



Tuscola Review

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Food handler class

The Douglas County Health Department will be offering a free food handler class for Douglas County residents on April 29.

The 2-hour class will be held at 9 a.m. at the Tuscola Community Building.

Pre-registration is preferred but not required. If you wish to pre-register, call (217) 253-4137 ext. 1210.

Congratulations

Congrats to North Ward 4th graders Garrison Chalfont and Avery Wilke who have been recognized by the Illinois Principals Association for their achievements and leadership.

Benefit in Newman

There is a benefit at 12 noon, May 7 at the Newman American Legion, 102 E. Green St. in Newman, for the family of Cross Drake. Cross is the son of Joel and Kylie Drake and was born with end-stage renal disease. On March 10, his mother donated a kidney to him. The benefit too help pay medical and travel expenses for the family. See the ad on page 12 for details.

Blood drive

Arcola High School will host a blood drive Thursday, April 28, sponsored by the Student Council. It runs from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. inside the jr. high gym. To donate, contact John Craig at (217) 268-4962 or visit www.bloodcenter.org and use code 70644 to locate the drive. You may also call ImpactLife to schedule at 800-747-5401. Masks and appointments are required.

Behavior class free online

There is a free "Behavior Basics" class 10-11:30 a.m. May 12 via Zoom sponsored by Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center and Visions LLC. Register at <https://conta.cc/3r15EFy>. The class covers what is behavior, what is a reinforcer, functions of behavior and replacement behavior.

Democrats meet

The Douglas County Democrats will hold a dinner at 6 p.m. May 5 at The Smith House. Call The Smith House for a reservation, 253-2819.

Library activities

StoryTime every Tuesday 10:00 a.m. in the library basement-stories and crafts April 26, 5 p.m., Travel Club April 27, 6 p.m., Book Discussion—Poetry



CALEB HASTE PORTRAYS famous Tuscola entertainer Smiley Burnett at the Douglas County Museum Saturday. The Tuscola High School drama club brought characters to life who are represented on the museum's mural. See pages 6-7 for detailed information. Photo by David Porter.

No decision yet on scoreboard Several seek upgrades to theater facility

No action was taken Monday on purchasing a new scoreboard for the Tuscola High School football field.

A proposal was made to purchase a basic scoreboard at a cost of \$28,399 plus installation. A previous proposal for a high-end digital board at a cost of \$180,000 plus \$40,000 for installation did not see a motion last month.

Superintendent Gary Alexander suggested the lower-end board as a "step up" from the old scoreboard that blew over late last year. Insurance paid a little over \$15,000 for

that. Alexander said he was suggesting the lower cost replacement if the Board thought donations could not be secured for the more expensive board.

Darold Spillman said he didn't think the Board should make a decision on the board even though it may mean a replacement can't be installed before the next football season. He noted that the district still has one board although it cannot be seen from the visitor's bleachers.

Alexander asked if it was feasible to start the season with one

board and Principal Steve Fiscus noted that he has been to other schools where there was only one board that was not visible to the visiting side.

Spillman said an effort should first be made to see if donations can be secured to help pay for the high-end scoreboard. He suggested that the company that makes the board might be able to put up a used scoreboard temporarily.

Wade Wilcox said he's willing to take the time to see if donations can be secured and said he would be willing to "put my time and en-

ergy" into selling it. "I sell a drug that costs \$700,000 a year," he noted. "I'd be willing to do it."

Jessi Young said she was "fine with waiting."

"Let's go for the gusto," Spillman said. "... I'm willing to invest in the kids. I'm all for the arts ... I'm for everything."

Prior to the discussion, several people addressed the Board in support of major upgrades to the school's stage. Johanna Stephans, drama director, said she supports

See SCHOOL BOARD on page 8

Council votes down golf cart age change

The driving age for golf carts will not be going down to 16 in Tuscola. A motion to lower the age failed Monday night by a vote of 6-2 with Terra Waldrop and Dave Slaughter voting for it. Voting against it were Alan Shoemaker, Juanita Brace, Scott Day, Troy Rund, Tim Hoey and Mike Morris.

There was no discussion prior to the vote, but the Council had discussed the proposition during the last two Council meetings.

In other business, the Council passed its budget for the next fiscal year. Drew Hoel, city administrator, said there has been too additional comments on the budget.

In addition to the budget previously presented, the library budget

was included Monday night showing expenses of \$207,353, an increase of a little less than \$7,000. Library income was budgeted at \$187,986. The 2022 library budget showed a deficit of \$18,929 but the actual numbers were \$9,527 in revenue above expenses.

Related to the budget, the Council approved an agreement for architectural services with Utz & Associates of Effingham for a new street shed, police department remodeling and a fire station annex as previously discussed. Their fees are 10 percent of construction costs for the street and police projects and 8 percent on the fire department project. Hoel said these are "within the customary range."

He said the city needed to start on the architectural phase of the projects as soon as possible in order to refine the scope and budget. He said hopes construction can begin this budget year.

Also approved were invoices totaling \$58,814.40 for fire turnout gear. The fire department received a grant of \$24,412.50 from the State Fire Marshall's office toward that expense.

Two bills were approved for the Joint Water Agency in connection with the new water line project: \$366,619 to B&T Drainage and \$2,730 to Donohue & Associates (for engineering).

Lions Club Candy Day May 6-7 also was approved as was a new

salary schedule and appointments to boards and commissions.

The salaries reflect a move away from step increases to a range of wages. Hoel said the new structure will allow more flexibility and better reflects the current market conditions. There are seven salaried positions: Hoel (city administrator, \$106,500; Denny Cruzan (city services foreman), \$79,700; Craig Hastings (police chief), \$84,500; Alta Long (treasurer), \$73,000; Mike Salmon (building and electrical inspector), \$58,200; Brian Moody (fire chief), \$76,019; and Devin Black (librarian), \$58,905.

A revised list of summer hires also was approved.



THE TUSCOLA HIGH SCHOOL Prom court nominees are front row, left to right: Jaslyn Earl, Maddie Stahler, Sophia Kremitzki, Taylor Musgrave, Alyssa Williams. Back row: Peyton Armstron, Caden Baer, Patrick Pierce, Haven Hatfield, Mason Holmes. Submitted photo.



JUNIOR PROM attendants are, from left, Mia Hausmann, Christopher Boyd, Colton Musgrave and Ella Boyer. Submitted photo.