



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 July 4, 2012

There were 11 young ladies competing for the crown of Miss Moultrie-Douglas Fair queen this year; including Kylie Amick of Tuscola, Elise Hackett of Tuscola, Christine Fortney of Arcola, Tabitha Davis of Sullivan, Britney Wierman of Atwood, Kayce Patton of Tuscola, Sara Tondini of Villa Grove, Michelle Porter of Tuscola, Courtney Kennedy of Tuscola, Stephany Helmuth of Arcola, and Carli Plank of Arthur.

Villa Grove resident Carl Martin was found alive after a 23-hour search for him by search-and-rescue teams. Martin, an Alzheimer's patient, wandered away from his home on Hancock Drive and was found alive the next day.

Record-high temperatures in Douglas County saw thermometers registering in excess of 100 degrees, and essentially no rainfall for several weeks left lawns, gardens, and fields baking.

Tuscola Rotary Club awarded its coveted Rotarian of the Year award to the fledgling Douglas County Rotaract Club it sponsored. Accepting the award were Mallory Davidson, Jessie Kleiss, Ashley Brian, Jana Davis, and Carly McCrory.

Winners in the Tuscola Chamber of Commerce golf scramble included Chad Hausmann, Dale Boyer, Cable Englehardt, and Toby

Ring with a 57 and Nikki Henderson, Jerry Hinkle, Michele Wilcox, and Lee Green with a 61.

Twenty years ago July 2, 2002

Sixteen girls were set to compete for the title of 2002 Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair queen. Contestants from Tuscola would be Lyndsey Greger, Megan Quick, Erica Hall, Amber Hector, and Stephanie Premier. Jessica Pohlig of Tuscola was the reigning 2001 Miss Moultrie-Douglas.

The future of Mainstreet Tuscola organization remained uncertain after Kathy Rhodes confirmed that the state was dropping funding for the Illinois Mainstreet program.

Tuscola National Bank was the sole bidder for the new former Dairy Queen restaurant, offering \$457,925.04 which represented the amount of the first mortgage at the time of bankruptcy. The property was placed back on the real estate market in hopes that it could be back up and running quickly.

Toby Ring and Chad Hausmann ran away from the field of golders, accumulating 111.5 points to make them the champions of the first half of the Wednesday Night Men's League. Randy Hastings and Paul Norfleet leaped over a couple of teams to capture second place with 103.5 points.

Thirty years ago June 30, 1992

In a 5-1 vote, the Douglas County Board rejected a proposed contract with the Douglas County Sheriff's Department unionized personnel last week, after the union had unanimously ratified the contract on June 12.

Gaylord Schweighart, a lineman since 1986 for Central Illinois Public Service at Tuscola, retired recently after more than 34 years of service.

Kendra Blaudow scored 11 points and received the Leadership Award for the South Team during the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Game held at Illinois Central College in East Peoria. This was the third and final game for Blaudow in her prep career.

Sherry Miller and Geoff Miller took home championship trophies and a 6-0, 6-1 win against Steve Hilgendorf and Mary Butler in the Douglas County Lucky Doubles tennis tournament.

Forty years ago July 7, 1982

Residents of Fairlane Drive in Parkview subdivision had their own river last Saturday as floodwaters spilled into the area. The water reached a depth of 3'6" and caused several cars to become stranded.

Tuscola Police Chief Ronnie Earl reported that bicycles worth more than \$600 had been recovered. Nine juveniles were apprehended in

connection with the thefts.

Dean Foreman retired from General Telephone after 40 years in the industry. Foreman was service manager and central office equipment supervisor for seven GTE exchanges.

Mike Carroll won the low gross title in the first Tuscola Open Golf Classic held June 28 at Tri-City Country Club in Villa Grove. His score of 71 beat second runner-up Orville Frye by one stroke.

Fifty years ago June 29, 1972

"Creatures the World Forgot," "Dr. Jekyll and Sister Hyde," and "Frogs" were fine films being featured at the Tuscola Drive-In.

Tuscola Airport Day attracted more than 2,000 visitors, exceeding all expectations according to Willis Winn. Jack Leininger flew a helicopter around that was on loan from the U.S. Army.

Dana Bishop was commissioned a second lieutenant upon completing the U.S. Air Force Reserve officers training corps program at the University of Illinois. Bishop is a 1967 graduate of Tuscola High School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bishop.

The ABC Little League team ran its record to 10-0. Team members were Mark Murray, Darren Cooper, Randy Hastings, Jim Grimm, Doug Tonne, Phil Warnes, Ron Bateman, Jim Metheny, Terry Becker, Jeff Harris, Gary Marshall, and Coach Joe Harris.

part of being an American.

So how many dogs live in the U.S.? According to the latest statistics from www.worldatlas.com, 75.8 million doggos reside in the United States. That is a whole lot of truthful barking opinions there!

With a dog's keen sense of lie detection and a nose for bad character finding, don't you wish your dog could talk to you? Dads wouldn't have to be cleaning their shotgun when being introduced to their daughter's boyfriend for the first time, if Fido was sitting on the couch ready to ask his own set of questions. There would be fewer arguments at bedtime if the dog could tell you which child didn't brush their teeth, had comic books

See HOLDING page 6

Douglas County Board calls special meeting

By Jim Allen

Douglas County Board Chair Don Munson called a special board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The first item for consideration was a backup system for the dispatch system for the county. In June of 2014, a storm that caused a great deal of damage in Tuscola also compromised the existing system and since that time Edgar County has been the backup for Douglas County. Although there have been no problems with calls rolling over to Edgar County, a system for the county is considered to be necessary to maintain the best service. Depending on Edgar County could be problematic if emergencies in that county were to overburden their personnel.

