



# 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.

## Ten years ago September 21, 2011

The 2011 TCHS Homecoming senior king and queen candidates included Kara Williams, Kelsey Cleveland, Samantha Kohlbecker, Rachel Craddock, Kaci Williams, Dillon Hoel, David Frye, Philip Meyer, Chance Little, and Jacob Barr.

The Alumni Art Event featured the works of artist Jeff Little (Class of 1980) and Jim Gallagher (Class of 1978).

Roughly 500 were in attendance at North Ward PTO's Taco Night on September 13. The fundraiser helped the school raise \$3,000.

Barb Utterback was the guest of honor at a surprise retirement "roast" held on Sept. 13, after her retirement as co-founder and executive director of BETHS Place.

The iconic Oscar Mayer Wienermobile made a pit stop in Tuscola last Friday. The vehicle was parked outside the Baymont Inn & Suites.

TCHS Homecoming court attendants were freshman Taylor Reifsteck and Blake Woodard, sophomores

Anna Martinez and Mark Snider, and juniors Kat Eveland and Sam Dailey.

## Twenty years ago September 18, 2001

Community members came together at the candlelight vigil held at the gazebo in remembrance of the tragic events of 9/11 that took place. Business marquees around town offered words of condolence and prayer.

Liga's Restaurant failed to sell, with a high bid of \$370,000 by Chris Hill at an auction by Bill Huber. Owner Tony Liga reserved the right to refuse any bids under \$450,000.

Maurine Schultz would be celebrating her 90th birthday with family and friends at a party held in her honor.

Andy McGillen fired a four-over-par 76 to tie for fourth place in the Paris Invitational golf meet. McGillen led the Warriors to a 13th-place finish out of 25 teams with some of the best golf of his high school career.

## Thirty years ago September 17, 1991

Farmers through the county were seeing wide discrepancies in yield averages

for both bean and corn crops. Harvest results often varied greatly from field to field.

Five people were vying for four open school board seats in Tuscola. On the ballot were Marian Armstrong, Al Borries, Wally Wax, and Tom Stephenson.

Wilma Allen of Tuscola was awarded the National Quality Award for significant achievement in life insurance sales for the fifth time. Allen was an agent in the County Companies Edgar-Douglas Agency.

The Tuscola Warriors were blown out in a 51-12 contest against the number-one ranked Villa Grove Blue Devils.

## Forty years ago September 22, 1981

Tuscola school board incumbents, Bob Travis, Don Chappell, and Robert Reeder were joined on the ballot by Susan Jacob in seeking three open seats.

Douglas County farmer John Schable planted 20 acres of sunflowers this year on his rural Garrett property.

Donna Jo Bissey graduated magna cum laude from Illinois State University with

a bachelor's degree in music and an English minor.

Villa Grove stole a close game from Tuscola. Tuscola lost 18-14, in spite of sophomore Steve Bates' 114 yards rushing.

## Fifty years ago September 16, 1971

Kay Kleiss was named Leader of American Secondary Education for 1971, an annual program honoring men and women who have distinguished themselves by their service and leadership. Kleiss was nominated for the award by the TCHS administrators.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Welch purchased William's Restaurant from Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Williams of Tuscola.

Debbie Summerlot of Tuscola was chosen as head majorette at Western Illinois University in Macomb.

Sophomores Steve Sanderson and Rudy Huber and juniors John Kalmar were competing for the position of starting quarterback on this year's football team.

## Holding It All Together

To All The Dogs I've Loved Before by Amy McCollom



I have always loved animals, and animals have always loved me. I used to think I could talk to them. Maybe I can. I still seem to bond with animals easily. Dogs, in particular, have always been a big part of my life.

My family probably had more dogs than most families. All told, while growing up, I bet we had a couple dozen dogs go through our home. For one reason or another, we just never found the "perfect fit" of dog-to-family needs. That was very heart-breaking for me, for just when I was starting to love and know a dog, it was sent away, or died unexpectedly, or vanished. (So that's what's wrong with me...)

