticism, and he's ready to play on Friday.

> "If you need to get prepared for the intensity, then there's something wrong," he said about getting ready. "When you're playing in the state championship

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Warriors Hunter Woodard and Brayden VonLanken empty a water cooler on head coach Andy Romine after 1A IHSA semifinal football action with Athens. The Warriors' 21-14 victory earned them a trip to the IHSA 1A State Championship.

County looks to hire supervisor of assessments

By Kayleigh Rahn

Douglas County has put a call out to fill the currently vacant supervisor of assessments position at the courthouse; however, for a number of reasons, finding

County Board member Michael Carroll says the deadline to accept applications has expired, and they've received several candidates interested in

"They will be interviewed possible action that could work, such as sharing an assessor with a neighboring county," he said, though as of Friday, Nov. 9 the board was unsure if any nearby counties would be interested in that opportunity.

Piatt and Dewitt counties share an assessor, which allows the assessor to take home a larger wage with two counties contributing, but each county pays less

noted.

"He or she would spend three days at one office and two days at the other, and the next week those days flip," he said. "With the savings we could then hire, let's say, a full-time office manager. So that would allow us to staff up the office better, and the assessor would be relieved from office management duties. We're trying to find an interested county and a county that uses the same software (Vanguard Appraisals,

The county board's personnel subcommittee-comprised of Tom Glenn, Jim Mikeworth, and Carroll– along with a representative from human resources will complete the interviews.

"We are looking at two key skill sets," Carroll said. "One is obviously assessment ability. That's fairly technical, and it's good to have someone with experience in public assessments. The other skill set is people skills and

than a full-time employee, Carroll management ability. Both of these are incredibly important for a variety of reasons, one of those reasons being Illinois, along with New Jersey, has the highest property tax rate in the nation. So people are understandably upset about this. The county didn't cause that problem, but we feel a high duty that what we can do is make the assessments as equitable and fair as possible. It's bad enough they're high, but it's really bad if they are unfair. It's bad if some are paying too much and others paying too little."

> Dealing with the public, especially when residents may be upset is a key part of the supervisor of assessment's role for the

"It's important to help them understand and convince them of the fairness of the assessment," Carroll said. "It's also important to work with other people in the courthouse and to be able to manage the staff to keep morale

A recommendation will be made to the county board within 30 days, Carroll noted.

County employee Renee Hettinger is working full time in the interim following former supervisor of assessment Rena Cain's retirement in early September. The next appointee will fulfill Cain's unexpired term that will end in about 3 1/2 years.

"We are under the gun to come up with an assessor for a number of reasons," he said. "First there are all kinds of reports due. The assessment activity should be going on, etc. Things are backing up, and there is pres-

Also, and maybe more pressing is the unresolved question of the countywide reappraisal of commercial properties that was recommended to the board earlier

The county board is ready to

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loman's Club invites guests Homes for the Holidays

The Tuscola Woman's Club will once again host the annual Homes for the Holidays-a tour of six lovely Tuscola homes displayed in holiday traditions, festival of wreaths, and a Christmas tea on Sunday Dec. 3.

The house walk will be open from 1-5 p.m.

Tickets for the six-home tour

and tea can be purchased at Winterberry, Flesor's Candy Kitchen, and any Tuscola bank.

Grant and Johanna Steffens 205 Forest Glen

Merry Christmas from the Steffens family! We are happy to welcome you to our home that we share with our two young children, Julianne and Jett, while anxiously awaiting our newest arrival in January. We have spent the last five years making this house our own, and we are excited to share it with you. Christmas is a magical time for our family, and we hope you enjoy your time here this holiday season.

Our front door leads to an open foyer with a sitting room to the right. This special place is full of memories as it features several antique furniture pieces inherited from our grandparents. Upon arriving, you will also see the master bedroom before entering

the open floorplan featuring our



Grant and Johanna Steffens, 205 Forest Glen

cozy great room and newly remodeled kitchen. A laundry room with a custom, built-in locker area can also be found before entering a hallway leading to two additional bedrooms. Our most recent project includes a large sunroom addition to the back of our home. This open space is great for entertaining and is warmed by a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace.

Before leaving, please head down to the basement, which we finished after moving in. A bedroom, large playroom, and home office all surround an open living and wet bar. This is a fun place, which not only provides an additional living area but much needed space for our soon to be family of five.

Decorating for the holidays

has always been fun, but seeing Christmas through the eyes of our children makes the season even more meaningful. Please enjoy our many Christmas trees, each uniquely decorated with special ornaments, and our childlike Christmas theme throughout. We have always loved entertaining and feel very blessed to share our home with you. Merry Christmas!

Ron and Darla Gardner 104 Ponder Drive

Merry Christmas and welcome to the Gardner home. Ron and I are excited this year to have the opportunity to invite you into our new traditional ranch home.

Inside we have tried, through color, design, and décor, to create a "happy" feeling. Our rooms are spacious and inviting. Everywhere you look you will find inspiration form the works of Mary Engelbreit... an American graphic artist. The Christmas décor used reflects the same style throughout each room.

Please be our guests and come visit our "happy" new home.

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Ron and Darla Gardner, 104 Ponder Drive