



Back in the day...

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Do you recognize this week's Back in the Day photo? If so, drop us a note at The Journal. Your efforts will be rewarded. Thank you to Tyler Harvey for identifying our back in the day photo from the March 18 edition as Diann Carter-Crossman from Villa Grove.

10 years ago
March 31, 2010

The Miss Tuscola winners as judged at Saturday nights pageant are Jazman Bailey, Miss Congeniality; Katie Haake, first runner up; Olivia Morris, second runner up; and Emily Groves; 2010 Miss Tuscola.

Bruce Robinson, owner of Hog Wrench, posed for a photo next to a 125cc Mini Chopper he planned to raffle off to benefit his racing team. Only 250 tickets were available to purchase and each ticket cost \$20. The bike was to be raffled off May 8 during a racing sponsor day event from 12 to 5 p.m.

Former Latin teacher Janet Cox utilized sophomore Jordan Scribner in demonstrating the proper way to wear a Toga. Cox was invited by English teacher Darcey Helmick to offer her wisdom on Roman culture as Helmick's sophomore classes were in the midst of reading Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.

The Easter Bunny posed with this year's bike winners at the Easter Egg Hunt held at Ervin Park. Winners included Dakota Scott, Brayden Boyer, and Christopher Boyd.

20 years ago
March 28, 2000

The third time was the charm for the new school referendum, as approximately 52 percent of eligible Doug-

las County voters gave the nod to the \$350,000 property tax referendum in the March 21 primary election.

Ralph and Scott Woodard of St. Joseph, of Woodard Development, purchased 68.5 acres of the 69 acres commonly referred to as the Maris property, located east of the new Tuscola United Methodist Church. Plans were to develop a single family residence subdivision.

Approximately \$9,000 was raised at Tuscola Rotary Club's annual auction night, with proceeds going to help fund Rotary scholarships for graduating TCHS students as well as other civic projects.

The Tuscola Warrior baseball team got the 2000 season underway last week with four non-conference games- losing 6-1 to Schlarmann, beating Salt Fork 7-6, and splitting a double header with Argent Oreana.

30 years ago
March 27, 1990

Danielle Mink was crowned the 1990 Miss Tuscola, and her court included first runner up Missy Chappell, second runner up Lorraine Bauer, and Miss Congeniality Shannon Donnals.

Alcoholic beverages would be added to the menu for Tuscola's future downtown restaurant, after city fathers approved a Class A liquor license for the corpo-

ration owned by Bill Huber, Rudy Huber, and Norm Wiloughby.

The Tuscola school board voted to terminate the contracts of a part-time Ag teacher, a speech pathologist, and pare down the salary of a part time social studies/ history teacher with the option of renewing those contracts and restoring the salary in the coming months once the districts financial picture became clearer.

40 years ago
March 25, 1980

Miss Tuscola Tracey Maxey snipped the center of a long chain of \$1 bills to officially announce the opening of Tuscola National Bank's facility in the IGA shopping center. Those dollar bills were then donated to the Tuscola Senior Center.

The Tuscola Community Building would no longer be the site of gatherings involving alcohol after city council voted to draft an ordinance limiting usage of the building to events excluding alcoholic beverages.

In the only suspenseful county contest during the March 18 primary, Tuscola fire chief Dennis Dietrich unseated Ron Keith for the Republican nomination for coroner by a slim 1,534 to 1,507 margin.

Andrea Huber, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William

Huber, received glowing reviews for her performance as Lady Macbeth in Illinois Wesleyan University's staging of "Macbeth."

50 years ago
April 2, 1970

The Rev. Wallace Wadland, who had served as minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Tuscola for the past nine years accepted a call to a Presbyterian church in Youngstown, Ohio.

A bomb treat, that ultimately turned out to be a hoax, prompted a delay to the start of the school day for East Prairie and Tuscola High School students. The call, which was believed to have been made by a teenager, warned of a bomb at East Prairie. A thorough search of the building turned up nothing.

Miss Doris Romine, who had served 31 years in the office of the Douglas County treasurer, was completing her second term as treasurer when she died March 30 at Jarman Hospital, after having been in poor health for several months.

