

Community Spotlight



SWIMMERS POSE TOGETHER AT THE MEET. Back Rennert, O. Witheft, G. Walker, Lacine, S. Walker. Front, Sanders, M. Carter, E. Carter. Photo by Margie Carter.

Tuscola Torpedos compete in Illini district championship swim meet

By Margie Carter
The Illini District Championship swim meet was held in Springfield at the Gus and Flora Kerasotes YMCA on March 4-5. 446 of the fastest swimmers from 13 area teams competed for medals in every stroke and distances of 25 to 400 yards. Tuscola's Torpedoes summer swim team swimmers divide for winter season, working towards making the cuts to qualify for

Districts and State championships. Swimming for the Mattoon YMCA's Samy Seals team were Kynze Sanders (8), Phoebe Witheft (10), Sami Walker (12), Gracie Walker (12), and Olivia Witheft (12). Swimming for the Champaign YMCA's The Heat team were Emma Carter (10), Mackenzie Carter (10), Ainsley Rennert (12), and McKenna Lacine (13).

Top accomplishments during the 2-day meet were Ainsley Rennert placing 2nd in 50yrd Freestyle and Butterfly, 4th in 50yrd Back, 8th in 100yrd Fly, and 2nd with both medley and free relays. Mackenzie Carter placed 4th in 200yrd Free, 5th in 50yrd Free, 8th in 100yrd Free, and 7th in both medley and free relays, which also included Emma Carter. Notable podium finishes

also included Sami Walker and Olivia Witheft's 4th place free relay and Gracie Walker and Olivia Witheft's 7th place medley relay. Mackenzie Carter's 200yrd Freestyle time (2:55.60) qualifies for the YMCA State meet. Also qualifying for State, Ainsley Rennert's 50 Free (27.53), 50 Back (33.03), 50 Fly (30.07), 100 Free (1:02.00), and 100 Fly (1:11.91).

Arrest

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good lookover and do our due diligence until we feel that 100 percent everything is OK." Parents received a call from the school's emergency phone system. Although, some parents commented on the Facebook press release that they didn't receive a call. Chaplin felt it was important to give closure to parents before the end of the night. He

knew the automated call to parents only told them of the lockdown and a bomb threat but not of any arrests made. Some parents questioned why the schools decided to lock down the students and keep them in one location rather than evacuate them, which would appear safer. Chief Hastings explained that because they knew the bomb threat was unfounded, they determined with the schools that it would be safe for the students to be placed

on lockdown. "We were pretty confident about what was going on. We had some prior contact with this person for some other things. We were confident that we didn't have to remove students from the building," said Hastings. He added that the initial call also stated that the bomb was inside a vehicle in the parking lot, which weighed heavily on the decision not to remove the children from the school. Chaplin said that the

schools were very cooperative and acted quickly. "Bomb threats are not as simple as 'get them all out of the buildings.' There's a lot more to it. They did a good job of working with us and Tuscola, with coming up with a plan to get it resolved. Kudos to them," said Chaplin. If the threat to the schools were to be more credible, they would have proceeded to evacuate the students.



DAVID HORNADAY jumps over hurdles at the EIU indoor track meet on Friday, March 3. Photo by Tracy Hornaday.



KATE FOLTZ runs in the EIU indoor track meet on Friday, March 3. She broke two distance records in the meet. Photo by Tracy Hornaday.

Meyer

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"She understood my goal, and she let me understand that it was on me to achieve my goal," said Meyer. Meyer didn't have it easy going for her project. She had to

restart her whole record book and re-enter four years of data and financial entries into her journal for the project. In the future, Meyer plans to attend Lake Land Community College in Mattoon for agriculture business. She wants to keep working on raising her chickens so she can possibly

obtain the FFA American degree, which is the highest degree FFA members can obtain. Only 1 percent of members obtain the FFA American degree. "Mrs. Schoon saw a lot of potential in me. So she allowed me to dive right in. She felt how important it was to me. I wouldn't be able to do this without her."

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