



Tuscola Review

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Easter egg hunt

The Kiwanis Annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 9 at North Ward Elementary. Registration is from 9-9:25 a.m. The first hunt begins at 9:30. Ages 2-10. Bring your own basket and meet the Easter Bunny!

School dismissals

For Tuscola schools, April 13 dismissal is 2 p.m. April 14 is a teacher institute; no school for students. There is no school April 15 and 18

Offices closed

Tuscola city offices will be closed April 15 for Good Friday.

Barbershop concert

At 4 p.m. Sunday April 10, the Coles County Barbershop Chorus will present their annual Lenten Benefit Concert at the First Baptist Church (South 9th Street in Mattoon). The free one-hour program will feature the 25-man chorus, two ensembles and four quartets... one of them is a Women's Sweet Adeline foursome. A young children's group will also sing. The program features sacred music that traces the life of Christ from his birth to his crucifixion and resurrection. A freewill offering is given to area Food Pantry and Homeless Shelter programs and typically more than \$2,000 is collected. There will be a reception following the event.

Moose event

The Seniors from Mooseheart campus will be visiting Tuscola Moose Lodge as part of their senior trip. They will be helping with the pork chop dinner drive-up during the day, and then the Moose will be hosting a dinner for Tuscola folks to get to know the students. Sunday, April 10 - 6 p.m. at the Tuscola Moose Lodge.

Sen. Rose's traveling office hours here

State Sen. Chapin Rose's (R-Mahomet) office will be holding local traveling office hours in multiple area locations on Thursday, April 14. A member of Senator Rose's staff will be on hand to meet with constituents on issues important to them.

Arcola: 10-11:30 a.m., Arcola Village Hall (114 N. Locust). Tuscola: 12:30 -2 p.m., Tuscola Public Library (112 E. Sale St.). Villa Grove: 2:30-4 p.m., Camargo Township District Library (14 N. Main St.). Constituents with questions may contact staff at 217-607-1853. Constituents can also submit concerns or opinions on issues via Sen. Rose's website at www.senchapinrose.com and clicking on the "contact form" button.

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.

Library activities

StoryTime every Tuesday 10:00 a.m. in the library basement-stories and crafts
 April 6, 6:30 p.m., GoodNight StoryTime
 April 12, 4 p.m., Lego Club
 April 13, 4 p.m., Youth Bingo and 6 p.m., Film Discussion—The Master
 April 18, 5 p.m., Crafter's Corner
 April 19, 4 p.m. Chess Club
 April 21, 6 p.m., Cooking with Marla on Facebook live
 April 26, 5 p.m., Travel Club
 April 27, 6 p.m., Book Discussion—Poetry

Only one contest in June primary

There is only one contested ballot in the Douglas County primary election that takes place June 28 this year. Ed Carlton is challenging incumbent James Mikeworth for the District 6 County Board seat. Both are Republicans.

Normally, the primary would have been over in March, but last year, the state legislature passed a bill that moves it to June 28. The change was made partly to allow lawmakers more time to accommodate new census numbers, which had been delayed due to the pandemic, according to NBC in Chicago.

The last day to register for a mail-in ballot is May 13. Early in-person voting begins May 19. People can register to vote online until June 12. In-person voters can register until (and on) election day. Mail-in ballots must be received by June 23.

In District 5, there is no candidate for County Board. The seat is currently held by Don Munson of Arcola. Munson serves as Board chairman but is not seeking re-election.

All other seats are being sought by incumbents, and all are Republican. There are no Democratic candidates for County Board or county-wide office in the primary. After the primary, the Democratic Party can slate a candidate if they so choose.

Judi Pollack is seeking re-election as county clerk and recorder. Bobbi Rairden seeks re-election as treasurer. Nathan Chaplin seeks re-election as sheriff.

County Board candidates include Richard Hein, District 1, Bibby Appleby, District 2, Tom Hettinger, District 3, Phil Morris, District 4, and Gary Luth, District 7.

