



B SECTION

Better Newspapers, Inc.

Connecting our communities

April 19, 2023

BRIEFS

Drug collection

The Tuscola Kiwanis Club will hold a drug collection event from 9 a.m. till 12 noon Saturday, April 22 at East Prairie Middle School, 409 S. Prairie St., Tuscola. The drive is to collect old prescription and over-the-counter medications and needles; no liquids. The drive is also sponsored by the Tuscola Police Dept. and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

Photography contest

Entries are due Friday, April 21, in the Douglas County Museum's annual photography contests. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners in every category and at each age level. You can drop off photos anytime during normal business hours before the deadline.

There are three kids age levels: elementary, middle and high school and an amateur adult category for those over the age of 18. All entries are judged anonymously by artists, teachers, and photographers outside the museum. More details and entry forms are available on the museum's website at <http://www.douglascountymuseum.org/news---events.html> or on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/docomuseum/>.

This contest was made possible through donations by the following local businesses and organizations: GOLD SPONSORS (\$250): Vintage Karma, Villa Grove Rotary Club. SILVER SPONSORS (\$100): Tuscola Kiwanis Club, Longview Bank, Odd Fellows Tuscola Lodge #316, Ta'carbon Steak House & Bar, Tuscola Rotary Club. BRONZE SPONSORS (\$50): Camargo Township District Library, Newman Regional District Library, Villa Grove State Bank.

ROSC meeting and community training session

The Douglas County ROSC Council will be meeting on April 26 at 10 a.m. at the Douglas County Health Department and over Zoom. ROSC (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care) is also hosting training session about drug endangered children and human trafficking from 5-7 p.m. April 25 at North Ward Elementary School. Liesl Wingert, the Rural Health project coordinator- Eastern Region for the SIU School of Medicine, Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development, and Brad Ameter, the RCCU School Resource Officer and deputy for the Richland County Sheriff's Department will be the speakers.

All community members are invited to attend along with members of law enforcement, judicial staff, child welfare staff, medical personnel, behavioral health staff, teachers and school personnel, service providers, and faith-based agencies. This training aims to educate community members on how a child's caregiver's substance use addiction can impact a child's life. The training also educates on what familial human trafficking looks like, especially in rural communities.

If you have any questions about the training, please contact the Douglas County ROSC Coordinator, Leanna Morgan, at leannam@hourhouserecovery.org or 217-549-7632.

Forecast

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. East wind 5 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 74. Breezy, with a south wind 13 to 22 mph, with gusts as high as 33 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. Breezy, with a south wind 16 to 22 mph, with gusts as high as 33 mph.

Thursday: A chance of showers, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 76. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Thursday Night: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 1am, then a chance of showers. Low around 45. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of showers after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 61.

Friday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39.

Saturday: A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 53. Breezy.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 54.



A contrast in farming
Above, Philip Meyer, left, and Tim Seip fill bins with soybean seeds Saturday between Tuscola and Villa Grove, trying to get the field planted ahead of a storm. Photo by David Porter. Bottom photo, an Amish farmer uses a team of horses to plant. Photo by Stephanie Wierman.

Illinois deer donation program donates 33,656 meals to area families in area

With community support, the Illinois Deer Donation Program had a successful first season. During the 2022 season, 8,414 pounds of donated venison were processed by local meat processors. The meat was donated to 37 food pantries, resulting in 33,656 meals to area families.

In response to rising food and meat prices and the challenges food pantries have in obtaining meat, University of Illinois Extension, along with

key partners, launched the Illinois Deer Donation Program in 2022.

The Illinois Deer Donation Program provides a pathway to expand community access to lean protein throughout East-Central Illinois and reduce barriers to healthier lifestyles. During the 2022 deer hunting season, hunters were able to drop off their harvested deer at one of six area meat processors to be donated. The cost of meat processing was covered by the processors

and donations to the program. Once processed, the venison was distributed to area food pantries to help families in need.

Once donated to food pantries, Illinois Extension SNAP-Ed staff provided nutrition education about venison and offered recipe samples. This gave pantry guests the opportunity to get ideas of how to cook with venison if they weren't familiar.

SNAP-Ed Educator Meredith Probst expressed her ap-

preciation for area support. "We're grateful to our partners that made this program possible. They rallied around a goal of increasing food security in their communities," Probst said.

The program is funded in part by the Health Equity Achieved Together Project (HEAT), a multi-disciplinary collaboration with University of Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education.

Take time for a 'family night in' this April

By Debbie McClellan

April is here and brings many changes. The temperature. The clock. Even our clothing. Why not add one more change to the list? Get out your calendars and pick a night for a "family night in" to relax and spend time together.

What children really want is more time with friends and family. What gets in the way? Children tell us that their family schedules are controlled by sports, school activities, homework and their parents' work.

A "family night in" doesn't have to be a major event. In fact, simple things are often the most fun and relaxing. Here are some ideas to get you

thinking about your April family night in.

- Become birdwatchers. Check out books websites, or apps on birds. Try to identify birds by their appearance or birdcalls. Get out the binoculars and see how many different birds you can find.

- Build a birdhouse, bird feeder or birdbath. You can make easy bird treats by cutting a fun shape out of cardboard, spread with peanut butter and sprinkle on birdseed. Punch a hole in the top, attach a colorful yarn and hang it in a tree.

- Bingo Nature Hunt. Work together to make up bingo cards out of heavy paper or cardboard with an equal num-

ber of boxes across and down. In the boxes write in specific items to find outside like a pebble, a daffodil, leaf or feather. Give each family member a card and search for the items on their card. See who can bingo first.

- Celebrate Earth Day by planting a family tree. Check out which trees grow well in your climate. Are you going to plant it in a sunny or shady spot? Choose a tree. Let everyone help at planting time: digging, preparing the hole, planting and watering. Also learn to care for your new family tree. Each year you can take a "birthday" picture of your family and the family tree.

- Have a joke night. See how

many jokes everyone can tell.

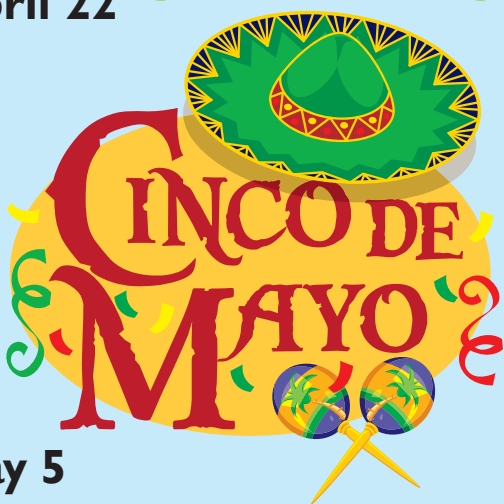
- Design and make paper airplanes. Test them out. See which plane can fly the highest, the farthest, the fastest, land softest, etc.

- Have a bubble gum blowing contest. Can everyone make a bubble at the same time? Who can blow the biggest bubble?

There are few rules for your family night in. Just make certain everyone in the family gets a chance to actively participate. You don't need lots of preparation or planning. You may not remember the TV show you watched last week but doing fun things together will build memories that last a lifetime.



April 22



May 5