

Tuscola Community Spotlight

EMERGENCY Response

We apologize, we have no emergency response this week. We will include an extended emergency response in next week's edition.

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ping up at East Prairie. At TCHS, they are currently completing demolition. It was noted that they are currently on schedule, with plans for teachers to return on August 10 and students on August 16.

East Prairie Principal Jared Vanausdoll then provided his report to the board. He began with a big thank you to all of the staff for their hard work during the school year, and especially the last week of school. He thanked Mrs. Brandenburg for all of her hard work with getting students schedules for next year, the summer staff for all of their work at the school, and to the board members who attended promotion.

Following, Tuscola High School Principal Steve Fiscus gave his report to the board. He congratulated TCHS student Chris Boyd for placing second in shot put at the IHSA State Track & Field meet, as well as all of the other athletes who qualified. He sent a big thank-you to the board, staff, and all others who attended graduation. Fiscus also sent a thank you to all who helped with all of the events that last week of school. He noted that he is excited to see all of the upgrades at the school, that the high school gym will close in July to refinish the floor, and that fall sports will begin on August 8. Fiscus stated that freshman orientation is tentatively scheduled for August 9 at 7 p.m., and that the first day of school is set for August 16.

North Ward Principal Jason Wallace then gave his report to the board. He noted that the school finished up the year strong, and thanked all for making it possible. Wallace also stated that schedules were finished up for students and that he hoped that they would have all staff hired soon.

Superintendent Gary Alexander followed with his report. He stated that it has been a great year for sales tax money, with the school receiving \$899,144.82 this year. He noted that these additional funds have been helpful with finances and capital improvement projects. Alexander stated that summer work is moving at a good pace, with the school crew working at North Ward now and OMNI on a good track with projects. He noted that three board members had expressed interest in the annual joint conference and had been registered. He sent a reminder that the federal government had not reinstated their free breakfast and lunch programs, so students who did not fall under the guidelines would have to pay in the upcoming school year. Alexander also reminded all that the referendum for voting for board members was on this year's ballot. He noted that if it is passed and board members are moved to be voted at-large, that all members will be up for reelection.

The board also:

- * Heard public comment from Ella Maxfield, TCHS student. Maxfield asked the board to consider the addition of a school swim team. She noted that she is really involved in the sport and that she believes it would be a good option for other students. Maxfield also stressed that it is very helpful to be affiliated with a school to compete at higher competitions, like sectionals and state. Maxfield noted that she hopes the board will consider the idea and hopes that she will have the chance to compete for the school.

- * Accepted a \$150 and \$750 donation from Ian Rominger/TE Connectivity for TCHS Social Skills.

- * Accepted a \$500 donation from Wade and Michelle Wilcox for softball concessions.

- * Accepted a \$200 donation from Victory Church for Help A Child.

- * Accepted a \$10,000 donation from Mark and Jody Furlong/BMO for HS Boys Basketball.

- * Accepted a \$250 donation from Cast Iron Pub-Kenny Hogue for Drama Club.

- * Accepted a \$179 donation from Drew and Christy Hoel for HS Track.

- * Accepted a \$3,600 donation from Music Boosters for Help A Child.

- * Accepted a \$250 donation from Brad and Terry Hornaday for TCHS end of year picnic.

- * Accepted a \$100 donation from Ford of Tuscola, a \$250 donation from Chris and Kristi Townsend, a \$100 from John Davis Inc., a \$100 donation from the Class of 2022 Parent Group, a \$100 donation from Ellen Tubbs, a \$100 donation from Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel, a \$250 donation from First Christian Church of Tuscola, a \$1,000 donation from Tuscola Kiwanis, and a \$250 donation from Kona Ice.

- * Approved the minutes from the May 23, 2022 regular meeting.

- * Approved the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,417,864.45.

- * Approved the monthly Treasurer and Bookkeeper's reports.

- * Approved closing the Class of 2022 Activity Fund and opening the Class of 2026 Activity Fund on July 1, 2022.

- * Approved closing the Dietrich Memorial account.

- * Approved district insurance

- * Approved a resolution authorizing the filing of request to Intervene.

- * Approved the Aramark Contract for 2022-23.

- * Heard the first reading of Policy 109

- * Approved moving to closed session for the purposes defined in 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)-personnel, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2)-negotiating matters, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11)-pending litigation.

- * Approved the resignation of Cassie Rennels as guidance counselor.

- * Approved the resignation

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Miss Tuscola royalty at the Arthur Freedom Parade on Saturday. Pictured left is Miss Tuscola Julia Kerkhoff. Pictured right are Junior Miss Tuscola Ava Whitson and Little Miss Isla Harriss.



Darren Kestner and Cheryl Warren were the unlucky winners of a pie in the face during Tuscola United Methodist Church's Penny War contest held last week. Proceeds from the contest will be donated the the Douglas County Animal Shelter.

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at Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City. Then backed it up one night later, handing the national champion Sooners of Oklahoma one of its only four losses of the year firing five innings of three-hit relief to collect a win and a Big 12 Title and The Big 12's Tournaments Outstanding Player Award.

She didn't stop there Nebraska was the next victim for the hard throwing righty in the Regional Championship game on her home turf scattering five hits out over seven innings. The next week she collected the win after throwing the first five innings in a Super Regional win over Clemson clinching the Cowgirls spot in the World Series and in the words of exuberant and proud dad Scott Day "Back to OKC Baby, Back to OKC, She's going to the world series."

You can say it was a dream come true, that however doesn't scratch the surface of what Morgan and her family put into this accomplishment. As her coach in high school and a witness to her college career four words come to mind, quest, perseverance, passion and family. It was a quest not a dream for a young lady that always believed in herself, more than anyone, the doubt from others fueled the work in the weight room, the late night pitching sessions in the shed and a drive to succeed.

Sure there were bumps in the road along the way, arguments about technique with her dad, long trips, long



The Day Family showing their support for Morgan at the NCAA College Softball World Series. Pictured are Kirsten Day, Mason Day, Hunter Woodard, Morgan Day, Griffin Day, and Scott Day.

days but through it all Morgan persevered. And right there with her every step of the way were her parents Scott and Kirsten along with brothers Griffin and Mason fueling the passion. If you know anything about travel sports it's a family affair and for the Days it was a journey they will never forget.

She was part of three regional championships at Tuscola, an All CIC First Team selection and part of an elite eight team her junior year, was the Herald and Review Player of the year her senior year and an All-Stater. At ISU she was named to the Missouri Valley Conference All Tournament Team in 2018, was second team All MVC in 19, was all preseason MVC in

20 and was ranked seventh in the nation in strikeouts before COVID ended the year, and in 2021 collected First Team MVC honors, MVC Scholar Athlete accolades, and was named to the All-Mideast Region NFCA second team.

This year at OSU Morgan was named the Big 12 Pitcher of the week on March 8, and added to her collection of accomplishments a Big Twelve Championship Ring, an NCAA Regional Championship, an NCAA Super Regional Title, was named to the All Big 12 Tournament team and as mentioned earlier secured the Big 12 Tournament Most Outstanding Player award.

We had the privilege of eating breakfast with Mor-

gan one morning last fall in Stillwater after an Oklahoma State Football game the night before and witnessed first hand her passion for the sport and her new team. She predicted right then they would be in the World Series, she went on and on about how good her teammates and coaches were. She knew the Cowgirls returned one of the best pitchers in college softball from the year before and were getting an All American Transfer to the circle at the semester and her confidence in herself never waned. Morgan simply stated "they will make me better, and the team better," no time for selfishness in her world, just a never-ending work ethic to get her a seat at the table.