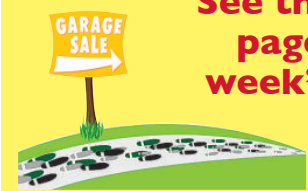




Journal Entries

See the map on page 9 of this week's edition!



City Wide Garage Sales
Spring Citywide garage sales are April 21 and 22.

Tuscola FFA Plant sale
The FFA plant sale will take place April 17-20, 27 and 28 from 3:30-6 p.m. April 29, from 8-10 a.m. and April 30 from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. The sale will take place at the greenhouse at Tuscola High School.

Villa Grove Pageant
The Villa Grove Pageant will be April 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the Villa Grove school gym.

Earth Day
From 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 22, at The Vault Art Gallery in downtown Tuscola, Kirby and Cindy Pringle will give a free program on the migration of monarch butterflies called "The 2000 Mile Journey of a Butterfly." The Pringles will also talk on the cause of the declining population. The Vault is giving away free common milkweed seeds and plants to anyone who would like to help monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Drive up drug collection
Kiwanis Club of Tuscola will be holding a drive up drug collection on Sat., April 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at East Prairie Middle School, 409 S. Prairie St.

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.

Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Awareness Walk

The Tuscola Woman's Club is inviting the community to participate in the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Awareness Walk on April 29. The walk will meet at 9:30 a.m. behind the pool at Ervin Park and start at 10 a.m. Golf carts are welcome.

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.

\$1.50

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Villa Grove Board of Education elects new member

By Gabriella Agius
The Villa Grove School Board elected Charolie Burris as a new board member during the Villa Grove School Board meeting on April 17. She was sworn in alongside Jim Clark and Jerrad Zimmerman.
Jerrad Zimmerman will serve a two-year term. Jim Clark, Tom Lillard, Kristen White, and Charolie Burris will serve four-year terms.
Vice President Bill Fulk has stepped down from the Board after 7 years.
The Board also elected the President, Vice President, and Secretary. Jim Clark was nominated as the Pres-

ident, Kristen White was nominated as the Vice President, and Carissa Jones was nominated as the Secretary.
The Board approved the meeting dates for the 2023-2024 school year. Meetings will continue to be held at 6 p.m. every third Monday of each month. The only exceptions are in January and February when meetings will be held on Tuesdays due to Holidays.
The Board also approved the first reading of the PRESS Plus Issue #111.
For the Superintendent's report, Dr. Carol Munson notified the Board

that Egyptian Trust will no longer allow enrollment in their health plan options. New bids for employee insurance will be open on Wednesday, April 19.
Superintendent Munson also reported on the status of the solar project. All agreements have been executed with Ideal Energy regarding installation and materials.
Munson is currently working with Stan Fishbein of CleanView Capital on a lease and purchasing agreement. There is no hard date set for the beginning of construction, but six months is an estimate.
For the window project, all of the

supplies have been ordered and installation should begin in July, coinciding with other summer projects.
For the Principal's report, Principal Jones thanked the High School staff for a successful SAT/PSAT testing day. Jones congratulated the ACES team for their participation at state.
Jones met with the Douglas County Health Department to discuss new resources and services available to students.
The Board will meet again on May 15, at 6 p.m.



THE SUN SETS behind a farmer working the land in a field north-west of Tuscola. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Drug endangered children and human trafficking training

The Douglas County Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC), in partnership with Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), has organized a community-wide training event for the Douglas County community. 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 providing a "Drug Endangered Children and Human Trafficking Training." Both trainers have received training through the National Alliance for Drug-Endangered Children.
The training will occur at the North Ward Elementary School Library on April 25, 2023, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.. We invite all community members to attend

and encourage members of law enforcement, judicial staff, child welfare staff, medical personnel, behavioral health staff, teachers and school personnel, service providers, and faith-based agencies to attend the training.
The Douglas County ROSC is eager to offer the training to Douglas County residents, and we hope to see many community members in attendance. This training aims to educate commu-

nity 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.

History of Tuscola's Presbyterian Church

By Dominik Stallings
The First Presbyterian Church of Tuscola stood for 138 years before finally being demolished after a fire damaged the building beyond repair on July 9, 2022.
According to a program describing the first 100 years of the Church's history. The First Presbyterian Church was first established on May 8, 1958. Before it was built, H.J. Venable would preach to families when he rode up and down the Okaw River Valley. He founded a small church at Fillmore, west of Arcola on June 17, 1854. The church was called the Okaw Church for some after. Some of the members of that

church requested the Presbytery of Palestine to organize a new Church in Tuscola.
Two ministers from the Presbytery came to a private residence owned by J.S. Walling in Tuscola to meet the 16 people who asked for the new church.
At the time, there were very few houses in Tuscola and most were built within the last two years. There weren't any trees or other landmarks to define the area beside ponds and the dense prairie grasses. People who attended the meeting had to often make the journey on foot.
Rev. George D. Millers was the



Tuscola Presbyterian Church in the 1940s

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VG Council discusses Richman Sports Complex improvements

Mayor Cassandra Eversole-Gunter introduced Jake Wolf from Engineering Resource Associates at the Villa Grove city council meeting on April 10. Wolf presented several options for upgrades to the Richman Sports Complex. He noted that his company had worked with forest preserves and park districts all over the state. He showed mockups of three potential changes, which the council discussed at length.
The Council approved the

consent agenda, which included minutes of the closed session of the City Council held on Feb. 27, the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 13, and the minutes of the February 27 committee of the Whole meeting. The consent agenda also included financial reports for February and payment of bills in the amount of \$398,331. Also included was payment number 9 to Broeren Russo in the amount of \$235,023. The consent agenda also included ap-

proval of change order number 12 for the community center regarding changing the floor of the gymnasium and also approved the administrator's attendance to WIU's Midwest CDI.
Chief Robert Rea reported that he had completed his budget request for 2023-24. Bethany Surowka, director of community center programs and services, reported that baseball, softball and soccer programs were getting underway. She also noted that Carle had donated an

AED to the city. She also noted that sponsors for the community center were coming forward on schedule.
Public Works Director Marc Mixell then reported that spring cleanup was finishing up. He also noted that the new public works building project were nearing completion and that the ball fields were all ready for gameplay.
Administrator Athey reported that she had been working on bond closing, along with writ-

ing the ordinances which are to be discussed. She also had been in discussions with a developer who is looking to build a new complex in Villa Grove.
Mayor Eversole Gunter then made a short statement, letting the council know that Garrett Miller, a representative of the rodeo who is considering locating in Villa Grove, would be at the next council meeting to discuss the proposal.
Next, Gunter called for a vote on ordinances assigning street

names and changes to real estate on East Front Street and Harrison Streets. The council then voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2023 MC 07, which permanently names the street that runs through Henson Park as Frank Thomas Drive, ordinance 2023 MC 08, which establishes an employee appreciation policy and Resolution 2023-R03, which designates Beech Lane with an honorary street sign "Gabbard Lane" in

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