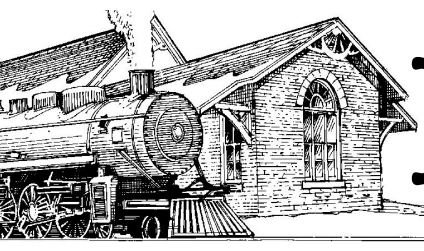

Back in the day...

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10 YEARS AGO
May 20, 2008

The class of 2008 had six Eagle Scouts amongst its ranks. In Tuscola Troop 80 Ryan Batts, Drew Hawkins, Joel Lee, Brandon Price, and Tyler Sapp earned this highest rank in the organization. Joining them was Austen Schultz from Arcola Troop 88.

Daniel C. Brown was named Deputy Chief of Administration for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Chief Brown was a 28-year veteran of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources police force.

The Tuscola boys' varsity baseball team defeated Neoga and won the regional championship. Playing for the Warriors were Kyle Miller, Tyler Clark, Jesse Hall, Clayton Meyer, Christian Lehmann, Trace Quinn, Josh Nichols, Pat Yoakum, Kurtis Kinyoun, Cody Shelmadine, Dane Winn, Shane Albert, John Wienke, Shaheen Shabrou, and Matt Pflum.

TCHS girls' softball team also won their regional championship. They defeated Danville Schlarman 5-4.

TCHS boys' track split the sectional championship with St Joe. Both teams scored 124 points.

20 YEARS AGO
May 19, 1998

Dawn Killebrew opened Heavenly Blessing Educational Center. Although the center was not affiliated with the church in which it was established, it was a Christian based center.

First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust's president Doug McCumber announced plans for a new banking facility. The new building was to allow more services and newer technology.

Tuscola Warriors' track team won their sixth consecutive Little Okaw Valley Conference title. They scored 196 points with Villa Grove Blue Devils finishing second with 122 points.

The Lady Warriors' 1600-meter relay team qualified for State. Becky Wetzel, Stephanie Reinhart, Janeen Sutherland, and Jenny Gensler represented Tuscola at the state track meet held at EIU. Reinhart also qualified for state in the triple jump.

1995 TCHS graduate Kurt Hettinger helped the Fighting Illini place third in the NCAA Gymnastics Championship. He had a career high of 9.675 in the parallel bars.

TCHS is ready for the traditional Pomp & Circumstance in honor of the Class of 2018. Do you recognize these grads of yesteryear. If so, let us know at The Tuscola Journal.

30 YEARS AGO
May 17, 1988

More than 100 residents celebrated National Nursing Home Week at Douglas Nightingale and Douglas Manor nursing homes. They enjoyed a variety of activities including luncheons, songs, and special events.

Dave Snyder was installed as ABC president and Jan Hastings ABC Auxiliary president. Jerry Tague was named Ambuc of the year for his fundraising efforts.

Over 200 citizens attended The Tuscola Police Department's Bike Rodeo. Four new bicycles were given away to Joshua Reeves, Karie Hobel, Kim Myers, and Darcie Wood.

Toni Best was classified as "Best of the Best" at Notre Dame University in a gymnastics competition, The Region V Meet consisted of the top female gymnasts from Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky.

TCHS track team member Susan Harris qualified for State in shot put. Harris set a school record of 39-2 in competition.

40 YEARS AGO
May 18, 1978

Littlefuse was producing more than 520,000 fuses per day. Eighty two ladies were working production in the facility.

Tuscola was flooded after a weekend of rain. South Prairie Street was covered in water even after the weekend passed due to drainage issues.

The TCHS Chemistry Team placed first at the annual high school contest at EIU. Roger Gallion, Mark Lake, and John Buck competed for Tuscola, under direction of chemistry teacher Kay Kleiss, amongst 16 teams.

Barry Henby of Tuscola completed intensive paramedic training with the highest GPA. The course consisted of 390 classroom hours and 118 practical hours.