The EMA subcommittee had requested that Deena Kidwell solicit pricing for a new system for Douglas County and she presented a bid to the full board at this meeting.

The board voted 7-0 to accept a contract with Barbeck Communications for a console to be placed in the Annex to be connected to the Sheriff's department for \$36,271.79. A new system to include three stardom channels will also be installed for a cost of \$76,057.00 for a total of \$111,328.79 to be paid from the general services budget. None of the bids were presented.

The second item on the Agenda dealt with ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) funds.

To date, \$1,000,000.00 has been approved for a joint agency water line to service the western part of the county. The existing line is not adequate for the growth that has taken place in the area. Newman will receive \$450,000.00 for upgrades to the water tower and water plant. Recipients of both awards are contributing their own funds to the projects as well.

Chair Munson has contacted the municipalities and other entities so they could petition for some of the ARPA funds and the Board discussed these requests and have put them under consideration. No project has been funded at this time, however, the list of requests for use of "lost revenue funds" under APRA was presented at this meeting.

A request of \$80,000.00 was made for refurbishing the County dog pound.

A storage building and garage for the Annex was requested for an estimate of \$50,000.00. Board member Gary Luth suggested that this request could be part of a proposed building for the Highway Department which would replace the existing structure. The current building has been evaluated and the conclusion is that it would cost less to build a new structure than bringing the present structure up to standards.

The building for the garage, IT, and administration for the County Highway Department is under consideration for ARPA funds. However there is no estimate available for the improvements at this time. Therefore, this is the time to consider combining the requests.

There is consideration for two vehicles to be used by the Coroner's office. The amount requested is \$80,000.00 One vehicle has been ordered and will be delivered this summer. A second vehicle has been requested to supplement the office. After discussion, the board suggested raising the amount for the coroner vehicles to \$120,000.00.

A request for a new EMS truck was made as the current truck is unreliable. Currently a 26-year-old on-ton Dodge truck is used to transport the EMMA trailer and a four wheel "Mule" that is used in search situations. This truck is unreliable especially as it sits for extended periods of time. A suggestion was made to consider contacting a number of Douglas County residents who have ton trucks that might consider renting them on an as needed basis. The request for a "new" ton truck was raised from \$30,000.00 to \$50,000.

The City of Arthur has requested \$288,000.00 for improvements to its water tower. Arthur will be contributing another \$288,000.00 if this request is approved. Although part of the City of Arthur is in Moultrie County, no funds from that county will likely be forthcoming.

The RISE Crisis Intervention has requested \$100,000.00 so they may continue their work with those persons who are dealing with drug or alcohol problems or who may be mentally unstable. Most city agencies are minimally prepared to deal with these people and Rise "fills the gap". Rise has been able to operate up to this time because it was funded by a grant that covered the expenses of a one person organization. However, the grant was pulled when Rise could not afford three practitioners as required by the Federal government. Chair Munson stated that he would recommend \$100,000.00 be given to RISE with the understanding that it would be a one time grant to give them time to secure continuing funding.

The Douglas County Department of Health has requested help in extending water to the building on Rte 36. At this time they are using a well that has poor quality water. A line has been extended to the state building and estimates to take the line on to the Department of Health will be given to the Board.

The Arcola Food Pantry has requested \$100,000.00 for improvements to their building to include more storage and a generator to keep food from spoiling in the event of a power failure.

The Arcola ambulance service has requested \$340,000.00 to help with defraying the expenses of a new building. Work has started on the building and will continue. However the funds, if given will help in their expenses. At this time discussion took place regarding the current service contracts that Villa Grove and Tuscola have with Carle Ambulance. Although both cities have contracts with Carle (and other municipalities contribute to these contracts), Carle reserves the right to keep ambulances in Champaign after they have delivered patients to the hospital. Therefore, the county can be without service. It was suggested that cooperation between the various county townships and municipalities might enable the county to form their own cooperative.

It must be noted that no action was taken on any of these requests. The meeting was to present the various requests to the board. Any action on these requests will be taken at a later date after due consideration.

Holding It All Together

Our Dogs

by Amy McCollom



Do you trust your dog? Do you think your dog is a good judge of character? Have there been people that your dog just has not liked and it's given you pause, and made you question that person's character and moral qualities? Most people who I have asked those questions have replied yes. People believe their dogs can tell good people from bad people. Are they right?

Science says yes. Dogs don't like liars. A team of researchers led by Akiko Takaoka of Kyoto University in Japan conducted a study which found that dogs know if you are to be believed or not. In the

study, dogs were tricked, in the name of science, to believe a trainer was going to give them a treat. But when the trainer lied about the treat after a few attempts, the dogs no longer believed the trainer at all and ignored their commands. A second trainer then worked with the dogs and did give them the treat, teaching the dogs that they could trust them. The dogs favored the trainers they could always trust and disregarded the trainers who had lied to them.

Apparently it doesn't take dogs as long as humans to realize they are being lied to. I wonder

why that is? Are humans more kind and willing to give second chances to people who have lied to them? Or are humans just less willing to admit to themselves the truth that is before them; that they have been lied to and now must make a decision based on that reality?

The dog is man's best friend for a reason. We trust our dogs. We welcome them into our families, give them rights and privileges that not even other humans are allowed to have. And we love them like our own children. We nurture them, talk to them, care for them, and confide in them. Dogs are a huge

Villa Grove
BINGO
Every Friday Night
VFW post 2876

6:30 pm- Early Bird
7:00 pm- Regular Bingo



Jackpots:

Bingo Lic# B1934
Pull Tab Lic# P-48

Egg in a Basket Raffle Chance **up to** \$2000
Blackout Jackpot Chance **up to** \$1000