



Tuscola Review

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Congratulations

Congratulations Caleb Haste, top 10 Scholastic Bowl Player in the CIC Conference.

Ryan Salmon, majoring in Interactive Media Game Design from Tuscola, has been named to Bradley University's Fall 2021 Dean's List.

Karis Hortin, Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Queen from Tuscola, is participating in the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen pageant Jan. 14-16 in Springfield.

Motorcycle exhibit

The Douglas County Museum is now open Saturdays through the course of the motorcycle exhibit from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Stop in and see the exhibit any Saturday now until April 2.

Library activities

Activities at the Tuscola Public Library: StoryTime every Tuesday 10:00 a.m. on Facebook

The library will be closed Monday, January 17.

January 20 6:00 p.m. Cooking with Marla on Facebook

January 26 6:00 p.m. Book Discussion-Fathers and Sons

Council approves dog park fencing

The Tuscola City Council on Monday approved spending \$50,740 on fencing for the new dog park at Ervin Park. Main Street Construction, which put up other new fencing last year as part of a larger improvement project, will do the work.

Alderman Scott Day voted for the projected but expressed his unhappiness with the dog park fencing being delayed, which resulted in an increase in material costs.

The original estimate for the fencing was \$40,000, but not all of the increase was due to material costs going up. Another gate was added to the project.

Drew Hoel, city administrator, noted that the city received a \$50,000 donation toward the dog park, so most of the cost is covered by that. The Kelly Lock family announced the donation in her honor in August 2020.

Formal bidding for the expense was waived since the labor was based on the original bid and the same company would be doing the work that had put in fencing for the tennis courts.

Hoel said he would recommend a commitment of \$10,000 to \$20,000 in next year's budget to pay for additional amenities including water fountains, play structures and murals.

The Council also approved the use of an empty lot downtown for a food truck operated by Kenny Hogue of Cast Iron Pub. The Council approved letting the lot across the street from the pub to be used for a year; use beyond that would require further action. Hoel said Hogue has expressed interest in renting or buying the lot for outdoor dining and food truck sales but wants to have a "trial run" before making that commitment.

Mayor Dan Kleiss commented that the city is not under a federal mandate for vaccination or weekly testing because it has fewer than 100 employees. However, summer employees for the pool at Ervin Park could push the city above the threshold.

Once over that line, the city would remain subject to the mandate, Hoel said. Firefighters, library employees and elected officials count toward the threshold, he said. Combined with the increase in minimum wage, compliance with the mandate would add expense to the city's budget, he said.

Kleiss said he hopes the mandate is struck down. He noted that the city's money is everybody's money.



THE SPARROWS AND A CARDINAL don't seem to mind sharing the bird feeder as long as they don't have to look at each other. With freezing temperatures, local birds have flocked to the easy pickings of residential feeders. Photo by Roberta Porter Brennan.

COVID cases spike in county

The new year has brought a spike in COVID-19 infections and deaths in Douglas County. Seven people here have died this month from the coronavirus.

The Douglas County Health Department reported on Jan. 4 that 68 positive test results had been logged on that day setting a new record for the county. Two days later, the record fell again with 69 cases, and Jan. 7, 95 new positives were recorded.

As of Jan. 10, there were 4,767 total positives in the county since the pandemic began and 53 deaths. Most of the recent deaths were

people in their 60s and 70s, but two were in their 40s and one in their 50s. The majority of those testing positive are unvaccinated.

The county has had to reduce its testing times due to a shortage of tests. This week, tests will be administered at the mall from 8:30 a.m. till 1 p.m. through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. till 12 noon Friday. The DCHD advised that waiting lines are likely to be shut down prior to the ending times so testing can finish on time.

The county has seen long lines of cars at the mall. Officials advise people to use the main entrance to

the mall with the line beginning in front of J600. If it goes past the curb in front of the old Vanity Fair storefront, the line should remain in the parking lot snaking along the north side of the silver DCHD trailer to parking spaces are left open in front of the Polo Ralph Lauren store.

