



Tuscola Review

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Congratulations

Congrats to the following for making the Dean's List at Parkland College. From Tuscola: Natalie E Bates, Tyler W Bialeschki, Laney N Cummings, Cole D Cunningham, Hope R Dietrich, Charles R Eakle Jr, Kyla K Gough, Clayton A Hausmann, Colin M Lewis, Makenna M Long, Anneliese M McDaniel, Kendyl A Ring, Maicyn M Woodard.

From Camargo: Caleb J Hardyman.

Taylor D. White of the Tuscola Police Department graduated from the Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) Police Academy.

Soccer registration

Spring Soccer registration is open till March 1. Kindergarten practices and games are at Ervin Park. Grades 1-12 travel within the local area. Contact tuscolasoccer@gmail.com or message Tuscola Soccer Club on their Facebook page.

Need swim coaches

The Tuscola Torpedoes Swim Team is looking for advance youth swimmers who would be interested in volunteering as assistant swim coaches, under the training and supervision of experienced swim coaches.

Interested volunteers can send inquires and questions to torpedoesheadcoach@gmail.com.

FFA Alum pie auction

Save Feb. 12 on your calendar. That's the date for the FFA Alumni Association'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

Feb. 1-5, drop in anytime to make Valentines for Brookstone

Feb. 2, GoodNight StoryTime 6:30 p.m. on Facebook

Feb. 7, Crafter's Corner 5 p.m.

Feb. 9, Film Discussion-Scott Pilgrim vs the World 6 p.m.

Feb. 17, Cooking with Marla, 6 p.m. on Facebook

Feb. 21, Crafter's Corner 5 p.m.

Feb. 23, Book Discussion-Fathers and Sons 6 p.m.

Every Saturday is Tech Drop-In from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Come get help with your devices.



REMEMBER THE OLD Tootsie Pop™ commercial: How many licks does it take to get to the Tootsie Roll™ center? Kindergarten students in Jennie Porter's class were given the task of determining the answer to that question during 100th day of school celebration at North Ward in Tuscola. The question is still unanswered after even the most determined students finally bit into the candy after recording 60 licks. From left are Landon Burroughs, Abigail Dyer and Beckett Peters doing their research. *Submitted photo.*

School Board issues another \$15.5 million in bonds

Sale follows earlier \$5M issuance for school renovation

The Tuscola School Board approved the sale of \$15.5 million in bonds during a special meeting Wednesday. It is the second round of bonds for school building improvements following a \$5 million issue last year.

Bond agent David Pistorius of First MidState, an investment banking firm, attended to explain the process. He said the bonds earned an A-plus stable rating, which he said is better than the district has had in the past. The improved rating means a better interest rate. Some of the bonds are tax-exempt, and the average interest rate for the whole amount was 3.5 percent, he said.

Since the district had recently is-

sued \$5 million in bond, that "gets everybody's attention," he said. There was local interest in the bonds with banks in Arcola, Villa Grove and Casey investing in them.

In order to issue the bonds without a direct referendum, the school district first borrowed money using debt certificates. The bonds were then issued to pay off the debt certificates. The money that was borrowed was held in a certificate of deposit by Heartland Bank and will be released to the district Feb. 10, Pistorius said.

The debt certificates were for \$15 million, Pistorius said. The cost of issuing the bonds is about \$317,000, he said.

The 19-year bond issue has a 7-

year call, meaning they cannot be paid off earlier than 7 years. Because some of the bonds are tax-exempt, \$9 million of the bonds must be used for building improvements within 3 years, he said. If they are not used by then, the earnings on the bond money is restricted; the district cannot earn more on the bond funds than the bond buyers are earning.

The district has expressed an intent to spread building improvements over 5 years.

Pistorius commented that the district will use some of its sales tax revenue to pay off the bonds in addition to property taxes. The district's goal is to pay off the bonds without raising property taxes.

Pistorius said the district will not have to use as much sales tax money as first thought because the terms of the bonds ended up better than anticipated. Only about \$130,000 of sales tax revenue is now expected to be used, he said. It could be less than that, though, if property values increase. He said the calculations were based on a 2 percent annual increase in equalized assessed valuation, so if that rate is higher, "we may not need to abate with sales tax."

The Board voted unanimously to approve the bond issue. Members Bob Devlin and Darold Spillman were absent from the meeting.

Conference champs



THE TUSCOLA LADY WARRIORS are all smiles as they proudly display the CIC Championship Trophy they won on Thursday night. From left to right in the front row are: Ava Boyer (1), Taylor Musgrave (4), Sophie Kremitzki (32), Maddie Stahler (24) and Ella Boyer (3). Standing are left to right: Sydney Moss (40), Harley Woodard (10), Izzy Wilcox (23), Molly Macauley (44) and Lia Patterson (25). *Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.*