

Serendipity



THE DOUGLAS COUNTY SPELLING BEE was held on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur. Twelve finalists from Arcola, Arthur, Tuscola and Villa Grove vied for the title of county champion. After competing for several rounds, 7th grader Evan Vearil from Tuscola was the winner spelling the word "testimony" correctly and 8th grader Kaden Herschberger of Arthur was the runner-up. Vearil and Herschberger will move on to the Regional Spelling Bee to be held at Richland Community College on Friday, March 11. Danny Powell, former educator and administrator in Douglas County for many years served as pronouncer. Yoder's Kitchen provided lunch for all the spellers. Pictured are (front row, left to right) from Arthur Ella Oye (6th grade), Payton Tinkle (5th grade), Kaden Herschberger (8th grade); Arcola Carolina Torres (8th grade), Laney Nelson (8th grade), Mykah Gomez (8th grade), and Delia Leal (8th grade and alternate). (Back row) Tuscola Evan Vearil (7th grade), Katy Mills (7th grade), Beau Whitson (5th grade), Jaes Mentock (6th grade and alternate), Villa Grove Oliver Oberg (7th grade), Allison Eisenmenger (8th grade), Ryker Reyling (7th grade) and Margot Howard (7th grade and alternate). Not pictured is Eme Greathouse (7th grade and alternate) of Arthur. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Wierman.

CEO program seeks applicants

Illini Prairie CEO (Tuscola, Arcola, ALAH, Sullivan) is now accepting applications from seniors from Arcola and Sullivan High School and Juniors/Seniors from ALAH and Tuscola High School who are interested in participating

in the 2022-2023 CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) program.

The CEO Program, provided by the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship, is an accredited, year-long course designed to get students out into their

community and equip them with business knowledge.

CEO is not held in the classroom. Instead, students meet each day in local businesses where they learn about the inner workings of companies and hear from community leaders.

Those who participate in learning professional business concepts, are paired with a mentor in the community, and, from start to finish, set up their own, functioning business.

But it's not just about starting a business. Students learn about professionalism and essential life skills. They have the opportunity to explore career opportunities and are encouraged to develop relationships with community members.

Students of all skill sets and backgrounds have the opportunity to be successful in this class, provided they are hard-working, trustworthy, and willing to take on an exciting challenge.

Arcola Senior, Alex Kuhns stated, "CEO class is what separates me from my peers. I've met several community leaders that other people in my school have not. I now feel much more prepared for college."

For students who are interested in participating, the deadline to apply is April 1st. Visit www.illiniprairieceo.com/applynow to apply. Email mac.condill@the200acres.com or hmyers@illiniprairieceo.com for any questions or more information.



ON JAN. 28, JIM VOYLES of Tuscola (left) was inducted into the Decatur Public School's Athletic Hall of Fame. Also inducted was Coach Mickey Buttz (right) and the 1977 Stephen Decatur Varsity Baseball Team. Buttz was the head coach and Voyles was the assistant coach of the 1977 team which made an improbable run to the Final Four of the IHSA state championship series losing to the state champion Proviso East. The 1977 Stephen Decatur varsity squad was inducted as a team. 1977 was the last year of the one-class system in IHSA baseball. "I was just happy to be able to coach with Mickey and learn so much about baseball," Voyles stated. Voyles was a long-time superintendent of the Tuscola schools. Submitted photo.



ON TUESDAY, Jan. 25, a new Douglas County 4-H Club had its first meeting at the Douglas County Extension Office in Tuscola. The club, Barnyard Kids 4-H Club, meets once a month to work on different projects, have guest speakers, volunteer for community service and learn about 4-H. Guest speakers spoke about 4-H Memorial Summer Camp at Allerton Park in Monticello. From left is Kayla Melton, a 4-H member, Bailey Connor, camp staff member, and Ryan Melton, a 4-H member, working on paracord bracelets. Fifteen children were in attendance. Submitted photo.

<p>14" Thin Crust Family Pleaser® with up to 3 Toppings</p> <p>Additional toppings may be purchased.</p> <p>\$21.50</p> <p>Includes: Family Garden Salad and Soft Drinks</p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out & Delivery. No Coupon Required. Limit 2. Online code: 143fp</small></p>	<p>16" Thin Crust Pizza or 14" Pan Pizza with 1 Topping</p> <p>Additional toppings may be purchased.</p> <p>\$16.50</p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out & Delivery. Coupon Required. Limit 2. Online code: 161top</small></p>
<p>Two 14" Thin Crust Pizzas with 1 Topping each</p> <p>Must buy in multiples of two. Limit 2 Offers.</p> <p>\$27</p> <p>Additional toppings may be purchased. Upgrade to a 16" for an additional charge.</p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out & Delivery. Coupon Required. Limit 2 Offers. Online code: 142pie</small></p>	<p>8" 1 Topping Thin Crust or Pan Individual Pleaser</p> <p>Additional toppings may be purchased.</p> <p>\$8</p> <p>Includes: Individual Garden Salad and Large Soft Drink (Delivery available with \$10 minimum purchase)</p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out & Delivery. Coupon Required. Online code: 8pleaser</small></p>

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