

Tuscola farmer earns top state honors in national corn yield competition — Page 7

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Coffee & chat

The Tuscola Chamber and Economic Development Coffee & Conversation at Flesor's Candy Kitchen at 9 a.m. April 1. Learn more about the Chamber and how to get involved.

Blood drive

Tuscola Faith Baptist Church, 300 E. North Line Rd., is hosting a blood drive from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16. To schedule an appointment, call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401 or register online at www.bloodcenter.org using code 71212. Masks and appointments are required.

Swim team sign-up

The Tuscola Torpedoes Swim Team will hold in-person registration on April 1, from 6-8 p.m., in the North Ward Elementary cafeteria. Perspective swimmers can meet the coaches, ask questions about the coming season, register for the 2022 season, and pre-order their team competitive suit and swim cap. Payment is due at registration. Payment for suits and caps due by April 30. Families wishing to use the 1-week trial period should still attend and pre-register. More information can be found on the Tuscola Torpedoes Facebook Page.

Free colon screening

Colorectal cancer can be devastating, but it doesn't have to be. Detection is easy and free at Sarah Bush Lincoln's free colon cancer screen clinics. If you are 45 or older, pick up a Hemasure colon cancer screening kit while supplies last: Noon to 2 p.m., Friday, April 1, Center for Healthy Living, 1004 Health Center Dr. Suite 110, Mattoon.

People who should screen include individuals over the age of 45, people with a strong family history of colon cancer, those who have never had a colonoscopy, and people with chronic diarrhea/constipation, rectal bleeding, black stool, and drastic changes in bowel habits. For more info, call SBL Gastroenterology at 217 258-4155.

Road closures

Road repairs/construction resumed on Monday, March 21 around the Harvest Ridge wind farm. The following roadways will be closed to through traffic at various times in the upcoming weeks for culvert and box culvert construction/replacement:

CR 1350N between CR 2150E and CR 2250E; CR 2350E between CR 1150N and CR 1250N; CR 2750E between CR 1425N and CR 1550N.

The roadways will be closed to through traffic; residents and farmers will have access including school bus and mail service.

The road closures are necessary for the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm Post Construction project. The public is reminded to use caution when driving through the project area, and to abide by the posted traffic control signs and traffic control devices.

Douglas County has contracted with Beniach Construction Co. Inc., Tuscola, for the proposed construction activities; the awarded contract is for \$12,430,896.24. Questions may be directed to County Engineer Jim Crane at (217) 253-2113.

Bike show wrap-up

Join the Douglas County Museum on the final day of the motorcycle exhibit on Saturday, April 2, beginning at 12 noon. The museum will be open to see the exhibit and we are welcoming other motorcycles, cars, and other vehicles to exhibit yours in our parking lot during the event. Slow Spark BBQ will be on site, so come grab something to eat and see the show! Pastor Lenny Summar of the Camargo Methodist Church will do a blessing of the bikes and the ride out will follow at 3:00 p.m. weather permitting. Anyone is welcome to come and participate. No registration needed.



DENNIS OPPERMAN, left, fries fish for the Kiwanis Friday at 40 Martyrs School while Jerry Reynolds assists. Cars were lined up early for the annual event, which was take-out only this year. Photo by David Porter.

No action on \$220,000 scoreboard

A large part of Monday's Tuscola School Board meeting was spent discussing options to replace a scoreboard that was blown over last winter. The scoreboard, installed in 1983 using train rails as posts, was insured for \$15,000. Athletic Director Ryan Hornaday recommended replacing it with a high-end video board at a cost of \$180,000 plus \$40,000 for installation.

The scoreboard would be 15 feet tall and 25 feet wide.

Hornaday said he would recommend ei-

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Electric rates increasing

Tuscola residents who have not opted out of the city's rate for electrical service will have a decision to make as rates are going up. The current rate is about 4 cents per kilowatt hour and will be going up to nearly 7.9 cents.

The current rate offered by Ameren is lower, City Administrator Drew Hoel said, but forecasters predict that rate to surpass the city's co-op rate by late summer. If residents opt out of the co-op rate, they cannot opt back in for a year.

Residents do not have to use either Ameren or the city's co-op as there are

See **CITY COUNCIL** on page 3



CHRIS ROBINSON stands in front of a pile of debris — old drop ceiling rods — at the former Jarman Hospital. He purchased the building earlier this month and is renovating it for apartment units. The outdated drop ceilings will be drywalled, he said, and the first floor carpets and tile in the foyer will be replaced with marble-like tiles. Photo by David Porter.

Jarman 3.0

Robinson giving former hospital a makeover for its third incarnation

Chris Robinson can hardly contain himself when talking about renovations at the former Jarman Hospital on North Main Street in Tuscola. He said he was so excited when he closed on the building that he

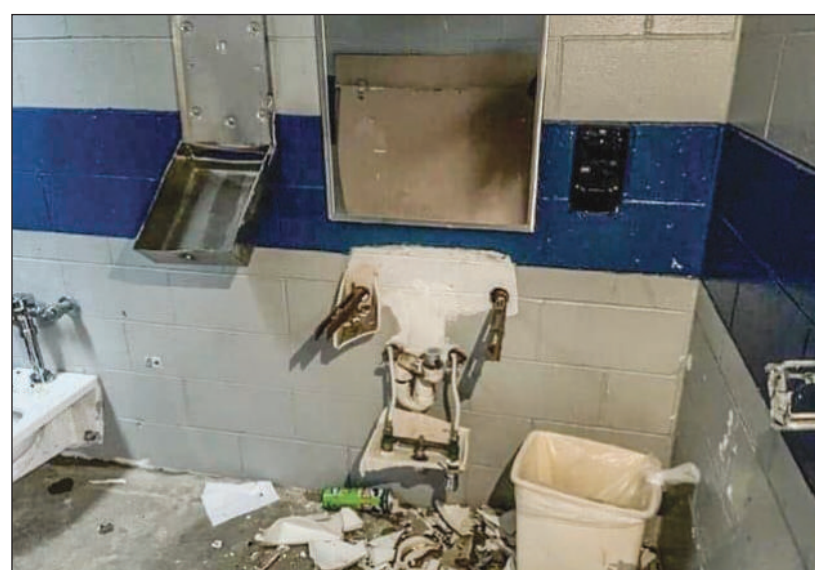
couldn't sleep that night.

For now, the building looks like a war zone, he noted, with piles of bricks and debris. Ceilings are coming down and old flooring is coming up as the veteran builder transforms the

50,000-plus square-foot building into apartments and office space.

The top two floors will be apartments, he said. Most will

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CITY OFFICIALS EXPRESSED SHOCK on social media when it was discovered that a restroom at Ervin Park had been destroyed by vandals. Police Chief Craig Hastings said that four suspects, three boys and a girl ages 12-14, have been identified and interviewed. Some of the suspects turned themselves in, he said. The matter has been turned over to State's Attorney Kate Watson for possible prosecution and restitution. A cost estimate of the damage was not available Monday night, but the facility is insured. "So much time and money have been spent to upgrade our park baseball, playground and other facilities, with a new dog park planned soon," the city posted on social media. "It is so disheartening to discover willful destruction of public property and facilities that are so important to so many of you. As public funds are used to install and maintain these facilities, this is a violation to all of us." Submitted photos.