

Alumni

From page 1

convening for a reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Riddell and the class of '34, who celebrated their reunion at the home of Rozenah Montgomery. The banquet, held in the old community building, went from 6-9 and concluded with the election of officers for the alumni association, and live music was

provided from 9-1 am. In many ways, the mid eighties were when the event was at its largest and best. Sigler reported that in 1985, over 450 people squeezed into the community building for the banquet and dance. Interest was so strong that there weren't enough folding tables in VG to accommodate all the guests, so the alumni association borrowed dozens from the University of Illinois, and

the strong interest continued into the nineties. Over the course of the last decade of the century, many factors contributed to a loss of interest in the event. Bands had become too expensive for the committee to hire, so a series of DJ's were brought in for entertainment. The community building was determined to be unfit and closed, so the banquet was relocated to the school, first in the "Big

gym, and last year in the new gym. Because it was at the school, no alcohol could be present, and interest in the dance waned and is no longer offered. In 2004, the 100th anniversary of the event, 285 people attended the banquet, which the Villa Grove News noted was "one of the biggest crowds in years." Sigler, the alumni association president, was presented a bracelet at

the event, after deciding to relinquish her role as leader. Frances Duncan, from VGHS class of 1933, was recognized as the most "seasoned" graduate in attendance. Which brings us to this year's event. Sigler said that she's "aiming for 200 attendees" although she estimates that there will be closer to 150. She's also adamant about the class of 2023 making every effort to attend. "We're here

to honor them," Sigler stated emphatically. "They need to see that they're part of something larger than themselves or their class." There will be reunions throughout the day, the banquet and the Korner Beehive and VFW will have live music at the main street plaza starting at 2 pm and lasting until the late hours, with all funds raised being donated to the new VG community center.

Traffic

From page 1

According to the United

States Department of State, over 27,000,000 people are being trafficked worldwide. In the United States, around 14,500 -17,500 people are being traf-

ficked. 71 percent of victims are women and children. According to Polaris Project, in 2019, there were 434 human trafficking victims identified in

the state of Illinois. Additionally, 115 traffickers were identified and 53 trafficking businesses. "Refuse to Do Nothing" by housewives Shayne Moore, and

Kimberly McOwen Yim, is a book that gives many resources, education, and suggestions on how to help. Restoration 61 provides

rescue, counseling, advocates, and a resale shop for trafficked victims. All of Illinois is served with offices in Chicago, Naperville, Oswego, and Harrisburg.

Time capsule

From page 1

what the plans are for the cornerstone. She noted that the cornerstone for the old high school (which became the second North Ward grade school) was on display at Festival Corner downtown, and she said she thinks that would be a good place for the church stone.

Following the opening of the time capsule, the City Council continued its meeting, which included approving emergency repairs to a water main and waiving formal bidding for them. Cross Construction did the work. Drew Hoel, city administrator, said he did not yet know what the bill will be.

The whole city and some residential customers were without water over the weekend when a water main on Main Street was broken just south of the railroad tracks. After water service was restored, the city was under a boil order. More information can be found in the article

titled "Old water main break causes loss of water services" in this week's Journal.

Kleiss thanked the community for its patience during the boil order over the weekend. He said there is a lot of good information about boil orders on the city's website at tuscola.org.

Also in the city's website is information about its emergency notifications, he said. The city now uses a program called hyper-reach to alert residents about local emergencies.

If residents signed up for alerts under the Code Red system, they will need to sign up again under hyper-reach, Kleiss said. On the city's website, click the button that reads "residents" and then the button that reads "emergency notifications." There, residents will find another button that reads "hyper-reach Douglas County sign up."

In other business, the City Council

- swore in members who were reelected to office;
- approved the consent agenda, which included the



CITY TREASURER ALTA LONG and Mayor Dan Kleiss sort through pages from the Presbyterian Church time capsule. Photo by David Porter.

Pace for Petey 5K run and nights with street closures walk Sept. 30, outdoor movie June 2, July 7 and Aug. 4, and

the Tuscola GSA Booster Club Pound the Pavement for Pride 5K Color Run/Walk June 10;

- appointed Dalton Donnals, Brian Endres, Rob Hardwick, Bill Hemmer, Bill Schweighart and Bryce Yantis to the foreign fire insurance board, which Hoel said allows the fire department to receive about \$14,500 annually from the state for equipment and tools;
- approved spending \$17,850 with Air One Equipment for fire department

- approved an audit engagement letter with LWA, a CPA firm;
- approved changes to the city's health insurance plan;
- approved a revised proposal for roof repairs to the library with I-57 Roofing in the amount of \$36,732.12;
- renewed the lease with Gina Romine for the Tropical Sno stand at the pool; and approved a revised list of summer employees.

VFW AUXILIARY ANNUAL Garage Sale

SATURDAY MAY 20TH
8AM - 2PM

VFW HALL 9-11 S. MAIN
VILLA GROVE, IL

**DONATIONS MAY 8TH - MAY 18TH

CONTACT 217-832-3051 AFTER 3PM FOR DROP OFF

***PLEASE NO FURNITURE OR STAINED CLOTHES

Mother's Day concert at Vault Art Gallery

By Kirby Pringle

Just when you thought that there were no musical events just for Mother's Day in Tuscola, you need to recalibrate your thinking.

The swing jazz band from Charleston, We Ain't Misbehavin', performs at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at the Vault Art Gallery in downtown Tuscola. Members of the outfit include Yvonne Larson on vocals, Michael Brown on bass, Sarah Wiseman on accordion and Karen Hart on vocals. Bob St. Gemme is on guitar, while his wife, Laura, plays violin.

We Ain't Misbehavin' is an offshoot of another popular Charleston band, the Moondogs.

"I had started that band and it became pretty popular around here," Bob St. Gemme said. "But then last spring we just decided to go in a different direction from rock and blues,



WE AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' performs at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 13 at the Vault Gallery in downtown Tuscola. Submitted photo.

and my wife Laura agreed to it and we left the Moondogs on amicable terms. We're all still friends."

The band performs as part of a special Mother's Day event at the Vault Art Gallery. The performance is free and the public

is welcome to attend. Seating will be available and refreshments will be provided.

"We started playing what I would call gypsy jazz. But we're not limited to anything. We do tango, swing music, samba, a bit of Django Reinhardt, things like

that. We've become more of a world music band. Yvonne has a big voice and can sing anything. Her and Karen (Hart) sound beautiful together," St. Gemme said.

We Ain't Misbehavin' performs once or twice a month and that schedule is fine for St. Gemme and the other members.

"That's plenty for us. We want to keep it fun and not turn this into a job," he said. "The direction I would like to go is to perform in more upscale places like wineries, art galleries like the Vault, places like that."

The band's last performance at the Vault was indeed a popular affair with a large crowd in attendance.

"Our network is growing rapidly and we've become quite popular in the short time we've been together," St. Gemme added.

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TROY GABBARD gives Mayor Cassandra Eversole-Gunther a hug while holding a sign from the Gabbard Lane dedication. Mayor Eversole-Gunther and Max Painter spoke about the impact the Gabbard family had in the Villa Grove community, especially Bill and Joyce Gabbard. Eversole-Gunther said, "Bill Gabbard loved Villa Grove dearly and we were always at the top of the list." Photo by Dominik Stallings.

The Journal presents —

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Join Dominik & Margie
LIVE at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Discussion of local issues & the week's news

Join Mike, David & Bill
Thursdays at 4 p.m.
A look at historic Tuscola photos from our archives

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