

Douglas County



Court News

TRAFFIC CITATIONS

Christan E. Alema-Beltran, 30, Arcola, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit and registration expired.
 Bradley A. Ives, 64, Tuscola, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit.
 Jordan James Kerns, 19, Baxter, MN, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit.
 Courtney M. Johnson, 34, Villa Grove, registration expired.
 Kendra L. Kroenung, 32, Tuscola, transport/carry alcohol liquor/driver and electronic communication device.
 Geria S. Watson, 22, Washington, speeding 15-20 MPH over limit.
 Kellyn Y. Cuevas Tovar, 27, Tuscola, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit.
 Chuz A. Mosley, 80, Atwood, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit.
 Hector L. Lozano-Talamonte, 49, Arcola, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit.

CRIMINAL CHARGES

Davion D. Foster, 25, Champaign, charged with a Class B misdemeanor for alleged escape-failure to report for periodic imprisonment.
 Terrence A. Chatman, 18, Carbondale, charged with a Class 2 felony for alleged possession of cannabis with intent to deliver; a Class 3 felony for alleged possession of cannabis more than 500 grams but not more than 2000 grams; and a Class A misdemeanor for alleged driving while license suspended.
 Gurcharan S. Virk, 20, Carbondale, charged with a Class 2 felony for alleged possession of cannabis with intent to deliver; and a Class 3 felony for alleged possession of cannabis more than 500 grams but not more than 2000 grams.

REAL ESTATE

Audrey Kay Humphrey and Robert Alan Humphrey granted a quitclaim deed to Cory Alan Humphrey for Sheldon & Jacques Addn. Arcola, Block 3, Lots 21 & 22.
 First Mid Illinois Bank & Trust NA granted a release mortgage to William B. Barnes for 230 N. Locust St., Arcola.
 First Community Bank of Moultrie County and First National Bank of Sullivan granted a trustee's deed to Ervin Leroy Hostetler and Rachel Hostetler for Sec. 1, Twp. 14, Range 7, Govt. Lot SE SW, Arcola.
 Morton Community Bank and State Bank of Arthur granted a trustee's deed to Marcus L. Helmuth and Marnita L. Helmuth for Sec. 11, Twp. 15, Range 7, Govt. Lot SW, Tuscola.
 Julie Lacine and Stephen G. Lacine granted a loan modification and ex. agreement to First Neighbor Bank for Sec. 33, Twp. 16, Range 9, Govt. Lot SW; Springlake Sub., Lot 15, Camargo.
 Kevin Dale Duffie granted a deed in trust to Kevin Dale Duffie Living Trust and Kevin Dale Duffie, trustee, for Sec. 36, Twp. 15, Range 9, Govt. Lot NW; Sec. 7, Twp. 14, Range 10, Govt. Lot SW.
 Morton Community Bank and State Bank of Arthur granted a release mortgage to Blanca E. Salinas and Juan F. Salinas for Rusts' Block Arcola, Lot 15
 Barbara Geissler, Barbara J. Geissler and Monica A. Miller granted a mortgage to Heartland Bank and Trust Company for Sec. 3, Twp. 16, Range 7, Govt. Lot SW, Sadorus.

Kip J. Lang and Luann L. Lange granted a mortgage to First Mid Bank & Trust National Association and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. for Cannon's Sub. Tuscola, Block 2, Lots 4 & 5; Kelly's 2nd Addn. Tuscola, Block 7.
 Cox Land Surveying granted a plat for Sec. 9, Twp. 15, Range 14, Govt. Lot SE.
 Candace S. Flemming granted a mortgage to Marine Bank for Riverside Addn. Villa Grove, Block 7, Lot 5.
 Dawn R. Hale, Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A and Wilmington Savings Fund Society FSB trustee granted an assignment to Firstkey Mortgage LLC and Town Pointe Master Funding Trust 2021-PM4 for 807 N. Niles Ave., Tuscola.
 Karen J. Brian and Michael D. Brian granted a mortgage to First State Bank for Sec. 9, Twp. 16, Range 8, Govt. Lot NW.
 Victor E. Eyestone Trust and Debra Ann Harned, trustee, granted a trustee's deed to Philip Otto for Romine Addn. Atwood, Lots 15 & 17.
 Philip Otto granted a mortgage to First State Bank for Romine Addn. Atwood, Lots 15 & 17.
 Juanita J. Romine and Terry D. Romine granted a satisfaction of mortgage to First Bank of Savoy for Pleasant View 2nd Addn. Villa Grove, Block 3, Lots 17 & 18.
 Bank of America NA granted a release mortgage to Kevin D. Hoffman and Nellesia J. Hoffman for Sec. 26, Twp. 16, Range 9, Govt. Lot NW SW, Camargo.
 Gingerich Repair LLC, Jonathan A. Gingerich and Sharon K. Gingerich granted a mortgage to Anabaptist Finan-

