

Obituaries

Earl Watson

Earl W. Watson, 96, of Tuscola, died at 12:16 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019 at his residence.

Funeral Services were Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 at the Tuscola Church of the Nazarene, 1001 Egyptian Trail, Tuscola, IL, with Rev. Joseph Carter officiating. Visitation was Saturday until the time of the service at the church. Burial followed in the Tuscola Township Cemetery with military graveside rites accorded.

Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Mr. Watson was born Jan. 5, 1923 in Rosiclar, the son of Ollie and Daisy Estes Watson. He married Mary Ruth Jeter on Oct. 11, 1941 in Jackson, Mo. She preceded him in death on Dec. 14, 2011.

Survivors include his daughters: Deanna Darlene Rahn and husband Gary of Springfield, Brenda Kay Weaver and husband: Tim of West Frankfort, grandchildren: Dendi Gould and son: Travis of Tuscola; Shane Gould and wife: Lindsey of Tuscola, Trevor Weaver and wife: Briana of Evansville, Ind. and their children: Tanner and Bralyn, Tyler Weaver of Flossmoor, and special friends: Dick and Jackie Skuta. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, four brothers and two sisters.

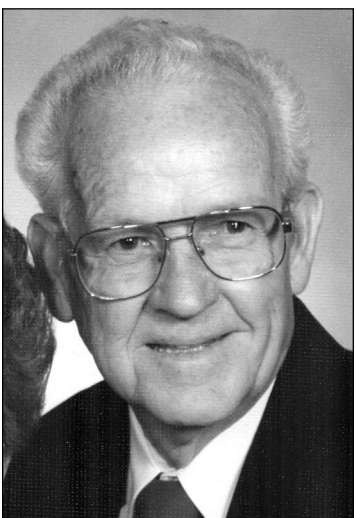
Earl was a US Army veteran serving during World War II in the southern Philippines, Luzon and New Guinea.

He worked as a bricklayer at the Peabody Coal Mine in West Frankfort, prior to moving to Tuscola in 1956. He worked as a bricklayer at the USI Chemical Company in Tuscola prior to his retirement in 1980. Earl was a longtime member and served as the superintendent during the construction of the current Tuscola Church of the Nazarene. He was a member of the American Legion and VFW.

Earl enjoyed woodcarving, boating, motorcycle riding, traveling and he especially loved cars. He loved his family and church family very much. He has been reunited with his loving wife in heaven.

Memorials are suggested to Tuscola Church of the Nazarene.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.



Albert Kearns

Albert Kearns, 97, of Arcola, passed away at 8:14 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 at the Arcola Health Care Center.

Private services will be held; burial will be in the Arcola Cemetery. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Albert was born on Sept. 6, 1921 in Humboldt. He was a son of Frank and Bessie (Watkins) Kearns. He married JoAnn Evans on Jan. 7, 1951 in Paris.

He is survived by his wife JoAnn; five sons, Mike Kearns and his wife Pamela of Savoy, Kevin Kearns of Arcola, Mark Kearns and his wife Susan of Wildwood, Mo., David and his wife Kathy of Arthur, and Dean of Newman; eight grandchildren, Sean Kearns and his wife Christi of Marion, Aaron Kearns and his wife Lindsay of Mahomet, Dawn Purdue and her husband David of Singapore, Brook Elam and her husband Phillip of Champaign, Megan Kearns of Tuscola, Katie Pepperdine and her husband Craig of Catawissa, Mo., Dana Kearns of Wildwood, Mo. and Tyler Kearns of Arthur; and a sister-in-law, Ilene Pyle of Mattoon.

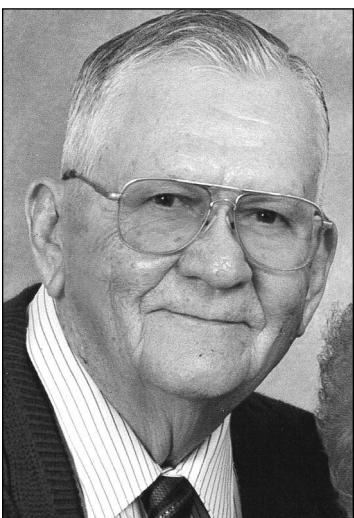
He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter-in-law, Tami Kearns; and five siblings, Wilma Byerly, Armour "Dollie" Kearns, Harold Kearns, Dale Kearns and Merle Kearns.

Albert was a Marine Veteran of WWII having served in the Pacific Theater.

He was a member of the Arcola First Christian Church.

He had worked at the Chevy garage in Arcola, King Brothers in Arcola, International Harvester dealership in Arthur, back to King Brothers in Arcola for several years and retired, then went to work at Mooney Ford in Tuscola for several more years.

Albert enjoyed tinkering in his garage, gardening and working in his yard.



David "Super Dave" Lantz

David Edmond "Super Dave" Lantz, 58, of Tuscola passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019 at his home. He was born April 20, 1960 in Morgantown, W.V., the son of Clarence and Patricia Wolford Lantz.

David was a chef at the Dixie Truck Stop in Tuscola for many years. He attended Ministry of Deliverance in Decatur. He enjoyed fishing and telling jokes. Nothing meant more to him than spending time with his grandchildren, which included lots of playing fun games. He was a good-hearted man who always put others' needs ahead of his own.

