



Journal Entries

Tuscola 1983 Class Reunion

Dan and Dena Meyer offer their "DD Special Event Center" for Saturday, September 23, for the 1983 Class reunion dinner and landing spot during homecoming weekend. The parade, games, and class reunion will be on Friday, September 22. More details will follow.

Fish Fry

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Villa Grove is hosting its Fish Fry event on Feb. 24 from 4:30 -7 p.m. at 206 North Pine.

FFA Alumni Pie Auction & Chili Supper

The Tuscola FFA Alumni Chapter is hoisting 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.

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.

CTDL & Korner Beehive Bingo

Camargo Township District Library and the Korner Beehive are partnering to offer Bingo the first Wed. of every month from 1 to 2 p.m. for anyone over 50. No cash but a lot of fun prizes to give away!

Listening Ear Ministry

Come worship with us! Listening Ear Ministry every Wed. at 6 p.m. at Murdock UMC. Also visit our facebook page Listening Ear Ministry Ted Shearer.

AA Meeting

Do you think you have a drinking problem? Stop by 8:00 p.m. on Monday nights at the Forty Martyrs Hall in Tuscola or 8:00 p.m. on Thursday nights at the VFW bingo hall in Villa Grove.

Story Time

Camargo Township District Library will be holding story time every Thurs. from 3:30 to 4:30.

AA Meeting

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Tuscola Public Library Events

- Book discussion of Dredd Scott v. Sanford Feb. 22 at 6 p.m.
- Travel Club: Bulgaria on Feb. 28 at 5 p.m. Members share travel adventures and mishaps.
- Story Time with Miss Marta every Tuesday at 10 a.m.
- Crafter's Corner on the first and third Monday at 5 p.m.

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City of Villa Grove hires new director of Community Center Programs and Services

Mayor Cassandra Eversole Gunter introduced Bethany Sorowka, the new Director of Community Center Programs and Services at the Feb. 13 Villa Grove City Council meeting.

Sorowka stated that she was originally from Sidell and that she was currently working at the Savoy Recreation Center. She recently moved back to the area from Colorado, where she had taken part in opening a brand new community center, similar to Villa Grove's. She said that she was glad to be back in central Illinois, and she was sure that her experiences would help in opening the Villa Grove Center.

The Council approved ordinance 2023-MC02. An ordinance authorizing the mayor to execute the employment agreement by the City of Villa Grove for the Position of Director of Community Center Programs and Services.

The Council tabled ordinance 2023-MC03. An ordinance regarding the use of alcohol on City-owned properties.

The Council passed resolution

2023-R02. A resolution of inducement for the City of Villa Grove's intent to provide TIF assistance to Tri-City Country Club.

The Council approved IDOT MFT Maintenance Engineering contract for CY 2023.

The Council approved the hiring of a topographical and boundary surveyor for Richman Sports Complex.

The Council approved the hiring of an engineer for the Front Street bridge improvements.

The Council approve re-sealing the Zest For Life Center floors at a cost of \$1,603.

The Council approved the purchase of scaffolding for the Public Works Department at a cost of \$1,863.

The Council approved the payment of Broeren Russo Builders Inc Pay App #8 for \$218,205.

The Council approved the consent agenda, which consisted of the following:

Minutes of the closed session of the

December 12, 2022 city council meeting.

Minutes of the closed session of the December 27th, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Minutes of the Jan. 9, 2023, regular meeting.

Minutes of the Jan. 9, 2023, closed session.

Minutes of the Jan. 23, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Approved payment of claims in the amount of \$1,977,801.

Approved payment of Broeren Russo pay app #7 in the amount of \$707,063.

Administrator Jacki Athey noted that she had been working on merging water and sewer funds into the general account. She also noted that she had been in contact with the Douglas county engineer regarding repairs to the Front Street bridge, and that he is working with public works toward a permanent solution. She also noted that the bridge had been inspected in

January and that she was awaiting a revised estimate of the cost of needed repairs. Finally, she noted that she had been in touch with Jake Wolfe about consulting work on both the Front street bridge and survey work at Richman Park for future road expansion and improvements.

