



# The JOURNAL

Happy Easter

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

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## Journal Entries

### Villa Grove VFW Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Villa Grove VFW will hold their annual Easter egg hunt on Sat., April 9 at 2 p.m. at Henson Park. Age groups are Pre-K thru K, 1st grade - 2nd grade, and 3rd grade - 4th grade.

### 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 is available in this edition of The Journal and on our Facebook page. Please fill it out and mail or bring it to the office to be included on the map in our April 19 edition.

### Poetry

Flesor's Candy Kitchen is hosting "Chocolates and Confessions," poetry reading of David E. Hall and others on April 22 3-5 p.m. Paul Nau is providing live music.

### Congratulations

Malea Warner, of Tuscola, received the Chuck and Marg Young Memorial Scholarship. Warner attends classes on Lakeview's Charleston campus.

### Derby

Ta'Carbon is hosting the Keli Adkison Memorial Fund annual Motor Vehicle Show May 6. Spectator parking is located in the north-west corner of the outlet mall. The event features a Kentucky Derby, Derby hat contest, awards, prizes, DJ music and a Chicago-style silent auction. The event provides scholarships to Tuscola High School seniors.

### 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.

### Story time

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

### 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

### Correction

We incorrectly captioned a photo in last week's collection of Daddy-Daughter dance photos. The father and daughter pictured were Kevin Hays and Kynlee Travis, not Jordan and Lane Feagin.



## VG discusses Community Center software

The Villa Grove city council met on Monday, March 27, for their monthly committee of the whole meeting, with all members other than alderman Pangburn present. Administrator Athey served as clerk in Clerk Osborne's absence.

Community Center Director Bethany Surowka said she was investigating software for the community center that would be accessible to everyone. People would be able to make reservations for

the Community Center spaces online. She also noted that it would be aligned with the swipe cards that will eventually be required for entry into the space. Finally, she noted that park dedications would be aligned with the Loyalty Day Parade on May 6.

Administrator Jacki Athey reported that she had been focused almost solely on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Public Works Director Marc Mixell let

the council know that the Zest For Life Center would be having a new furnace installed on March 30. He also noted that upon inspection, several trusses had been damaged by the recent high winds and he was working with the insurance adjusters to get the necessary repairs made. Further, he noted that several repairs were necessary at Coddington Park. He said that the playground equipment was out of code, the dugouts need to be re-

placed, and many other changes could be made to make it a more usable space.

Next, Brian Kesler was on hand to discuss the change orders that had been made concerning the floor of the community center. He shared drawings showing the necessary changes.

The Council approved the Broeren Russo Builders pay request Number 9, in the amount of **See CITY page 3**



HEAVY MACHINERY from Ezccll Excavation tears down part of the burnt-down "Castle Mall" structure. The building burnt down on July 9 in a suspected arson case. Photo by Michael Carroll.



BEFORE IT WAS KNOWN as the "Castle Mall," the structure was a former Presbyterian church. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

## Tuscola School District administrative reports

Tuscola School Board administrative reports from March 27 (continued from last week):

From Principal Jason Wallace, North Ward Grade School

- 4th/5th Grade Meeting on MTSS day
- House Party and Bingo
- PTO - Tiger Trot May 5th
- Pre-K Screenings Monday and Tuesday March 27-28 at Methodist Church
- Spring Pictures March 29
- March 31st - High Five Friday and 3rd/4th grade field trip to Skateland
- Joe's Pizza Days went well
- I wanted to take the time to give praise where it is deserved in hopes these two staff mem-

bers would be recognized for their above and beyond efforts at North Ward. Teacherease has many opportunities for student health documentation including one we have recently adapted at North Ward called clinic visits. The documentation of clinic visits provides consistent tracking of students with health related needs throughout the school day. At the end of each month the school nurse pulls the data and provides the North Ward secretaries and principal objective data on topics such as number of visits/grade, nurse vs secretary visits, average visits per day, etc. We also use this tracking method to better care for our student

population through tracking of symptoms, care provided that worked or did not work, and other trends.

Tammy Martin and Terra Waldrop without hesitation began the process of inputting clinic visits. This adds work to their already busy daily schedules, but they saw the need and potential for positive outcomes. Their efforts are not only impacting our schools, but area schools as well. We have been contacted by two other schools in the area requesting more detailed information on how we make it work, so they can implement it in their districts. To those inquiring, I am consistent in stating the importance of hav-

ing an invested team to make it work. For us, that is Tammy and Terra. Sincerely, Aja Bozarth RN, BSN. (Wallace praised Bozarth as well.)

- A big thanks to all of the paraprofessionals, teachers, Aramark staff, and subs at North Ward for all they do including their flexibility.

From Principal Jaren Vanausdollar, East Prairie Middle School

- Monda Mar h 7 0
- Thank you to the high school for hosting our 8th Grade on Orientation Night.
- Congratulations to the East **See REPORT page 3**

## Lane closure for Douglas County Highway 7

Douglas County Highway 7 (2360 E. Oakland Road) will be reduced to one lane of traffic starting April 10. The change will start from the Coles-Douglas county line 200 N. to a point 2.68 miles north of the county line.

The lane closures are necessary to perform pavement patching, bituminous surface overlay, placement of aggregate shoulder, incidental bituminous surfacing, pavement marking, and other items of related construc-

tion. Douglas County has contracted with Howell Asphalt Company Inc. from Mattoon for the proposed construction activities, the awarded contract is for \$1,157,695. Additional no-

tifications will be made to the residents and travelling public as construction progresses. Questions may be directed to the County Engineer James Crane at (217)253-2113

## Villa Grove's Main Street Treasures going out of business

By Tony Hooker

Some six years ago, I was able to share the story of Tom and Karen Felkner's business venture, Main Street Treasures.

Therefore, I felt that it was only appropriate that I discuss what the future holds, as they look at closing and selling their business.

How many years ago did you open?

<TK> It was four years here. We were in the old barber shop for about a year, and then we

were in the space across the street for a year or two before we came here.

This started as a clothing ministry, right?

<KF> At the church, it did. People started bringing other stuff, and we kept thinking that maybe people needed that more than they needed the clothes, because every week, there were people who came who really didn't need <TF> three more shirts, <KF> and I'd always wanted to do some-



Tom and Karen Felkner

thing like this.

It just kind of grew from that, your faith, and your desire to help in our community?

<KF> It did. The pre-school was also looking for a permanent space after having left the Catholic church, and we had enough room so that if we walked out, they could move in.

Where did you move to then?

<TF> We moved to the Barber Shop first, and then we moved across the street and

finally into this space.

It was good at first, right? What do you think caused folks to quit coming?

<TF> Inflation, and of course Covid hurt a lot of sales. There's no traffic on Main Street. When we lost Bob (Villa Grove Pharmacy) we lost a lot of traffic because people would put in their prescriptions and then come over here and shop while they were filled.

<KF> So many people work **See TREASURE page 3**