

# TUSCOLA

# Warrior Pride

## 2023 IHSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Look for the special section in this week's edition

## Journal Entries



# The JOURNAL

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

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### Kiwanis Fish Fry

Tuscola Kiwanis Club will be hosting a driv-thru only fish fry on Fri., Mar. 24 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

### Senior citizen event

Family service senior resource center van trip to the cross, March 29 for Douglas County residents aged 60+ transportation provided, you will be responsible for the cost of the lunch. Please ahead of time to a reserve a seat. 217 599 1324.

### 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

- 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.

### Correction

We misspelled the name of the author of last week's SAM food pantry story. The correct spelling is Margie Delheimer.

### 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](mailto:dominik@thetuscolajournal.com)



TUSCOLA WARRIORS BOY'S BASKETBALL TEAM holds up the third place trophy which they earned at the 2023 IHSA state championship. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

## City backs mall sale

By Dominik Stallings

ARANA II, LLC has a contract for the purchase of the outlet mall in Tuscola. It is the same group the city has worked with in the past in their attempts to purchase and redevelop the property. The agent for the corporation is AJ Ruggieri, an associate attorney working in real estate, business and corporate transactions.

The purchase contract provides a 120-day due diligence period, which has already begun approximately a week and a half ago.

City Administrator Drew Hoel said the due diligence gives the buyers the opportunity to find any pitfalls. The group requested the city's assistance in completing

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## DCFB donates books to local libraries

In recognition of March being National Agriculture Month, the Douglas County Farm Bureau recently donated two books to area and school libraries.

"The Pig War" was written by Emma Band Smith and illustrated by Alison Jay. This picture book tells the story of the boundary dispute in the Pacific Northwest that was ignited because of a wayward pig in a neighbor's potato field.

"Winged Wonders Solving the Monarch Migration Mystery" written by Meeg Pincus and illustrated by Yas Imamura. This book explains the vast number of people involved in finding the migration route of monarch butterflies from Canada to Mexico. It highlights the fact that citizen scientists can have an impact.



DAN MEYER, Douglas County Farm Bureau board president, holds up "Winged Wonders" by Meeg Pincus and Devin Black, Tuscola Library director holds up "The Pig War" by Emma Band Smith. Submitted photo.

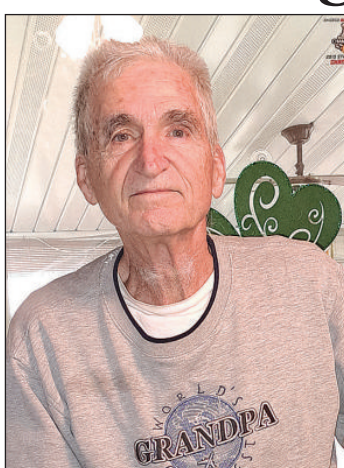
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## Joe Landeck: looking back at an influential Villa Grove teacher

By Tony Hooker

For a generation of Villa Grovians, Joe Landeck was the cool 5th-grade teacher, sporting the mod sideburns, playing records in class, and riding his Honda motorbike to work.

Truthfully, I am one of the lucky students who had him as a teacher, and to this small-town boy, he was about as cool as they come. For another generation, he's the PE teacher and DJ, bringing the party to life in the gym, sometimes a bit too loudly for the tastes of certain administrators. Still, another



Joe Landeck

generation remembers him as a substitute teacher. For the better part of 50 years, he's been a part of Villa Grove Schools.

Mr. Landeck, where did you grow up?

Oak Forest, Illinois. A south Chicago Suburb.

Where did you graduate?

Tinley Park High School.

Did you always know that you were going to be an educator?

I always wanted to be one because when I was in catholic school, I had nuns most of the time and I looked upon teachers as gods, with a small g, and

I could never be a god. My seventh-grade teacher, Miss Kelly, probably inspired me the most to be a teacher. I actually wasn't even planning on going to college, but my next-door neighbor asked me where I was going to go and just to play along, I said, 'I don't know,' and he told me I should go to Eastern because that's where he was going. I had no clue where Charleston, Illinois, was. When I went to Eastern in the summer to register for classes, the guy asked me what I was going to major in, and I didn't even know what

he was talking about! He asked me what I liked to do and I told him I liked sports, so he said Do you want to be a PE teacher and coach, and I said, 'OK.'

How did you come to teach at Villa Grove?

When I graduated, I taught two years in Country Club Hills, where my wife Sandi went to school. She knew a boy whose dad was the superintendent there and they got me a job there. It was a junior high, and they didn't have sports, and I wanted to get into coaching and Villa Grove had a

5th-grade teaching job along with assistant basketball and football coaching positions, so that's how I wound up here. Mr. Gaines, the superintendent, then had three rules that all teachers had to live by to teach in Villa Grove. Number one, we had to live in town, number 2, we had to go to church regularly, and number 3, we couldn't be seen in public smoking, drinking or using bad language or anything like that, because he wanted us to be role models.

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