



# The JOURNAL

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

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## Journal Entries

### Galentine's Day

Businesses in downtown Tuscola will be open from 5-8 p.m. on Feb. 9, for the "Galentine's Event."

### Vault Art Gallery

The Vault is hosting several events Feb. 11. Including a free chocolate and wine tasting, with chocolates from Flesor's Candy Kitchen from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Live music by "Halos" from 2-4 p.m. Kirby and Cynthia Pringle book signing from 1-2 p.m.

### FFA Alumni Pie Auction & Chili Supper

The Tuscola FFA Alumni Chapter is hosting a pie auction and chili supper March 11 in the Tuscola Community Building. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. and the auction starts at 7 p.m.

### Singers Wanted

First Christian Church in Villa Grove is looking for singers for their Community Easter Cantata. Rehearsals will be held in Feb. and Mar. with a performance following on Palm Sunday, Apr. 2. All voices welcome jr. high through adult. For more information please contact Janet McCumber at 217-493-2425 or Judy Zylstra at 320-224-7665. You may also contact the church at 217-832-5231.

### Save the date

Tuscola Music Boosters Annual Fund-raiser "Music at the Movies," Sat., Feb. 25 at the Tuscola High School. Dinner: at 6:00 p.m., performance: at 7:00 p.m. More information to come.

### AA Meeting

Do you think you have a drinking problem? Stop by 8:00 p.m. on Monday nights at the Forty Martyrs Hall.

### Light Kids Conference

An exciting one day event for children first through fifth grades to be held at Tuscola United Methodist Church on Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lots of fun all centered around the theme of RISE UP. Any questions contact Cheryl Warren Youth Director at TUMC 217-253-4232. More information can be found at [eventbrite.com/e/the-light-kids-conference-tuscola-il-registration-432493548847](http://eventbrite.com/e/the-light-kids-conference-tuscola-il-registration-432493548847).

### Tuscola Public Library Events

- Teen and adult cinema exploration of Charlie Chaplin's The Immigrant as well as Battleship Potemkin Feb. 8 at 6 p.m.
- Youth Bingo Feb. 13 at 4 p.m.
- Valentines heart decoration all day Feb. 14
- Lego Club Feb. 14 at 4 p.m.
- Book discussion of Dredd Scott v. Sanford Feb. 22 at 6 p.m.
- Travel Club: Bulgaria on Feb. 28 at 5 p.m.
- Story Time with Miss Marta every Tuesday at 10 a.m.
- Crafter's Corner on the first and third Monday at 5 p.m.



NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION (NWTF) handed out two \$500 scholarships to Connor Black and Hunter Branca during their banquet two weeks ago. Banquet Chairman James Taylor, President Scott Branca and Treasurer Rachael Wright presented the scholarships to the Villa Grove and Tuscola students. Submitted photo.

## Rachel Ray Photography opens new downtown studio

By Dominik Stallings

A longtime dream for photographer Rachel Ray became a reality on Feb. 1 when she opened her downtown photography studio.

"I've been very blessed. Very thankful," said Ray.

Ray said she isn't having a grand opening or ribbon cutting, but her studio will be open for the "Galentines" event on Thursday, Feb. 9.

The studio will otherwise be open by appointment only. "This studio is going to give me an indoor option where I didn't have one before," said Ray.

Ray specializes in portrait photography. Many of her cli-

ents are seniors in high school and families. She also does event photography and takes photos at parades and beauty pageants. Ray said she used to do wedding photography but has stopped. The Journal has also used a variety of photographs from Ray in its publications.

Before she got her studio, Ray did most of her photography outdoors. She often drives up to 50 miles to find the perfect location for a photo, like the outdoor graffiti alley in Urbana or a picturesque red barn in the countryside.

Ray got her start in photography in 2009 when her son, Justin, was a senior at Tuscola High

School. At the time, it was more of a hobby for her rather than her career. She worked as a dental assistant for Dr. Richard Davidson, but due to health issues, she left after 16 years of working there.

Ray's main subject during her early photography years was landscape photography. She sold her art at flea markets then. She also presented her photographs in the Vault Gallery for a while.

"It just blossomed from there," said Ray.

She had some help along the way from Doug Cottle, a sports photographer for the Journal. He needed more help covering the

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Rachel Ray

## The Vault welcomes artist Dan Modzelewski



Dan Modzelewski

By Dominik Stallings  
When Dan Modzelewski sets his mind to creating a piece of art,

he attempts to capture an emotion in his subjects. When he knows what the puzzle in his mind is sup-

posed to look like, he starts putting the pieces together.

"It's intense— it's problem-solving. Drawing is solving myriads of problems. Putting a line on paper puts a problem on paper," said Modzelewski. "You're trying to create some sensitivity."

You can now see the end result of that process hanging on the walls of The Vault Art Gallery in downtown Tuscola. Modzelewski recently joined the artist collective, along with two other artists.

Modzelewski describes his artwork as monochromatic, figurative drawings. His main focus of subjects are women, children and sports. His tools of choice are colored pencils or pastels.

"I want my work to have feeling. That's what I am more interested in rather than detail or accuracy," said Modzelewski.

The women's rights movement inspired Modzelewski in his depictions. He said he tends to draw

women he finds strong and independent.

As a father and grandfather, he became interested in capturing their innocence and curiosity. A project he's been working on for almost 30 years.

"You're never done and never fully satisfied and you just keep doing it. It's all just a process."

Modzelewski said his work has also made its way into a museum. Approximately six years ago, three of his sports drawings were selected to be exhibited in the American Sport Art Museum and Archive in Daphne, Ala.

"I was floored if I got one piece in and they told me I had three," said Modzelewski.

The American Sport Art Museum and Archive feature artists from around the world. Its located on the campus of the United States Sports Academy, the only

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## Dick and Judy Turner's Valentine's Day story

By Tony Hooker

When Dick Turner moved with his family to Illinois from his beloved New York farm country, He didn't find much he cared for in the Land of Lincoln.

Except for one thing. A teenager named Judy, whom he met at church. Now, despite time spent apart, along with so many of the other tribulations that couples face, they just celebrated their 62nd anniversary in January, and this is their Valentine's Day story.

Where are you from?

Dick: I was born in Connecticut and raised on a small farm in New York state. My mother was from Chicago, so

we came to live there. I was 13 and my brother was 15 and he drove. That's where I met Judy. Our family never went to church, but we got hooked up with a group there in Chicago and they went to church and that's where I met her.

Judy: I was thirteen and he was 16 at that time.

Dick: The first time I saw her, I knew she was the one.

Where did you go to high school?

Dick: I never finished the first year of high school. I couldn't adjust to that when I came to Chicago. My brother did. He went on to Purdue and graduated in Engineering. Back then, you could get

a driver's license at 15 and I worked in a gas station and got enough money to buy a '41 Ford for \$100 and she packed my lunch. She knew the best thing for me was to get back to the country where I came from. They tried to get me into a high school in Chicago, and I went into a teacher's office and saw the biology textbook that I had used in 7th grade in New York on the shelf, and he told me that it was an "advanced" book. I knew right then that high school in Chicago wasn't for me. I moved back and lived with a farm family and worked at different odd jobs, in a sawmill and as farm help and things like that.

Judy: Then you came back to Chicago to join the service.

Where did you go to high school?

Judy: I went to Fenger high, right in the city. I grew up in Roseland. Not many people know about Roseland, but if they know it today, they know it's got the highest crime rate in the city. One neat thing that's happened in Roseland is that the Pullman Company, where they made trains, has become a national historical park.

So, you come back to join the service? And you two have been writing all along?

Judy: Off and on.

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Dick and Judy Turner