



# Tuscola Review

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## Congratulations

- Congratulation to East Prairie student Mia Vitale who is the District Champion of the Elks Hoop Shoot.
- Hats off to the East Prairie Middle School spelling bee winners. First place was Evan Vearil. Second was Beau Whitson and third was Katy Mills. The county bee will be held Jan. 29 in Arthur.
- Congrats to the following students who were named to the Dean's List at Southern Illinois University: Madelyn Boyd, Lauren Farley, Logan Grace, Hannah Hornaday
- Congrats to Ryan Salmon for being named to the Dean's List at Bradley University.
- Congratulations to Jake Reed who was named to the Dean's List at DePauw University.
- Congrats to Jamie Schlabach of Atwood for making the Dean's List at Berea College in Kentucky.
- Congrats to Justine Kauffman for making the Dean's List at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais.
- Fall graduates at Lake Land College in Mattoon include Savannah Barnes of Tuscola with a certificate in cosmetology and Jeannette Dyer of Tuscola with a certificate as a medical coding specialist. From Atwood: Anthony Wilkins with an associate in applied science and a certificate as medical coding specialist.

## Library activities

- StoryTime every Tuesday 10 a.m. on Facebook
- Jan. 20, 6 p.m.. Cooking with Marla on Facebook
- Jan. 26, 6 p.m.. Book Discussion—Fathers and Sons



BEAU WHITSON PERFORMS live on Facebook during a talent show held Friday at East Prairie Middle School. The show can be seen on the school district's Facebook page. Photo by David Porter.

## Changes in local COVID testing

By Colleen Lehmann  
DCHD public health liaison

Double trouble. That's basically what we are looking at with this week's numbers as compared to last week ... almost exactly double the number of new cases and unvaccinated vs. vaccinated, as well as an unprecedented number of deaths. From Jan. 3-10, Douglas County recorded 436 positives (including a record one-day high of 95). Of the 436 cases, 337 were unvaccinated and 99 were fully vaccinated.

There are 449 active/close contacts being monitored, and in the past week we were notified of seven more county residents' deaths. That brings total number of Douglas County cases to 4,767 and total deaths to 53. The 7-day rolling positivity rate for Region 6 is 20.1%, while Douglas County's positivity rate is 21.2%. That figure is also almost double from last week.

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) figures show Douglas County has 49.48% of resi-

dents with at least one vaccine, and 45.17% are fully vaccinated. There have been 3,485 boosters administered to county residents.

### Changes with COVID testing at DCHD ...

PCR and rapid testing will both continue at the Douglas County Health Department (assuming available supplies), and we are going to be staying with the nasal swab for both versions. There had

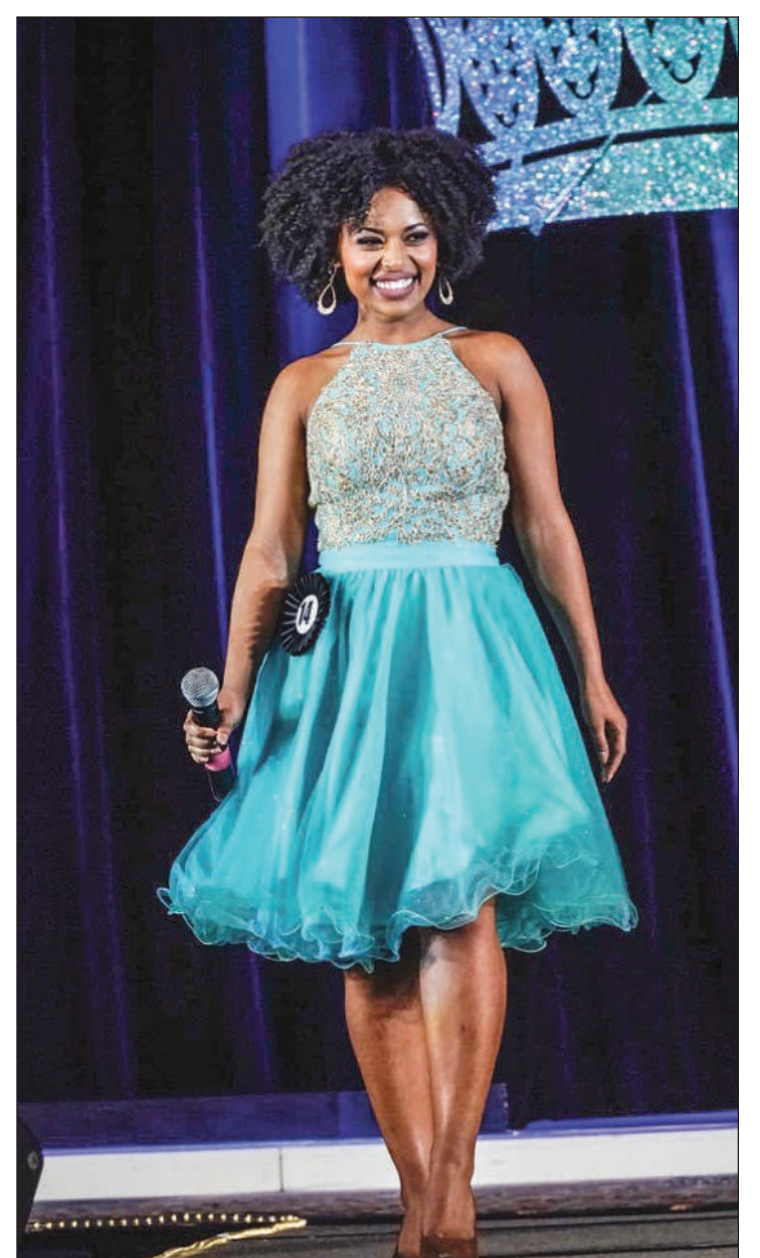
been plans to switch to the SHIELD saliva test for PCR testing, but that will no longer be the case, since learning several features of the SHIELD process that prompted the desire to change aren't available.

What will change about testing is that it is going to be appointment-based, using the same online system currently used to make COVID vaccine appointments. We are in the final stages of setup, and plan to go live with testing appointments starting Monday, Jan. 24.

See COVID on page 2



ELAINE BRYANT, left, chats with Anna Miller during the motorcycle exhibit at the Douglas County Museum in Tuscola. The exhibit is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays until April 2. In the foreground is a 2021 replica of the Easy Rider motorcycle on loan from Kevin Stroud. Also on loan from Stroud is a 2007 Orange County Choppers "web bike" built on-air during the TV show. Other notable bikes include hill climbers and a 2016 three-wheeled Slingshot on loan from Jerry Neal. Photo by David Porter.



KARIS HORTIN OF TUSCOLA represented Moultrie-Douglas counties over the weekend in the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen pageant. She is Miss Moultrie-Douglas County fair queen. Some 70-plus girls participated in the pageant, and Hortin, 21, advanced to the final 15. She is the daughter of Mary Hatfield and plans to work in marketing concentrating in social media while growing a life coaching business. Photo by Lee Milner.