To be fair, we had a complex family situation; my mom ran a home daycare during my early years, so a dog would have to meet a lot of child-safety standards. Mom was also a former WAC in the Army, so she had a strict cleanliness standard as well, (and honestly, I think if my siblings and I could have been sent to the humane society for being messy, she would have done it.) A dog in a house full of children and an Army sergeant running

the show had a lot that was expected of it.

Here are some of the dogs that I remember with fondness: Rufus - black and white sheepdog, died of distemper. Lady - gray poodle mix, had surprise puppies, had to go. Red - Irish Setter, kept jumping the fence and dumping the neighbors garbage cans, had to go. Ruggy - Miniature Schnauzer, died of heartworms.

There was a really fuzzy brown dog, I will call him George, who was a mixed breed of poodle and who knows what else. He looked like a muppet. Friendly little guy, and he had great potential to be a very good house dog. We only had him for three days. We took him with us on Saturday after we got him down to Walnut Point for a picnic and fishing. He was leashed, but the minute the car stopped, George started acting crazy. He growled, and pulled on his leash, wanted to run, went in circles, and just went berserk. Somehow he pulled loose from his leash, and ran directly into the forest, and that was the last we ever saw of George. We looked for hours, and never found him. Very strange.

Then, there was Benji.

Benji was a poodle mix, mainly gray, but very shaggy. Benji was a pretty good dog, but as he grew, we realized he was mixed with a standard poodle, because he got really big. Then Benji developed a habit of nipping and became intolerant of children pestering him and after two years of trying to settle him down, it became a hazard and Mom decided that Benji had to go.

She placed an ad in the newspaper and a nice family from Champaign wanted to adopt him. I missed Benji, but was glad he had a good home, and was relieved that he wasn't going to snap at me anymore.

Fast forward two years. My mom gets a phone call one night, and it's a man in Champaign. He tells Mom that he just rescued our dog from being hit by a bus. It was raining, and the dog was lying in the middle of the street, not moving, and this man ran out in the pouring rain, and grabbed the dog up, just before a bus ran it over. My mom didn't know what to say. She asked how he got her number, and he said because the dog was wearing it's rabies tag, and he tracked her down that way.

It was Benji. The people

we placed him with never even changed his collar. Poor Benji. My mom didn't know quite what to say...she couldn't say, well I gave the dog away to some people, after this man risked his life to save it. So she told him how grateful she was, and arranged to go pick up Benji. She told us when we saw the dog, "Act like you love it. This man almost died saving this dog."

As soon as Benji saw us, he remembered us and ran to us all excited, licky face, stub tail wagging, just like old times. I really did miss that dog. I was glad to get him back, honestly.

I don't remember how long we had Benji after we got him back, but he was one of my favorite dogs.

While John and I have been married, we have had only a few dogs. Our dogs are our children, and we don't just throw them away if they mess up. We had a Pomeranian named Odie for six years until he was hit by a car. He was our first baby. The dog we have now, Paisley, we have had for 11 years. When she passes away, I am not sure if we will get another dog. As much as I love dogs, they require a lot of work and care, and letting them in and out. I don't have that kind of energy any more. But aren't dogs great! Have you ever had a really good dog? I bet you have.

## COUNCIL

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and the unit costs are actually lower than the bid costs from the similar project.

### The council also:

\* Heard public comment from Adam Munds from RC Fest who came to present RC Fest to the council and request their approval for the event. Mayor Kleiss noted that they would look more into the event and discuss it at future meetings.

\* Approved the minutes of the August 23 council meeting.

\* Approved the payment of bills in the amount of \$279,470.13.

\* Approved a pay request from Barton Electric in the amount of \$16,636.10 for the Ervin Park Project. This was the final pay request for the electrical portion and covered the ball diamond and tennis court lighting and related electrical work. The fencing contract is all that remains and they are waiting on the installation of the dog park fence to close out the project.

