



# The JOURNAL

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

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## Journal Entries

### Kiwanis Breakfast

Sat, March 4 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Forty Martyrs School, 109 East Van Allen Street, Kiwanis is hosting their all you can eat pancake breakfast. Pancakes and Sausage, Coffee, Juice and Milk will be served. Donations gratefully accepted. Proceeds help fund TCHS Scholarships and other programs to benefit the youth of our community.

### TCHS Blood Drive

Wed., March 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the study hall at 500 S. Prairie St. Appointments are required. To schedule, please call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401.

### Food Pantry Open House

SAM Food Pantry is hosting an open house at the Tuscola United Methodist Church March 15 from 6-7 p.m. at 901 N. Prairie St. A representative from the Eastern Illinois Food Bank will also be present.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Emily Kemp of Tuscola for making the Dean's List for Fall 2022 at Millikin University. Dean's List Honors are received by those who attempt 12 graded credits during a semester and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Tuscola Public Library Events

- Dr. Seuss' Birthday, with crafts, activities, a story and snacks, March 2, 4 p.m.
- Goodnight Storytime March 2, 6:30 p.m.
- Exploring Cinema: The Adventures of Robin Hood March 8, 6 p.m.
- Youth Bingo March 13, 4 p.m.
- Lego Club March 14, 4 p.m.
- Science Fun with Miss Mary from Smith House March 16 at 4 p.m.
- Travel Club: Tulsa, Olka. March 28, 5 p.m.
- Book Discussion: The Road, March 29, 6 p.m.

## Tuscola schools approve video boards, puts Justin Bozarth on track for principal

By David Porter

Tuscola sports will soon be snazzier. The Tuscola School Board on Monday approved the purchase of high-end video scoreboards for the football field and gym.

Board member Wade Wilcox, who spearheaded a fundraising drive, said, "Everything's been sold ... it will be a 'go.'"

He said he has commitments for the minimum amount needed and that he is now seeking "third tier" advertisers. He said advertising will pay for the new boards including installation and maintenance. "It will be self-sustaining from here on out," Wilcox said. "It will take care of itself 50 years from now."

Superintendent Gary Alexan-

der said the school district will pay the upfront costs – more than \$350,000 – and will be reimbursed from the advertising. There are no signed contracts yet. "I wanted to wait until we had approval before working on the contracts," he said.

Estimates for the video scoreboards have bounced around over the past several months reaching

as high as \$500,000. As of Feb. 6, the price for the athletic field board was \$210,208, Alexander said. The gym will have a standard scoreboard on one wall and a video board smaller than the outdoor board on another wall. The price for those is \$143,448. Shipping adds \$2,530. The costs do not include installa-

See **SCHOOLS** page 10



MATT COWSERT leads the 5th grade, 6th grade, 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school bands at the Tuscola Music Boosters' annual fundraiser Saturday, Feb 25. Photo by Margie Carter.

## VG BOE tables decision on solar energy implementation

By Gabriella Agius

Due to the necessity of plan adjustment, the board did not vote on solar implementation at the Feb. 21 meeting.

The Villa Grove Board of Education was visited again by QFB Energy, bringing with them further developments on the potential implementation of solar energy at the Villa Grove school district. Chuck Klapatauskas of QFB brought plans that would utilize both ground and roof arrays. With the ground arrays, the FFA program would be involved in the use of Agrivoltaics, which is the dual utilization of agriculture and solar energy. The Agrivoltaics would be utilized alongside a solar roof model.

On QFB's proposed model, the roof utilized would need to be replaced prior to installation.

See **VG BOE** page 10

## Tuscola High School to perform 'Grease' musical

By Dominik Stallings

Tuscola High School Drama Club is putting on its spring musical "Grease" at 7 p.m. March 8-11 with 2 p.m. matinees on March 11 and 12 at the high school. Over 20 students will be singing and dancing to fan-favorite songs like "Greased Lightning" and "Summer Nights."

Musical Director Johanna Steffens said Tuscola last did "Grease" 11 years ago in 2011. She realized that there was a big group of seniors this year that would fit well into the roles.

"We also had some talented underclassmen. I thought it would be a good fit since it was so long ago," said Steffens.

"Grease" follows a love story between Danny Zuko and Sandy Dubrowski, who fell in love during the summer of 1959. The romance becomes more complicated within the school as peer pressure and cliques put them through trials and tribulations. The Broadway musical tackles many different themes, such as love and romance, identity, sexuality and peer pressure.

See **GREASE** page 10



LIRIEL JONES, Aly Bruckner, Lizzy Lee, Mikayla Dunn, Elle Jones, Lydia Manzella, Mr. Rosenbaum, Machenzie Herschberger, Brogan Rennert, Lanie Yantis practice during rehearsal for the upcoming "Grease" performance March 8. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

## Gail Technology (GT) updates on solar array project

By Tony Hooker

Seven months ago, when I first spoke with representatives of Gail Technology (GT), the 4-megawatt solar array they envisioned was just that. A vision.

Now, it is close to being an online and functioning entity. I recently caught up with representatives from the company to get an update.

How far would you say your project has come since we spoke last July?

<GT> Pretty far. It's visible from the street. Everything solar-related is complete. The panels are installed and the wiring's done. Ameren has given us their blessing for part of the project.

There's still another part of the array to do. Again, it's pretty visible from the street, but the old, dilapidated buildings are removed at this point and the demolition company is hauling a lot of that off. The brick recycler is still removing some of the bricks. Once that's done, the engineering efforts will begin toward finishing that part of the array.

Would you say that you're sixty or seventy percent finished?

Yeah, I would say so because removing the old buildings was a pretty substantial effort. The old seed building is pretty well done. It's pretty clear that the outside is done. We've put new siding

See **SOLAR** page 9



WESTWARD VIEW of Gail Technology solar array. Photo by Tony Hooker.

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