cial for Sec. 4, Twp. 14, Range 7, Govt. Lot NE SE.
 Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. granted a satisfaction of mortgage to Geronimo Picazo for Wamsley & Cannon's Addn. Tuscola, Block 12, Lots 3 & 4.
 JICTB Inc. granted a warranty deed to Amanda L. Davis and John E. Davis for Richman's 2nd Addn. Villa Grove, Block 2, Lot 3.
 City of Villa Grove granted a release mortgage to Johnny D. Edwards for Richman's 2nd Addn. Villa Grove, Block 2, Lot 3.
 First Neighbor Bank NA granted a satisfaction of mortgage to JM II LLC Series 6 Mattoon Rentals for Sec. 4, Twp. 14, Range 8, Govt. Lot SE; Assessor's Sub., Lot 11, Arcola.
 Jackie R. Holmes and Leonor L. Holmes granted a warranty deed to Peta L. Phipps and Rockie D. Phipps for Sec. 31, Twp. 16, Range 14, Govt. Lot NE; Cash's Subdivision, Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Assessor's Sub., Lot 9, Newman.
 JM II LLC Series 6 Mattoon Rentals granted a warranty deed to Jose G. Cantu Sr. and Juan Martinez for Sec. 4, Twp. 14, Range 8, Govt. Lot SE; Assessor's Sub., Lot 11, Arcola.
 Jose G. Cantu, Jose G. Cantu Sr. and Juan Martinez granted a mortgage to First Financial Bank NA for Sec. 4, Twp. 14, Range 8, Govt. Lot SE; Assessor's Sub., Lot 11, Arcola.
 Jose G. Cantu, Jose G. Cantu Sr. and Juan Martinez granted an assignment to First Financial Bank NA for Sec. 4, Twp. 14, Range 8, Govt. Lot SE; As-

essor's Sub., Lot 11, Arcola.
 Appar Investments LLC granted a mortgage to UMB Bank for Sec. 26, Twp. 16, Range 10, Govt. Lot SW, Newman.
 JP Morgan Chase Bank granted a satisfaction of mortgage to Patrick K. Williams for Chandler & Bales 2nd Addn. Arcola, Block 5, Lot 3.
 Christian D. Gingerich granted a quitclaim deed to Marlin Ray Schrock and Wilbur Leroy Schrock for Sec. 8, Twp. 14, Range 7, Govt. Lot NW NE.
 Robert L. Cox Land Surveyor granted a plat for Sec. 8, Twp. 14, Range 7, Govt. Lot NW NE, Arthur.
 Farm Credit Services granted a release mortgage to Joan B. Little and Larry M. Little for Sec. 36, Twp. 16, Range 8, Govt. Lot SE; Sec. 25, Twp. 16, Range 8, Govt. Lot SE NW.
 Bank of Champaign, N. A. granted a release mortgage to Sarus Developers, LLC for Wamsley & Cannon's Addn. Tuscola, Block 15.
 Annette Louise Scott and Annett L. Stevenson granted a quitclaim deed to Annette L. Stevenson and Lewis Arthur Stevenson for Sec. 6, Twp. 15, Range 8.
 Joe Thilmony Corporation granted a warranty deed to GCZ Douglas I, LLC for Sec. 4, Twp. 14, Range 9, Govt. Lot NE.
 GCZ Douglas I, LLC granted a mortgage to First Mid Bank & Trust NA for Sec. 4, Twp. 14, Range 9, Govt. Lot NE.
 GCZ Douglas I, LLC granted an assignment to First Mid Bank & Trust NA for Sec. 4, Twp. 14, Range 9, Govt. Lot NE.
 First Mid Bank & Trust NA granted a release mortgage to Christopher Little and Cindy Little for parcel numbers: 09-08-03-200-022; 09-08-03-200-007.

