



Tuscola Review

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Congratulations

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO (01/21/2022)--
The following students have been named to the fall 2021 President's List at Southeast Missouri State University.

Congratulations to Cameron Ochs of Tuscola for making the Dean's List at Southeast Missouri State University.

Also, congrats to Jillian Bliss of Tuscola, who was named to the Dean's List at Elmhurst University.

Congratulations to Maicyn Woodard for being named to the Honor's List at Parkland College.

Congratulations to JD Barrett who was named to the Dean's List at Illinois Wesleyan University.

FFA pie auction

Save Feb. 12 on your calendar. That's the date for the FFA's annual pie auction and chili dinner.

COVID testing now needs appointment

You must now schedule an appointment with the Douglas County Health Department for COVID-19 testing. Call 217-253-4137 or visit online at dchealthdept.org.

Permit needed

Beginning April 4, anyone selling baked goods out of their home will need a certified Cottage Food permit. Anyone selling baked goods without a permit may be subject to a fine, according to the Douglas County Health Dept. An application for a permit can be found online at <https://dchealthdept.org/environmental-health/> or click on the "Environmental" link on the department's main menu.

Library activities

StoryTime every Tuesday 10 a.m. on Facebook



AN EXCAVATOR TAKES a bite out of this building at 600 E. Southline Rd. (U.S. 36). It housed an office for former mayor Chris Hill for many years. According to Douglas County tax records, the building was sold in 2017 to Sarus Developers LLC in Champaign for \$375,000. Photo by David Porter.

School Board pleased with trades class

An introduction to trades is back at Tuscola High School. Several School Board members Monday night praised teacher Jean Holmes for her work in developing the entry-level course. Industrial arts has been absent from the curriculum for several years with most trades related courses taught through the ag program.

Holmes presented a slide show explaining how students are taught how to use basic tools including a tape measure to build a variety of projects including bird houses and small boxes. They are given criteria

for the projects and must come up with their own solutions.

The program utilizes speakers from within the community and offers lessons on team building, problem solving and safety. At the suggestion of John Mannen, the class will start OSHA 10 training.

A couple of Board members said the program is "phenomenal."

The Board also gave approval to an intergovernmental agreement with the Mattoon School District for its LIFT program as previously discussed. The district will pay the \$1,000 cost per student to attend

the various LIFT trade classes. Supt. Gary Alexander said the cost is comparable to what the district pays for students taking dual classes at Parkland College.

There were lots of donations presented at Monday's meeting. First State Bank donated \$710.92 to the district from its Warrior card program. Every time a customer uses his Warrior card, 1 cent is donated to the district.

Kaskaskia Ladies Golf gave \$100 for Help a Child as did an anonymous donor. Another anonymous donor gave 4250 for Social Skills.

Downtown Design Studio donated \$150 toward Help a Child. Chris Rennels donated \$100 toward Scholastic Bowl. Ian and Suzanne Rominger donated \$900 for Help a Child, Social Skills and Scholastic Bowl; Ian Rominger and TE Connectivity also donated \$123.07 for Social Skills.

Arthur MCC Thrift Shop gave \$1,500 to Help a Child and \$500 to North Ward Backpack Buddy. Jessi Young donated \$100 to Scholastic Bowl. DeeAnn Bates gave \$100 to

See **SCHOOL BOARD** on page 3

City renews energy option, Chamber support

The Tuscola City Council voted Monday night to continue to participate in the Central Illinois Aggregation Group (CIMA), which gives residents an option for electricity rates.

City Administrator Drew Hoel said that Ameren's rates are sometimes cheaper, but fluctuate. Over the past 12 years, the CIMA rate has been 12.7 percent below the Ameren price.

The Council also raised the price for memorial trees offered by the city. Residents can have a tree planted in someone's memory, but the price of the memorial plaques has gone up substantially, Hoel said. The previous fee of \$225 used to cover most of the costs of a tree (depending on species) and a plaque. The markers alone now cost \$350 each, he said. The Council raised the fee to

\$350 to cover the cost of the marker.

The Council also agreed to extend its agreement with the Tuscola Chamber and Economic Development for another year at a cost of \$100,000. Those funds have been coming out of the city's tax increment finance (TIF) district that is set to expire. Hoel said the figures regarding the end of the TIF district are more clear now, and he

recommended the extension.

The city also renewed an agreement with Carle Health Care, Inc., for an employee benefit at a cost of \$896 annually. The benefit provides a variety of counseling and training services.

Under the consent agenda, the city approved a 5k color run/walk for June 18 for the GSA Booster

See **CITY COUNCIL** on page 2

Tuscola Stone, Alan Shoemaker receive leadership award

Tuscola Stone Company has mined stone in Illinois for 50 years and was recognized in December by the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers with the Industry Leadership Award.

IAAP President, Jack Keeler, said, "This company realizes how important it is for the public to understand what the industry does, and the benefits mining provides to communities."

The quarry hosts students, teachers, community groups and elected officials serving East-Central Illinois to learn more about mining and what is going on beyond the fence. For their ongoing efforts, mine employees receive a Community Relations award, a Rock Solid Safety award and the IAAP's recognition each year.

Tuscola Stone mines a geological anomaly that attracts the attention of researchers from universities all across the Midwest as well as a tele-

vision production by the History Channel titled, "How the Earth Was Made; America's Ice Age."

The company's manager, Alan Shoemaker, chaired the IAAP's Safety Committee for five years and helped refine and create many of the member recognition awards, including this one. Over the years he has actively served on numerous member committees and volunteers for activities like the IAAP's Rocks, Minerals & Mining workshop for Illinois teachers. Tuscola Stone sponsors area teachers to attend this professional development workshop each year.

"This is the top achievement a company can receive from the IAAP and it is a great honor to be recognized by our peers," Shoemaker said. "I am surprised and humbled by the Association acknowledging me and the company for our leadership. Success comes from teamwork — the owners, man-

agement, and all our employees. Without their support and hard work, this could not have been achieved. I am so proud of everyone!"

Shoemaker understands how government officials make decisions and has participated in the IAAP's lobby days at the Capitol in Springfield and kept his legislators informed about the importance of passing the capital infrastructure bill in 2019. He continues to participate in key meetings regarding legislation that affects the industry. But for him this is more than just advocating for the mining industry, for the past ten years he has served as a city council member working to address community concerns. Alan is the current president of the Tuscola Community Foundation and past president of the local chapters of Kiwanis and the Rotary Club.

Shoemaker began his mining career more than 45 years

ago in 1976 as an underground, union coal miner in Murdock. He later managed a coal mine, but soon after passage of the Clean Air Act began to affect coal mining in Illinois, he moved to surface aggregate mining working in management roles for Vulcan Materials Company in northern Illinois. In 2007, the owners of Tuscola Stone hired him to manage the quarry in Tuscola.

IAAP Executive Director Dan Eichholz commented, "Alan Shoemaker stands out as an inspiration to everyone in the mining industry."

He remains a long-time IAAP Board member, currently serving as vice president, and in December of 2022 will begin serving as the IAAP's president.

The Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers is the trade association serving the aggregate and industrial mineral mining industry in Illinois for more than 50 years.



Shoemaker