\* Approved a request to conduct fundraising from Kiwanis for Kiwanis Kids Days Collection on October 29-30, 2021.

\* Approved a request to conduct fundraising from Tuscola Lions Club for Candy Days Collection on October 8-9, 2021.

\* Approved the Downtown Block Party Plan.

\* Approved "T" painting on Prairie Street on September 18-19, 2021.

\* Approved Ordinance 10, authorizing the sale of surplus public real estate

(111 East Wilson Street, Tuscola, Illinois).

\* Approved Ordinance 11, authorizing the sale of surplus public real estate (607 East Wilson Street, Tuscola, Illinois).

\* Approved the purchase of a Utility Locator from Subsurface Solutions in the amount of \$6,577.

\* Approved a PSA with Donohue Assoc. for Master Meter Station Design in the amount of \$9,750.

\* Approved an addendum to the COVID-19 Workplace Policies. In 2020, the Council approved a policy memorandum which this policy seeks to amend.

In short, the city is no longer required to provide paid time off for COVID-related absences from work. The normal personnel policy provides short-term disability benefits for non-work-related illnesses or injury, but the first week of the short-term disability has to be covered by the use of an employee's PTO. This new policy would not charge PTO for the first week of a COVID-related absence for vaccinated employees. Non-vaccinated employees would remain subject to standard, existing short-term disability policies.

\* Approved the termination of Corporate Membership to Fitness Center. For several years, the City has enrolled in a corporate membership with the Fitness Center. Unfortunately, participation has decreased and is no longer cost effective to provide.

\* Adjourned until the September 27 meeting at 7:30 p.m.

## Peace Meal Menu Sept. 20-24

**Monday, September 20** - Breakfast casserole, warm fruit compote, fruit juice, cinnamon roll, breakfast bar

**Tuesday, September 21** - Shepard's pie, rotini vegetable salad, biscuits, warm cinnamon buttered apples

**Wednesday, September 22** - Sub sandwich with lettuce, spinach, tomato and mayo packet; 3-bean salad; bun; cantaloupe

**Thursday, September 23** - Turkey salad with grapes, vegetable soup, cucumber onion salad, assorted crackers, fresh fruit

**Friday, September 24** - Fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, Texas toast, red, white and blue dessert

Call 800-543-1770 for reservation information. Skim milk and desserts with no sugar added are available in many locations. Ask the site supervisor for information. Sometimes we need to substitute on our menus. We still guarantee a nutritious meal. The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program suggests a donation of \$3.50 for each congregate and home delivered meal. No older person shall be denied a meal because of their failure to contribute all or part of the cost of the meal. We accept the Illinois Link Card.



## The Night Sky

By David Leake

Retired Planetarium Director of Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College, Co-Founder of the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society, Inc

### September 15-21

Be sure to keep an eye on the Moon in the next week. Thursday night, the waxing gibbous Moon is below and right of the planet Saturn. The next night is below and right of Jupiter. Continue on through the weekend until Monday and you'll see a full Moon rising near sunset. This is the Harvest Moon. The Harvest Moon is the full Moon that occurs closest to the first day of fall or autumn equinox. It can occur in September or October. The Harvest Moon is neither the largest or brightest of our full Moons, but it is special due to its rise time. On average, the Moon rises 50 minutes later each night. But that's an average. During this time of the year, the difference in rise times is at a minimum. So the Moon will seem to almost rise about the same time for a couple of nights, thus giving farmers more light to bring in the season's harvest. And the first day of fall is actually next Wednesday. Where did the summer go anyway?

## Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary September 26 Debbie & Daryl Graber



Please help us celebrate their love by sending a card to: 1100 Fairview Dr., Tuscola, IL 61953

Mike & Shanda of Florida  
Chris, Libby & Emilya of Tuscola