Samuel Moser Blackwell Jr. granted a release to William C. Blackwell for Sec. 5, Twp. 14, Range 8, Govt. Lot NE; Sec. 5, Twp. 14, Range 8, Govt. Lot SW; Sec. 18, Twp. 14, Range 9, Arcola.
 JC Real Estate LLC granted a warranty deed to Lincoln Triple A. Partners LLC for Sec. 9, Twp. 16, Range 8, Govt. Lot NE SW.
 Trustees of Cemeteries granted a cemetery deed to Julia L. Alexander and Phillip L. Alexander for Tuscola Cemetery, Block 3, Lot 36.
 Trustees of Cemeteries granted a cemetery deed to Patricia M. Chaney for Tuscola Cemetery, Block 3, Lot 42.
 Woodard Development Corp. granted a corporate deed to Shirley A. Schable and Wayne C. Schable for Sec. 26, Twp. 16, Range 8, Govt. Lot SW, Tuscola.
 Morton Community Bank granted a warranty deed to Jonathan A. Kauffman for OT Atwood, Block 3, Lots 2 & 3.
 Farm Credit Mid-America FLCA and Farm Credit Services Mid America FLCA granted a release mortgage to Mallory A. Crist and Ricky A. Crist for parcel numbers: 08-10-33-200-004, 08-10-28-400-008,
 Busey Bank granted a release mortgage to Thomas Monahan Company and Paris Machine Company for parcel numbers: 01-14-04-403-017, 01-14-04-201-049, 01-14-04-201-048, 01-14-04-201-058.

Douglas County COVID update

By Colleen Lehmann
 Douglas County
 Health Department
 Public Health Liaison

Discontinuance of mandated masking indoors for many Illinois entities became a reality today. This was the date most businesses, restaurants and other venues no longer have to require mask wearing via state decree. However, it still remains possible for these entities to require masks for entry if they so choose.
 The State of Illinois has also chosen to lift mask mandates for schools at this time, starting today, but retains the authority to reinstate mask wearing if the situation warrants it. This right was preserved when the Illinois Supreme Court on Friday, Feb. 25 vacated a temporary restraining order (TRO) in a

multi-school district lawsuit seeking to deem the school-based mask mandate unconstitutional.
 Places where masks are still mandated at this time include public transportation and healthcare settings, including long-term and congregate care facilities.
 Changes have also been made in how the CDC determines community transmission of COVID. I have attached a press release but, long story short, the primary 7-day variables include new COVID hospital admissions and COVID in-patient percentage.
COVID by the numbers
 Appointment-based COVID testing at J600 continues, with hours Monday-Thursday from

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. From Feb. 21-25, DCHD had a total of 59 rapid and PCR tests scheduled. A recent shipment of rapid tests means DCHD can once again offer rapid testing to both symptomatic and asymptomatic people.
 IDPH figures from Feb. 25 show the 7-day rolling positivity rate (rapid and PCR testing) for Douglas County residents was 2.2%, and for Region 6 that number was 2.5%. There was a Douglas County COVID death reported on Friday, the fifth one in February, and brings the county's COVID death total to 61.
 IDPH data as of Feb. 25 shows 51.52% of Douglas County residents have had at least one vaccine dose, while 47.43% of residents are fully vaccinated. There have been

4,298 booster doses administered to county residents.
Diabetes Support Group
 The Diabetes Support Group sponsored by DCHD continues to meet monthly at the DCHD conference room at the main building on Route 36. Meetings are held on a Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., and are conducted by registered dietitian Kristina Adams Smith. Remaining 2022 dates are March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 16, and December 21. For more information or to register for the group, call Smith at 217-493-8970 or email her at slicedrightnutrition@gmail.com.

Hoel

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His tool kit of skills and outstanding reputation have made him an attractive candidate for administrator openings in other cities, many much larger than Tuscola. Although the pay and benefits were larger, and the new challenges attractive, Drew has always chosen to stay in his hometown of Tuscola.
 I first met Drew in the late 70s when he and his rambunctious older brother, Duff, drove their snowmobiles across my yard in North Prairie Acres. Those young rascals grew and matured into skilled, tough and highly competitive athletes, with Drew serving as Captain and middle linebacker for Coach Bill Vangel's hard hitting group of Warriors.
 Drew then attended the University of Illinois and later became an officer in the U.S. Army. I lost track after that.
 In late 1996, while the city was advertising for a new administrator after Alan Gilmore's retirement, the city received an unsolicited letter from "Captain J. Drew Hoel." Hoel's letter explained he was a captain in the U.S. Army, had extensive experience managing budgets and personnel, and was skilled in problem solving. He wanted to throw his hat into the ring to become Tuscola's new administrator.
 Mayor Dan Kleiss and I both agreed that we needed to stick with hiring an experienced administrator with a degree in public administration. Especially since we had spent months convincing the City Council that we needed to raise our sights and hire an experienced, credentialed new administrator.