David is survived by a daughter, Kathren (Erik Freeman) Quick of Decatur; a son, Eric (Justine) Lantz of Tuscola; four grandchildren, Brianna, Owen, Brayden, and Parker; two brothers, Ronald and James Lantz, both of Atwood; four sisters, Donna (Pat) Bonham of Atwood; Debbie (Roy) Bird of Tuscola; Sandy Lantz of Villa Grove; and Betty (Rick) Larson of Atlanta, Ga. He is also survived by his girlfriend, Brenda Harris of Tuscola, and her children and grandchildren Amanda and Amber of Tuscola; and Alex, Bryan, Jordan, Draven, Gage, and Katlynn.

He is preceded in death by his parents; stepfather; a granddaughter, Britney; and a brother, Ernie Utt.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be shared with the family at graceland-fairlawn.com.



Affordable health screenings coming to town

Residents living in and around the Tuscola can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Tuscola Community Building will host this community event on Monday, March 4.

Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for heart disease, stroke and overall vascular health.
- HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
- Diabetes risk

- Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis
 - Kidney and thyroid function, and more
- Screenings are affordable, convenient and accessible for wheelchairs and those with trouble walking. Free parking is also available.
- Consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for patrons based on age and risk factors. Also ask about the Wellness Gold Membership Program with allows customers to get all the screenings they need now with a monthly payment. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Lawsuits possibles against Newman Township

Newman Township Trustees are continuing their consideration of a zoning proposal despite their own attorney's recommendation to hold-off, according to a press release from EDP Renewables. The proposed zoning is aimed at stopping wind farms from being built in the township. The Harvest Ridge Wind Farm has contracts with Newman Township landowners to build approximately 40 wind turbines in the township.

Neighboring Murdock Township enacted similar anti-wind zoning in October 2018, and shortly thereafter was sued by the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm.

Newman Township's attorney, Bob Lenz, recommended that the township wait to see the results of the Murdock Township lawsuit prior to taking any action.

"Don't be in a hurry to adopt it, otherwise you are volunteering to be in a lawsuit that you don't need to be

in," stated Mr. Lenz at a Newman Township special meeting on December 19, 2018.

However, at a special meeting held on January 3, 2019, the majority of the Newman Township Trustees voted to move forward, despite their attorney's advice. Trustees Samantha Hutchinson, Mark Fraser and Jason Bosch voted in favor of the anti-wind zoning, and Jim Sanstrom and Roger Sy voted against it.

The zoning saga continued on January 10, at the next regularly scheduled township meeting, when the trustees were presented with yet another recommendation from a second attorney urging them to hold off on enacting their proposed zoning.

This time, the request came from attorney Andrew Bequette, representing a significant local business in Newman Township. Mr.

Bequette stated that local businesses would be harmed due to the zoning regulations and that his client was considering legal action if the zoning were enacted. He asked the township trustees to explain why they would go against their own counsel's advice to not move their zoning proposal forward. The trustees did not provide an answer.

"In addition to our attorney's recommendation to hold-off, we've received more than 350 letters of support for the wind farm, 100 of which are from Newman Township residents," stated Roger Sy, one of the trustees who voted against the proposed zoning. "I hope that my fellow trustees see that this zoning is bad for business and Newman Township residents and decide to hold off on any further action."

Newman Township has already spent \$34,000 to develop the proposed zoning ordinance. If they enact their

zoning, the township will likely incur much higher legal fees. The township's insurance company has indicated that they may cover some of the initial legal fees but would need to evaluate the details of the lawsuits.

"It just doesn't make any sense," stated Newman resident Joni Kincaid. "Regardless of how they feel about the wind farm, why would our Township Trustees spend our taxpayer dollars on a completely unnecessary lawsuit? Even if our insurance company covers some of our legal fees, it won't be nearly enough to cover a full lawsuit. And what is going to happen to our insurance premiums and other costs going forward?"

Newman Township Trustees are waiting for a final version of the zoning proposal in order to enact it. The next vote has not yet been scheduled.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

First of all, I would like to thank the (Newman Board of) Trustee Members who are in support of the (Harvest Ridge) Wind Farm.

I would also like to express my disappointment in the Board members who voted for the new Zoning regulations regarding the Wind Farms. I feel that my tax dollars are being wasted on this ridiculous Zoning Ordinance. Your own attorney advised you not to pass this ordinance. If you are

relying on some type of insurance to pay the attorney fees of a lawsuit, what happens if the claim is denied and/or what happens when the dollar amount exceeds the limit? Who is then responsible for the attorney fees and how will that impact the taxpayers?

I believe the majority of voters and landowners in the Newman Township are in favor of the Wind Farm and as elected officials you are not representing the wants and needs of the people.

Help me understand why you would be against this major opportunity for our community considering the opportunities for tax revenue, jobs, housing improvements, etc. are unprecedented.

I hope you understand that this is a chance in a lifetime for many and we will never have this chance again.

For those of you who are against this project, I urge you to reconsider your vote. As elected officials, I hope

you will support this project and its opportunities to better our community.

Thank you for your time.
Bob Lewis Savoy

Dear Editor,

The Museum Association of Douglas County AKA Douglas County Museum will NOT receive \$5,500 on a yearly basis or otherwise as reported in the News Gazette on Sunday,

February 3. The Douglas County Museum is NOT a taxing body; the Douglas County Historical Museum District is the taxing body for any money to receive from the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm. The Douglas

County Museum must raise its own funds for preservation of artifacts and programming.

Respectfully,
Judy Landeck, President, Douglas County Museum

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