



## Journal Entries

### 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.

### 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.

### Set your clocks!

Daylight savings starts March 12

### 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.

### Save the date

Spring Citywide garage sales will be April 21 and 22. Deadline for being included on the map is Thurs., April 13. A form will be available in future editions of The Journal and on our Facebook page. The map will be published in our April 19 edition.

### 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

- 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.

### Contact

If you have any information you would like included in Journal Entries or would like to submit a photo to the community page, please send an email to dominik@thetuscolajournal.com

# STATE BOUND

## Warriors boys' basketball wins one for the ages



THE TUSCOLA WARRIORS boys' basketball team shows off the 2022-2023 Super-Sectional plaque they earned March 6 in a victory against Mounds Meridian. Photo by Tracy Hornaday.

By Lenny Sementi

It took a game and a half for the dust to finally settle in the championship of the Altamont Sectional. When it did, Justin Bozarth's bunch was the one last standing in a four-overtime thriller. The Warriors rallied from a 16-point deficit to collect the win, earning advancement to the SIU Super-Sectional on March 6, and a spot in the Elite Eight.

The Warriors grabbed a spot in the Elite Eight for the first time since 1989 on a wide-open attack from outside the arc in the second half led by Jordan Quinn. The junior rose to the occasion on his 17th birthday, hitting 5 threes after the break and 6 total in the game. The Warriors were good on just 2 of 8 in the first two frames before polishing off 10 of 17 in the final two, to complete the comeback.

"Towards the later part of the game, we needed to find the hot hand and that just happened to be me," Quinn said. "The team played great defense which gave us better shots on the other end of the floor. See WARRIORS page 8

## Meyer recommended for FFA state degree

By Dominik Stallings

"Personally, I wouldn't mind raising chickens forever," said Claire Meyer.

The idea for Meyer to raise over 60 chickens came to her during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. It's also what she chose to do for her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project for Future Farmers of America (FFA). She now has over 15 different regular customers she supplies with farm-fresh eggs.

"People went crazy about farm-fresh eggs," said Meyer. "Farm-fresh eggs taste better than store-bought eggs."

Her project and many other achievements allowed her to be recommended by Section 17 to receive her Illinois FFA State Degree, which is the highest degree you can achieve in Illinois.

"This is a great honor and she has worked very hard for this degree! Congratulations, Claire, we are so proud of you!" said Sarah Schoon, Tuscola agriculture teacher and FFA Sponsor

Meyer had to track her SAE project and keep records for two years, work over 750 collected hours and



Claire Meyer

invested over \$1,000 in her SAE project or make over \$1,500 through her SAEs, be able to name off 10 parliamentary procedure rules, take part in at least 25 hours of community service, know basic knowledge about the FFA and have given a six-

minute speech on an agricultural topic to her classes.

"I've been around agriculture my entire life. I've seen the impact it has on people and what we wouldn't be able to do without it. That motivates me to be as successful as I can be with an organization that works so closely with the youth of the ag community," said Meyer.

She said the organization lets people learn more about agriculture, especially if they didn't grow up on a farm as she did. Growing up on the farm made her fall in love with the lifestyle and she has become quite invested in her chickens. Meyer said she enjoys that they have different personalities that change with the different breeds. Competing in different FFA contests allowed her to learn more about helping her chickens.

"It's taught me hard work and perseverance. I probably wouldn't be as hard-working if I didn't grow up around farmers," said Meyer.

Schoon, her agriculture teacher and FFA sponsor, mentored and helped Meyer whenever she needed it.

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## VG Devilettes coach hosts first 'Prom Project'

By Dominik Stallings

Villa Grove Devilettes Coach Sarah Boutin is hosting Villa Grove's first 'Prom Project' event 4-7 p.m. March 15 in the new gym at Villa Grove High School.

"We want to do this to make sure everyone can go to prom," said Boutin.

The Prom Project allows students to receive a prom dress, shoes or jewelry free of charge. Boutin said she took donations March 7, but people who missed the date can still donate before the event. You can contact her on the Villa Grove Devilettes Facebook page to organize a drop off.

"We've gotten a very good re-

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## SAM Food Pantry to hold open house

By Margie Willheimer

The SAM Food Pantry will be holding an open house on Wednesday, March 15, from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Tuscola United Methodist Church. All residents of Douglas County are encouraged to attend the. The SAM Food Pantry serves all residents of Douglas County who are experiencing food security issues. Hours of operation are on Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Clients can use the full pantry once a month and can use the pantry every opening in order to get produce, including bread.

An Eastern Illinois Food Bank Representative will be in attendance to answer questions and have printed material available. The SAM Food Pantry uses mon-

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## VG City Council debates community center flooring

The Villa Grove City Council met on Feb. 27 for a regular voting meeting. Brian Kesler, senior architect for Architectural Expressions, was on hand to discuss the proposed changes to the flooring at the new community center. A lengthy, sometimes heated discussion amongst council members ensued. Aldermen Garrett and Hooker provided samples of alternatives to wood floors, while mayor Eversole Gunter insisted that wood floors were necessary for the center to be attractive to sporting competitions. Finally, a vote was called to change the flooring surfaces to wood, and it passed, with Garrett voting no.

After saying the pledge, the mayor called for approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the regular city council meeting, held on Feb. 13, 2023, the financial reports for the month ending No-

vember 30, 2022, and a key quote for street sweeper brooms replacement. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Jacki Athey reported that there was a glitch in the software which had delayed her budget prep, but it had been corrected and she would have the numbers soon.

Public Works Director Mixell reported that some additional plumbing work was necessary to connect current works to the new separator in the new building and that it would be taking place this week.

Finally, the new Director of Community Center Programs and Services, Bethany Surowka, was introduced on her first day of employment for the City of Villa Grove.

An ordinance regarding the use of alcohol on city-owned property was approved unanimously. Next, the council approved a request from Circle K regarding the issuance of ad-

ditional liquor pour licenses and was approved unanimously, with alderman Garrett recusing himself from the vote.

A change order regarding insulation issues for new and existing buildings in the amount of \$19,290 was requested by Ridgeline construction and was approved unanimously. The Council then unanimously approved the purchase of mosquito abatement chemicals from Mug-a-Bug in the amount of \$2,628. Finally, the council approved the consideration of name changes for East Walnut and East Elm streets, due to 911 considerations.

Mayor Eversole Gunter made a short report which included an invitation to all city officials by the United Pentecostal Church for an appreciation dinner, to be held on April 30.

# Bomb threats lead to arrest

By Dominik Stallings

After she allegedly made bomb threats to Tuscola schools, Tuscola Police arrested Jill Harp, 43, at 2:56 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1. She was charged with two class 1 felonies for alleged false terrorism and

two class 3 felonies for alleged disorderly conduct.

According to a press release by the Douglas County Sheriff's office, the Sheriff's office and Tuscola's Police Department were notified at 12:39 p.m. Wednesday of a bomb

threat to North Ward Elementary School. According to Tuscola Police Chief Craig Hastings, the same threat came to East Prairie Middle School and Tuscola High School. The police departments determined the threat was unfounded

but proceeded with a lockdown at all three schools. The police departments searched the school for any threats.

"It was unlikely that there was a bomb," said Chaplin, "We'll give it a See ARREST page 3