Harold "Chuck" Gilliland received his five-year service award from Cabot. Bob Vukelich was his supervisor at the plant.

Sheriff Gene Wigall and the Tuscola Police Department distributed a bicycle safety magazine to grade schools throughout the county They also randomly handed out reflectors from the limited supply they received from the State Safety League.

50 YEARS AGO
May 16, 1968

The American Business Club Auxiliary donated $500 to the Youth Center Fund. W.A. Bozarth was the Youth Center chairman.

James L. Parker of Tuscola received a promotion at the USI plant. He was named Section Leader in customer service.

Zane's Bakery closed its door indefinitely. Owner Harold Zane was forced to close due to health issues.

The Warriors set two new track records in the Okaw Valley Conference. Dave Brown hurled a new discus record of 156 feet 7 1/4 inches, and Mat Morey broke the record in shot put with a throw of 59 feet 9 1/2 inches.

Records were also broken in the Douglas County Track Meet. The Tuscola relay team of Dale Hanners, Ron Runyun, Mike Holmes, and Bill Leonard set a new record with a time of 3:40.9. A new record was also set in the two-mile run at 10:54.6, and in pole vault at 14 feet 2 inches. Alex Tingley of Tuscola broke the record in the mile with his time of 4:50. Tuscola won the meet for the fifth consecutive time with a total of 96 points.

Yellow Farmhouse, White Rocking Chair

By Kayleigh Rahn

I don't know when children begin to collect memories, but I hope Nora didn't initiate the yesteryear corner of her brain this week.

The luster of Mother's Day had come and gone. William was on second shift. Bath time was near.

On typical nights William runs Nora's bath while I clean up the kitchen after dinner. I then do the lotion and PJ routine while he tidies the bathroom following the splish-splashing bubble fun. However, when William works second shift, Nora and I head to town for dinner with my parents. It's a simple routine, and I enjoy it.

While at my parents' house this evening a macaroni and cheese side dish doubled as the season's latest in toddler hair fashion, which called for a full scrub down before heading home.

Years ago my parents ditched the full bathtub in lieu of more storage in the bathroom, so for nearly 15 years they've had only a walk-in shower. A great transition until you consider bath time with a toddler. My Mom quickly remedied the dilemma with a plastic storage tub placed in the bottom of the shower and a small Minnie Mouse bathmat. It's not exactly picturesque, but it's efficient. And Nora loves it.

Bath time began as planned. Run the water to warm it up. Test it 1,000 times before stripping the child. Check the diaper for a dirty surprise before trashing it and dunk the babe.

Easy. Simple. I got this.

That was until I heard something "plop" into the tub just as Nora's toes hit the water.

Alarm ran through my body.

Before I could stop her downward motion into the soiled tub, Nora was proudly sitting on the pink Minnie bathmat that was now contaminated. She smiled ear to ear–blissfully unaware of the blunder her mother just committed–as she reached for her dirtied bath toys and began what may be her favorite time of the day. She then sloshed the dreaded, dirty water around the glass walls of the shower.

As my brain registered what had transpired I panicked. I ripped her out of the tub as an ear-shattering scream came from my child. This was an offense of the highest degree–a shortened bath time.

I tried to stand her slippery body on the shower floor as she attempted to dive back into the water. She slipped.

Thunk.

Her butt hit the bottom of the shower and more tears followed.

My Mom (thank goodness for Moms) came in for the assist.

I quickly explained what happened as I attempted to put Nora back on her feet, which she suddenly forgot how to use.

"Hand her to me; I'll rinse her in the sink," my mom said as she made a move over my shoulder for the tub. I shifted to hand Nora to my mom. But she wasn't referring to the child. Instead she had requested Minnie, the soiled bathmat. Nora, who thought she was being rescued by her Grandma, was left to shiver, wet and nude, as I, her dysfunctional mom, attempted to resolve the dirty water issue. Bigger tears started to flow down the poor girl's cheeks.