making it their home instead of a mere stepping stone.
 We consulted our urban planning specialist in St. Louis, Fred Walton, and he approved, saying that if Drew had the basic skill set of intelligence, ethics and positive attitude, then he could always learn the technical job details on the fly. "But you can't learn those basic skill and character traits" he stressed.
 Next, we had to unconvince the City Council that what we needed was an experience, pedigreed administrator, but, instead, a highly motivated home-grown Tuscolian without experience as a municipal administrator. This might have been the hardest step.
 Finally, we offered the job to Drew. He accepted, resigned his commission in the Army, returned home to marry Christy and start his new job.
 Twenty-five years later, with around 50 public bids under his belt for various public works projects, along with countless meetings and decisions, public interactions, and daily management of ordinary and sometimes not so ordinary emergencies, Drew is still here. Happy and content, his daughter, Sydney off to college and Christy in her 28th year of teaching English, 16 of those at Tuscola High School.
 Although his original preference was to be a career officer in the Army, he has no regrets: no regrets at returning home, at adopting a new career path and at spurning job opportunities that paid considerably more than his current salary.
 Tuscola has been blessed—spoiled one might say—at having enjoyed for decades a smooth, productive and efficient, open and honest city government. Credit, of course, goes to the leadership of Tuscola's long-term mayor Dan Kleiss. And credit goes to various City Councils over the decades that have supported, even demanded, fiscal integrity and frugality, open and transparent governance, and spirited open debate at council meetings. And credit goes to the outstanding "team" Mayor Kleiss has assembled for the city, especially his day-to-day manager of city affairs, former Captain J. Drew Hoel.
 Someone once said being a public administrator is like herding cats, very difficult but not necessarily impossible. Drew has proven to be an accomplished chat herder.

School Board

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 held last week with 20 professionals from the community presenting information to students. Presenters each gave four 30-minute presentations.
 FFA Week was also held last week with students bringing tractors and barnyard animals to school. Grade school students visited the barnyard to pet the animals.
 Indoor track competition is underway, he said, and baseball and softball practices have begun. He noted that there are four sports going on at the high

school currently.
 He also announced that Science Olympiad would be held March 12 at Parkland College, and a motivational speaker will be at the school April 5, which will be a 2 p.m. dismissal day. College day for seniors is April 13.
 He announced that Drew Sterkel, who coaches and teaches P.E., driver's ed and health, had received a grant for distracted driving instruction.
 North Ward Principal Jason Wallace said his school was celebrating Read Across America with a variety of programs. Monday was hat day at the school.

Wallace commented that there is a rise in the social and emotional needs of students. "It's sad to see so many kids struggling," he said.
 East Prairie Principal Jared Vanausdoll reported that Coach Beth Pugh, with help from others, had raised over \$1,300 for a fundraiser for Dylan Taylor, a Tuscola graduate battling osteosarcoma.
 In other business, the Board voted unanimously to make mask wearing recommended at school and on school buses.
 Graduation is scheduled for May 28 with East Prairie promotion set for May 26.

Resignations were accepted from Suzanne Rominger as high school student council sponsor and from ag teacher Avery Sandiford.
 Donations were accepted as follows: \$100 from Douglas County Retired Teachers for East Prairie Scholastic Bowl, \$1,200 in two donations from the Tuscola Kiwanis for Help A Child, \$100 from Dennis and Mary Opperman for FFA, an anonymous donation of \$100 for the drama club, and \$100 from Donna Dietrich and Cindy Little for North Ward supplies.
 The district's risk management plan also was approved.

Peace Meal March			
2	Savory Sausage Stew Broccoli Chunky Applesauce Biscuit Surprise Dessert	3	Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes & Brown Gravy Tomatoes & Zucchini Apricots Whole Grain Roll
7	Baked Spaghetti Broccoli Corn Tossed Salad w/Dressing Packet Bread or Roll	8	Roast Beef with Brown Gravy Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Greens Clementine Whole Grain Roll
9	Mushroom Crusted Chicken Au Gratin Potatoes Capri Vegetables Pineapple Whole Grain Bread	10	Cheeseburger Soup Pickled Beets Broccoli Salad Peaches Roll
11	Salmon Burger w/condiment Baked Beans Brussels Sprouts Apricots Bun		

For Reservations Call 1-800-543-1770. Tuscola number: (217) 253-2278.
 Skim milk and desserts with no sugar added are available in many locations.
 Ask the Site Supervisor for information.
 Sometimes we need to substitute on our menus. We still guarantee a nutritious meal.
 The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program suggests a donation of \$3.50 for each congregate and home delivered meal. No older person shall be denied a meal because of their inability to contribute towards the cost of the meal.
 We accept the Illinois Link Card.

So we passed on Hoel. I don't think we even wrote him back.
 But Hoel was persistent and wrote us again. And again.
 By his third letter, Dan and I had tired of hearing less-than-enthused administrators from Clayton, Mo., and other cities say things like "well, Tuscola would be a nice place to punch our ticket for a few years before moving on and up."
 Displeased with the candidates, we looked at each other, and, almost in unison, said "let's give Drew a look." We decided that our new most important criteria was that the new administrator loved Tuscola and wanted to stay here,