



The TUSCOLA JOURNAL

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Journal Entries

"Our fingerprints don't fade from the lives we've touched."

FFA Alumni

The Tuscola FFA Alumni Association has invited the community to the annual Pie Auction and Chili Supper on Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Tuscola Community Building. The chili supper will begin at 5 p.m., and the auction will get underway at 7 p.m. Allen donated toy farm machinery to be auctioned off along with the more than 30 delicious pies. Proceeds will provide support (including scholarships) for the local FFA Chapter.

Antique Arms & Militaria Show

The Douglas County Museum will host the Antique Arms & Militaria Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16. For more information about securing a table as a dealer or collector contact the museum.

Shopko Pharmacy

Shopko Pharmacy in Tuscola will close its doors Tuesday, Feb. 12. Effective Wednesday, Feb. 13 all prescriptions and prescription records will be available at Walgreens Pharmacy, 2402 Village Green Place, Champaign. For more information or to change the location of your records call 217-398-2764.

Miss Tuscola

The final day to sign up as a contestant for the 2019 Miss, Junior Miss, or Little Miss Tuscola pageant will be Saturday, Feb. 9. Contact pageant directors Denise Groves, Emily Hallett, volunteer Emily Scribner, or 2018 Miss Tuscola Faith Hardwick for more information.

Group Homes open in two Tuscola neighborhoods

By Kayleigh Rahn

Come Springtime, Tuscola will have at least eight new residents.

And with the help of Marion County Horizon Center, these individuals will have all the comforts of home in two new groups homes designed to offer those with intellectual disabilities a place to make choices about their lives.

The two new group homes are located at

916 N. Center St. and 15 Raymond Dr. When deciding on a location in the Douglas County area, Heather Houser, residential director for Marion County Horizon Center, said Tuscola just made sense.

"Tuscola is a great community with a lot of different services and things to do," she said.

Houser said the reason the company looked at Douglas County is because there are few services for those with developmental

disabilities within the county.

"We work with a number of families who are from town, and one of the things we hear on a regular basis is a concern for families who may get to a point where they cannot care for a loved one any longer," Houser said. "Where will they go? They have to leave town. One of the things we wanted to be able to offer is that if you have a loved one, they

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Photo: Kayleigh Rahn

The Warriettes are all smiles in the final formation of their routine during the Saturday, Feb. 2 IDTA dance competition at TCHS.

Cronus updates on the horizon, new development potential on Rt. 36

By Kayleigh Rahn

Editor's Note: The Tuscola City Council works in smaller subcommittees in order to efficiently study issues in-depth, this includes the Tax-Increment Financing Subcommittee. While committees cannot make final decisions on issues, the members make recommendations, on issues they have studied, to the full City Council for final votes on

issues. Discussions during these meetings are preliminary notes and discussion topics.

• Cronus Fertilizers
Tuscola Economic Director Brian Moody said, during the Monday, Feb. 4 TIF Committee meeting, that there is no significant update to report regarding the proposed Cronus Fertilizers plant slated to land on Route 36 and Hog Market Road west of Tuscola. In October

Cronus Fertilizers has executed a lump-sum turnkey contract with thyssenkrupp Industrial Solutions (TKIS) for the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) of its Tuscola fertilizer plant.

"With the capacity to produce 2,300 metric tons of ammonia per day, the Cronus plant will be a major new source of fertilizer for farmers throughout Illinois and the Midwest," the October statement said. "The plant's

strategic location will allow area farmers to access locally produced ammonia that will primarily replace the need for imported products."

Moody said by the next TIF meeting he should have significant updates regarding financing.

"If all goes well, I'll hoping to see the Cronus folks in the next week or two for an update on the financing," Moody said. "Expect the next few months to get

quite busy for that project. We're coming into the right season."

• Tuscola Business Centre

Moody and City Administrator Drew Hoel have met with a potential developer who has great interest in bringing a business to the south east quadrant of the Interstate 57 and Route 36 interchange at what many Tuscola residents may know as the Steven farm, or the

potential Tuscola Business Centre development.

"We have a developer that we have experience with, is a good developer, and it's a good development, I think," Moody reported. "We're not ready to say a whole lot about it at this point, but they had asked us to start taking a look at doing

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Music students to show 'colours of world' during March 23 concert

Tuscola's music students are preparing to "Colour My World" during the seventh annual Tuscola Music Boosters Dinner/Concert Fundraiser at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 23.

Each year music teachers Jeannie Craddock and Alison Bowen create and develop the theme and music selection for the fundraiser. The

theme this year is Colour My World.

The missions of the Tuscola Music Boosters fundraiser is to help provide volunteer and monetary support for the Music programs at East Prairie Middle School and Tuscola Community High School.

"We are a parent organization, which works in sup-

port of our vocal and instrumental departments," a press release from the Boosters says. "The success of Tuscola Music Boosters is due to the patronage we receive from Tuscola music parents and the Tuscola community. Thank you for helping to support music in our schools."

The 6 p.m. dinner will be

catered by Flesor's Candy Kitchen. Devin Flesor-Story and her crew look forward to serving a delicious meal of a colorful bean salad, cranberry salad, glazed carrots, corn pudding, mixed green salad with add-in raw vegetables, dried fruit, nuts, and dressing, tri-colored pasta alfredo, bone-in baked ham, and "fancy" bread & butter.

Dinner seating will be arranged for 250 people. The \$15 per person Dinner with Concert ticket are made by reservation only. Concert only tickets with balcony seating can be purchase at the door for \$5 per person. Handicapped seating is available.

This year the fundraising be put use to purchase a new drum set for TCHS, with the

current drum set going to East Prairie, as well as additions and upgrades within the percussion section at each school. The fundraiser also provides food for the band at the first home football game, cake and punch on Senior recognition night, music technology for the class-

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Photos: Kayleigh Rahn

Wimple Park Pond froze over (left) during the Wednesday, Jan. 30 deep freeze the created minor issues through out town. At 8 a.m. Wednesday the thermometer in Tuscola read 15 degrees below zero with wind chills at minus 38 degrees. City Administrator Drew Hoel said the community experience a couple water main breaks, one of which had to be repaired by the city maintenance crew on Wednesday morning in the peak of the bad weather.

"Our guys did a great job getting it repaired quickly, efficiently, and safely," Hoel said. "That is one of the things we anticipate when temperatures fluctuate that much that quickly - the ground "shifts" with the change in temps and can cause already weak areas in water mains to crack or break." The city also experience a few frozen water meters, which we were able to get warmed up and open, Hoel reported, and a handful of residents reported having busted water pipes inside their homes. By Monday, Feb. 4 (on which Wimple pond is pictured at right) at 10 a.m. temperatures reached about 54 degrees above freezing for an at least 69-degree swing in air temperature. The Tuscola Police Department aided motorists. There were a few stranded semi-trucks due to the cold, and one semi lost its trailer, which may have been a mechanical failure related to the cold, Hoel reported. And, of course, garbage service was mostly delayed a day - the crew attempted pick up Wednesday, but couldn't keep going.