My mom took the bathmat out of the dirty water and scrubbed it down as I calmed Nora and successfully found a safe, warm place for her to stand while I drained, rinsed, and refilled the tub. However, as I made my move to do a final rinse of the tub, Nora, who was calmly standing off my right leg, took one step toward me.

We collided.

Flop.

She was knocked to her tummy by my hip. A pale starfish struggled on the linoleum floor with her dirty butt on display for all to see. I dropped the handheld showerhead I was using to rinse the now clean tub. The water stream sprayed directly into my face, turning my makeup into a raccoon-eyed mask and soaking my already soiled clothes. In a quick struggle, the showerhead was corralled, the water was turned off, and I swooped Nora into a towel, cleaned her up, and started again.

With a clean tub, a clean Minnie bath mat, and a dried bathroom we started again, and the bath was successful–eventually.

I felt depleted. Motherhood is hard.

After a clean and happy Nora was tucked into her crib at home I collapsed into our oversized chair. She seems no worse for the wear; she still loves bath time, I told myself. I don't believe she's traumatized, although time will tell I suppose.

William called on his dinner break, and I recounted the drama in great detail with a lot of laughter.

If one day she happens to register a memory of this fateful night, I hope it's filled with all the laughter and love and a little less of the drama.

READING

Continued from 1

Country Financial) and will be entered into the grand prize drawing for the food, fun, and friends experience package valued at $100 (sponsored by Tuscola First Federal Bank.) Adults who finish each week will receive a library perks card and will be entered into the grand prize drawing for a chance at a gift card package (sponsored by Tuscola Rotary) including Tuscola Do It Best, Amazon, Tuscola IGA, and Joe's Pizza.

Reading logs will be due by Saturday, July 7.

Summer library activities will kick off Friday with the first outdoor movie of the season accompanying the city's artisan fair starting at 5:30 p.m.

Sign up is open for the Museum of the Grand Prairie day on June 13 at 1 p.m. and Scovil Mobile Zoo day on June 18 at 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.

Back by popular demand is the fourth annual teddy bear sleep over. Stuffed animal drop off will be June 12 and while kids will be able to pick up their animals the following day, the teddy bear sleep over video premier will be June 14.

"The production continues to get grander and grander, so we need to give our selves a little more time," Black said.

The Summer Birthday Bash will be July 9, which is when the grand prize drawing for the Summer Read Program will take place. The end-of-the-summer pool party hasn't been set in stone yet, but be on the look out for the date soon.

Student events taking place this week

Thursday, May 17
- HS Boys' Track IHSA Sectional at Shelbyville
- HS Girls' Track IHSA State Prelims at EIU

Friday, May 18
- TCHS Honors Day–10 a.m.

Sunday, May 20
- Baccalaureate–7 p.m.

Monday, May 21
- Board Meeting at EP–7 p.m.
- Semester Finals

Tuesday, May 22
- Semester Finals

Submitted photo

Dillan Alcorn, a member of Tuscola Boy Scout Troop 95, recently completed National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). National Youth Leadership Training is an exciting, action-packed, six-day program designed for councils to provide youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others, according to the NYLT website. The NYLT course centers around the concepts of what a leader must "be", what he must "know", and what he must "do". The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on "how to". The skills come alive during the week as the patrol goes on a Quest for the Meaning of Leadership.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

Last week, we observed Teacher Appreciation Week. In honor of that, the members of the Tuscola Community Unit School District #301 Board of Education would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of our teachers and staff for the work they do on behalf of our students every day. The countless hours that you spend planning lessons, preparing materials, and grading student work are greatly appreciated. You support students as they stretch themselves, cheer them on when they need encouragement, and celebrate their accomplishments, big and small. Oftentimes, the impact you have on a student's life is not known. However, years from now, students may not necessarily remember the things they did in the classroom, but they will remember their teachers. Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,
Tuscola Board of Education

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