Also on the ballot is a \$30,600,000 referendum by the Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond school district to pay for heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades.

There are 34 precinct committeeman seats in the county — half to be filled by Republicans and half by Democrats. However, only nine people filed to run for those seats. For the Democratic Party, they are Jerry Stout, Arcola 1, Rocky Warner, Garrett, and Russell Anderson, Tuscola 1. For the Republican Party, they are Martha Yeakle, Bourbon 2, Chuck Ellington, Camargo 1, Scott Harris, Garrett, Neal Wood, Newman, John Watson, Tuscola 1, and Danny Cleland, Tuscola 4.



OWEN TAYLOR, right, ducks out of the way while Braxton Cain throws to first during Little League practice Sunday at Ervin Park. With warmer temperatures, all of the ball diamonds at the park were in use for practices. Photo by David Porter.

'Normal, traditional' prom set for April 30

The Tuscola school district bid farewell March 28 to Dr. Kay Dornier Gates, school psychiatrist. Dornier Gates reflected fondly of her time here and said Tuscola is her "second home."

Superintendent Gary Alexander joked that the School Board would not accept her resignation and said he hopes there is a way that the district can employ Dornier Gate's services again in the future.

During principal reports, Jason Wallace, principal at North Ward Grade School, noted that the community Easter egg hunt will be held at the school this year April 9. He noted that the school's annual

Tiger Trot will be May 6 at the high school. It's the biggest fundraiser of the year for the parent teacher organization, he said.

High school Principal Steve Fiskus raved about the success of the drama department's production of Disney's Descendants. All seats were sold out before the first curtain went up, he said, and people from all over East Central Illinois attended — not just friends and family of cast members.

He also praised the competition successes of the Science Olympiad team and Math team. He noted that an anonymous donor paid for a fan bus to the St. Anthony (Effingham) basketball game, and Jimmy Johns

donated lunch for volunteers at a fundraiser for Dillan Taylor.

School was to dismiss at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, with a special guest speaker.

Prom will be April 30 with coronation at 6 p.m. Followed by the dance at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on South Neil Street. He said it will be a "normal, traditional prom." May 7 is the spring concert at the school, and Honors Day is set for May 20. Graduation is 7 p.m. May 28.

East Prairie's Principal Jarod Vanausdoll, said the eighth grade Scholastic Bowl team is undefeated and the first track meet will be April 7 in Paris. The first home

meet is an 8-team invitational Saturday, April 23.

During Alexander's portion of the meeting, he said the district's personal property replacement tax receipt from the state was the highest its ever been in March with \$747,000. He said he's a little cautious because the state has been known to overpay and then withdraw funds.

He noted that a compressor failed at North Ward grade school. While it is under warranty, it caused two other compressors to fail, and those were not covered. He said he's working on that issue

See SCHOOL BOARD on page 6

Tuscola's iconic Chief AJ was known far and wide



JOHN HUFFER, better known as Chief AJ on WEIU-TV's "This is Our Story" in 2018. The iconic Tuscolian died March 30 at the age of 84.

He held world records in shooting with arrows, a rifle and a slingshot. He was a champion bodybuilder in his youth and again as a senior citizen. He was a photographer, an author and inventor. He was a contractor, a counselor and a minister. A businessman and a reality television star. He invented and marketed a slingshot that could be used with arrows. Daisy company named a BB gun after him. He was a dinner guest of President Ronald Reagan.

John Huffer, also known as Chief AJ of the Menominee tribe, was one of the most col-

orful and most famous people to call Tuscola home. He died March 30 at the age of 84. His obituary appears on page 2.

"Whatever he set his mind to doing, he always did in a big way," Mayor Dan Kleiss said of Mr. Huffer. "Whether it be in weightlifting, air rifle shooting, shooting bow and arrow, he made it a point to be the best. He was an author and a good promoter of his endeavors and of the community."

In 2018, WEIU-TV in Charleston produced a "This is Our Story" segment that in-

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