The U of I golf team was being headed by team captain Pet Keen of Tuscola. Now in his junior year at U of I, Keen last year averaged 77.8 strokes, the lowest on the team.

Holding It All Together

Shenanigans

by Amy McCollom



I remember how my heart jumped in my chest when I was in Junior High band class, and our music director called out the title of the next song to play: "Shenanigans." I loved that song! I am sure that I could not hum it for you today though; it's been way too long. I just remember that it was fun to play and it had a lot of percussion parts. I was a percussionist so I got to play a variety of instruments like the snare, bass drum, tenor temp tom trio, kettle drums, triangle crash cymbals, bells, guiro, shakers, wood block, and anything else that helps keep rhythm.

Shenanigans is a fun word to say. It means silly, mischievous, deceitful or trickery, and sort of fits our family pretty well. We are all silly jokesters at heart. Some more than others.

Since the kids have all been home from school, there has been shenanigans going on around here. First, I noticed the kids were sneaking snacks and drinks from our disaster shelf.

"Hey, quit drinking the Apocalypse water! Those granola bars are for the end of the world!"

"We were thirsty. We couldn't wait for the Apocalypse. We're thirsty and hungry now."

One afternoon when I had a headache and was napping in my room, I was awakened by floor-shaking booms! Was it an earthquake?! Elephants?! Thunder from down under?! No, it was the twins and their friend playing Just Dance to "Livin' La Vida Loca!" Our old house may have stood through both world wars, the invention of indoor plumbing, and even the disco era, but could it survive Nintendo Kinect games? I had my doubts as I felt the floor bounce slightly under my feet. One at a time, kids, one at a time. My house, and head, can't take it.

And then there is Schnitzel. Schnitzel is a character that my daughter painted onto a small canvas, based on a character of the same name on the cartoon show Chowder. It is actually quite startling when you see it.

It's gray, squared off, hairy, with a weird mouth and huge white eyes. Scary looking. And Rosa thinks it's funny to hide this painting all over the house. I have found Schnitzel in my bed under the sheet, hanging up in the shower, in my clothes drawer, hanging in my closet, in the microwave, in the refrigerator, in the bathroom towel cabinet, and even on the toilet seat under the lid. It always startles the dickens out of me. Rosa enjoys this immensely.

Children are like annoying co-workers that you let live with you. The slacker, the complainer, the jokester, the bossy one, the slob, the neat freak, the nosy one, the beggar, the bully, the competitor, and the one who steals your lunch. If you are lucky there is maybe one that you get along with most of the time. But to be honest, spending eight hours with them is usually quite enough for the day. Ah, families. Gotta love 'em.

Well, the situation is what it is. I can choose to be upset, frustrated, afraid, and angry. Or I can choose to just accept

things the way they are and roll with it. Even when days are upsetting, frustrating, frightening, and maddening, there are still plenty of things to be thankful for and happy about. Let me share them with you.

Birdsong, a child's laughter, new tree buds, the first robins of spring, green grass, lavender, clean laundry, windchimes, homemade play doh, kittens, puppy dog breath, extra pillows, fresh air, dancing, toilet paper, bottled water, granola bars, daughters, trees, hot air balloons, hammocks, the happy birthday song, lakes, cake, flutes, disco balls, ink pens, the color red, cable tv, Telenol, Xbox Kinect, sofa covers, prayer, plaid, and even shenanigans. This is just a small list, and I am sure you can make an even bigger list from your own life. Most of all, I wanted to let you know that even though what we may have to endure can drive us crazy, we got this. There are still good and pleasant things to think on, remember, and experience. We can all help each other, even if it is from 6 feet apart. Just remember, a little bit of shenanigans goes a long way.



HumankindNESS

SERVING LUNCH

By: Jennifer Richardson

Two of my daughters and I had the privilege of helping out at a senior center recently, and it was such a pleasure. We arrived to a warm welcome and enjoyed conversation with a lovely woman who managed the facility. The atmosphere was lively, colorful, and happy and it was clear that people wanted to be there enjoying it.

My oldest daughter went to the piano and played for a while; filling the room with music as we waited for lunch to be prepared. When she concluded there was an appreciative round of applause for her efforts and many invitations to come play again.

We were generously introduced to the room, and we were happy to participate in the prayer and the pledge before lunch was served.