Public Works Director Mixell noted that road repairs were ongoing in the Pheasant Pointe subdivision. He also noted that the street sweeper needed new brushes, and a consensus was given to purchase and install parts as needed. He then stated that he had received a bid for stripping and waxing the Zest For Life Center floor, and that work would begin as soon as feasible. Finally, he noted that they were continuing to get bids on the installation of new, accessible doors for the center.

Mayor Eversole Gunter reported that she had been in recent contact with the rodeo organizers and that they are still very interested in bringing their rodeo to Villa Grove.



TCHS PEP BAND plays during Senior Night Wednesday, Feb. 15. Thomas Spillman conducts the band while instructor Matt Cowser plays with the rest of the brass players. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Tuscola Rotary sponsors annual Daddy/Daughter Dance

By Margie Carter

It's becoming a fairytale night for many but no one seems to be more excited for Tuscola's annual Daddy/Daughter Dance as Michelle Black, founder and organizer.

With 2023 being the 4th year of putting on the dance, Black still has an abundance of ideas to continue to make the event memorable for all attendants.

The dance will be held in March 25th, from 6-8pm at the Tuscola Community Building. Tickets are on sale now at the Tuscola Public Library, Tuscola First Bank, and Kris Clodfelder-Country Financial.

Black was quick to mention the group of other locals who have helped with decorations and organizing in some way. Previous themes have included Sweet Moments, Under the Sea, and Light Up the Night. Though the first dance was held in 2018, the pandemic halted large scale events in 2020 and 2021. The dance returned in 2022 with plans to be held outdoors; weather moved the dance into the community building.

This year's theme is Unicorn Magic. All the fan favorite activities will return as well, including a craft to take home. The littles can also pick from a variety of in theme temporary tattoos.

Jason Eversole will DJ the event again with a collection of family friendly tunes.

Families will be able to remember the night with an option to purchase photos by Rachel Ray Photography at the dance. There will also be decorations perfect for selfies throughout the event, finger food, and drinks, all included in the price of admission.

Black partners with Tuscola Rotary to sponsor the dance with all proceeds going towards local



ALEX BLACK and her dad, Devin Black, at their first Daddy/Daughter Dance in 2018. File photo.

Villa Grove Basketball: A 100-year look back to the state championship

By Tony Hooker

The year was 1923. The decrease in demand for agricultural products following the end of World War I had put rural America on its heels, after several years of boom times. Many farmers, who had borrowed to purchase more land to meet the insatiable demands of a world at war, found themselves holding deeds to properties that weren't worth as much as they owed. Commodity prices plummeted, leading to mass foreclosures, a sign of the great depression to come.

Villa Grove, with its rail-

based economy, seemed to be weathering the storm as well as it could. Numerous shops along the main street tried their wares. The Star Theatre had a full roster of vaudeville and musical acts performing weekly.

And then there was the high school basketball team. For a magical few weeks in March, the Grovers were the talk of the state, as they plowed their way through the district and sectional tournaments, all the way to the State Championship, where they defeated Rockford 32-29.

Tom Bretz's grandpa, Er-

nest Combes, was the captain of the team, and Tom recently shared some of his memorabilia about the big tournament run, and the following is a recap of the games the team won to reach the pinnacle.

Bill Barmore, Mike Reynolds, Ernie Combs, Harold Sanders and Wayne "Hulk" Hulse were the starters for Villa Grove. They were also the finishers, as they played every minute of every game during the tournament. Of course, in those days, the court was shorter and there was a jump ball after every made basket, including free

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Methodist Church to host event

Tuscola United Methodist Church's Christian Justice Team will be hosting their next Controversy: Social Issues in Daily Life on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. This event will be the final chapter in the LBGTQ+ series. PBS Frontline documentary entitled "Growing Up Trans," will be shown at the event to learn more about the issue.

"We will wrestle with difficult questions such as how do people who are trans fit within God's creation? Are people who are trans, born

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Illinois High School Athletic ASSN medal from 1923