



The TUSCOLA JOURNAL

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Journal Entries

"The secret to living well and longer is: eat half, walk double, laugh triple, and love without measure."

Egg Hunt

The annual Tuscola Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt has been postponed to Saturday, March 31. Don't forget to bring your own basket for the children-only hunt. The Easter Bunny will be hopping around for photo opportunities. Registration begins at 9 a.m. at the north pavilion, and the hunt will start at 9:30 a.m.

Library Happenings

The Tuscola Public Library will host Travel Club-Myrtle Beach at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 22, ad Adult Coloring at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 27. Also Tuesday will be StoryTime at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 28 will be the book discussion of "Their Eyes were Watching God" at 6 p.m. The library will be closed Friday, March 30 for Good Friday.

Kiwanis Fish Fry

The All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry Dinner hosted by Tuscola Kiwanis will be 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, March 23 at 40 Martyrs School. The menu will feature Alaskan pollock, baked beans, cole slaw, desserts, and beverages. All proceeds will benefit the children of our community.

Cemetery Clean Up

The semi-annual clean up for the Tuscola Township Cemetery will begin Monday, March 26. All plastic, artificial decorations, wire tripods, Christmas decorations, etc. lying on the ground or stuck in the ground (those not in a container) will be picked up the week of March 26. This policy is in effect during the mowing season April 1 through Nov. 1 except the months of May and June. All containers and flowers must be close to the stone on the grave side (east side). Your cooperation and assistance is appreciated.

Spring Break

Tuscola students will have no school Thursday, March 29 through Tuesday, April 3 for School Improvement Day (March 29) and Spring Break (Friday, March 30 through Tuesday, April 3). School will resume Wednesday, April 4. Have a safe and restful break!

Dine with a Doc

The next Dine With A Doc at Jarman Center is scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2018 and will feature therapist, Shane Gosnell, DPT from Savoy Physical Therapy. Dine With A Doc is a free program that welcomes the local senior public to hear an educational topic while enjoying a complimentary lunch. The event will take place at 11:30 at Jarman Center For Senior Living, Tuscola. Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 21 to 253-2323 for food preparation purposes.



The 2018 Miss Tuscola pageant will be 6 p.m. Saturday, March 24 at Tuscola Community High School. The Miss Tuscola contestants are from left Gabriella Gunther, Faith Hardwick, Sabrina Alcorn, 2017 Miss Tuscola Ashley Mattingly, Hanna Summers, Caylen Moyer, and Myli Samples.



About 50 TCHS students and about 25 seventh and eighth grade students gathered in front of the high school and middle school during the national walkout Wednesday, March 14. The nationwide, student-organized walkout was planned in response to the school shooting in Parkland, Fla. that left 14 dead. Students around the nation walked out of class to show solidarity for gun law reform, mental health awareness, and bullying awareness. Tuscola students worked with school administrators to organize the event.



Colton's courage continues with support for flag football

By Kayleigh Rahn
Colton's courage has inspired many. The Tuscola boy won over Central Illinois when a feel-good story went viral online and made him an overnight local celebrity. During the viral moment, Colton played host to member many of the University of Illinois football team during his biddy basketball

game following an eye surgery. In the final minutes of the game, he hit the game winning shot, sending the North Ward gym in to a frenzy. And more than a month later, the fan mail continues to come in and he's been recognized at a U of I basketball game; however, there's still something more Colton Rahn would like to do.

He simply wants to play football—a game he'll likely never play in earnest due to his cerebral palsy diagnosis. Unless, that is, his family can push off the ground a new youth flag football league. "Colton won't be able to play tackle football due to the blood clot in his brain," said his father Jason Rahn. "There is a chance it

has calcified, but there is no guarantee. If not, one hit could move the clot to the center, which could cause the unthinkable. Colton likes basketball, but football is his true love, and the visit from the Illini football team reignited that passion." Colton has been holding a

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Photo: Rachel Ray
Election judges are at the ready during the March 20, 2018 primary election. Check next week's Journal for election coverage.

Change at The Vault Art Gallery: Artists draw new ownership plan

By Kayleigh Rahn
The artists of The Vault in downtown Tuscola have locked in a new phase of ownership as those affiliated with the gallery have created a cooperative to keep the doors open.

The Vault Art Collective opened in the summer of 2013 when John McDevitt moved his collective from Sullivan's The Factory to its new home in Tuscola. McDevitt was in the process of buying the former bank building from the City of Tuscola when he decided to close up shop. He'd planned to turn the keys over to the city, who had funded building improvements using Tax Increment Financing dollars.

The city wasn't interested in obtaining responsibility for the large building, which gave a trio of new owners the chance to rent the space for \$100 for the first year to test the waters. Tuscola's Mike Carroll, Jerry Reynolds, and Jim Higgins, under the name Bend in the River, took over the business just over a year ago in an effort to keep the doors open at the cornerstone business. "They saved it from

oblivion then," said gallery manager Kirby Pringle. Over the last year, personal circumstances changed for the new owners and profits weren't easily realized, Pringle explained. Over the last several weeks they started to look into trying to sell the business with a March 31 closure date in mind. "This building is so big I don't know what else you'd use it for," Pringle said. "They were going to close it,

and I worked hard over the last year trying to rebrand it a little bit by getting more variety of things in and different artists. It's worked. Traffic has increased. Sales have increased. I was trying to figure what to do to save this place, and I threw out the idea of an artist cooperative where no one person would have to make a huge investment. You all take part of the risk and part of the reward. With about 25 people now

pitching in a little bit of money, now, no one is going to lose \$10,000. The artists took the cooperative idea and ran with it." The artists met Monday, March 12 and voted to create the cooperative. The artists will officially take over on Sunday, April 1. "The goal is to keep it open as long as we can," Pringle said. The business plan will include making

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