We took plates filled by staff and volunteers with a delicious meal of pulled pork, black-eyed peas, coleslaw, and candied apples to the tables where the seniors were waiting patiently. Every plate we delivered was greeted with gratitude for both the food and the service with which it was brought.

Once all had been served the girls and I spread out and ate at separate tables to get to know more people. I told my daughters their objective was to be kind, friendly, and come home knowing the names of at least two new friends.

I watched my daughters speak to our most experienced citizens and enjoyed seeing animated conversations bubble up. At my table I was honored to meet Henrietta, Artie, Donna, and Mary who were delightful and welcomed the conversation.

I was quietly thankful to see my oldest sit down at a table where a senior gentleman was sitting by himself. It wasn't long before they were both smiling and talking like old friends.

There was witty banter back and forth, much laughter, and the sounds of people truly connecting in an environment that was well managed to be welcoming, comforting, and dependable.

Once our meal was eaten, we excused ourselves to help clear the tables, and again we were treated to sincere gratitude for our efforts. The small kitchen was bustling with people helping and they allowed me to take up an apron and help with the dishes. I managed to learn how to run the dishwasher and we were able to reach a good rhythm of rinse, wash, dry and put away.

Everywhere around me people were helping, talking, sharing, and getting excited about the upcoming game of Bingo that was to be played after lunch. Lucy even had a shirt that proclaimed she was "ready for Bingo" with tiny strings of lights twinkling on the front. She was happy to stop and take a photo with my girls.

Soon the last plates, cups and pieces of cutlery were washed and put in their places and it was time to leave. We placed a donation in the box in appreciation for all the senior center does for our community and surrounding areas, and we left the building to a chorus of appreciative thanks and invitations to come back again soon.

I am sure the donation was appreciated, but the real blessing was ours. We enjoyed serving, we loved the lunch, and we met some fabulous people. The seniors we helped were a great example of patience, manners, camaraderie, and generosity of spirit. But the real gift was the wonder of how service always helps you more than it helps those you serve.

For an afternoon we were able to lift our eyes and hearts off of our own lives and place our attention on the lives of others.

When we find ourselves immersed in things that revolve around ourselves, take a moment and help someone else. There is no substitute for serving, and no life is truly worthwhile without it. Give of your time and talents without expecting anything in return, and the life you will change the most will be your own.

Douglas County COVID-19 Planning Team update

To the residents of Douglas County,

Tuscola, Illinois – The Douglas County COVID-19 LEPC Planning Team met to update public and private stakeholders on recent updates in the county.

* Douglas County Health Dept. – National stockpiles are being requisitioned for personal protective equipment. Plans continue to be refined to assist in the implementation of health protocols as they emerge.

* Douglas County government – An Emergency Proclamation was approved by the Douglas County Board for seven days, effective through March 26, 2020. All county office operations will be kept to a minimum. There is restricted entry of visitors to all county offices.

* Douglas County municipalities – The City of Tuscola has closed all offices and buildings through April 13th. The city is operating with full staff but request no visitors. They are available for electronic communication. They also have COVID-19 community announcements at <https://tuscola.org/covid-19-information>. The city of Villa Grove – is operating under normal status.

* Schools – All schools have enhanced cleaning. The schools continue to offer breakfast and lunch to students.

* Nursing Homes and assisted living – they are following the guidelines from the county health department and Illinois Department of Public Health.

* Red Cross – the need for blood donations is critical at this point in time. Many blood drives have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Contact local blood centers to sign up for an appointment.

* Ministerial alliance/churches – the alliance is assisting their churches but also reaching out to all community members in need

* Douglas County Fireman's Association – continue to use pre-check protocols when responding to a call.

* Transportation – Gould Bus Service is completing a detailed disinfection of their buses. Dial-A-Ride is making reductions to essential travel.

* Private industry – Lyondell and Cabot have local pandemic procedures in place.

From the outcome of this meeting, county stakeholders will put together a clearinghouse for county resource assistance from the communities, especially to populations without internet or technology access. Contact the Douglas County EMA office for more information about this outreach at (217) 253-9538.

Signed,
The Douglas County COVID-19 Planning Team
Douglas County EMA