New CDC recommendations for quarantining are as follows: Asymptomatic positive cases = 5 days isolation followed by 5 days mask use around others

Direct exposure to COVID-positive cases would be as follows:

If unvaccinated = 5 days quaran-

tine followed by 5 days strict mask use

If fully vaccinated with primary series but unboosted* = 5 days quarantine

Fully vaccinated and boosted OR had COVID less than 6 mos. prior = no quarantine as long as asymptomatic

*Fully vaccinated and 6 mos. out if Pfizer or Moderna, 2 mos. out if J&J means vaccine immunity has likely waned. If your primary vaccine series was less than the aforementioned timeframes, the no quarantine option would likely be recommended.

Tuscola coaching legend earns spot in Hall of Fame

By Daniel L. Chamness

On Saturday, Stan Wienke, a Tuscola coaching legend in both football and track and field, took his place in the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coach Association Hall of Fame.

It is the second Hall of Fame that the Warrior coach has been inducted to.

When introducing him, Palatine head coach and ITCCCA Hall of Famer Steve Currins highlighted the fact that Wienke had been coaching the throws at Tuscola since 1990. In a span of 31 years, he has coached 29 all-state athletes in the throwing events. Of those 29, 16 have been boys, while 13 have been females.

He highlighted the fact that five have earned the ultimate, winning the state championship. The latest thrower to bring home a throwing state title to Tuscola was Hunter Woodard, who won the Class 1A shot put title in 2018. Wienke coached Jeff Hettinger to the Class A shot put title in 1993. The other Wienke-coached athlete to win the state title was Stephen Gibson, who won the Class 1A girls discus championship in 2015. Both girls state championships were won by

his own daughter Johanna Wienke, who won the Class A discus title in 2004 and in 2006.

"It is an honor to be inducted," said Wienke. "I first of all want to thank my wife, Kaite, for all the love and support over the years. I would also like to thank my children (Jenna, Johanna, Jason, John and Jud) and my stepson (Haven Hatfield). Without them, I could not have come close to accomplishing this. I also want to thank the ITCCCA and the Hall of Fame Selection Committee for considering me, selecting me and recognizing my coaching accomplishments in the sport of track and field."

During his speech, Wienke pointed out that his sons/daughters have won a total of, or been a part of 10 state championships. They have also collected a total of 13 state track and field medals.

"Some of the best moments of my life have been coaching my children," said the veteran track coach. "We take track and field, especially the throws, very serious in Tuscola. We have two competition discus rings and three competition shot put rings. We are proud of our venue and my children spent hours with me to make



Wienke

this one of the finest throwing areas in Central Illinois."

Wienke recalled his career as a young thrower, winning the junior high state championship and then moving on to place third in the state in the early 1970s, when it was a one-class system. He was competing for a school with only 120 students. He lost only to two throwers from the biggest city in the state, Chicago.

"After my first two throws, I had not gotten a mark," recalled Wienke of his throws as a senior in the early 1970s. "Someone shook me pretty hard. It was my father and he said 'Stan, if you don't get your butt in gear, you will be planting soybeans tomorrow.'"

The statement garnered laughter from the crowd, but Wienke took his father's statement to heart and on the next throw, he went from "no mark" to a "first place mark" in the shot put. He was later passed by the two Chicago throwers.

As a coach, he made stops in St. Joseph-Ogden, Altamont, Urbana, before earning the coaching job in Tuscola in 1990. As a head coach or co-head coach, he helped four Tuscola teams, two boys teams and two girls teams, finish in the top four.

"The track coaches we have had here at Tuscola, including Ryan Hornaday, all look at track and field the way I do," said Wienke "They look at it as a team sport. I had some great coaches that helped me. Not only Hornaday, but also Steve Spears and Duncan McHugh."