



Tuscola Review

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Summer meal program

Douglas County Summer Fun & Meals is back. They will serve lunches in-person at no cost Mondays through Friday throughout Douglas County June 1 — July 29. Lunch served 11 a.m. - 12 noon.

Sites: Arcola School; Arthur Elementary School; Atwood Grade School; Newman Park (weather permitting) /American Legion (rain/cold); Shiloh School; Tuscola United Methodist Church, and Villa Grove Sacred Heart.

The program will be coordinating with Summer School in Arcola and with Golden Apple in Tuscola and others upon request. Please contact Gould Bus Service, 253-2232, to discuss the pickup and drop-off for your child if they are attending Summer School or Golden Apple and will also be eating lunch this summer.

Food managers course

The Douglas County Health Department will be holding a Certified Food Managers Course on May 23, 2022 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This course will be at the Tri County Golf Course in Villa Grove. To register, call Amanda Minor at (217) 246-2838.

Pool passes on sale

Pool passes are on sale at the water dept. walk-up on the south side of City Hall or through tuscola.org (can be mailed or held at the pool desk).

Blood drives

First Christian Church will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, May 31. Please go to this link to get signed up: <https://www.redcrossblood.org> and use Sponsor Code: Tuscola. They will host a Red Cross blood drive every 8 weeks. If you have any questions, please call the church (217)253-2394 or email office@fcctuscola.com.

There will be a blood drive 4-7 p.m. Friday, June 3 in the Monical's parking lot in Villa Grove. For an appointment, call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401 or visit online at www.bloodcenter.org and use code 70301.

Teachers luncheon

The Tuscola Education Association End of the Year luncheon will be Friday, May 27 from 12-1 p.m. at Joe's Pizza. All retired teachers are invited to attend.

Memorial Day Cook-out

Rally Point Fitness is having a Memorial Day Cook-out fundraiser at 11 a.m. Monday, May 30. Pork chops and hotdogs with a side of chips and choice of water or Gatorade will be available. Portions of proceeds and any donations will be donated to the Children of Fallen Patriots foundation to help provide college scholarships and educational counseling to military children that have lost a parent in the line of duty, and to continue to support local veterans here in our community.

Honor Guard fundraiser

Operation Honor Guard invites you to drive through Savmor on May 18 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Your support this year will ensure that the tradition of final military honors at a fallen veteran's funeral continues in Central Illinois. All funds will stay in the area for Douglas County Veterans.

School event dates

North Ward's Spring Concert is May 12 at 2:15 and 7 p.m. on the North Ward stage.
TCHS Honors Day is May 20 at 10 a.m.
East Prairie Honors Day is May 25. 7th and 8th grade at 9 a.m. and 5th and 6th grade at 10 a.m.
East Prairie Promotion is May 26 at 7 p.m.
TCHS Graduation is May 28 at 7 p.m.

Library activities

StoryTime every Tuesday 10:00 a.m. in the library basement-stories and crafts
May 19, 4 p.m., Lego Club
May 23, 10 a.m., Toddler Dance
4 p.m., Youth Bingo
May 24, 5 p.m., Travel Club

Tax bills mailed; first installment due July 1

Douglas County Real Estate Tax Bills went in the mail on Friday, May 13. Due dates are Friday, July 1, and Thursday, September 1.

Please read the back of your tax bill, Treasurer Bobbi Rairden advises. Many questions can be answered there. There is also contact information for each office and the duties of each office in regards to the tax cycle.

You can also go to the website www.douglas-countyil.gov and click on Departments and then Treasurer for information, forms, and payment options.



FIRST AND SECOND GRADE classes at North Ward Grade School presented Hats! Thursday, May 12. Alicia Mullen directed the musical presentation. Photo by David Porter.



STUDENTS AT NORTH WARD Grade School in Tuscola leaned about animals and created displays to share with other students. At left, first grader Tate Young, left, tells fourth grader Chloe Bennett what she learned about jaguars. At right, first grader Nathaniel Carpenter, right, explains about chameleons to Kindergarten student Lucas Valerio. Submitted photos.



Exchange student reflects on his stay here

In three weeks, Tuscola senior Frederik Stokholm will be back home in Værløse near Copenhagen, Denmark, after spending nine months with the Wil Eades family in Tuscola. Despite graduating here, the 17-year-old will have three more years of high school in Denmark.

Fred, who participated in track and field at Tuscola, said he will walk with the senior class and receive a certificate, not a diploma, but none of the credits will transfer to his home school. "It's just for fun," he said of his year here.

Leaving is bittersweet. He said he doesn't want to leave Tuscola, but he's looking forward to reuniting with his family and friends, who he hasn't seen in nine months except virtually. Christmas was particularly difficult to spend away from home, he said. He also celebrated his birthday here. But the sacrifices have been worthwhile.

Wil Eades said the experience has been "absolutely amazing" for his own family and Fred has become part of that. He said his family is planning a trip to Europe to meet Fred's family, and to visit the

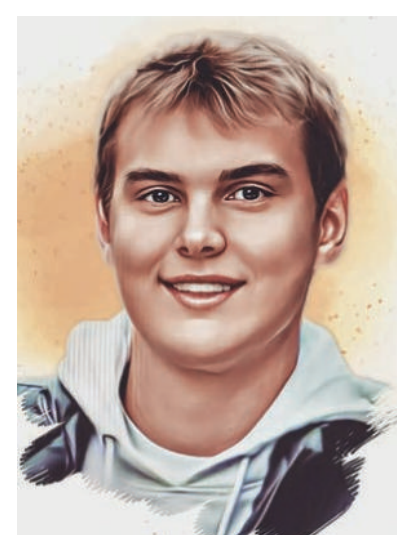
family of their next exchange student, Martin from Slovakia. He said he's committed to learning Danish so he will be able to communicate with Fred's family.

Fred can interpret if he needs to. He spoke fluent English before he visited the United States. He said he thinks his level of English comprehension hasn't changed much since he's been here, but that his American accent has improved. It's barely detectable. He also speaks French but he said not well.

He's packed a lot in during his stay here. With the Eades family, he's been able to ski in Michigan, took a cruise to the Dominican Republic and visited Indiana and Missouri.

Life here hasn't been much different than in Denmark, he said. The food is a little different, but not a lot. He admitted he's looking forward to his mother's home cooking. Fast food is much more accessible here.

School is easier here, he said. Television has a lot more sports available in the U.S., too. There are no organized sports at his home school, so there's a lack of school



Frederik Stokholm

spirit. "There's no cheering for your team." He said he'll miss that part of school here.

There is also nothing like a prom where students dress up for the dance; he was able to experience that here. In Denmark, he played tennis, but it was through a community league.

Politics are different. While he said he doesn't pay a lot of attention to politics and the news, he said there about 10 political parties in

Denmark with three or four main ones unlike the two dominant parties here. The party with the most votes in Denmark's legislature gets to choose the prime minister, but all the parties are represented. The number of representatives from each party depends on the percentage of votes they receive.

The U.S. is friendlier than he expected, he said. People here will strike up conversations with complete strangers, unlike his home country. He said he was aware of that difference through television but wasn't entirely prepared for it. When he first arrived, he would often ignore people he didn't know who spoke to him. He wasn't trying to be rude; it's just a cultural difference.

His favorite subjects at Tuscola High School were math and chemistry, he said.

He said he has no advice on how to improve things in America. He enjoyed his time here.

Værløse is about twice the size of Tuscola. When asked if the local paper would be doing a story about his time in America, he smiled. "They probably don't know that I'm gone," he said.